

The rhinos are back in town

In April 2023, after a few years of cancellations and postponements, the London Marathon returned to its traditional springtime routine for the first time since 2019. Of course, rhinos were spotted crashing through the world's largest fundraising event. And what an event it was!

Sam Lucock | Michael Hearn Intern 2022–23

On 23 April 2023, 67 incredible people – 12 of whom were wearing rhino costumes – took to the streets of London, taking in the infectious atmosphere and clocking up an amazing 1,755.4 miles between them (26.2 miles each) all in the name of rhino conservation.

Despite it being a very soggy (British) day, the weather did nothing to dampen spirits – and, truth be told, our bright sunset yellow shirts provided a jovial juxtaposition to the grey skies. At the time of writing, the team has raised an incredible £107,253! All those bucket collections, bake sales, golf days, murder mystery events, organised runs, and pub quizzes will go a long way in helping to protect rhinos.



Charlott Laurie (below, with Chris 'Rhino Boy' Green) applied for a place with us in London Marathon 2023 with a passion for conservation. "Save the Rhino has always been a charity that I have looked up to, so I felt incredibly proud being able to run for them. The team were amazing from start to finish. I loved being able to meet and run with some of the rangers who work incredibly hard. It was an awesome opportunity to hear first-hand about the work that they do to protect rhinos."



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Charlotte Laurie



Among the team was a group of rangers who work to protect black rhinos and other endangered species living in North Luangwa National Park, Zambia (*left*). **Lawrence Muyelesa** crossed the finishing line in an impressive 3:19:22, making him the fastest of the group. He was joined by his colleagues, **Luke Miller, Duncan Mumba, Norman Muchelenje, Duncan Mulenga** and **Royd Kasonde**, all finishing in under four hours!

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Tom McQuade



Tom McQuade, (*left*) who has raised almost £3,000, charged through London as a rhino this year. "What an absolute privilege it was to run the London Marathon on behalf of Save the Rhino!"



Kellie Clark (*above*) had previously completed the London Marathon in other (homemade!) costumes. This year, she chose the rhino as her outfit of choice. "I'm going to be honest and say running in the costume was harder than I expected!"

"But the cheers and chanting from the crowd made me feel like a superhero! I've loved being part of the team, especially with the support and guidance from Sam, who helped so much with fundraising.

"Would I do it again? Absolutely."



"I've always admired Save the Rhino's work but to have the opportunity to run in a rhino costume was an incredible experience and a real pleasure. It was very hard at times, but I had encouragement from other rhino runners also navigating their way round. Their support and kind words supported my determination in getting to the finish line."

Running alongside his friend **Anthony Bonnett**, (*left*), we had a rhino in the ranks who answered to the name of "Chippy"! "Chippy" was operated by first-time marathon runner **Tare Nyabadza** (*far left*). "Running the London Marathon in costume was an unplanned but great decision, offering a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I couldn't resist. The cheers and shouts of 'Go Rhino' echoed from delighted spectators throughout the race, reminding me of the affection that people have for the costumes and the charity! As the race concluded, my connection with the charity only strengthened and I look forward to running again in the future, (maybe) with a costume!"