Bike for Bobby

Robbie Elliott played for Sir Bobby at Newcastle United and, like so many people, has been affected by cancer.

He wanted to do something special to help raise money through his own Robbie Elliott Foundation, which he would then share with the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

The Bike For Bobby fundraising challenge he created was more intense than he could possibly have imagined. Along with his cycling partner, Phil Gray, Robbie cycled 3,500 miles between all the clubs managed by Sir Bobby – all the way from Lisbon to Newcastle.

The route was longer than the Tour de France and the pair faced mountains, pot holes, snow, gale force winds, road closures, injuries and illness.

Robbie said: “We knew Bike For Bobby would be hard but I don’t think we knew quite how hard. But even when we were struggling we knew why we were doing it. And knowing we were raising money to fight cancer was a great incentive to keep going.”

Robbie’s efforts were recognised by the North East Football Writers’ Association who named him Personality of the Year, in association with the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. And Lady Elsie and Jack Charlton were among guests at a special Bike For Bobby Dinner to celebrate the success of the ride.

Lady Elsie said: “I’m simply amazed that Robbie and Phil completed this incredible ride, and on schedule, despite all the many challenges they came up against. That shows a very special level of dedication and courage.

“What they have achieved is something they should take great personal pride in and I know my husband would also be very proud of them.”

Bike For Bobby was rounded off with a group Cycle Sportive ride open to cyclists of all abilities and which has become an annual charity event.

Football Writer Takes the Plunge

Daily Telegraph football correspondent Henry Winter swam across the River Tyne to honour a bet and raise funds for the Foundation.

Back in 2010, such was the uncertainty surrounding Newcastle United that Henry promised to swim the river if the club committed long-term to manager Alan Pardew. After Alan signed an eight year contract, Henry immediately agreed to fulfil his wager and take the plunge.

In glorious sunshine, he swam from Newcastle City Marina to the pontoon at Royal Naval Reserve training unit HMS Calliope on the Gateshead bank. As he emerged from the cold river he was greeted with a Newcastle United towel courtesy of the club.

Henry undertook his swim in the shadow of the Tyne Bridge and under the bemused gaze of hundreds of shoppers at Newcastle’s popular Quayside Market.

Henry said: “I’m fresh and frozen, it was cold. The first two thirds were a doddle and I thought this is ok, a nice gentle paddle across the Tyne. But then suddenly the current hit and it was like the fast lane of the motorway.

“I could actually feel myself being dragged along and I was fortunate to have an experienced swimmer alongside me.

“It’s really been fun. Everyone has rallied round to help and that’s a sign of the depth of feeling for Sir Bobby and the great work funded through the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.”

Henry was ably supported by experienced swimmer Tony Greener from North Shields, organiser of the annual Tyne 10 Mile River Swim and, after his chilly dip, headed off to more familiar surroundings to cover Newcastle United v Manchester United.

Time for Northumberland Tea

A new tea, the creation of Corbridge couple Bill and Helen Logan is helping to raise money for the Foundation.

Northumberland Tea is being promoted by football legend Jack Charlton alongside the light-hearted slogan “The best cup since 1966” referring to Jack’s, and English football’s, finest hour – winning the World Cup under Sir Alf Ramsey.

Lady Elsie met up with Bill and Helen to thank them and shared a pot of Northumberland Tea on Newcastle’s Quayside with Jack.
Sir Bobby Robson – A Celebration

The 18th February 2013 would have been Sir Bobby’s 80th birthday and to mark the occasion a group of experienced music industry professionals volunteered their time to organise a night in tribute to him.

Sir Bobby Robson – A Celebration, supported by Virgin Money, was a very special evening of music, memories and laughter as family, friends, musicians, comedians, football greats and admirers gathered on the banks of the Tyne to remember Sir Bobby.

The charity night at The Sage Gateshead was originally planned with Sir Bobby’s involvement in 2009 and he filmed what became his last interviews to be shown at the event.


