

**NEWS****Tom Gill to compete in Man Versus Horse Marathon in memory of his cousin James Hurd**

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By Nicola Fifield »

WELSH mountains will provide the setting for a film researcher's quest to beat a horse over 22 miles today.

Tom Gill, 23, is competing in the annual Man Versus Horse Marathon in memory of his cousin, James Hurd, who died from a rare form of cancer aged 14.

James, a pupil of [Huntington School](#), in York, died in 2002, only six weeks after being diagnosed with an aggressive, rhabdoid brain tumour.

Eight years on, Tom aims to keep his cousin's memory alive by raising funds for Brain Tumour Research through taking part in this endurance challenge.

The Man Versus Horse Marathon is an annual race, starting in Llanwrtyd Wells, where runners compete against riders on horseback over 22 miles of rough terrain.

Tom said: "James was one of the most wonderful human beings I've ever met.

"I have always struggled with his death and questioned why such a lovely boy, who wouldn't hurt a fly, was taken away from us. "I am trying to raise money for Brain Tumour Research so that other loving, wonderful people won't be taken away from their families and friends. "I'm hoping people will give generously to this as it means everything to me. I'm going to do everything I can to try and beat a horse and raise money in memory of James."

The Man Versus Horse Marathon event, which started in 1980, did not have its first human winner until 2004.

Tom, who lives in London and works as a researcher for a film company, said: "Doing it sounds, and is probably, crazy, but trying to beat a horse is a good way to have fun and most importantly raise money for an excellent cause and, whatever the outcome today, I hope people



Tom Gill, who will be racing against a horse in memory of his cousin James Hurd

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