



Organised by **Club Balance**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Unstoppable Kiprotich produces Peak performance

*1 October, 2010* – Thomas Kiprotich brought a new meaning to upwardly mobile today (Friday, 1 October) as he set a scorching pace on the way to his second straight victory in the annual Victoria to Peak (VTP) Challenge 10K race.

The Hong Kong-based Kenyan raced away from the field to finish in 42 minutes and 17 seconds, shattering the 43:05 mark he set when winning last year's inaugural event. Kiprotich finished a clear winner of the Men's Open category ahead of gallant Chan Hing Yiu with Wan Zhen Hao taking third.

First woman across the line was Janet Ng – winner of the Round the Island Race last April – who recorded 53:28. Father and daughter combination Stephen and Lizzy O'Leary were winners of the Family category.

A total of 340 runners took part in the VTP Challenge, which started from Pier 9 next to the Star Ferry. The field followed a carefully plotted route between the skyscrapers and malls of Central up to Mid-Levels and on to the finish at the Peak, passing some of Hong Kong's most iconic buildings and famous landmarks along the way.

With an elevation gain of almost 400 metres, the VTP Challenge – organised by Club Balance – presented a stern test to runners of all ages and abilities.

For the first time, the race included a Family category with 14 pairs of parent and child taking part. Around 80 volunteers acted as race marshals to enhance road safety and show athletes the correct route.

After the race finished, athletes, volunteers and supporters enjoyed breakfast and prize presentations at Café Deco.

The event raised HK\$10,000 for the Hong Kong Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation (<http://www.hkarf.org>) with the possibility of a further donation.

The overall winner in each of the race's three main categories – Male, Female and Family – received a two-night hotel package courtesy of Starwood Hotels & Resorts. Other category winners received prizes from Plantronics and Champion System.

Sponsorship of Club Balance as well as the VTP 2010 prizes was made possible by the kind support of: RBS Coutts Bank, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Plantronics, Latham & Watkins, Edwin Yeung & Company (CPA) Limited, Champion System, Bonaqua and Optimum Nutrition.

#### **2010 Victoria to Peak Challenge results:**

**Men's Open:** 1-Thomas Kiprotich, 2-Chan Hing Yiu, 3-Wan Zhen Hao.

**Women's Open:** 1-Fleur Iannazzo, 2-Tang Cheuk Hang, 3-Carol Kei.

**Men's Senior (age 30-39):** 1-Dan Parr, 2-Clement Dumont, 3-Twelve Li.



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**Women's Senior (age 30-39):** 1-Rebecca Kynaston, 2-Ann Cheng-Echevarnia, 3-Imi Bond.

**Men's Master (age 40-49):** 1-Curtis Barclay, 2-Chiu Kok Fu, 3-Matt McLaughlin.

**Women's Master (age 40-49):** 1-Janet Ng, 2-Judy Wong, 3-Lam Wai Chu.

**Men's Veteran (age 50+):** 1-Gary Lew, 2-Li Cheuk Ming, 3-Wong Kwok Wah.

**Women's Veteran (age 50+):** 1-Yeung Mei Lun, 2-Jacqui Saffery, 3-Chan Po Mei, Rita.

**Family:** 1-Stephen and Lizzy O'Leary, 2-Peter and Reimy Brown, 3-Derek and Graeme Irwin.

-- ENDS --

**Caption for VTP\_start\_011010.jpg:** Runners set off from Pier 9 next to the Star Ferry at the start of the Victoria to Peak Challenge. *Mandatory credit: Club Balance*

**Caption for VTP\_winner\_011010.jpg:** Thomas Kiprotich crosses the finish line to claim his second consecutive Victoria to Peak Challenge victory. *Mandatory credit: Club Balance*

### **About Club Balance**

Club Balance is a non-profit, volunteer-based organisation founded in 2009 by a group of professionals who are also sports enthusiasts. Our members come from a wide range of professions, from dentistry to banking and law. The founders' informal weekly runs, which started as early as 1995, eventually evolved into a broader effort to promote work-life balance within the professional communities in Hong Kong.

Club Balance events provide a platform for participants to engage their family and friends through fun activities and/or meals. Participants are also encouraged to invite their loved ones to help out and provide moral support at Club Balance events they participate in.

### **The Hong Kong Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation (HKARF)**

The effects of arthritis go beyond just aching hands and trouble opening a jar. Some forms of arthritis can pose serious health risks, not to mention the effect of arthritis on family members. In support of its aim of promoting work-life balance and better health amongst Hong Kong's professionals, Club Balance is proud to support the efforts of the foundation to improve the understanding of arthritis and rheumatic conditions commonly seen in Hong Kong, and to improve the health-related quality of life of people with these disorders.

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