

PRESS RELEASE

Hilde Dosogne breaks Guinness World Record of 150 consecutive marathons run by a woman, raising precious funds for *BIG against breast cancer*

Ghent, May 31, 2024 – History was made in Ghent last night! The Belgian Hilde Dosogne, better known as “Marathon Woman”, has just achieved an incredible feat! On Thursday 30 May, she broke the Guinness World Record (GWR) for the most consecutive marathons run by a woman (to be ratified by GWR). Surpassing the current GWR of 150 marathons held by the Australian Erchana Murray-Bartlett, Hilde has completed an astonishing 151 consecutive marathons since 1 January 2024. Her application for ratification of the record by GWR will be submitted at the end of her impressive streak of consecutive marathons as she's not planning to stop any time soon.

A marathon a day ...

Hilde embarked on her marathon challenge on 1 January 2024, running a full marathon every day, no matter the weather or conditions. Her perseverance, determination and unparalleled athleticism helped her achieve this monumental feat. What sets Hilde apart from other women attempting to break the same record is that the majority of her marathons were run at a pace exceeding 10 km/h (6.2 miles/h), allowing her to finish in just over 4 hours each day. To put this into perspective, in terms of total distance covered since 1 January, it's comparable to running from Ghent all the way to New Delhi, India, spanning about 6,450 km.

“Every marathon is a new challenge, but the support of my family, friends and fans gives me the strength to continue. Additionally, my commitment to raising awareness and funds for breast cancer research serves as another powerful motivation to push through each day,” says Hilde. “This accomplishment is a testament to what is possible with the right mindset and support. Throughout it all, my credo is ‘Believe You Can’, empowering me to overcome obstacles and achieve my goals.”

Hilde and *BIG against breast cancer* – miles for a mission

Hilde's incredible journey of 151 marathons in 151 consecutive days (and counting) is more than just a personal challenge. It is also a vital initiative to raise awareness and funds for *BIG against breast cancer*, supporting academic breast cancer studies run by the Breast International Group (BIG). So far, she has raised € 18,000 via her MoveforBIG fundraiser. Everyone can support her cause here:

<https://bigagainstbreastcancer.koalect.com/nl-NL/project/ultraloopster-hilde-dosogne-53-gaat-voor-wereldrecord-marathon-woman-loopt-in-2024-elke-dag-een-marathon-en-zamelt-geld-in-voor-big-s-borstkankeronderzoek-steun-haar?tab=overvieww>

She adds: "I began fundraising for *BIG against breast cancer* after being profoundly moved by the story of Joëlle Thils, a friend and fellow runner who completed the Marathon des Sables in 2017. After 14 years of being cancer-free, her breast cancer had returned and spread to her brain. I am touched by the way she always remains positive in life, despite the heavy impact the disease has on her. Joëlle exemplifies courage, and it's her resilience that fuels my determination to support *BIG against breast cancer*, and everyone affected by this disease. Research is paramount, and Joëlle's story reinforces its importance".

GWR celebration weekend

The celebration of Hilde's achievement will continue until Sunday 2 June, at the Topsporthal in Ghent, Zuiderlaan 14. This event offers supporters and fans the opportunity to personally congratulate Hilde and hear her inspiring story.

For the programme of the festive weekend, please see <https://marathonwoman.be/recordfeest/>.

Note to the editor (not for publication):

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FOR BIG

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About Breast International Group (BIG)

The Breast International Group (BIG) is an international not-for-profit organisation for academic breast cancer research groups from around the world, based in Brussels, Belgium.

Global collaboration is crucial to make significant advances in breast cancer research, reduce unnecessary duplication of effort, share data, contribute to the faster development of better treatments, and increase the likelihood of cures for patients. Therefore, BIG facilitates breast cancer research at international level, by stimulating cooperation between its members and other academic networks, and collaborating with, but working independently from, the pharmaceutical industry.

In 1999, BIG was founded by Dr Martine Piccart and Dr Aron Goldhirsch with the aim to address fragmentation in European breast cancer research. Research groups from other parts of the world rapidly expressed interest in joining BIG and, two decades later, BIG represents a network of about 60 like-minded research groups from around the world. These entities are tied to several thousand specialised hospitals, research centres and world-class breast cancer experts across approximately 70 countries on 6 continents. More than 30 clinical trials are run or are under development under the BIG umbrella at any one time. BIG also works closely with the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN), so that together they act as a strong integrating force in the breast cancer research arena.

BIG's research is supported in part by its philanthropy unit, known as *BIG against breast cancer*. This denomination is used to interact with the general public and donors, and to raise funds for BIG's purely academic breast cancer trials and research programmes.

For more information, visit www.BIGagainstbreastcancer.org