Guests included Sir Bobby Robson Foundation Patrons with Middlesbrough FC chairman Steve Gibson and Sir Bobby’s Ipswich captain Mick Mills in attendance. Then Sunderland AFC manager Martin O’Neill, Durham CCC’s Stephen Harmison, football legends Bob Moncur and Jack Charlton and ‘Hebburn’ star Chris Ramsey were all in the audience.

It was an extremely memorable evening and raised £80,000 for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and The Alan Shearer Foundation.

Sir Bobby’s son, Mark Robson, said: “It was an absolutely incredible night of music, sport and comedy. It was a spectacular evening.

“In fact it was one of the best evenings I’ve ever had. Dad would have been gobsmacked.

“We’re just so grateful to everyone who helped make the night so special and particularly to the team of volunteers and the staff at The Sage Gateshead who put so much effort into it.”

A DVD of the night, Another (K)Night to Remember, is on sale and raising further funds for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.
**Cruising Fundraising**

Guests on Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines’ ‘Sir Bobby Robson Cruise’ from Harwich to Amsterdam and Newcastle, were taken on a trip down memory lane with reminiscences of the much-loved Ipswich Town, Newcastle and England football manager. Former Ipswich players including Allan Hunter, George Burley, John Wark and Bryan Hamilton together with guest of honour, Lady Elsie, helped to raise £8,853 through raffles and auctions that took place during the cruise.

Nathan Philpot, sales and marketing Director for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, said: “We were delighted that this proved to be such a successful cruise and are extremely grateful to Lady Elsie Robson and the ex-Ipswich Town players for their participation and fundraising efforts.”

**Bowled Over by Cricketing Support**

The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation was named as Durham County Cricket Club’s Stephen Harmison’s Benefit charity for 2013. Former world number one bowler, Harmison, who has two Ashes wins and two County Championship titles to his name, was named as 2013 beneficiary by his county, Durham toward the end of last year.

Events including golf days, cricket matches and dinners are being held over 12 months to raise funds, with a percentage of the overall total donated to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

Stephan’s friend and former England team mate, Andrew Flintoff, said: “He really deserves this year. Benefits are awarded to players who show loyalty and Steve’s probably the most loyal person I’ve ever met.

“He’s shown great commitment to Durham Cricket Club and this benefit year is their way of saying thank you. It’s a big year for Stephen and he should be proud he’s got one.”

**In the Swing with Golfing Support**

Support from golfers this year has been tremendous once again and has included a ‘Derby Day’ competition between Sunderland and Newcastle United fans, with respective team captains Kevin Ball and John Beresford.

Both the Ladies’ and Men’s Captains of Bishop Auckland Golf Club named the Foundation as their Charity of the Year and guests at the club in that time included Lady Elsie, former athlete Alison Curbishley, Durham CCC coach Geoff Cook and, on one memorable day, 26 former Sunderland AFC, Newcastle United, Middlesbrough FC, Carlisle United and Darlington FC players.

Once again, Sir Bobby’s family also organised their own golf day at beautiful Rockcliffe Hall Hotel near Darlington, which united north east football behind a common cause.

It was the third annual Sir Bobby Robson Celebrity Golf Day and charity Patron and Middlesbrough FC chairman Steve Gibson was among the high-profile guests while current and former players and staff from Middlesbrough FC, Sunderland AFC and Newcastle United were among the golfers.
Land’s End to John O’Groats Cycle

Friends Scott Norris from Newton Aycliffe, County Durham and Luke Stephenson from Pegswood, Northumberland, cycled the length of the country raising funds for the Foundation. The pair, who cycled the 1,017 miles unsupported, met with Lady Elsie in Newcastle before they began and she thanked them for their great efforts.

3 Days for Bobby

For the last four years, a group of family and friends has undertaken various three day cycling challenges to raise money for the Foundation. Describing themselves as ‘not exactly fit’ they find each challenge very tough.

