

Our Bucket List!

All I can say is that it was a cold, wet, windy day in the winter of 2007 when, during our lunch break between dives, Catherine & I got to chatting about our plans for the following year as we both reached the magical age where, apparently, life begins. Goodness only knows what we've been doing so far – but that's another story!

For some reason we both thought (out loud apparently and in front of witnesses) that it would be a good idea (!**!) to get places on the Great North Run and raise some funds for the RNLI as part of the process. For those of you unfamiliar with the event (where have you been?) it's probably the most popular half-marathon around (other than that half eaten chocolate bar that changed its name to Snickers). We made a pact that we would both apply as soon as possible and waited out the Christmas period doing the usual winter training that any serious athlete/diver would do. Yes that's correct – too much of everything and shrunken dry-suits to prove it.

The General ballot for places opened in January and we both eagerly applied and spent several weeks in nervous contemplation of getting a place. Catherine got the first call and instantly rang me in excited tones – she had a place.....I unfortunately had not! Not to be deterred I applied direct to the RNLI for one of their allotted spaces. I then had another agonising three months to wait not knowing whether I would be enjoying (!) myself on a half-marathon on 5 October or diving with seals in the Farnes – a dilemma I had to overcome. I finally got a call in early May from Lisa on the RNLI fundraising team to ask me 'Did I still want a place?' Well, I only went and said I did – so now Catherine & I were both signed up for it.

Since then we've been putting in several training runs and both completed the Race for life in respectable times. Training has got more serious as the date approaches and we are getting loads of encouragement (or is it bullying) from friends, family and work colleagues to get out there and put in the miles.

As I said earlier we are running in aid of the RNLI and ideally we would love to raise enough to fully kit out at least one crewmember (circa £1,000) in the protective gear required to do their job. If anyone reading this would like to pledge money to this cause our sponsorship website is www.justgiving.com/dive-in . You can also add comments to spur on our training. Alternatively you can contact us via the Carlisle Subaqua Club Secretary, c/o 20 Cammock Crescent, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 4PE.