

Matt is on the run for Izzy cause



ON YOUR MARKS: Matt Frith is ready to run the Milton Keynes Marathon to support the Help Izzy Walk campaign. Picture: Chrissie Laming

A FATHER is using his first marathon run to help a little girl walk – after being told to fundraise by his nine-year-old daughter.

Matt Frith has never taken part in a marathon but next month he will be running in the Milton Keynes Marathon to help raise money for the Help Izzy Walk Campaign.

The campaign is aiming to raise £80,000 for an operation to help six-year-old Izzy Pearce who suffers from cerebral palsy. The operation will reduce the pain and spasticity in Izzy's legs, allowing her to walk and dance with her twin sister Gabby.

Insistence

Matt decided to run for Izzy on the insistence of his nine-year-old daughter, Sophia. He said: "Originally I had not planned to run for any charity. I was just doing the marathon with my dad, Ray Frith, who is a member of Newquay Road Runners. Dad has done a number of marathons before but wanted to do one with my brothers and I.

"But my daughter, who is eminently a better human being than myself, told me I was being selfish and that I should do it for charity! Sophia was very adamant. I don't get told off very often but, in this case, I did. She told me about Izzy who goes to her school so I got in touch with Izzy's mum, Ursula, and began fundraising."

Matt, who works at PSP Insurance Solutions in Newquay, has been training for the run for some time but, as the marathon quickly approaches, the nerves are setting in.

By Beth Perry

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He said: "I am one of the least athletic people you will ever meet and to finish a marathon will be a big deal for me. I've been feeling okay because it sounded like it was far into the future, but now I'm starting to get nervous.

"Before I could go for a quick run and call it training, but now I'm having to really go for it.

"My dad finds it amusing because he runs marathons all the time and it's basically a stroll in the park for him. I am determined that I will finish it though – I've told too many people that I'm running it that it would be embarrassing not to."

Matt has raised just over £1,000 for Izzy and is hoping to raise even more for the six-year-old and her family. He has never met Izzy personally but has been inspired by how the community have rallied around the Pearce family.

Appreciative

He added: "I think the support that has been given by everyone just proves that communities still exist. When I told Ursula I was running for Izzy she was so appreciative and I think the level of support coming from all over Cornwall is just overwhelming to her. I'm just hoping we can raise as much as we can to help Izzy walk."

● Matt will be taking on the Milton Keynes Marathon on Monday, May 2. To donate, please visit www.justgiving.com/Matt-Running-to-Help-Izzy-Walk