

**08 July 2010**

**Lowell effort is 'oarsome!'**

A 17-strong team from Lowell Group captained by IT director John Stewart raised over £1,500 for charity and finished a highly creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 30 in the third annual Leeds Community Fancy Dress Dragon Boat Races last month.

The event, which featured businesses from all different sectors including a number from financial services, was held to raise money for the Leeds Community Foundation, which helps improve the quality of life of people living in disadvantaged communities.

Dragon Boat Racing is the world's fastest growing water sport and involves teams of paddlers in a 40-foot boat with a drummer and helmsman, paddling frantically to beat the other teams down a 250 metres course.

Donning fancy-dress, Lowell's team, which also included CEO James Cornell, made it through several gruelling heats and actually posted the fastest time of the day before coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the final race.

Captain John Stewart said: "It was extremely hard work but tremendous fun as well. Everyone at Lowell is always very supportive of our community activities and we were delighted to raise over £1,500 for such a worthy cause."

The Leeds Community Foundation supports more than 3,000 community groups and charities working in some of the most disadvantaged parts of Leeds and has distributed over £9m in grants since it was established in 2005.

Lowell Group's charity fundraising continues next month (August 7<sup>th</sup>) when some 30 employees will bravely tackle the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge, which involves covering 25 miles across tough terrain in under 12 hours.