



Christmas 2013

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 10<sup>th</sup> quarterly-ish newsletter, the Christmas edition which doesn't really have anything particularly Christmassy about it.

## A CHANGE AT THE TOP

### **Des Chandler resigns as Trustee**

As our readers may be aware, Des was lucky to survive a huge head injury at Mallory Park in 2008, as a result of which he finds complex legal stuff especially challenging. This limitation has not been any handicap to us and Des has proved a valuable member of the Team from the start. Indeed, his input has had a great influence on the shape and tone of FORDS. But Des feels it's time to step down. We of course respect his decision and are happy to confirm that he will continue as a Member, offering the benefit of his experience without the burden of Trusteeship responsibility.

### **Andy Chant joins us as Trustee**

We are delighted to welcome on board Andy Chant, flamboyant starter at Mendips for over a decade well known to locals and visitors alike and retired at the end of this season. Andy is no stranger to charity work, keen to get involved for any worthwhile cause. Indeed, he raced in our Mechanics Championship Round at Mendips in August, starting first on the grid as top fundraiser. Thankfully his fundraising skills proved better than his driving, because he finished last – but he'll be back in action for us at Smeatharpe for the Final on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

## BANGER MECHANICS CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

### **Now at Smeatharpe Stadium, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

It's been a long road to the Finals with changes along the way in response to driver numbers and location, but we now have 15 bookings for this first race of the day. We'd especially like to thank race sponsors **Newnham Car Spares** for their very generous support.

Our new Trustee Andy Chant will be competing and his first aim is to start at the front ... but will he achieve this? The grid is worked out on a points system based on funds raised and finishing position in the Rounds ... and due to his 8<sup>th</sup> place finish Andy is currently only third on the grid! Please dig deep whether you're looking to help him or stop him.

## CHARITY STATUS AT LAST!

### **Charity Status at last!**

It's been a long journey but on 10<sup>th</sup> October FORDS was finally granted Charity status. We are still awaiting confirmation of our tax status from HMRC but there won't be any problems there, it just takes a little time for them to do the admin.

The only real change to our beneficiaries is that support is now offered purely on a needs basis. This means we won't be using valuable resources on those very few people who have not suffered financially from their injury and can better support those who need it most.



## FUNDRAISING ROUND-UP

### Lindsay Barrack's 1300 STOCK CARS LADIES' RACE

**Lochgelly, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

A high turnout for a Friday evening at Lochgelly saw one hotly contested and action-packed race, called after just six laps, several stoppages and a roll-over! Lindsay Barrack has certainly made her mark in the often difficult world of fundraising with this event generating £2757 for us, and we thank her for her fantastic work on our behalf.

### Crimond Fun Day

**6<sup>th</sup> October**

Another top fundraiser from everyone at Crimond Raceway and the Barrack family, the two-seater rides proved extremely popular and raised exactly £1000 to add to the success of Munsters weekend back in June. Thanks to Bill, Chewy and everyone at the Club for your dedicated and consistent support of FORDS, and drivers for taking passengers round..

### Ryan's Robin Raffle

**Kings Lynn, Bonfire Night Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (draw 5<sup>th</sup> October)**

Congratulations Lloyd Stark who won a go in a Robin supplied, built and supported by 664 Ryan Gump Sutcliffe. Lloyd will wait until next season to take up his prize but we'll bring you news when it does happen.

### Les Redford's BriSCA F1 World Final Flag

**Yes at Kings Lynn again!**

Another huge thank you to Les for the lovely montage he auctioned for us of the chequered flag used once only for the F1 World Final race supplied by Neil Fitton Racewear and signed by all drivers in it, with pictures by Colin Casserly, beautifully framed by Chris Binns.

## PRESS COVERAGE

Did you spot us in the latest edition of Wasted! mag? Thanks to MC! for giving our Charity status news a good airing. Just to clarify, as it could be misread in our announcement, that we do still help if you haven't seen the medics on the day, but the track insurance won't and we will not compensate for that. So even if you're just feeling sore, do go and see them.

Thanks also to Rob Griffin who featured FORDS in his article on charities for the *Independent* (Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November) also available on-line. FORDS in a national broadsheet!

## LOOKING FORWARD ...

From the next edition of the Newsletter (due March-ish) we'll be focusing more on what's happening at FORDS and less on day-to-day events. It will have a financial summary so that you won't have to wait a whole year to see what's been raised and how it's being spent.

Day-to-day fundraising event news will be updated more regularly on the website and just mentioned briefly here. The website's Recovery Room page is also resolved now so that will also be back up and running shortly. Our apologies for the lack of information lately.



## SECRETARY'S COMMENT

Well I can hardly believe we're actually there with our very own charity number. But there's no time to sit back and relax – it's time to grab every opportunity there is to benefit the Fund. So I thought it might be a good time to say a little about what I actually do.

It may be quiet season for racing but here at FORDS HQ that doesn't mean slowing down. There are end of year reports, accounts, admin, and of course planning for next year. There are forms and leaflets to be printed, adverts to prepare, consumables to order. As Secretary, it's also my job to keep the Trustees up to date with the ever changing regulation of charities. We've had the Charities Acts of 2006 and 2011 and consultation is due to start in 2014 for yet another Charities Act. There are fundraising standards and new tax regulations, too, so best stay awake or we could miss out!

That may not sound a great deal of fun, but it's always easier to do this kind of stuff when it's for a good reason. This year so far I've had ~~33~~ 34 (just got another phone call) good reasons. I know I do bang on about the difference it can make to a family, but what about me?

Well firstly I love people, and people are the biggest part of what I do – from organising a sponsored Mechanics' race to negotiating a major funding deal and from describing what we do to explaining how we're going to help. Just being there can be as important as the cheques we send out. And I get to see it happen through all the paperwork from coins plopping into buckets right up to an injured driver going back to work.

It can be frustrating and challenging at times, but I've never been happier. And I am so lucky to have a wonderful genuine like-minded team to work with.

Merry Christmas to all our friends, and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

*Manuela*

Secretary  
on behalf of the Trustees