

# Speedo Mick

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-64108745>

1. Who is Speedo Mick and what is his final fundraising challenge?  
(Scan the text quickly to find the answer).

## Speedo Mick set to start final fundraising walk (BBC News)

28 December 2022

A fundraiser famous for walking in his tight blue Everton FC swimming trunks is set to start his last big challenge.

In eight years Michael Cullen, also known as Speedo Mick, has raised more than £800,000 through his challenges. The 58-year-old said he hoped his final walk - spanning 1,000 miles (1,600km) from John O'Groats to Land's End - would take the total to more than £1m. "That would just be a perfect ending to the Speedo Mick stomps, wouldn't it, a million quid?" Mr Cullen said.



Mick hopes to walk at least 15 miles a day for up to three months in aid of The SpeedoMick Foundation. The charity will give grants to small charities that support mental health awareness, disadvantaged young people, and the homeless. The Everton fan's fundraising challenges have raised more than £800,000.

Mick first earned his nickname after fundraising £30,000 swimming the English Channel in 2014. Two years later, he raised more than £50,000 for a Liverpool hospice by walking from Everton's Goodison Park stadium to Wembley Stadium. In 2019 and 2020 he raised more than £300,000 after walking from John o'Groats to Land's End and in 2021 his 2,500 mile (4,023 km) Giving Back Tour raised almost £180,000.

"It's bittersweet," he said of his various challenges. "It's given me a purpose to be busy and to be positive and to give back as well. "And every single person who's donated, shared my posts, said 'keep going'... every single person who has done that for me over the last eight years, they've all been part of this journey. Mick, who has previously shared details of his own personal mental health challenges, has said his fundraising was a way to thank people who had helped him.



On his final walk, starting on 29 December, he plans to **scale** the Britain's three national mountain peaks - Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Mount Snowdon - along the way. While admitting he was not quite yet feeling up to his last trek, Mick said putting on his Speedos lets him "get into the groove". "I get the energy from them," he said. "When I get in my kit and I've got my bag on and all my flags are flapping about in the wind, that's when the challenge begins."

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**Now read the text again and answer the questions below.**

2. How much money has Speedo Mick raised through his challenges in the past 8 years?
3. What is the goal of the *SpeedoMick Foundation* and what kinds of charities will it support?
4. How did Speedo Mick first earn his nickname?
5. What were some of Speedo Mick's previous fundraising challenges and how much money did he raise through each one?
6. Why is Speedo Mick's final fundraising walk bittersweet for him?
7. What does Speedo Mick plan to do on his final walk?
8. How does Speedo Mick feel about his final walk and what does he say about putting on his speedos?
9. The word scale in the final paragraph could best be replaced with:
  - a. visit
  - b. see
  - c. climb
  - d. photograph

## Discussion questions:

1. How would you describe Mick as a person?
2. How would you describe Mick physically?
3. What kind of things do you think he likes and dislikes?
4. What and who does he care or worry about?
5. What do you think he believes in?
6. In what ways are you and Mick similar and different?
7. What questions would you like to ask Mick if you had the chance?

## Role Play

<b>Student A</b>	<b>Student B</b>
You are Mick, and you have just finished your final fundraising walk. A reporter from the BBC is going to interview you. Spend a few minutes thinking about how you are feeling, and about some of your experiences on the walk.	You are a reporter for the BBC, meeting Mick at the finishing line of his latest fundraising walk. Spend a few minutes thinking of some questions to ask Mick that will make an interesting news story.