GREENKEEPERS HELP THE HEROES

Four intrepid greenkeepers recently completed a unique challenge as they walked over 130 miles from coast to coast... while pushing hand mowers!

Gutty Stuart Yarwood, Eddie Ainsworth, Tim Johnson and Gordon Irvine amazed onlookers as they ‘rowed’ three Ransomes Jacobsen pedestrian machines from Liverpool to Hull over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The idea, the brainchild of Tim, Greenkeeper at Wilmslow Golf Club, has (at the last count) raised almost £2,000 for Help for Heroes and you can still donate at www.bmycharity.com/TimJohnson.

The group, plus two non-greenkeepers, battled steep hills in the Yorkshire Dales, terrible weather and even mechanical problems to complete the challenge in an impressive four days.

They began at Liverpool docks and pushed the mowers – christened 'Trish 1', 'Trish 2' and 'Trish 3' – to Manchester on the first day.

The next day was one of the toughest as they battled against the wind as they pushed the mowers at 3mph on the East Lancs Road which is the longest, most boring straight road you can ever imagine.

"On the rest of the days we had to contend with long, steep hills. Funily enough, going up wasn’t a problem because you get the momentum going with the machine – it was going down them that was the worst because you’re pushing a dead weight down a hill."

"Towards the end through the Wolds we had some great focal points and when we saw the Humber Bridge we thought we’d done it. However, it was still 15 miles away which meant five more hours of pain."

He added that the highlight was the camaraderie that developed between the gutty lads – who did not all know each other prior to the challenge.

He said: "You get on fine and adrenaline, but at any one time there will be someone who’s struggling so you need to pick them up.

"It’s not an option, as even though you’re in pain you don’t think about it because you don’t want to affect morale. I had no idea how emotional it was all going to be.

"Ultimately, we were pushing hand mowers. You think it’s tough but we wanted to raise money for people who are pushing mine sweepers."

Stuart who shadowed them and helped them immensely during the challenge, and also sponsors Symbio, Rigby Taylor, British Seed Houses, Prestige Garden Services, Ransomes Jacobsen and Dennis Arneity. They were also hugely grateful for the support along the way of Lynne, Wilmslow and Aveo Golf Clubs plus Chris Sheehan and Tracey Maddison.

Watch this space for the lads’ next bizarre challenge next summer!

Stuart, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club, said: “Tim suggested that we do something bizarre to raise money for charity a few months ago. I’m a firm believer that if you don’t do something crazy every year you’d go insane, so I agreed.

"The first day was demolishing. We were pushing these mowers at 3mph on the East Lancs Road which is the longest, most boring straight road you can ever imagine.

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