Previously, the ‘3 Days for Bobby’ team has ridden the Coast to Coast, Northumberland Coast and Castle’s route and cycled from Newcastle to Castle Douglas in Dumfries and Galloway.

This year, 25 of them set off from the Angel of the North and successfully rode to Kendal via the North York Moors.

Great North Runners

For the first time, the Foundation had an area within the Great North Run’s Charity Village so that tired runners had somewhere at the finish to catch their breath.

It also provided an opportunity for Sir Bobby’s family and volunteers to thank the runners for their efforts and to offer them refreshments.

Runners tackling the famous 13 mile course in aid of the Foundation included Sir Bobby’s son Mark and his partner Kim Jennings and Tony ‘the Fridge’ Phoenix-Morrison with his trademark fridge.

Newcastle Building Society Support

Two special charity-linked accounts, which proved to be the Newcastle Building Society’s most popular of the year, raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for the Foundation. To date, (September 2013) a sum of £500,000 has been generated for the charity.

The Society pays an additional percentage on all balances held in the accounts to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and it is the charity’s first financial partnership of this nature.

Lady Elsie and Newcastle Building Society chief executive Jim Willens in the Sir Bobby Robson Centre
The charity’s annual income rose by 9% (to £1.5m) during 2012/13 which was extremely heartening considering the current difficulties faced by the sector and confirms the unfailing generosity of the general public and local organisations in supporting the services provided by the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The high quality of services provided by our local hospitals was again confirmed by a thirteenth consecutive CKHS Top 40 Hospitals Award 2013 and this is reflected in the many voluntary contributions that we receive in which the quality of care and treatment is commended.

The high level investment by Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in redeveloping the Royal Victoria Infirmary and creation of the Great North Children’s Hospital has provided patients with pristine modern buildings enhanced with the latest technical equipment and expertise. The charity has made sizeable contributions in support of the transformation and during 2012-13 committed a further £150,000 towards Stereotactic Enabled Radiotherapy equipment in the Northern Centre for Cancer Care. The support was a collaborative arrangement with the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Charity (Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and Charlie Bear for Cancer Care) who together contributed a further £1.05m towards this ground breaking technology.

Ensuring that patients continue to receive high quality treatment and have an active voice in appraising and developing current levels of service prompted a further investment of £64,000 in support of a Real Time Patient Feedback system.

In total, the Charity made 18 large scale awards, totalling in excess of £486,000 to the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals, including grants for innovative medical equipment, service development and staff training and education, all of which were aimed at enhancing the patient experience.

Four of the awards, totalling £89,000, were directed to the newly established Newcastle Eye Centre to support diagnostic equipment, patient information display screens, children’s toys and wall murals.

Whilst the level of large scale awards decreased from previous years, primarily due the Trust’s own sizeable investment, the emphasis currently is on ensuring that the overall quality of service is not merely maintained but also enhanced. As part of this strategy a grant was made to send a team of staff from the Gastric Cancer Unit to Seattle, USA to review recovery time procedures that enabled patients to spend less time in hospital following major surgery.

In recognition of the vital role played by staff in providing and maintaining high quality services, the charity in conjunction with the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Charity, provided a grant to set up the Personal Touch Awards. The awards are made to individual staff members and supporting teams that are providing high levels service over and above that which would be reasonably expected and enables patients/relatives/carers and colleagues the opportunity to identify and nominate such individuals/groups. The Real Time Patient Feedback System together with the Personal Touch Awards provide a clear indication of the value that the Trust places in ensuring patients receive the best possible treatment and that service levels are continually evaluated and maintained.

The Charity’s on-going support of innovative research with a view to improving treatment and outcomes continued during the year with the award of ten research grants (totalling £305,000).

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to relay the gratitude of my Trustees to everyone who has supported the Newcastle Healthcare Charity, both in the past but particularly during the 2012/13 financial year. Such support has allowed us to commit in excess of £36 million to NHS projects over the last eighteen years and we remain fully committed in our efforts to provide continued support to enhance and improve services across the region.

