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David Akenhead

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My Story

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I successfully completed 10 London Marathons between 2000 and 2010.

In 2009, I had to bow out due to a fractured maleolus finding me in a fibreglass cast for 3 months nursed by my late beloved Brigid SRN, Exeter. In The Virgin London Marathon in 2010, I was fine until Surrey Quays at the 17.2 mile mark when my maleolus suddenly kicked in and I was left hobbling until Big Ben where I was determined to end well, and I think from the photograph above of me in the Mall finishing, I succeeded, though I knew then, that my running days were over.

On Sunday 26th April, 16 years on, this wheelchair entry aged 79, aims to cross the finish line, and God willing, my tyres and I will in 5 hours or even under, but on the day, you never can tell, and that's the secret of this race, respect for the elements! Anyway, I will give it my best shot, and I ask you to support St Joseph's Hospice, a cause very close to my heart and to my late beloved Brigid's memory. Mercifully, at my home in Wells, I recently applied life preserving nursing skills she taught me to Jeannie, a fellow resident, who today again I discovered sprawled, supine on her bedroom floor and but for my timely intervention once again would probably have died without a soul in sight. As it was, I had to rush to my apartment and with the aid of my own machine scooped her onto it by lifting her torso gently over the headrest after turning my machine on its back gradually easing her, and finally with the appearance of her nurse, Jade, we both levered my machine into an upright position avoiding another emergency which earlier intervention and treatment with an open wound avoiding sepsis, earned the approbation of both Yeovil Hospital and MSF UK as a result, and the Wells City Practice, who have been very supportive of my training efforts in the pool for my forthcoming marathon; sadly her family do not appreciate my efforts, but I guess that's life, everybody's business but ours, it seems, which I fear has also been the story of this marathon for me thus far, and I am not alone!!

That said I'd like to add my thanks to Danielle at Enthuse for intervening and to my beloved brother, Robert, my two sons, Alastair and Robbie, and my beloved daughter Charlotte, and Brad, as well as friends in Wells, including the Cathedral and St Margaret's Hospice.

In conclusion, as Clan leader of Akenhead, I shall also be representing the Armed Forces along with Gordon, MacGregor and Royal Stewart as Surgeons to the Crown, via my great grandfather Laird Edmund Akenhead of Lincoln; under his tireless stewardship, the Sixth Lincolnshire Regiment was created under the command of his youngest son, Captain and surgeon, David Akenhead, (my great Uncle) earlier at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, later at Flers Courcellette, The Somme, and the unfortunate Tank offensive of 15th September 1916, nursed alongside his motionless tank, by his elder sister among others, St John's Ambulance Western Front 1914-1916, nurse Alice Akenhead (my great Aunt) awarded Royal Red Cross 2 George Medal (1 reserved for royalty) subsequently,

Sincerely,

David Akenhead, Singing Legionnaire