

Dear Promoters and Friends,

A very warm welcome to Ben Fund Newsletter no 4. We are still less than a year since launch and picking up some momentum, but there is a mountain of hard work to be done before we could fairly describe our position as stable.

Firstly, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest Team member:

Roger 'Blitzman' Hore.

Blitzman is well known to Autospeed regulars and Ovalchatters, having been around racing since a very young age. He had a go at racing but says even Team Toilet wouldn't want him, so he gave it up; he's also been a spanner chucker for World Final drivers, but got heavily involved when St Day was under threat and has been a valued member of the Autospeed operation ever since.

Now, he puts up a Trier of the Day Trophy at Blockbuster, in his own words "to give something back to all drivers who spend their time entertaining us, week in, week out". Due to health issues he has more time to give, so when we approached him for help he gladly accepted. He says he's looking forward to doing his bit; we're delighted to have him on board and grateful that he is so keen to do a bit more.

Fundraising update

Over the quiet season we have just a couple of items to report - thanks to Mendips for their Dinner Dance raffle in aid of FORDS; also to Nutts Corner Oval starting the year with a collection for us.

We'd also like to thank the Bears Banger Team - collectable button badges are on sale featuring every team member priced at £1.49 with 50 pence being donated direct to FORDS. For a link to ur-badge see the Friends section of our website, or our Facebook page.

Help with fundraising

We're looking to recruit some more regional helpers urgently to help organise events, generate local sponsorship and coordinate fundraisers on the day. Areas to cover are: South-East; Anglia; Midlands; and North. There are no set boundaries but any help will be a big help to us - no more than 5 tracks, one event each, full support from our Secretary including training. You'll get free entry but we do expect you to work for it! Please contact Manuela on 0117 3851540 / 07870 383096 for a friendly chat.

Due to our Secretary's personal circumstances and to keep costs to a minimum, Promoters are taking the lead with fundraising this year, with full support from the FORDS team. Anyone involved in promotion will know how hard everyone works on race day, so this extra commitment is a real investment in your Fund, which is why we need regional helpers. Please contact us if you can help your local track to support us.

Claims to date

The total paid to date is 19 claims of which 2 are ongoing, receiving a total of £10,515.

2011 claims

The final count for our first partial year (from launch on 25th April 2011) stands at 19, with a total of £8965 paid out up to 31st December, for an average time off work of 9 weeks. Two drivers elected not to give us research details.

Analysis of injuries - the how and the what

We have tried to keep figures simple while drawing meaningful data from them. It should be noted that a sample of 19 claims can only be regarded as an indicator - next year's figures will be more meaningful and we know that many injured drivers did not claim.

Injuries we consider serious are potentially life-changing; this includes all head or spinal injury and internal organ damage. Broken limbs are considered relatively minor although not all are straightforward and some need surgery and may result in a long recovery period.

In considering the type of impact causing injuries we have broken this down into forward and sideways; sideways includes a knock or spin, forward includes (mainly National Bangers) following in, jacking trains and head-ons - what counts is whether the force on the driver is forward or sideways. Impacts are classed as major, eg full in the door or followed in, or minor, eg caught between another car and the barrier.

It is not our place to speculate on whether an incident was deliberate or accidental.

- 3 of the 19 claims were from non-contact formulae
- 5 of the 19 claims were for serious injuries
- Of the 17 who gave us more details:
 - At least 9 needed surgery and/or specialist follow-up treatment
 - 10 were sideways, including 4 major impacts
 - 5 were forward, also including 4 major impacts
 - 2 were injured while exiting their cars (both National Bangers)
- Of the 5 serious injuries, 4 were sustained in a sideways impact

We do not feel there is any value in giving details of the number of claims from each track this year, as numbers are simply too low to have any meaning.

This year we will be collecting a lot more data. Drivers please help us to get these figures if you are unlucky enough to be injured this year. Even if you don't wish to claim, if you could help us with this research it will help us to help you in the long term. There will also be a follow-up call after a claim has ended to evaluate the way claims are handled and the longer term impact of injuries.

Financial report summary for 2011

28 fundraising events took place this year at the 29 ORCi tracks, most were run by FORDS. Two were cancelled due to problems outside our control; three were run by the Promoter without our involvement and one took on the bulk of the work; and one held two fundraisers. One Promoter made a donation in lieu of a collection; five Promoters made donations to the Fund on top of this. Two Promoters have not held fundraisers at their tracks at all and these are the same two who have not paid their agreed starting donations.

Please note these figures are provisional up to our year end 31st December 2011. The ORCi's contribution from the £1 drivers' levy has not yet been received.

○ Money received:	
• Total funds raised from drivers and the public	£9859
• Promoters' donations (5 ex-gratia + 1 in lieu of fundraiser)	£807
• Promoters' contributions towards Fund costs	£3800
• £1 levy received direct from Promoters	£397
TOTAL IN	<u>£14863</u>
○ Claims paid:	£8965
○ Costs paid:	£2837
TOTAL OUT	<u>£11802</u>
BALANCE 31 st December 2011	<u>£3061</u>

Since the year end, a further £1550 has been paid in claims.

Secretary's comment:

The Fund is at a critical stage now. We need support from Promoters, drivers and the public to capitalise on progress made this year, to assure our short-term commitments and begin to build reserves for the long term future. The Fund is picking up momentum but we need to translate that support into hard currency and to do this we need all hands on deck. This year I'll be focusing on generating sponsorship, recruiting local helpers around the country, and getting us into shape for years to come. Onward and upward!

Thank you for your time reading this newsletter and for your support of FORDS.

Manuela

Secretary to the Trustees