

Race 2 Amsterdam – 2 First Year Edinburgh University students took part in this Race 2 Amsterdam event, a carbon neutral race, on 14th- 16th February 2020. The aim was to be first to Amsterdam without spending any money. This was a challenge in itself but they also had Storm Dennis to contend with as well.

Here is their story:

The journey was a whole lot harder than we anticipated and we were one of the last Teams over the finish line... But we did it and overall it was a great success!

We arrived at 5:30AM on the Sunday taking 44 hours and 30 minutes to reach Amsterdam. We managed to get a total of 13 different free rides on our journey without spending any of our own money. We had to resort to buying one bus ride at one point but within the rules of the competition we fundraised along the way and made enough money to cover the cost of the bus ticket. It was a lot trickier than we had expected and found the serious migrant issue in France made it harder to hitch rides there. We found people much more wary and resistant to picking us up and were often warned that it wasn't a great idea to hitchhike in that area. Anyway after what felt like an eternity in the rain after dark we finally ended up getting very lucky, hitching a ride with some wonderful people who took us past where they were heading to, which made the most difficult part of our journey a whole lot easier.

We raised a total of £616 (£739 including gift aid) and we both hope that this will be helpful to the charity. Throughout our journey we made it a priority to talk to any interested people about Wolfram Syndrome. With all the people we talked to we explained what we were doing, no one had heard of this rare disease. We did our best to give as much information as possible and stressed the difficulty in fundraising and gaining support and awareness. Most people were really sympathetic to the cause and interested.

We hope that we have had a positive impact and we're really happy that we could help.

Many thanks

Leon

