

Dear Friends,

A very warm welcome to FORDS Newsletter no 5.

It is with great sadness that we begin by offering our condolences to the family and friends of 2 litre Saloon Stocks driver 311 Steve Newman, who lost his life in a tragic accident in the British Championship Final at Mildenhall on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Our thoughts also go to drivers and spectators, medics, track staff and all at RDC, who witnessed and assisted at an incident that is the one thing we all dread. Drivers all over the country have painted their bumpers yellow in tribute, with road cars, diggers, computer screens, boots, sunglasses and even fingernails also being adorned with yellow for Steve.

Just to clarify FORDS' position, in response to questions raised about how we help families in this situation: the quick answer is that we don't, directly - but it's not as simple as that.

When FORDS was set up 18 months ago, the aim initially was to match amounts paid by the Promoters' track insurance, of £50 per week for time off work and £5000 should the worst happen. But to do this from the start, with no capital to fall back on, was a huge risk. So it was agreed that Promoters would increase the insurance to £15,000, which they have done, and we would match the £50 per week, plus a Hardship Fund for those who need it most. This arrangement may change in the future but barring disaster for the Fund the drivers will never be any worse off. Of course we support any collections done for Steve, as we did last year for Dave Weare, and respectfully take a step back so that we are not 'competing' for funds.

### **Fundraising update**

The Fund is undoubtedly gathering pace; ideas and offers of help are coming in steadily and people are raising money in innovative, fun and simple ways. Phil Powell, Saloon Stocks 199, presented us with £260 from his sponsored run around Silverstone Circuit. Our Jubilee fundraiser with Autospeed was dampened a little on day two by some awful weather at Crasharama, but nevertheless the two days were very successful fundraisers.

We were taken by surprise just a few days ago by the announcement that a documentary DVD about the Bears Banger Team by Dan Moss goes on sale soon with part of the proceeds donated to us. Nutty Nige Riley and the Bears have always been solidly behind FORDS and we are very grateful to them and Dan for their support. Within just four days of being announced, over 120 copies had been pre-ordered, with some offering additional donations if the Bears put their pawmarks on the cover.

The Stoxkarts Ladies Race, organised by Nicci Noo and sponsored by her partner Danny, otherwise known as Dippy NorthernBangers, has already smashed through the original target of raising £1000, as we already have 30 novice ladies ready to line up. The Ladies race takes place at Birmingham Wheels on 6<sup>th</sup> October and we're very grateful to Incarace for squeezing us in. Nicci is keeping a reserve list and can be contacted direct for details or FORDS secretary Manuela on this e-mail address can put you in touch.

Promoters too are doing their bit, with collections at Nutts Corner Oval, Lochgelly and Crimond recently all helping to keep us afloat. At Crimond the camping charge from Munster Weekend contributed to a total of nearly £300, proving that a great deal can be achieved without using huge resources. At Lochgelly, one of their handheld collection tins was full less than a week after it was requested from us. We're tremendously excited about discussions with two Promoters which, once finalised, will merit their own announcements - so keep watching the website and facebook page!

## **Help with fundraising**

We're still looking to recruit some more regional helpers urgently to help organise events, generate local sponsorship and coordinate fundraisers on the day. Please contact Manuela on 0117 3851540 or mobile 07870 383096 for a friendly chat.

Our latest addition to the team is Nicci Noo, who will be armed with a handheld collection tin at many Stokarts and other meetings. We don't anticipate she'll be doing full-on collections but will gladly accept donations for FORDS.

We do ask that any fundraising people do, please let us know in advance. Firstly, we can help publicise it, but we also need to demonstrate to our regulators that we are in control of finances. We also look a bit silly when someone asks whether a collection is genuine if we don't know, and they do ask, so please drop us a line and let us know what you're planning. It's also our job to say no sometimes, because there are regulations and by-laws governing what we can and cannot do - for example, collections in public places need a licence which we do not have - so do check with us. It goes without saying that anything involving a track also needs the agreement of the Promoter and we will do that for you.

## **Filing**

Our Annual Return has been filed with Companies House as required. This shows no change in Directors (Trustees) and no change in the registered address. A Single Alternative Inspection Location (SAIL) was registered; this is where the original Company Register is held. FORDS has no shares. At FORDS we believe in open accountability to the racing community, therefore we welcome questions and will answer them more fully than the information filed in accordance with regulations.

## **Secretary's comment:**

Every newsletter, I say something about exciting developments and confess to some nerves. That still holds true, of course, and perhaps it always will. But now the vision for the future feels more like a plan for reality and less like some distant dream, and it's incredibly exciting to be part of this. So I'd like to share a little story that might offer a glimpse into just what FORDS can mean to an injured driver.

Dave 'Bugsy' Burrows, National Bangers 44, broke his wrist about 2 years ago. Of course there was no FORDS then, but Bugsy is a sensible kind of a man who works hard and looks after his family. So he had insurances to cover most of his outgoings, tightened his belt a bit and got through it. Unfortunately with time off work he ended up losing his job, but quickly found a new one and thought his troubles were behind him.

However, just 15 months later, another racing accident left him with the other wrist broken. This time things were different - most of those insurance policies didn't want to know, because it was too soon since his last claim. But thankfully this time FORDS was here. Through his 16 weeks unfit for work, operation and 3 months specialist treatment including high intensity ultrasound, we were there with practical help and a sympathetic ear, enough to take the edge off his worries. And it's wonderful to know he is not just back at work but has passed his Class 2 and will be taking his Class 1 in the coming weeks. And news just in, Bugsy has taken a win in the Veterans' DD at Hednesford on Sunday - a big well done from us all.

I've been accused of being overenthusiastic and sentimental about this Fund. All I can say is, I'm not dealing with statistics but real people with real families, who can run into very real difficulties in a split second incident while enjoying their hobby and entertaining us. So yes, it matters to me and I care about it.

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