

Leeds Disney fans go extra 42 miles!

Published Date: 14 February 2008 , By Vicki Robinson

When it comes to fundraising, Adam and Carol Bull's efforts are anything but Mickey Mouse.

For the Leeds couple have raised almost £1,500 by running 42 miles (68km) in just three days across Walt Disney World in Florida.

The Disney-mad pair took on the wacky challenge to raise cash for the Alzheimer's Society and Hope Pastures, the Weetwood-based horse and pony sanctuary.



Their adventure started with the 5km (three-mile) Family Safari around Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park. They finished in 38 mins 23 secs and were greeted at the line by Mickey in a safari outfit.

The following day, Adam and Carol tackled the Donald Duck Half Marathon (13 miles or 21km) through Epcot and Magic Kingdom. They finished in two hours 55 mins and picked up their medals from Donald and Daisy Duck.

The Mickey Mouse Marathon came the very next day. By far the toughest challenge, the 26-mile (42km) course snaked through all four Disney parks including Hollywood Studios.

By completing both the half marathon and marathon, the couple earned themselves the coveted Goofy Challenge medal.

Adam, 40, from Moortown, said: "We were very tired at the end of the three days – and a bit sore and blistered, too. That didn't stop us spending 10 hours in the theme parks the next day, though!

"We had a great time, we always do at Disney. We had wanted to run the races for a while and thought it would be brilliant if we managed to be able to combine that with raising money for a good cause."

The couple admit to being huge fans of all things Disney and have visited Walt Disney World four times.

They even MARRIED there in 2000, in a fairytale chapel in the middle of a lake. Naturally, Mickey was a guest.

Adam, a computer expert and fitness instructor, added: "We love all the Disney animation and the characters. And Disney World brings it all to life. It's just the happiest place on earth.

"I think we're both just big kids at heart. We like going on all the rides, and get just as excited about meeting Mickey Mouse and the other characters as we did when we were

younger.

"Part of the Disney magic is that you don't have to act your age there – everyone can be a kid again!"

The couple's efforts raised £1,458 to be split between the two causes.

Hope Pastures trustee Lynn Gawthorpe said: "Adam and Carol are fantastic. The money they have raised for us will go a long way to support our work in rescuing, rehabilitating and giving retirement homes to horses and ponies."

The Bulls are still collecting sponsorship money. To support them go to **www.madbulls.co.uk**.

*The full article contains 465 words and appears in EP Leeds First & County newspaper.
Last Updated: 14 February 2008 8:58 AM*