

Caterpillar Stockton reach their goal of raising cancer awareness

Employer: Caterpillar Stockton

Area: Stockton

Theme: Physical Activity and Cancer Awareness



Caterpillar Stockton is part of a multi-national corporation. It is the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and diesel-electric locomotives. The Stockton facility produces fabricated parts for earth moving equipment. Caterpillar Stockton employs approx 330 shop floor workers, mainly fabricators, logistics and office staff. An apprentice programme has also been running since 2011.

The company uses a third party occupational health provider (Hampton Knight) but Caterpillar Stockton were looking to expand and supplement this with health campaigns/promotions. This directed us to enrol on the North East Better Health at Work Award scheme which gives the health campaigns long-term sustainability by progressing through the various levels.



On June 22nd 2014 Goals was the venue, and goals were the order of the day for the inaugural Gordon Rhucroft Memorial Trophy. Gordon worked as a fabricator on BHL Frames for four years until his cancer diagnosis, and two of his sons Paul and Craig are also employed at the Stockton facility.

Some people came along to take photographs, others to meet old work colleagues and friends. However everyone was there to honour a departed workmate, raise awareness of cancer and support Macmillan Cancer Support.

Seven teams comprised of approximately 50 workers from across all of the Value Streams slogged it out on the pitch, with Apprentices, Fork Lift Truck drivers, Welders, Platers, and Office Staff all participating in the games played.

The concluding match for the trophy itself was between teams CAT1 and The Night Owls, with CAT1 coming out on top by a single goal after a tight, but keenly contested final. Mrs. Margaret Rhucroft presented the trophy to the winners.

Clare Stewart, HR Representative at Caterpillar, and event organiser said, “The sunshine brought family friends and colleagues together to engage and enjoy a day of football, food and fundraising. I was delighted to organise the event with the full support of great colleagues and hope we can continue to raise awareness of Cancer and, as a company, support work mates and family members through some very tough times.”

In addition to the football there was a raffle stall with prizes which were donated from Caterpillar and their suppliers, as well as a secret auction with prizes ranging from overnight stays in local hotels, free golf days, and gas-fired barbecues to a signed photograph from the 1966 World Cup winning team! Tickets were enthusiastically purchased across all shifts, and again on the day itself, to help contribute to the fundraising efforts.

Also in attendance – but minus their boots, were Prostate Cancer UK, who provided advice and support to all attendees. Additional information packs were also handed out from BallBoys, Children with Cancer UK and Macmillan Cancer.

At the end of the event an impressive £2,726.55 pounds had been raised for the nominated charity.

Craig Rhucroft, Gordon’s son and a Team Leader at Caterpillar said, “This was a fantastic day. I hope to see this continue year on year - not only in memory of my father, but to keep up the fight against cancer and continue raising awareness.”

