



The Eye Tumour Research Fund

## PRESS RELEASE

**In February 2011, mother of three Tracy Cirin surprised everyone when she made the decision to enter 'The Great Eastern Half Marathon' to raise money for The Eye Tumour Research Fund, less than 1 year after she was diagnosed with eye cancer.**

Aged just 30; Tracy was 24 weeks pregnant with twins when she received the devastating news that she had a very rare type of cancer, called ocular melanoma.

Tracy was closely monitored by the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, a specialist centre of excellence in the UK, and with the loving support of her husband, Robert, she insisted on carrying her twins to full term before undergoing treatment.

In June 2010 and at 38 weeks pregnant, Tracy gave birth to two healthy baby girls, Sophie and Chloe. A month later, Tracy received treatment at the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre.

Whilst still in recovery and with 3 children all under the age of 2, Tracy made the decision to do something extraordinary to help others in her position. In February 2011, she began training for The Great Eastern Half Marathon.

Tracy said: *"It was down to the research at the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre that the clinicians were able to advise I could wait for the girls to be born rather than having them induced early, putting their lives at risk. As you can imagine this is something Rob and I are very grateful for..."*

*As a thank you for all the help and support and for giving me a second chance to spend time with my lovely family, I wanted to do something that I wouldn't have even attempted this time last year but will now, A CHALLENGE!"*

And it certainly was a challenge!

Tracy explains: *"Rob laughed when I first told him I wanted to enter a half marathon. I couldn't even run to the shop before!"*

Before long her husband Robert also started running the 8 mile training routes and together they spread the word to friends, family and work colleagues about their fundraising efforts for The Eye Tumour Research Fund.

Robert said: *"We were completely overwhelmed by the amount of support received, even from people we had never met. In the end we had a number of friends sign up to run with us, and another friend who couldn't make the race day ran the Bupa Half Marathon in Birmingham instead."*

Unfortunately due to medical reasons, Tracy was not allowed to run on the day but managed to support the group from the sidelines.

*Rob said: "The whole day was very emotional, especially crossing the finishing line and seeing Tracy; we all benefitted from having something to concentrate on and it felt amazing to give something back".*

Incredibly, the couple raised over £3500 for The Eye Tumour Research Fund, which will help fund vital new equipment and research.

*Tracy said: "I would definitely encourage others to fundraise, especially for such a worthy cause as The Eye Tumour Research Fund. The whole time during treatment I was blown away by all of the staff in the Eye Research Unit and the level of care provided, nothing was too much for them. After this experience I would tell everyone you can do anything you put your mind to."*

If you would like to make a donation to the Eye Tumour Research Fund and support Rob and Tracy Cirin in their fundraising efforts, you can do so by sending a cheque to: General Office, Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Prescot Street, Liverpool L7 8XP, made payable to: 'The RL&BUH Trust Funds-Eye Tumour Research Fund'.



**Professor Bertil Damato, presenting a certificate to Robert & Tracy Cirin, Nov 2011**