



PRESS RELEASE

QBE SPONSORS CAA MAN 'GOING LOOPY'

LONDON, April 27 2009

Head-spinning aerobatic challenge completed by Civil Aviation Authority's Jason Phelan

QBE Insurance today announced that its Aviation Division has sponsored a unique flying challenge, all in the name of charity.

Jason Phelan, of the Civil Aviation Authority, usually prefers his feet securely on the ground and firmly under his desk. However, over the past weekend, in aid of aviation charity 'fly2help', he saw the world from a very new and unusual perspective: whilst working his way through as many stomach churning aerobatic sequences as possible in numerous different small planes, all over three consecutive days!

Jason, who is not a pilot, set himself the grand challenge of holding onto his stomach whilst experiencing as many aerobatic routines, in as many varied aircraft, from as many airfields as possible, all over one weekend. During this challenge each aerobatic manoeuvre was counted, to build a grand total by type of stunt and amount performed over the whole weekend (i.e. Loops 25, Rolls 32 etc), whilst crossing the country and visiting as many airfields as possible.

Emilio Di Silvio, Managing Director of QBE's Aviation Division said "Much of our time is spent working with leading airlines and flyers, dealing with the serious side of air travel. However, we couldn't resist the chance to support this appealing charity which allows the disabled to enjoy the thrill of flight. We salute Jason for completing this challenge, and I look forward to hearing the war stories from this marathon series of loops, rolls and hops over the weekend."

Jason Phelan commented this week: "Meeting the charity's staff inspired me to help fly2help as it supports those less fortunate than myself, so that they too can experience the exhilaration and excitement of flight. Suddenly after months of planning, here I am. I have had the most amazing weekend completing this immense challenge."

CALLING ALL SUPPORTERS: - Should you be able to support Jason in his challenge and help him reach his £5,000 target, please do contact Jason Phelan on 07821 339180 or visit his fundraising webpage at www.justgiving.com/jasonphelan, where you can donate on-line.

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Notes to editors

ABOUT QBE

QBE Insurance Group is Standard & Poor's 'A+' rated and is one of the world's leading international insurers and reinsurers, headquartered in Sydney, Australia. We operate out of 45 countries across the globe, with a presence in all key insurance markets, and are lead underwriters within our chosen markets, setting rates and conditions. For the year ended 31 December 2008, the company underwrote gross written premium totaling £6,025 million and held shareholders' funds of £5,364 million.

QBE's European Operations, which accounts for almost 40% of QBE Group turnover, is a leading specialist in London market and European commercial lines business. Active in both the Lloyd's and company market, QBE offers considerable diversity to the broking community, via eight product-focused underwriting divisions - casualty, QBE Re Europe, property, motor, marine & energy, specialty, aviation - all operations have the ability to write on both Lloyd's and company market paper.

ABOUT FLY2HELP

fly2help is an exciting charity that lifts people's horizons via the medium of flight, working with individuals, groups and like-minded charities to stretch physical, mental and emotional boundaries that have been set by a life trauma or tragedy. Aiming to inspire imagination, determination, self-esteem and confidence in their clients, fly2help are committed to supporting the terminally ill, chronically sick, bereaved and those who simply need a 'life boost'. This can include those who have suffered extreme neglect and abuse, and those who face exclusion from society on a regular basis as a result of mental ill-health, sickness, disability, injury or poverty.

"fly2help works to turn an ordinary day into an extraordinary adventure for many very brave and special people" says Mandy of fly2help, "but fly2help's work, along with the very nature of flying, involves huge costs; therefore, it really is only through the generous donations and support of others like Jason, that we can fund our ambitious aims and share so many blue skies, adventures and smiles with those who need them most."



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