

TV presenter and Chron reporter help to support MND charity

# Brave fund-raisers walk over hot coals



■ TV and radio presenter and *Dancing On Ice* star Natalie Pinkham (left) and the Chron's Callum Jones (above) were among the 40 fund-raisers who took part in the firewalk on Saturday

**TELEVISION and radio presenter, Natalie Pinkham joined 40 other brave people from Northampton to walk over hot coals to raise money for the Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Association.**

The 29-year-old, who appeared in the 2008 series of the ITV show *Dancing on Ice*, took part in the 20ft firewalking experience at Northampton Town Football Club on Saturday evening.

Natalie lost a close friend, rugby player Jarrod Cunningham, to MND two years ago so had a spe-

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cial reason for taking part in the fund-raising event for the MND Association.

She said: "The outlook when you are first diagnosed with MND is pitiful with many expected to die within one year to 18 months.

"Jarrod managed to survive five years with the disease and it showed the power of positive thinking.

"He turned into this incredibly inspirational person and I

feel honoured to have known him.

"I was thinking of him every step I took over the hot coals. When I finished the walk I felt 10 feet tall and capable of anything.

"It is impossible to convey in words the devastating nature of MND and this fund-raiser was all about supporting people living with the disease and the search for the cure."

Natalie, who presents Channel 4's *Adrenalin Rush*, was among a group of volunteer daredevils, including Chron reporter Callum Jones, who were sponsored to walk across the hot coals, which burn at a temperature of more

than 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

The event was preceded by a two-hour special motivational training session run by experts Blaze, who have more than 20 years' experience of running firewalking events.

The participants were cheered on by a crowd of more than 100 family and friends who later enjoyed a hog roast and a drink in the Carlsberg suite of the football club.

Northampton Town has agreed to give all the people who completed the 20ft firewalk free tickets to their next home game against Stockport on Saturday, March 21.

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**NATALIE PINKHAM**

has attended an officially licensed Blaze Charity Firewalking Event and having completed the training to the Instructor's satisfaction, have mastered my fears and walked barefoot across 20 feet of red hot coals burning at 1236 degrees Fahrenheit

*Courage is not the absence of fear,  
It is the ability to operate in spite of fear*

**COURSE RUN ON BEHALF OF**

**MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION**

**DATE**

**14 MARCH 2009**

**BLAZE INSTRUCTOR**

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