

*Those of you who can remember that far back will recall how the club helped Naomi Riches with her record breaking row of the River Thames to raise funds for IN-Vision, the charity dedicated to infantile nystagmus.*

*Below is the text from an email sent by Naomi which you may be interested to read.*

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### **The Great Thames Row 2016 is winding down...**

#### ***The first and most important thing to say it THANKYOU!***

Thank you for your donations, time, energy, expertise and enthusiasm... it is hard to believe that 2 years ago I crossed the finish line at Gravesend Royal Pier seconds before 4pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The page is closing for good on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September at the total currently stands at **£50,720.00**... whilst this is a long way off the £165k I wanted to raise I am incredibly proud and eternally grateful to everyone!!

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/naomirichesmbe1>

#### **So what has been done with the money we raised for IN-vision?**

##### **From Liz Charter (IN-vision Founder)**

Since watching our fantastic Patron cross the finish line at Gravesend on September 19th 2016, after 47 hours, 59 minutes and 54 seconds of rowing, we spent much of the following weeks and months gathering and ordering the prodigious amount of evidence for Guinness World Records. It was a great relief when, nearly a year later we received the confirmation that Naomi was a new Guinness World Record Holder, and around the same time that the donations we received for The Great Thames Row topped a remarkable £50,000.

It is without any doubt that TGTR2016 was the biggest and most extraordinary fundraiser we have ever organised and IN-vision is eternally grateful to Naomi and all the incredible volunteers who helped to make it possible. We were staggered by the support and commitment made by all those involved and humbled by the donations received.

IN-vision takes great care to ensure that every penny of funds received will have a real impact on helping us to achieve our charitable aims of furthering research into infantile nystagmus, improving patient care and accelerating diagnosis.

With the funds, we have purchased an EyeLink, which cost in the region of £26,500 - sophisticated equipment that will give accurate diagnosis as well as facilitating research. We have been active in supplying this equipment to a number of centres, it is key that each unit uses the same equipment so that data can be shared for research purposes. With so few centres dedicated to nystagmus, it is vital that we encourage collaboration in this way as much as possible. This latest EyeLink we purchased is sited in Cardiff where, as part of our agreement for supplying, we intend for Cardiff to open a dedicated nystagmus clinic - the first of it's kind in Wales. We are working with The School of Optometry in Cardiff to make this a reality.

We are also working with Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, to understand how best to support their dedicated nystagmus team there, where your donations will not only progress research, but also aid patient care. For Moorfields Eye Hospital, we are looking to support them by either:

- Supplying them with an EyeLink
- Contributing towards the cost of a PhD (depending on the focus of their research) and finding the correct Partner to work with them.

Another goal is to get the experts/top consultants together and agree a Patient Pathway. This standardised approach would enable us to make sure that nobody slips through the net and that they get the right support from the very start.

So....

We are 3 days away from the end of this EPIC journey... thank you once again for all you have done in the last 3-4years to make this happen!!!

BIG love,  
Naomi xXx