

Seb inspires a four-day epic across country

Dedicated team completes Coast to Coast

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A HEROIC team have completed a gruelling physical challenge to raise money for a charity that is very close to their hearts.

Ivan Hollingsworth led a weary group along Longsands beach in Tynemouth yesterday as they finished their epic Coast to Coast challenge to raise money for the hospital where his son's life was saved.

For the fourth consecutive year, the 38-year-old has pushed himself to the limit as he and the team braved the exhausting adventure, dubbed C2C4.

Over four days, the team cycled 140

miles, ran 61 miles and swam one mile as they travelled from Whitehaven in Cumbria to Tynemouth.

A hardcore group of eight did all four days, with Ivan and more than 40 others taking part in sections of the journey, including his wife Nadine, 35, who ran the final stage to Tynemouth.

Dad-of-one Ivan, of Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, said: "This is the fourth year we have done the event, but it has definitely been the hardest.

"I have found it really emotional, not just because of what we have went through. People have put their bodies into it."

The C2C4 challenge has been in aid of the Children's Heart Unit Fund.

The inspiration for the challenge has

been his son Seb, four, who was diagnosed with the heart condition Tetralogy of Fallot hours after being born.

Ivan, a pharmaceutical rep, and business manager Nadine, anxiously waited as doctors at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital's children's heart unit carried out surgery when Seb was just 16 weeks old.

As the youngster recovered from the operation, the couple decided to set up a fund - Seb4Chuf - focused entirely on raising money for the life-saving heart unit.

Throughout the years, daredevil Ivan has completed a variety of fundraising events, and to date Seb4Chuf has raised more than £310,000 for a state-of-the-art play facility at the Freeman.



Picture: Tim McGuinness www.journallive.co.uk/buyphoto ref: 00930601

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED Ivan Hollingsworth, son Seb and wife Nadine at the end of the Coast to Coast challenge in Tynemouth

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