DJS Research Helping the Fight Against Adult Brain Cancer

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On May 30th 2011, an anonymous client of DJS Research completed the Bridgnorth Sponsored Walk in aid of the Headcase Cancer Trust. The course, which runs to either 20 or 22 miles depending on the route taken, was completed by 951 competitors and it is hoped that over Â£2000 has been raised for the Headcase Cancer Trust.

Set up by Colin Speirs following the death of his wife, the trust aims to raise Â£30,000 a year to fund PhD research in to the causes of, and potential cures for, Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) tumours. GBM is currently incurable and is the most prevalent and most aggressive form of adult brain cancer in the UK and accounts for around 5000 of the 6000 brain tumour related deaths in the country each year.

Speaking on the possible causes of the cancer, Mr Speirs said:

â€œBad luck? Currently we really donâ€™t know what starts a GBM. The statistics on the incidence and survival rates are conclusive though. 70% of the 6000 adult brain tumours diagnosed each year are GBM and average life expectancy is just 14 months â€“ there is no cure. Youâ€™re a lucky person if you are diagnosed with a brain tumour as an adult and itâ€™s GBM, and Iâ€™ve spoken to only four people around the world who were still alive 5 years after that diagnosis. Itâ€™s a vicious combination of unknown causes and extremely aggressive growth. Unchecked, they literally double in size each month.â€•

The Headcase Cancer Trust forms part of a larger group of 17 charities known collectively as Brain Tumour Research which aims to raise Â£7 million per annum: Headcaseâ€™s contribution comes from a range of sources. Individual efforts, such as competing in the Bridgnorth Sponsored Walk or the Three Peaks Challenge, form a large part of the charityâ€™s income. Over the last few months, Colin has been in training for a 112 mile cycle ride in the Pyrenees on 26th June. Next year, Colin will be riding the entire length of the Pyrenees (500 miles) in just 7 days â€“ he hopes this feat (equivalent to riding up and down Mount Everest twice) will include up to 100 riders annually as of 2013; he already has 19 others joining him in late 2012.

In addition to this, Headcase holds several charity events throughout the year, including a race day at Uttoxeter (October 28) and a golf day (date to be confirmed). A charity ball, scheduled for March 3rd 2012, will give attendees the opportunity to meet the charityâ€™s trustees: ex-England and Essex cricketer Ronnie Irani, and Northern Ireland and Nottingham Forest goalkeeper Lee Camp.

In praise of the work undertaken by the Headcase Cancer Trust, Managing Director of DJS Research Ltd, Danny Sims, had the following to say:

â€œWhen one of our Directors told me about Headcase, I thought it was something we really had to get involved in. Itâ€™s strange that thereâ€™s so little knowledge of â€“ and consequently so little funding to combat â€“ a condition that affects so ma people in this country. We will continue to support Headcase and wish Colin and his colleagues all the very best in their future fundraising activities.â€•

For further information on the Headcase Cancer Trust, please visit http://www.headcase.org.uk/ . Alternatively, email col@headcase.org.uk or call Colin Speirs on +44(0)7957 423389.

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