We are also indebted to individuals who have provided bequests to the Charity (almost £4.9 million over the last eight years) and in doing so provide a fitting and lasting memory to those individuals and ensure that future generations will benefit from this ultimate act of kindness.

Ken Grey
Chairman
July 2013
A SELECTION OF SUPPORTING CHARITIES

for The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Staff at the Great North Children’s Hospital were delighted to receive an early Christmas gift last year – new, state-of-the-art equipment which provides life saving treatment for some of our most seriously ill young patients with primary immune deficiency and leukaemia.

Patients being cared for on our Bubble Unit require a bone marrow transplant (BMT) as part of their complex treatment. One of the complications of the transplant is graft versus host disease (GVHD) - an adverse immune response of the transplanted cells, causing inflammation of the skin, gut and liver when severe. Patients who suffer from this complication either require long term immuno-suppressive treatment with significant side-effects, or may succumb to their illness.

The new machine carries out a procedure called extracorporeal photopheresis, or ECP for short. This very effectively reduces the aggressive and damaging actions of the blood cells, by removing the white cells from the patient into the machine, exposing them to a light sensitive drug and ultraviolet light which stops them attacking the patient, and returning the treated cells back into the patient’s blood stream. This revolutionary procedure not only prevents the inflammation – it saves people’s lives.

The introduction of this highly specialist treatment to Newcastle was made possible due to the amazing contributions of two key charities - The Bubble Foundation and the Children’s Cancer Fund.

Dr Andrew Gennery, Honorary Consultant Paediatric Immunologist said:

“This is the best Christmas present we could have possibly hoped for. To be able to treat such extremely ill patients here in Newcastle is fantastic. I would wish to thank everyone who has contributed towards funding this new equipment. Believe me, your efforts have been so worthwhile – they save lives.”
Hundreds of children needing rehabilitation can now follow the actions of 3D cartoon characters to help them recover. Children can interact with 3D digital characters Gymbob and Gymima and copy their actions to make physiotherapy and other rehabilitation exercises fun.

Case study
In February Skye had a bleed in her head meaning she lost ability in most of her body. In intensive care for three weeks she needed help to even breathe. Now, eight weeks after the bleed, she can use the 3D immersive equipment to draw circles with glitter and practice standing with Gymima to strengthen her muscles.

Skye’s mum Debbie Logan said: “Skye has made incredible progress in only eight-weeks. She is a little star and has always been enthusiastic about working with the nurses, physios and occupational therapists. Equipment like this is fantastic and makes the sessions a lot more fun for children.”

Victoria Mitchinson, team leader for paediatric physiotherapy at the Great North Children’s Hospital, said: “The equipment is used to motivate and enhance rehabilitation by adding more fun and interaction to current therapy programmes. It really adds another dimension to our treatment programmes.

“The equipment will be used with children and young adults ranging from three to 18-years-old. The wide range of interactive exercises and programmes that it offers means that every child will benefit irrespective of their mobility, functional or cognitive level.”

Watch out for the Clown Doctors in the Great North Children’s Hospital!!
We are pleased to announce the return of the Clown Doctors in the Great North Children’s Hospital.

The Clown Doctors are professional artists who have been trained in the art of clowning, and have special skills and stories to share. They embody a range of “Clown” skills including song and dance, improvisation, puppetry, storytelling, circus skills, mime and movement.

Hospitalised children can feel frightened, lonely, bored or confused; as well as coping with illness they are in a new place, away from home, which is filled with unknown people, medical equipment and sometimes distressing sights which healthy children do not have to experience. Families of patients can also be affected, and while the medical needs of the child are being given top priority they also need some attention of a non-medical kind.
Bright Red is a regional blood cancer charity which aims to improve the lives, and treatment of those in the north who are dealing with blood cancer.

