University club rises to charity challenge

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Members of the University of Nottingham Table Tennis Club are clocking up the kilometres with a round-Britain challenge to raise money for Access Sport.

The team are in the midst of a gigantic 17,819km effort as they run, walk and cycle the equivalent of the perimeter of the UK between them.

The have set the target of the first day of term on September 21 to finish the challenge and, as of Sunday, had covered a total of 6,610.58km.

A total of 46 club members, alumni, staff and coaches are taking part, including senior England international Lois Peake, while Jack Josephs and Mateusz Mikosz together swelled the total with a 114km cycle ride this week from Nottingham to Virginia Water.

The target is to raise £1,000 for Access Sport, a charity which works to make sport accessible to young people in deprived areas, with a strong emphasis on young disabled people. The charity has also been providing bikes to NHS workers during the pandemic.

The club has so far raised more than £500 – click here to make a donation.

Organiser April Valenzuela said: "This is a fantastic charity who work throughout the UK to make sport accessible for all young people regardless of background, ethnicity or ability.

"We felt running the UK perimeter was a good way to symbolise inclusivity, and with the members of our club having been dispersed since lockdown and is present in every corner of the country, it seemed to make sense that we should cover it all.

"We still have a long way to go but we're hitting our targets most days and have some ideas to boost that if need be – and to keep motivation high and add some healthy competition we held a 100km challenge last week to encourage everyone to get moving."

You can follow latest updates from the team on their social media pages.

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