

Press release - 8 July 2013

Marathon run in train driver's memory

CrossCountry staff raise money for local hospice in colleague's memory

Local employees from a leading train company have raised more than £2,500 for St Columba's Hospice after taking part in the Edinburgh Marathon Festival earlier this year, in memory of their late friend and colleague Graeme Potter.

CrossCountry staff, Barry Stoddart, 39, Kevin Scott, 42, David Lawrie, 40 and Ailsa Burns, 39, all based in Edinburgh decided to enter the two-day running festival on the 25 and 26 May in memory of Graeme who sadly passed away in January after he lost his battle with cancer at the young age of 48.

The long hours spent training and completing the 10k, half and full marathons between the foursome were rewarded by family, friends and CrossCountry colleagues who helped them raise in excess of £2,500 for St Columba's Hospice, a specialist cancer hospice in Edinburgh. The money raised has gone towards the funding for a new building. They chose to raise money for St Columba's following the great care and support the hospice provided Graeme with towards the end of his life.

Kevin Scott, who lives in East Lothian and worked with train driver Graeme for ten years, said: "We decided to enter the Marathon Festival in memory of our good friend and colleague who sadly passed away after a brave battle with cancer earlier this year. We wanted to do something for St Columba's Hospice because they provide fantastic care for patients and their families during a very difficult time and they rely on charity donations to keep up their amazing work.

"We are entirely grateful for all the support and donations we've received so far. We are all looking at running in the festival again next year – including stepping up to the next distance!"

CrossCountry regularly contribute to a number of charity initiatives along its routes – the most recent being for the Gromit Unleashed exhibition – a new public art exhibition that hit the streets of Bristol on the 1st July for ten weeks. CrossCountry is sponsoring one of the unique Gromits, designed by the Royal Mint to help raise funds for Bristol Children's Hospital charity, Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal.

For further information, please contact Kelly Mortlock or Jack Storry on 020 7025 7522 or email crosscountry@grayling.com.

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Notes to editors

CrossCountry

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