

Friday, 2 March 2018

Sutton fans set to walk the long road to Wembley in bid to relegate prostate cancer

Sutton United fans will set out on the road to Wembley on Sunday 22nd July with Prostate Cancer UK unveiling an even bigger and better March for Men walking programme as they make further strides to stop prostate cancer being a killer.

After a successful launch of the charity's flagship walking campaign last year raised more than £1 million, there is even more reason for people to put their best foot forward and combat the most common cancer in men.

For the first time, the number of men dying from prostate cancer every year has overtaken the number of women dying from breast cancer, making prostate cancer the third biggest cancer killer in the UK.

Stepping up to the challenge, the leading men's health charity will be recruiting an army of walkers representing Sutton and clubs from the Premier League, English Football League (EFL) and Non-League in London and the South East in four mega marathon marches.

[The Football March for Men](#) will see legions of walkers setting off on the road to Wembley, starting out from Sutton United, West Ham United, Millwall, and St Albans City, and heading to the home of English football. The march to the arch will take in 15 clubs and create a fabulous finale.

The event has been backed by Sutton manager Paul Doswell who said: "The stats about prostate cancer are shocking. Hearing two men die from this disease in the course of one game of football really puts things into perspective, and this is an opponent like no other.

"I know people affected by this disease and the heartache and worry it causes friends and loved ones should not be underestimated, so if we can do something to make a difference I'm all for it.

"I wear the 'Man of Men' pin badge on the sidelines and know the Sutton fans will get behind the Football March for Men in July. We are proud to host one of the starting points and I'm looking forward to seeing an army of fans walking side by side with their rivals to raise awareness of this hugely important issue."

National League high-flyers Sutton United kick-off the South West London leg, which sees visits to AFC Wimbledon and Brentford while another starting point is Clarence Park, home of National League South, St Albans City. Walkers will head to Watford and Barnet before the final stretch to HA9.

London Stadium, home to the Premier League Hammers, will be the backdrop to the East London leg of the march, the route also visiting National League Leyton Orient before popping in on North London neighbours Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal. Indeed, Spurs fans will get a glimpse of the new-look White Hart Lane before the day ends at their current borrowed base, Wembley.

The South London starting point is The Den, home to Championship side Millwall, who earned national acclaim when they put the Prostate Cancer UK logo on their first team strip in 2013/14. The route also visits Crystal Palace, Fulham, current Premier League champions Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers before the finale.

The Football March for Men will see hundreds of football fans take on the baton from Jeff Stelling after the Sky Sports presenter, flanked by a cast of celebrities and civilians, walked more than 650 miles across 25 marathons the length and breadth of the country in the last two years, raising £800,000. After his tireless



efforts, the 62-year-old is taking a breather in 2018, but has challenged fans across the capital and the South East to get involved in one of the Football March for Men events.

Legendary former England and Tottenham Hotspur keeper and Prostate Cancer UK ambassador Ray Clemence has also backed the event, and will meet the walkers at Wembley, a place he knows very well.

Clemence, who has himself been affected by prostate cancer, said: "Wembley will always be a special place for me. I've been lucky enough to play at the home of football domestically on several occasions, had the privilege of captaining my country there against Brazil and have also coached from the sidelines.

"So, it represents a fitting finale for Prostate Cancer UK's Football March for Men, as fans across London and the South East converge on the home of football to raise money and awareness.

"Among the clubs on the march are Tottenham Hotspur, a club very close to my heart, and it's great to see them supporting the cause. I've also got some good memories of my time at Barnet, but I always had a warm welcome across the capital and it's terrific to see 15 clubs putting their rivalries aside to walk side by side. It's shaping up to be a brilliant event and one that will really help raise awareness and shape change."

Prostate Cancer UK's march to the arch in 2018 provides a fitting climax to an exciting climax of walking events as the charity extends its footprint across the UK.

On Father's Day weekend, last year, the inaugural March for Men events saw over 1,600 walkers take to the parks of London, Leeds and Glasgow raising more than a quarter of a million pounds.

Now, across seven cities throughout the UK in June, families, friends and loved ones will be pulling on their walking boots and converging on picturesque parklands up and down the country – with a London event in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Saturday, June 16th.

Starting with a North West double header in Manchester and Liverpool on Sunday, June 10th, the countrywide quest to fight back against a disease that kills one man every 45 minutes continues across Father's Day weekend (16-17 June), with London, Bristol and Glasgow hosting the family-friendly walks. The marches continue in Leeds on June 23rd before concluding a week later in Nottingham, on Saturday, 30 June.

Prostate Cancer UK's Chief Executive, Angela Culhane, walked more than 130 miles with Stelling during the legendary jaunts from Hartlepool United to Wembley and Exeter City to Newcastle United. She said: "I'm thrilled that our walking programme continues to gather momentum, and look forward to beating the drum even louder across the UK this year as we mobilise legions of our supporters.

