

## Veterinary Surgeon moved to run half marathon for son born prematurely

Tuesday 9 January, 2024

Excitement Builds for the debut Half Marathon and 10K at Greenham Common as the event has now sold out.

The inaugural Half Marathon and 10K event, scheduled for 25th February at Greenham Common, is poised for resounding success as it aims to raise substantial funds for special care babies in Berkshire and Hampshire. Boasting 300 participants, generous support from corporate sponsors, and a wave of enthusiasm from the local community and beyond, the event promises to be a remarkable experience for all involved.

Participants will run meticulously designed routes that highlight iconic landmarks, including The Fire Plane, monumental bunkers once housing nuclear missiles, and The Control Tower, now a vibrant visitor centre and café.

This noteworthy event has attracted support from prominent sponsors, with Bloor Homes sponsoring the eco-friendly wooden medals and David Lloyd Club, Newbury, sponsoring the trophies. David Lloyd is not only contributing as a sponsor but is also fielding a team of ten runners. Additional sponsorship is anticipated from local businesses, adding to the collective effort.

The Veterinary Hospital, Hungerford, has also entered a team of 18 runners dedicated to raising £1000 for New Life. Luke Harris, a Veterinary Surgeon at The Veterinary Hospital, and his wife Emily have experienced the challenges of having a premature baby. Both are passionate about supporting the cause. Luke shares, "Teddy, born six weeks early in February 2023, needed specialised care at the neonatal unit in The Great Western Hospital, Swindon. Whilst on the neonatal unit, Teddy was placed in a hot cot which kept his body temperature stable and gave him the greatest opportunity for growth in his first few weeks. We are immensely grateful for the care he received, and by raising funds for New Life, we hope to assist other families facing similar situations." New Life has funded hot cots for several hospitals and continues to fund specialist neonatal equipment for local hospitals including The Great Western in Swindon.

Trevor Goodall, the founder of New Life, articulates the organization's mission: "To provide premature and very sick babies with the best start in life." With a track record of raising over £1.5 million and benefiting more than 20 neonatal units, New Life has positively impacted the lives of over 1,000 premature babies.

Further information on participating, sponsoring and volunteering can be found at <https://www.greenhamcommonhalfmarathon.com/>

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