

Worthing Pier in the News!



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01.07.1983



Hundreds join beach fun run for disabled

Story by Jane Michael and Jean Pitts
Pictures: Gerald Thompson

QUAGMIRE-LIKE sand did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of 250 runners taking part in a fun run along Worthing beach on Friday evening.

Clowns, dogs and flapper girls were among the entrants who ran, jogged and walked from Worthing Pier to George V Avenue and back, to raise £4,000.

The event was organised by the Worthing and district branch of the Muscular Dystrophy Group. The money raised will go to research into the crippling disease.

Among the competitors were two sisters suffering with spinal muscular atrophy, a form of muscular dystrophy.

Catherine McNicol, seven, was pushed along the promenade in her wheelchair, while her five-year-old sister, Joanna, walked part of the way and was carried the rest.

Between them the brave little girls raised £58 and were given a special £5 voucher to spend at the Argos discount shop.

First of the runners home was Paul Holdstock, 13, with his sister Donna, 12, the first girl to finish.

Both are members of the Worthing Harriers. Paul received an engraved tankard, while Donna collected an engraved rose bowl, both donated by Shape Health Studios.

The first prize of a holiday in France for two for the person raising the most money was won by Mrs Carol Mollineaux, who raised £250.

Hairdresser Carol, 40, of Langham Gardens, Grand Avenue, Worthing, entered the run simply to win the French Loire holiday for two young muscular dystrophy victims, Smith brothers, Richard, 10 and Justin, 8.

Says Carol, who was a Sussex county swimming champion as a teenager, 'I wouldn't normally run for a bus, but I knew I could achieve the top sponsorship prize. My elderly women clients were all terribly eager to help and I raised £250.'

Excited

'I specially wanted to do this for the boys because I've been ill myself recently, and this was a thank you for getting better.'

The brothers, who live in Chantry Road, West Tarring, will be taken on holiday by their parents, Stuart and Linda.

Says Mrs Smith, 'Both boys now wear callipers and can only get around in wheelchairs, but they are very excited about the holiday. We will cross to France on the ferry and drive down to the Loire.'

A team of 20 youngsters aged between seven and 12, took part in a colourful array of fancy dress costumes and raised nearly £100.

For more resources visit: www.worthingpier.org.uk