The Bright Red Bike Ride team of 2012. The team was made up of professionals, staff from the hospital (including nurses Maureen Elliott and Holly Elliott, doctors Lredo Cotto, pharmacists Penny Gamble and data staff Dylan Bradley) as well as a haematology patient and ambassador of Bright Red, Lee Robson.

We want to make the north east the safest place to be if you’re unfortunate enough to be diagnosed with a blood cancer, and with the help of our supporters, we’re on the way to making this a reality.

2012 saw us increase our spending in both care and education, and maintain a significant investment in blood cancer research within the region.

Our largest event during 2012 was the Bright Red Bike Ride, which raised almost £40,000. This has been combined with the money raised from 2011’s bike ride, and meant they were able to move forward with the appointment of the first Bright Red Outreach Nurse, who takes up post in 2013.

During 2012 we also agreed to fund a £250,000 cytometer machine which will be a fantastic addition to the research department, and also agreed to fund a £57,500 ECP machine, which will be a fantastic addition to the NCCC, allowing for an alternative treatment for GVHD.

These purchases would not be possible without the patients, staff and their families. Together, we’re fighting blood cancer, and the future, looks brighter than ever.
Volunteers in the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care, Freeman Hospital who give their time to Macmillan Cancer Support were honoured in June 2012 at a special awards ceremony.

They were nominated for and were awarded the prestigious Deborah Hutton Award; a national award; presented annually by Macmillan to volunteers who “provide practical support and care to people affected by cancer, beyond the expectation of their role”.

The awards were presented on behalf of Macmillan and NCCC by Newcastle United’s 1969 Fairs Cup winning captain Bobby Moncur as part of Macmillan’s Volunteers’ Week celebrations.

Many of the volunteers at NCCC have been involved for 10 years working directly with people affected by cancer who attend NCCC for their care and/or treatment since the Information and Support Service started in 2003.

Dorothy Turnbull, Pat Redhead and Lesley Wilkinson, three members of the volunteer team in the Information Centre chat with Bob Moncur after he presented them with their certificates in recognition of the award.

The Information and Support Service manager said “The fantastic efforts of this group, who are a delight to work with and have as part of the team enables Macmillan and NCCC to provide local people on their journey through treatment for cancer and those living with and after cancer with vital information, practical advice and emotional support. Without them the service would be unable to function and their efforts make a real difference to people affected by cancer”.

The following members of the NCCC volunteer team received awards:

Phyllis Hall, Laura Jordan, Dorothy Turnbull, Marilyn German, Lesley Wilkinson, Dave Robson, Pat Redhead, Margaret Warner, Lillian Turner, Pat Thane, Noeline Martin, Sally Bennett, Mary Leslie, Gordon Weatherburn, Mike Rowson, Jean Finlay and Olive White.
Local heroes, Ant and Dec, delighted families and staff alike when they announced in June this year that they were to become patrons of the Children’s Heart Unit Fund (CHUF) at the Freeman Hospital.

Ant added: “There was no hesitation in us becoming patrons, we just jumped at the chance.”

Dec said: “We’re really excited about it. We were honoured when we were asked to become patrons. We have been to the unit a couple of times and have seen the work that they do and we were only happy to be part of it.

“We have met some of the kids who are amazing and courageous, but the staff manage to keep everybody’s spirits up and keep a smile on everybody’s face.

“It is a really inspirational place and a wander around here really puts your problems in perspective and you realise that there are other people out there with bigger worries than you.”

www.chuf.org.uk
In 1988 a Children of Courage Award was made to a young girl from the North East, Joanne Gillespie. Joanne, then aged 11, had endured 2 major operations and fought back against a recurring brain tumour.

In order to help other children about to endure similar experiences Joanne wrote a book, which was published in 1989 and entitled Brave Heart. The book received immediate public acclaim as an inspiration to other sick children and their families. It led not only to the Children of Courage Award, but also to Joanne being presented in the spring of 1989 with a North East personality award.