"One man dies every 45 minutes from prostate cancer, and we now know this disease is the third biggest cancer killer. That's unacceptable. We need to turn that around and the wonderful efforts of Jeff and everyone who has walked for us previously have laid the foundations.

"Thanks to the money raised we can fund more ground-breaking research, and it will also help us provide dedicated support and information to men and their families and make prostate cancer a disease the next generation of men need not fear. We've got a way to go but these walks are the perfect way to take a step in the right direction."

The substantial sums raised by fundraising will help 'shift the science' and crack the three core issues of diagnosis, treatment and prevention, which have been left unsolved for too long. It will also help provide support and information to those affected by the disease.

Many people are unaware that prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. One man will die from prostate cancer every 45 minutes in the UK. That's over 11,800 men a year. Based on current trends, if we ignore prostate cancer and do nothing, this number will rise to over 14,500 men a year by 2026.

To sign up to a March for Men or find out more information go to: www.prostatecanceruk.org/footballmarch

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NOTES TO EDITOR

For more information, please contact Gary Haines, Sports PR Manager at Prostate Cancer UK, on 020 3310 7079 or at gary.haines@prostatecanceruk.org, alternatively email pressoffice@prostatecanceruk.org or call 07984 325001.

About March for Men

- March for Men brings people together throughout the UK to celebrate the lives of those who've beaten prostate cancer and to remember those who have been lost to the disease.
- Football fans in London and the South East will also have the option to take part in an epic series of convergence marathon marches across the capital on Sunday, 22nd July. The Football March for Men events will all culminate at Wembley:

Leg	Start	Via	Via	Via	Via	End
1	St Albans City FC	Watford	Barnet			Wembley
2	West Ham United	Leyton Orient	Tottenham Hotspur	Arsenal		Wembley
3	Millwall	Crystal Palace	Fulham	Chelsea	Queens Park Rangers	Wembley
4	Sutton United	AFC Wimbledon	Brentford			Wembley

- Now in its second year the March for Men series has grown bigger with a further four organised walks in Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and Nottingham, and returning are those in Glasgow, Leeds, and London.
- The seven local walks, held over circa 2.5km, 5km and 10km, will take place throughout June:

Liverpool	Manchester
Sunday 10th	Sunday 10th
Croxteth Hall and Country Park L11 1EH	Wythenshawe Park M23 0AB

London
Saturday 16th
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park E20 2ST

Bristol	Glasgow
Sunday 17th	Sunday 17th
Blaise Castle Estate BS10 7QS	Pollok Country Park G43 1AT

Leeds
Saturday 23rd
Roundhay Park LS8 2HH

Nottingham
Saturday 30th
Colwick Country Park NG4 2DW

- Prostate Cancer UK's [March for Men](#) programme kicked off last year with three events, in London on June 17th and Leeds and Glasgow 24 hours later with more than 1600 people taking part. And in 2018 the charity's March for Men walking programme is bigger than ever with more local walks across the country and supporters also encouraged to hold their own marches
- Last year Jeff Stelling completed his [March for Men](#), an epic 15 marathons in 15 days from Exeter City FC to Newcastle United FC in June having walked from Hartlepool to Wembley in 2016.
- Money raised will be used to help 'shift the science' and crack the three core issues of diagnosis, treatment and prevention which have been left unsolved for too long. It will have a huge impact on the lives of those affected by the disease and will help bring us one step closer to stopping prostate cancer being a killer.
- Sign up to a local March for Men and help stop a man dying every 45 minutes in the UK from prostate cancer.

About Prostate Cancer UK

- Prostate Cancer UK has a simple ambition – to stop men dying from prostate cancer.
- As the number of men diagnosed with prostate cancer continues to rise (making it the most common of all cancers by 2030), now is the time to take control. Through shifting the science over the next 10 years to focus on radical improvements in diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and support, we will stop prostate cancer being a killer.
- Ignoring prostate cancer won't beat it, so join the fight.

Key Headline Statistics

- More than 11,800 men die from prostate cancer in the UK each year – that's one man every 45 minutes.
- It's the most common cancer in men, with over 330,000 living with and after the disease in the UK.
- Prostate cancer is set to become the most commonly diagnosed cancer of all in the UK by 2030 - which is why we must all act now to curb its power to kill.
- Men over 50, black men and men with a family history of prostate cancer all face a higher than average risk of the disease.
- Prostate cancer treatment often causes devastating, long term side-effects. Incontinence and erectile dysfunction strike at the heart of what it means to be a man.
- Anyone with concerns about prostate cancer may contact Prostate Cancer UK's Specialist Nurses in confidence on 0800 074 8383 or online via the Live Chat instant messaging service: www.prostatecanceruk.org/. The Specialist Nurse phone service is free to landlines and open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday with late opening until 8pm on Wednesdays.
- Visit prostatecanceruk.org now to help beat this disease.

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