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**PRESS STATEMENT**

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**Brighton is first destination on Kilimanjaro fundraising trek**

Genting UK's Darren Thomas took to his bike as part of a £70,000 charity fundraising drive, riding between all of the company's London casinos before travelling on to Brighton on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

Darren was raising money to support the Responsible Gambling Trust's climb of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest peak. That climb – with a £70,000 fundraising target – is to raise money to support the RGT's work in minimising gambling-related harm in Britain.

Darren cycled between all six of Genting's London casinos before going on Brighton on the South Coast. At each one of the casinos he handed over a copy of a poster from the RGT setting out the organisation's aims and objectives and was given a donation from the casino towards the £70,000 target in return.

Darren said: "Getting from London to Brighton in the January cold was a bit of a test, but climbing Kilimanjaro is bound to be a lot tougher. My Genting colleague Chris Dingwall and I are looking forward to the challenge, but we hope as many people as possible will sponsor us."

Around 30 people from the UK's gaming and gambling industries are expected to join the trip, which runs from 3 February to 14 February. Climbers will make their ascent to the Kibo peak of Kilimanjaro which, at 5,895 metres, is recognised as at an "extreme altitude" and climbers are advised to spend time at altitude before getting to the summit.

Even then climbers rise at midnight on the day they attempt the summit and have to make a 1000 metre ascent.

"It is going to be a real stretch," says Darren.

**-ENDS-**

**Contact:**

Adrian McMenamin  
Bell Pottinger  
Direct line: +44 (0)20 3772 2626  
AMcMenamin@bellpottinger.com

## NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Responsible Gambling Trust is the leading charity in the UK committed to minimising gambling-related harm. As an independent national charity funded by donations from the gambling industry, the Responsible Gambling Trust funds education, prevention and treatment services and commissions research to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm. The aim is to stop people getting into problems with their gambling, and ensure that those that do develop problems receive fast and effective treatment and support.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust raises a minimum of £5 million each year from the gambling industry operating in Britain within a voluntary (donation based) system and funds research, education, prevention and treatment services. Funding priorities are guided by the national strategy advised by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The latest strategy was published in December 2012.
- Genting's six London casinos are Crockfords, Maxims Casino Club, Colony Club, The Palm Beach Casino, Genting Cromwell Mint, Genting China Town London.
- Further details of the RGT's trip are available here:  
<http://responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/Kilimanjaro-Challenge-2016>
- Should you wish to personally sponsor Darren his fundraising page is here:  
<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/darrenthomas3094>