

## GOLF MARATHON

**When** Leigh Williams' father-in-law, Dave (The Cat) Benson was diagnosed with prostate cancer a couple of years ago it was a scary time for everyone in the family. Leigh, like most people, knew very little about prostate cancer but wanted to learn more. When Prostate Cancer UK challenged people to complete The Big Golf Race to raise awareness of prostate cancer and funds for research, he felt that this was a perfect way for him to help by doing something he loves. The challenge was to complete four rounds (a marathon) or two rounds (a half marathon) of golf in one day. Leigh accepted the challenge and decided to go for the marathon – four rounds.



Leigh set up a JustGiving page and made lots of social media posts telling people about his plans. Friends and family shared his posts and Lincoln City Radio (LCR FM) told listeners about his challenge for the two weeks leading up to the day, which all resulted in lots of activity and donations.

On 20th July between 5.30am and 8.30pm, Leigh played four rounds of golf at Welton Manor Golf Club, his home club. Leigh told the **NEWS** that he had a huge amount of support from many different people (friends, family and other golfers). He had different playing partners (Bruce Naylor, Stuart Philipson, Steve Broughton and Mac Harrison) throughout the day, who also stayed on for extra rounds to carry his clubs. Leigh also said that Welton Manor Golf Club was very supportive, providing endless refreshments and buggies for family to come and watch.



*Leigh & Mac Harrison*



*Leigh with Paul Munroe & Bruce Naylor*



*Leigh & Steve Broughton*



*Leigh with Stuart Phillipson*

We asked Leigh what the hardest part of the challenge was. He said it was the third round. While training he had been doing two rounds in a day but, as he had chosen the hottest day of the year to do the challenge, taking a break for food and a shower after the second round made it very hard for him to get going again when it was time to start that third round.



There were many amusing moments throughout the day as the banter was great. The most unexpected thing, for him, was that he played his best round last! To top off the day he had three birdies in the last round including one on the 72nd hole, an amazing end to the day that saw his supporting crowd go wild.

When he decided to do the golf marathon, Leigh's aim was to raise £1,000. At the time of writing, he had raised an impressive £1,790.

We asked Leigh if he planned to repeat the challenge. He said the golf marathon had been perfect and so enjoyable that he wouldn't want to do the same thing again as it might take away from that. However he is 100% sure that he will do a different challenge next year. If he does, we will report on that as well.



**Dorothy Russell**



*If you want to add to what Leigh has raised you can donate by going to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/the-big-golf-race-2021-4413>.*