

Press release  
Monday 9th August 2021

## **UNITED AUCTIONS WILL WALK 500 MILES FOR VIRTUAL GREAT GLEN CHALLENGE**



No less than 40 members of staff at United Auctions are in training to take on the first-ever Virtual Great Glen Challenge as a company on Friday 27th August.

Staff members from the Yard to the Board Room at Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers will take part individually, and, like the Scottish rock duo The Proclaimers sing, they 'will walk (run and cycle) 500 miles.'

And activity will take place across Scotland, from Stirlingshire to Huntly and Dalmally and the Western Isles to complete the 500-mile target.

Since 2012 the RSABI's Great Glen Challenge has raised more than £300,000 to help people struggling to cope in Scottish agriculture.

United Auctions are great supporters of the charity and have taken part in the Great Glen Challenge five times, raising more than £15,000 for the RSABI so far. They even won the Challenge in 2013 with the Rostrum Rascals and their memorable one-piece costumes.

For this year's Virtual event, participants include Executive PA Carolyn Murrie, Admin Assistant Mary MacNab and Pedigree Administrator Margaret Owens-Smith who will together complete a 10-mile walk of the Forth Trail around Stirling. Group Sales Director John Roberts will trek 10 miles around Bridge of Allan, visiting six hostelrys en route and Group Director Christopher Sharp will cycle a 50-mile circuit of Stirlingshire.

At Dalmally Mart despite it being a sale day, ten members of staff, led by John 'Jags' McCormack, will aim to clock up eight miles per person with a mixture of all three activities. In addition, auctioneers Robbie Hamilton and Murray Steel will juggle their time in the rostrum with walking and

running, respectively, to each achieve their 20-mile target before travelling to Lochboisdale immediately afterwards. Participants' mileage will be tracked using the running app Strava with regular updates shared with customers to help with support and encouragement during the sale.

**United Auction's Managing Director George Purves said:** "We've been working hard as a team throughout the lockdowns to keep the live sales going. We know our customers have missed the social aspect of the sales, as have we. We can't wait to get together socially and have some fun as we work on this physical challenge and raise money for this important cause. We're also looking forward to reconnecting with our customers when, hopefully, we can return to physical sales in the Autumn."

**Nina Clancy, Chief Executive of RSABI said:** "We're delighted that so many of the United Auctions team will be taking part in our first-ever Virtual Great Glen Challenge. As long-time supporters and previous participants in our traditional Great Glen it's fantastic to see United Auctions get behind our first-ever virtual event. We wish everyone taking part the best of luck and hope all have fun on the day all while raising funds. Money raised will help RSABI to provide vital practical, emotional and financial support to people in Scottish agriculture."

United Auctions will share regular videos on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) in the run up to the event at the end of August.

They can be sponsored at all of United Auctions' marts as well as online at <https://rsabi.enthuse.com/pf/united-auctions-990dc>

**-Ends-**

#### **Photo caption**

United Auctions' team will walk 500 miles for Virtual Great Glen Challenge:

Back row (l-r) Alec Brown, Jack Keane, Sam Curry, Ross Fotheringham, Murray Steel, Christopher Sharp, Farquhar Macrae, and Donald Young.

Front row (l-r) Derek Anderson, Margaret Owens-Smith, Mary MacNab, Carolyn Murrie, Kirsty Morton, John Roberts, Emma Hunter, Claire Sangster, Ailsa Taylor, Robert Reid and Robbie Hamilton.

#### **Notes to editor**

- RSABI provides practical, emotional and financial support to all people involved in the Scottish agricultural industry. The service is available to those previously and currently involved in farming, crofting and occupations related to agriculture in Scotland. This is a comprehensive service to help people to move forward when they are struggling. Their helpline is open every day of the year from 7am to 11pm on 0300 111 4166. [www.rsabi.org.uk](http://www.rsabi.org.uk)
- This year's virtual event is kindly sponsored by media partner The Scottish Farmer.

#### **About [United Auctions](#)**

United Auctions are Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers and procurement specialists and operate a network of different auction markets across Scotland, including Stirling, Huntly, Lairg, Dalmally, Tiree, Islay, South Uist and Oban. The company conducts auctions of both commercial and pedigree livestock, including the world-famous Stirling Bull Sales, and provides farm-to-farm and farm-to-abattoir procurement services.