Among those present at the award ceremony was Robin Alexander, a member of Hexham Round Table about to start his year as Community Service Committee Chairman. Robin was so impressed by Joanne’s story that he sought to make the cornerstone of his year an appeal to establish recognition and reward for other children with similar stories.

The fundraising effort proved a great success, culminating in the autumn of 1989 with a gala charity dinner held at The Mayfair in Newcastle. The cabaret for the evening was headed by Dire Straits.

As a consequence of the fundraising efforts, Hexham Round Table sent 22 children to Disneyworld in Florida. Other children whose illnesses/handicaps prevented them from travelling received a personal gift chosen by them but designed to enhance their lives. All of the children subsequently attended a presentation at Tyne Tees TV studios where they were each given a distinctive Brave Hearts award of a crystal pyramid.

It had become apparent that the undertaking had grown beyond anyone’s wildest dreams and it was too big to simply remain as part of Hexham Round Table’s community service effort. The decision was made, therefore, to register Brave Hearts as a separate charity. This is now known as ‘Brave Hearts of the North East’, although the Round Table link still remains through the Charity’s Trustees, many of whom are former members of Hexham Round Table.

Since its inception, Brave Hearts has made awards to in excess of 500 children, all of whom have shown incredible courage in battling to overcome illness, handicap, or other adversities. Whilst they all have had immense enjoyment from whatever personal gift they chose, it is perhaps true that they value equally the Brave Hearts crystal awards, and the recognition they receive that they are indeed special children! One of the significant features of the children Brave Hearts has recognised is the fact that they personally see nothing remarkable about their struggle to overcome adversity. For them, it is part of everyday life.

Each year some 20 to 30 awards are made, following nominations from parents, carers and professionals in the North East. A significant number of these come from the CLIC Sargent Team in the RVI in Newcastle who have forged extremely close links with Brave Hearts for over twenty years. Not only do the CLIC Sargent team provide nominations, but they also attend the annual awards presentations and support the charity wherever possible. Brave Hearts are extremely proud and honoured to be able to work so closely with such a professional and supportive team, who carry out such tremendous work in the region.

Many of the children recognised by Brave Hearts have been so ill that sadly, they failed to make a recovery. Joanne herself, died in 1993. Brave Hearts of the North East seeks to continue to honour her memory and to build upon the inspiration she has provided to other children.

The Trustees,
Brave Hearts of the North East, 2013
NHS CONSTITUTION

The NHS Constitution was created to protect the NHS and make sure it will always do the things it was set up to do in 1948 – to provide high-quality healthcare that’s free at the point of delivery and for everyone.

Did you know...

you have the right to choose

Government cannot change the Constitution without the full involvement of staff, patients and the public.

For the first time, the Constitution brings together in one place details of what staff, patients and the public can expect from the National Health Service. It also explains what the public can do to support the NHS, help it work effectively, and ensure that resources are used responsibly.

The Constitution sets out the rights of NHS patients. These rights cover how patients access health services, the quality of care they receive, the treatments and programmes available, confidentiality, information and the right to complain if things go wrong. Perhaps the most significant right is that of choice, in terms of the hospital a patient can choose for their care – there are exceptions for emergency and maternity services but otherwise a patient can choose to be referred to any hospital in England which offers the clinical service they require.

One of the primary aims of the Constitution is to set out clearly what patients, the public and staff can expect from the NHS and what the NHS expects from them in return. There is a comprehensive Handbook in support of the Constitution.

Further information may be found on the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk
HAPPY 65th BIRTHDAY NHS
UNISON learning representatives celebrated the 65th birthday of the NHS by holding events across the Trust.

When Health Secretary Aneurin Bevan opens Park Hospital in Manchester, it is the climax of a hugely ambitious plan to bring good healthcare to all. For the first time, hospitals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, opticians and dentists are brought together under one umbrella organisation to provide services that are free for all at the point of delivery.

The central principles are clear: the health service will be available to all and financed entirely from taxation, which means that people pay into it according to their means.