

## **Cancer Research UK and its discriminatory Race for Life**

**By John Taylor**

After being on Cancer Research UK's blatant sex discriminatory, 5K (female only) Race for Life case, for nigh on ten years, since my eldest daughter died from Ovarian Cancer, leaving two daughters, a son and husband, on 17th August 2001, I would appreciate space to explain how and why the fictitious can and should become reality...

I received support from none other than a female - way back in 2003:

"Valerie Flower, of Dringhouses in York, who started Race For Life in York after winning an Evening Press competition, said she would support Mr. Taylor's battle. She said: "It was a fantastic day and the atmosphere was great, but I wouldn't object to men taking part. I don't really see why it is women only. I wouldn't mind men taking part, the more the merrier and we could raise more money."

(See link <http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/archive/2003/03/25/York+Archive/7910973>. Sexist Race For Life is slammed by campaigner/)

My major success came, with support of the then Equal Opportunities Commission, with the launch of the now defunct 5K Run for Moore series. Defunct, because, according to CRUK, males have requested more challenging events...I stress, this does not include all males

(See link: <http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/archive/2006/02/16/Ryedale+Archive/6670131>. Men urged to run for their rights/)

In an e-mail, dated 12th March, 2010, CRUK's Executive Fund Raising Director, advised that no further e-mails from me would be answered - which is possibly understandable when I have been communicating on and off for nigh on ten years...

I then submitted a case to the Fundraising Standards Board (FRSB) - which ruled in favour of CRUK - with confusing, conflicting statements - referred to as being those of The Equality Commission of Human Rights.

I have e-mail proof on file, from the ECHR, confirms the FRSB never contacted the ECHR. Possibly, the FRSB based their report on copies CRUK provided of correspondence from the ECHR?

Then a report appeared in "Third Sector" - described by the CEO of the FRSB as a "landmark case"

(See link: <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/MostRead/1027843/Complaint-against-Race-Life-dismissed-Fundraising-Standards-Board/>)

Does anyone know the ratio between male and females on the FRSB? Following that, Race for Life was made legal under the Equality Act: (See link: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/notes/division/2/14/3>)

Anyone reading the explanatory notes from the above link will see that under the Equality Bill, Race for Life was legal wef 1st October 2010.

Note: the reference to : (such as women-only fun-runs)..610.... It also allows single-sex activities for the purpose of promoting or supporting a charity (such as women-only fun-runs) ... Race for Life, a women-only event which raises money for Cancer Research UK, is lawful...

My proposals below have been formulated since Race for Life was legalised under The Equality Bill, (wef 1st October 2010) - that, seems apparent to me, was because of CRUK lobbying the former Labour Government Equality Office - after I made CRUK aware that, in my opinion:

"Race for Life, then, breached Section 29 of The Sex Discrimination Act - (which stated) it is illegal to discriminate in the provision of 'goods, facilities and services' . Cancer Research UK are, in my opinion, in breach of both. The Equality Bill, expected to take effect shortly and will /should also embody Section 29 of The Sex Discrimination Act - putting CRUK in breach of the law".

My proposals to overcome the discrimination, against males, are: "Keep Race for Life (for females) - but in all the 240 existing venues, launch a 5K and 10K Men's Race for Life - to be held on the same day, in the same locations. The events, as at present, should be strictly "non competitive"... The men's events should be given the same publicity as Race for Life... This format should continue in perpetuity - (to help spread the message & overcome the discrimination against males) CRUK should follow the example of e.g. The Great North Run & London Marathon - in which males and females participate together - with tremendous success" The male events could start earlier, or later, than females...

Alas, as stated, In an e-mail, dated 12th March 2010, CRUK's Executive Fund Raising Director, advised that no further e-mails from me would be answered...Then, out of the blue, my granddaughter revealed her intention to promote various events - to raise funds for CRUK (see link <http://www.justgiving.com/Chloe-Shiple> <http://www.justgiving.com/Chloe-Shiple>)

This left me with a dilemma. How could I support CRUK after my experience of the blatant sexism by CRUK ? I then, sent an e-mail to CRUK's Executive Fund Raising Director, with copies to the CEO & HIS PA....This was after I sent the CEO a Recorded Delivery letter, dated 22nd November, in which contained my above proposal - also my following comment / question:

"Further, I stress, that I applaud all those female participants in Race for Life, that have helped raise millions for CRUK but, however, sadly, many can be afflicted and die from Cancer - like my eldest daughter did from Ovarian Cancer and I was not allowed to participate in Race for Life, held on the Knavesmire, York, along with my wife, daughter, daughter in law, granddaughters and female friends of the family in 2002" .

"...In the circumstances, do you believe CRUK should continue to discriminate - or should male relatives of those females be given the opportunity to participate in 5K Men's Race for Life events throughout the UK - if they want to? Many may not be fit enough to participate in anything longer than 5K".

I have never received an answer to that question!!!

CRUK, not satisfied with the discriminatory 5K Race for Life, have now launched some (40) 10K events, increasing the discrimination against males...

Now (<http://www.raceforlife.org/about-us/latest-news/new-10k-events.aspx>) forty (40) 10K events of which, many of the participants could be afflicted, or die, from The Big C !!!  
Does CRUK care?

My proposals would cater for males that are not fit enough for longer than a 5K - also for those wanting more challenging events... My involvement with CRUK leaves a very bad taste in my mouth and speaks volumes for the organisation that spouts out loud and clear...

**BY Working Together we will beat cancer...**

Best wishes,  
John Taylor