

May 2013

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest quarterly-ish newsletter keeping you up to date with progress on your Ben Fund. First of all our apologies, this is certainly more 'ish' than quarterly. No excuses, there has been a great deal going on behind the scenes which, combined with issues outside our control, have conspired against us a bit. But that does mean we've more to tell you!

FIRST, A BIT OF ADMIN

Phone numbers - important notice

We had a nasty shock when our phone provider withdrew our landline, with no option to keep the number. The old landline number ending 540 is now dead.

Please make a note of our contact details:

Phone: 0756 892 5422 - 0333 577 5422*

* Calls to the 0333 number are charged to you at local call rates and included in price plans; however they cost us 9 pence per minute with just a few minutes of incoming calls free so wherever possible please use the mobile number, otherwise please request a free call back.

Accounts 2012

These are just about finalised and ready for publication, so if you would like a copy in pdf format please let us know by replying to this email. They are also available from Companies House but they will cost you £1 and won't have the extra detail you will get direct from us.

Charity Status Application Progress

We have had to make some changes to the wording of our formal Objects (the legal blurb that defines exactly what our Aims are as an organisation) to fit the criteria of the Charity Commission. Once these changes have been registered we are reapplying to the CC and that process will still take several months as a minimum. We'd like to make it clear the changes are administrative - very little will change in the service we deliver to our injured drivers, staff and photographers. It's just that to meet stringent Charity criteria you have to describe what you do in a certain format.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS -

Cowdenbeath Football Match, Saloons v Stock Rods

This event was planned for late June but had to be brought forward due to the pitch re-seeding schedule, leaving us just two weeks to organise teams, sponsors and absolutely everything. We just cannot thank everybody enough for pulling out all the stops to make this happen. It was a fun match with a good turnout of spectators adding to the atmosphere.

Well done and thank you, tremendous effort from the teams: James Matson's winning Stockrods sponsored by Leslie & Sons Garage Services, and Kyle Hegg's second Saloons sponsored by MB Motors Garage Services & Mechanical Repairs. Our thanks to Dave Borthwick of GMP and Cowdenbeath Football Club for all their help and support, including



kit and a proper *bona fide* referee! Without them it could not have happened. Thanks also to match sponsors ASD Welding Services Ltd and sponsors of the Shield, the Racing Dolls, and all the generous sponsors of both teams.

Finally, the results. On pitch it was 8-0 to the Stockrods, with everyone keen for a re-match. The collection smashed through the previous record to a staggering £434.09 while the figure for sponsorship is approaching the magic £1000 mark and still rising. Can the event total top £1500? Look out for the final total on our website in the next few days.

Tullyroan Tony Gilmore Memorial and Team Buckle 2013 Calendars

It was a fine St Patrick's weekend and folk were welcoming and generous. Our thanks to everyone at Tullyroan Oval, the Gilmore family and each and every one of you there who dug deep or got turned upside down in the bar or both. The collection was topped off with a very generous donation, making up the final figure to a stunning £5,000 and setting the bar so high we do wonder if it will be beaten this year! The calendars produced by Team Buckle were a big success, raising around 10% of the total sum. Our thanks also to Team Buckle, all our helpers and of course Greg O'Connor for organising this superb event.

Other fundraisers

There have already been a few collections around various tracks, notably Wimbledon and Smeatharpe, plus funds still trickling in from Dan Moth's Bears DVD, and others.

And where is all this money going?

So far this year we've helped 15 drivers and staff - that's as many in four months as we helped in the whole of 2012. And we're going to get busier as the season heads for its summer peak. Thanks to your vital support we can make a real difference.

LOOKING FORWARD -

The Banger Mechanics Championship

Without a doubt this is our most ambitious project to date, and it has the potential to be our most successful - but that can only happen with the support of the Promoters who are running the qualifying rounds, sponsoring drivers, and of course the mechanics taking part and raising the sponsorship.

Andy Chant, Mr Starter at Mendips Raceway, will be trading his headset for a helmet, thanks to his sponsoring driver 55 Alan Machin, and showing us all how he wants it done! Or perhaps not ... Andy says, "Come to Mendips on Sunday 25th August and see Mr Starter go for a ride around the plating!!" Surely you can do better than that Mr Starter! And he's still after sponsors - see him in person or PayPal sponsormrstarter@hotmail.com. There are lots of other drivers needing sponsorship, too!

Qualifying rounds take place all over the country over the next few months, with a big Final at Ipswich on 30th November for top qualifiers. Please check our website for dates at your local track and book in as usual with your promoter, as they are running the racing side of the operation. If your local track is not listed this is because we are still awaiting a couple of dates and hope they will be up there shortly.

Ladies Stoxkarts Race

The 2013 Stoxkarts Ladies' Race takes place at Birmingham Wheels on 28th July and there are



still places and karts available for ladies wishing to take part. We have relaxed the Novice rules from last year; ladies who took part or who have raced once may take part but this is still intended to be for inexperienced Ladies to have a go, so ladies who have held a full licence in any formula or who have raced several times, especially recently, are not eligible.

Last year's event was a resounding success and the ladies loved it - if you'd like to be involved this year, either racing or as a sponsor, please get in touch.

Other dates, quick preview

Steve Psycho Hemmings 401 hangs up his helmet for good and to celebrate the 20 year racing career of this well respected driver he is raising funds at his testimonial meeting at Kings Lynn on 18th May to be split 50/50 between FORDS and the local baby unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There will be a raffle and collection on the day, races are up for sponsorship (contact us for details) and it's a not to be missed occasion. We wish him all the best and thank him for his support of FORDS.

We have another Mr Starter, Nik Styles, fundraising at Stoke with his Onesie Night! If you'd pay good money to see Nik strut his stuff in a selection of onesies, now's your chance: chuck it in the bucket and feast your eyes!

Lots more collection dates and FUNdraising to be announced including a big raffle coming soon. We continue to work with racing-related businesses to bring you novelties, useful things, clothing and race gear while supporting your Fund.

SPONSORS WANTED!

for all kinds of different events and fundraisers!

We don't sell sponsorship packages, we agree precisely what works best for you and us.

Whether you want to put your name to a Mechanics Qualifier, help with our admin costs or join us in a business partnership, if you want to support our work, please talk to us!

And finally

Secretary's comment:

The Mechanics Championship is the biggest risk we've taken to date and I so want it to be a huge success, the first of a regular annual event to give Banger mechanics a chance to have some fun themselves after working hard to keep the regular drivers out on track entertaining us, week in week out. The Promoters have taken on the challenge, Spedeworth are putting on a meeting for the Finals - please help support this. Sign up your mechanic, sponsor the drivers asking for your help, every £1 helps! Do you know someone who might sponsor a race? Please ask - it could make a big difference to your Fund. Thank you.

Manuela

Secretary
on behalf of the Trustees