

## Kent RAF Man Runs Rome Marathon to Help God-Daughters

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2011, Rome:** Big hearted RAF man, Lee Yarnell, from Kent, is running the Maratona Di Roma (Rome Marathon) to aid a charity that helps his young god-daughters whose lives are affected by debilitating blackouts..

After visiting many paediatricians to find the cause for their daughters' blackouts, Sophia-May and Isla were finally diagnosed last year with reflex anoxic seizures (RAS). Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS), The Blackouts Trust , the leading charity for support and information on syncope and reflex anoxic seizures provided help and training to the girls' schools and their ballet class. STARS' support has enabled the girls to participate in all activities and enjoy a normal life.

Their godfather, Lee Yarnell, was born in Ashford and raised on the Romney Marsh before joining the RAF aged 18. He's currently stationed in Cyprus but is returning to Kent later this year .

As an RAF man, Lee is fit and wanted to raise money for STARS to say thank you for the help and support they have provided to his god daughters. He's chosen the Rome Marathon that takes place on **20<sup>th</sup> March 2011** and hopes as many people as possible will sponsor him. The Rome Marathon is notoriously hard covering 42 km of uneven



Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures

**News Release**

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[www.stars.org.uk](http://www.stars.org.uk)

Working together with individuals, families and medical professionals to offer support and information on Syncope and Reflex Anoxic Seizures

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cobbled streets and narrow Roman alleys, Lee will be joining more than 15,000 runners to take part in this event.

Lee is hoping that through a disciplined training schedule and the kind sponsorship of all his family and friends both at home in Kent and overseas he will manage to raise over £1000. He is aiming to complete the Maratona Di Roma in under five hours.

If you would like to sponsor him or follow his story please visit his just giving page at [www.justgiving.com/leesitalianjob](http://www.justgiving.com/leesitalianjob)

Ends

1. For more information, please contact Wendy Adams, Head of Fundraising  
wendy.adams@stars.org.uk

2. Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) [www.stars.org.uk](http://www.stars.org.uk)

[3. Reflex Anoxic Seizures occurs mainly in young children and is a severe form of syncope. Any unexpected stimulus, such as pain, shock, fright causes the heart and breathing to stop resulting in a blackout.](#)

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**Patrons:** Prof John Stephenson, Prof Christopher Mathais, Prof Rose Anne Kenny, Dr William Whitehouse, Dr Adam Fitzpatrick,

Sir Elton John CBE, Twiggy Lawson, Sir Roger Moore KBE, John Burton Race.

**Trustees:** Mrs Susan Broatch, Mr Andrew Fear, Prof Rose Anne Kenny, Mrs Cathrine Reid, Dr William Whitehouse.

**Founder & Chief Executive:** Mrs Trudie Lobban MBE

Registered Charity Number – 1084898