

Press Release 15th May, 2012

Two-man team to row Atlantic for Breakthrough Breast Cancer

TWO family men are taking on one of the world's toughest challenges to raise £250,000 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Nick Rees and Ed Curtis will be testing the limits of their strength and endurance by rowing the Atlantic Ocean as part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, starting in December 2013.

They are taking on the lung-busting race to raise money and awareness for the pioneering charity. Nick's wife and Ed's lifelong friend, Ellen, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 at the age of 33. Ellen had to go through treatment while taking care of her two children, who were just one and three years old at the time.

Nick Rees, 36, from Rowledge, Surrey, says: "It was devastating when Ellen was diagnosed with breast cancer and she showed incredible strength to get through it. She is our inspiration for wanting to take on such a big challenge for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Knowing the money raised will help find new treatments and help save lives is our motivation for this unbelievably tough challenge."

Around 48,000 women and 300 men are diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK each year, with 12,000 dying of the disease. Breakthrough Breast Cancer is leading the fight against the disease by developing new life-saving treatments and bringing them to patients as quickly as possible.

Nick and Ed will row unsupported and self-sufficiently from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to English Harbour in Antigua – a distance of 2,600 nautical miles. The journey takes on average 50 days to complete. They have already bought the winning boat from last year's race and received handy tips from others who have completed the epic challenge.

Journey facts:

- More people have been into space or climbed Mount Everest than have rowed the Atlantic
- The weather is unpredictable and can be extreme with waves over 40 feet high
- Nick and Ed will row 24 hours a day, in shifts of two hours on, two hours off, for the duration
- They will burn 8,000 calories a day and lose 20% of their bodyweight during the crossing.

Father of two Ed Curtis, 37, from Penmaenmawr, north Wales, said: "I love a challenge and there are few bigger challenges than this. We have to be a bit mad to take this on, but we should get through it because we are both very determined and, more important, close friends. Following Ellen's breast cancer treatment we had to do something to fight this disease which affects so many."

To find out more about Ed and Nick's challenge visit www.breakthroughatlantic.com. To donate £10 text 'ROWA88 £10' to 70070.

ENDS

For more information and interviews, please contact Nick on 07971 809 369 or breakthroughatlantic@yahoo.co.uk. Ed can be contacted on 07966 065073 or edward200275@gmail.com.

Notes to editors

The team

- Nick Rees is a father of two children, Alice (aged 5) and Thomas (aged 3) and is married to Ellen. Following five years at Goldman Sachs, he now works as an investment manager for Absolute Return Partners. His previous challenges include a 100km walk, climbing the highest mountain in north America (outside Alaska) and the London Marathon.

- Ed Curtis is also a father of two children Osian (aged 5) and Betty (18 months) and is married to Nicola. He is a lifelong friend of Ellen and a watersports professional, working at the Plas Menai National Watersports Centre in North Wales. Ed loves a challenge and has spent two months working and camping in the Arctic Circle as well as entering several open water swimming events. www.breakthroughatlantic.com.

Breast Cancer

- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the UK – nearly 48,000 women and around 300 men are diagnosed every year
- One in eight women in the UK will develop breast cancer at some point in their lifetime
- The good news is that more women than ever in the UK are surviving breast cancer thanks to better awareness, better treatments and better screening

Breakthrough Breast Cancer

Breakthrough Breast Cancer funds ground-breaking research, campaigns for better services and treatments and raises awareness of breast cancer. Through this work the charity believes passionately that breast cancer can be beaten and the fear of the disease removed for good. Find more information at breakthrough.org.uk.