

Corstorphine athletes honour memory of three late colleagues

Corstorphine Athletic Club have donated more than £800 to charity in memory of three late members following a successful fund-raising ceilidh.

A cheque for £550 was presented to Maggie's Edinburgh in recognition of the support provided by the cancer care specialist to CAAC runners Fiona Carver and Moira Findlay, who died aged 62 and 52 respectively after brave battles with the disease.

A further £275 was gifted to My Name's Daddie Foundation to honour Ruth Williamson, who passed away last April at the age of just 41. She was diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND) in 2017, just 11 months after giving birth to her daughter Anna.

The proceeds came from the post-Covid return of the club's ceilidh held at Bainfield Bowling Club, Gorgie.

Co-captains Janet Grigor and Jack Fullerton visited the Maggie's base at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh to hand over the cheque and are pictured with Charlotte Brink of the Maggie's fund raising team.

Hailing the "fantastic work" carried out by the two charities, Janet said: "The ceilidh celebrated our dear friends' time

with us and remembered their joy of life and of running and dancing, and their fitness and vitality. We decided it would be fitting to donate any profits made to Maggie's Edinburgh and My Name's 5 Daddie Foundation."

The event featured a fundraising raffle and buffet, with the traditional Scots music provided by Da Hooley ceilidh band.

Coach Jan-Bert van den Berg was among those who paid tribute to the club's much-missed trio. He said: "It is sometimes difficult to put into words just how amazing some people are. Fiona, Ruth and Moira were three great runners I had the pleasure of training with and competing against. They didn't just excel at running but also at living.

"At training, all were just fantastic at making you feel at ease and welcomed when you joined your first training session as a CAAC newbie. They were also never short of encouragement when you were flagging on the track, and always interested to know how your weekend races had gone.

"They just excelled at positivity and showed incredible emotional strength when faced with impossible life challenges. There is just so much to learn from these three incredible women and how they embraced life. We have been so fortunate to have known them."

Charlotte Brink, from Maggie's, thanked CAAC members for the "incredible" donation. She added: "I am glad the club had an enjoyable ceilidh, and I am glad to hear that we were able to be there for Fiona and Moira when they needed it the most."

Mia Noquet, community and volunteer fundraiser at My Name's 5 Daddie Foundation, said: "MND is an incredibly cruel disease, and to hear that Corstorphine AAC felt it fitting to make a donation in Ruth's memory, after what sounds like a lovely evening spent celebrating three such important people, is such a thoughtful gesture. We really could not continue funding vital MND research without the community we are so lucky to

have around us.”

