

GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH
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MARATHON SUCCESS FOR BEN AND ROB

Following an amazingly successful charity event at the Nuffield Pool, its two organisers, one from the Royal Navy and one from the Royal Army Medical Corps, asked Minister for Sport, Steven Linares to thank the people of Gibraltar for their 'fantastic support.'

Eight year-old Ben O'Donohue swam over 170 lengths of the pool - a distance of over 9 kilometres whilst his father's friend, Warrant officer 2 Rob Records ran the marathon distance of 26 miles and 385 years on a running machine at the side of the pool. It took the two of them almost 5 hours to complete their two tasks and, once he had completed the marathon distance, Rob celebrated by swimming a final length of the pool alongside Ben. Minister Linares was there to see Rob run the final mile and Ben to swim the last few lengths.

The aim of the event was to raise money for 6 year-old Jamie Inglis who has been fighting neuroblastoma, an aggressive childhood cancer, since he was 3½ years old. Jamie thought he had beaten the disease once but sadly the cancer has come back. He is currently being treated with radiotherapy and chemotherapy to try and get the disease under control but, as this is a very rare condition and as there is no relapse treatment available in UK, Jamie's best chance of beating neuroblastoma is to travel to Germany for a treatment. In total, the treatment will cost around £250,000.

'We invited the Minister to come along because the support we have had from the civilian community in Gibraltar has been massive,' said Ben's father, Chief Petty Officer Paddy O'Donohue. 'Virtually every firm and every restaurant in Gibraltar has donated something for us to raffle off. Together, '**Independent Air Conditioning**' and **GJBS** have raised over £3000, a jewellery firm gave us £1000-worth of jewellery to raffle, **bwinparty** donated £850 and all the restaurants have given vouchers for free meals. The support from the town has been beyond belief and has exceeded all expectations. We have asked the Minister to pass on our thanks to everyone. We hoped to raise £5000 but, due to everyone's support, we have already reached over £8000 with more still to come.'

'This was my first-ever marathon but I wanted to do something for Jamie because his father and I joined the Army together,' said Rob. 'As a 40 year-old who has never run a marathon before, this has been quite a journey! To help my preparations I improved my diet, I cut down hugely on my smoking and I've now entered myself for a couple of marathon races in UK. But young Ben has been my inspiration – he doesn't even know Jamie but he has given up so much of his summer holiday to train for this.'

Ben said that he was 'nervous at the start...and exhausted at the finish.'

'Sometimes an event just catches the imagination of people,' said Minister Linares. 'And this clearly has done just that. Both Ben and Rob have done wonderfully well and I am delighted that Gibraltar has given them the support they deserve.'