

Press release- for immediate release

Contact- Liam Craddock 07587179722, media chair

Cancer fears the walkers as they raise £27,000

Over 250 people formed 26 teams and walked around the running track at Yate Outdoor Sports Complex for 24 hours to raise money for Yate Relay for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK. As of Sunday the total was at £27,000 with more money to come in until the middle of August.

Yate Relay opened with a lab of honour by our guests of honour. 20 cancer survivors took to the track to open relay and were followed by an African drumming band, the African Sambistas. Helene, organising chair, said that the Sambistas 'did a fantastic job of starting a fantastic relay which had a fantastic atmosphere'

Yate relay this year saw the addition of various new things, including the Relay Hub. Helene said that the hub was an 'extraordinary success, which provided somewhere for everyone to meet, learn more about cancer and donate a candle bag'. Also in the hub were stallholders promoting cookery schools and selling jewellery etc.

Relay once again welcomed cherry red to the stage and they played in the glistening sun. Relay favourites, cherry red, gave their time for free to entertain all the Relayers and ensure they keep walking around the track! As well as live music and our 24 hour DJ Dom Walker, there was the Great Relay bake-off where people had to bake a cake ready to be judged, to help raise more money! The prize for first place, which was donated by Ice'n'Easy, went to the team 'Class of 2000' for their strawberry layered cake. The judge and Cancer Research UK representative Kate Constance said the cake was 'delicious' calling it a 'tasty brilliant cake and I could have eaten it all'.

Speaking to the crowds after the total had been released, Kate said that everyone should be 'extremely proud to have raised such a figure,' saying that 'the money will fund even more trials so we can all beat our biggest enemy'.

To help beat cancer further, Jo Craythorne was put in charge of Cancer Awareness. She organised a brilliant display in the relay hub which included a mole clinic from a leading dermatologist, UV beads to see how the sun was affecting people's skin and free sun cream as well as a lot more.

Relay then remembered all those lost in a very emotional Candle of Hope ceremony, where candle bags were lit in memory of those who had lost their battle to cancer. Yate Mayor Wully Perks, a cancer survivor himself, joined everyone for the ceremony Saturday evening,

then returned to close Yate Relay. In his closing speech he praised everyone for their 'hard work and devotion' and thanked them for raising money for such an important cause.

At the end of a brilliant Relay Helene reflected on the weekend saying that she believed it to be 'the best relay to date' she said that she was 'extremely thankful to all of the participants for working hard to raise so much money' and finished by saying that she 'can't wait to reunite the committee to start organising Yate Relays 10th birthday next year'.

END