

# PRESENTER LEFT IN NOTHING BUT HIS BOXERS AT CHARITY DINNER AUCTION

# TV star Ben gets shorty and shirty



STARS: Denise Welch was among celebrities at the auction



SHOW STOPPERS: Ladies from Encore Dance Entertainment



UP FOR GRABS: A football signed by Sir Bobby Robson

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MANY were expecting a glamorous black tie ball, but for TV presenter Ben Shephard it ended up with just black boxer shorts.

The former GMTV presenter was the star attraction at a charity ball aimed at raising funds for sick children.

And although he started the evening immaculately dressed, it didn't take long for North actress Denise Welch to talk him out of his evening suit.

The ball was held at the Hilton Hotel in Gateshead in aid of the Children's Heart Unit at the Freeman hospital and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Ben spent five days this week running a marathon each day between Whitehaven and Tynemouth alongside, Ivan Hollingsworth, from North Tyneside and Andrew Roberts from Chester-le-Street.

Ivan's wife, Nadine, who organised the event, said: "It was a great evening and a brilliant way to round off the fundraising."

"Ben auctioned off the England shirt he wore for Sport Aid which had been signed by everyone who took part in the event."

"That one shirt alone raised £1,200. Denise was comparing the auction and she did a great job."

"When Ben came on stage with his shirt, she convinced him to model it, so he had to take his top off."

"As you can imagine that met with approval from a lot of the ladies, so he decided to then take his trousers off and ended up in his boxers."

Among other items snapped up at the auction was a football signed by the late Sir Bobby Robson.

The marathons and black tie ball were organised by Ivan, whose son was treated at the Freeman, and Andrew whose son has Cystic Fibrosis.

Ivan, 35, said: "We had great support throughout the week, and the ball was a great way to end."

To make a donation to the two charities, visit [www.Seb4chuf.org.uk](http://www.Seb4chuf.org.uk)

PICTURES: IAIN BUJIST www.chroniclelive.co.uk/buyphoto ref: 00286574



CHARITY BOOST: Nadine Hollingsworth with auction items; right, Ben Shephard with his signed England shirt

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