
Thurs April 9th 2009

**'EastEnders' Star John Altman – 'Nasty Nick Cotton' to Run
Plymouth Half Marathon for Hospice**

Proving that he is a million miles away from 'Nasty Nick Cotton', the character he plays in the BBC hit show 'EastEnders', actor John Altman is to run the Plymouth Half Marathon for local charity St Luke's Hospice along with his girlfriend Haylie Oliver who lives in Plymouth.

John decided to run the Half Marathon in support of St Luke's after a neighbour of Haylie's, who is a St Luke's doctor, told him about the work of the Hospice and the constant struggle for funds to keep it open.

On Thursday John and Haylie called into the Hospice at Turnchapel to collect their sponsorship packs and running vests. It was also a good opportunity to help publicise the event, which will take place on Sunday May 24th.

Haylie, who studies Health and Social Care at Plymouth University said: "Although we train together fairly regularly, the Plymouth Half Marathon is the first opportunity we have had to do an 'official' sponsored run together so we are really looking forward to the event."

Last Christmas John's character made a welcome return to 'EastEnders' after an absence of seven years. During his time in the Square, he has been (amongst other things) a murderer, a heroin addict, a racist and a thoroughly nasty piece of work. John has played 'Nasty Nick' from the very first episode of 'EastEnders' in 1985, appearing right through until 1993, again in 1998, and from 2000 to 2001.

Look out for him again on the Square next week!

John is an experienced marathon runner who has helped to raise funds and awareness for several charities.

ENDS

Note to Editor:

Guy Channing has photographed John and Haylie at the Hospice receiving their red St Luke's running vests.

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