

Dear Friends,

With heavy heart we join with friends and colleagues of our racing community stunned by the loss of 11 year old Keir Millar last week in a racing incident at Lochgelly. Tributes have been paid to the youngster across the racing world this weekend and many racers painting their bumpers gold as a mark of respect. Our deepest sympathies are with Keir's family and friends, his fellow racers, raceway staff on the scene, and the wider racing community shocked and deeply saddened by this tragedy.

Funeral: Keir's funeral will take place on Friday 22nd May at Lochmaben Church at 2pm, then on to Lochmaben Cemetery at 3pm. Family flowers only, donations for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

Naturally our planned fundraising event for the Saloon European weekend at Keir's home track was cancelled to give way to collections for the Millar family. Our apologies to those who generously offered tombola prizes, we will work with GMP Racewall to rearrange for later in the year.

FUNDRAISING ROUND-UP

Emma Alldridge's skydive

Emma jumped out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft at 13,000ft to celebrate our 4th birthday on Saturday 25th April. She's raised about £1300 which equates to 10p per foot she fell out of the sky at speeds of up to 120mph! You can still sponsor her in person on paper or online until the end of May (the link is in the covering email to make it really easy) and please remember to GiftAid it. It would be amazing to get that figure up to a penny an inch, wouldn't it?



The weather was borderline, wind speed tipping above the safe limit for jumping several times in the day. But with a very decent and good value café at Skydive Langar and friendly staff and jumpers alike, nobody minded at all. Emma was in the third and final tandem group, in between solo skydivers, so we watched many people come down before she was called to kit up. Photos, papers to sign and an interview, then the group boarded the plane, the propeller started up and we waited ... then the weather turned and they came back again! Half an hour later the wind dropped, the cloud cleared and this time we watched it take off and circle slowly upward till it climbed out of sight.



We waited a little longer, then four tiny dots appeared in the sky above us. Emma was flying! We watched her spin upside down, turn left and right, spiral around, slowly cruising back towards us. Finally Emma walked back towards us grinning like the Langar Cat, with her instructor Bones. She says she loved every minute and that it was an honour to raise funds for FORDS.

Well Emma, it was an honour for us to receive the product of your devoted hard work raising such a superb amount to help injured drivers. We just can't thank you enough. Anyone wishing to do something crazy like this to help us, please do contact us. We will provide all the support you need and the cost of the activity will be paid from your sponsorship, so a minimum must apply.

Mendips Mechanics Race

A one day break in otherwise awful weather for the Bank Holiday Monday at Mendips, so soon after the 4th anniversary of our launch event there. Just five mechanics made it out on track but thanks to an outstanding contribution from Chris Neville and in particular one extremely generous sponsor the grand total of £565 was raised on the day, with FORDS covering the cost of day licences from the funds raised.

Chris also took the win in the 109 of son Chris, followed by Tony Jeanes in 113, Gary Kennard in the 455 of Shane Kennard in 3rd as Gary Bowers pulled off and Tim Lewis in Duncan Kennard's 331 completing the field. Our thanks to mechanics who took part and drivers lending their cars, to Mendips Raceway and our lovely sponsor Alan Kennard and Highdunscott Labradors. Alan's knees unfortunately did not let him compete this time but we do hope he will be out again soon.

Special fundraising thanks

Matt Shippham, Spedeworth

Matt has been bending our ear a lot lately with ideas, some feasible and some not at the moment (nothing is really impossible!) but here's some easy money he has pledged to us from his own pocket. For every ambulance on track at selected meetings Matt has pledged £5 to FORDS (maximum of £50) and National Banger drivers 200 Dean Archer and 757 Tom Farren have already done so at Arlington on Bank Holiday Monday. Next stop Aldershot in August where we hope 8 more can help us squeeze the rest of the money out of him. If you have or can get hold of an old emergency ambulance for this meeting, please help us extract Matt's cash from him!

Fixtures diary

Tim Moore charity boxing match

Not only is Tim marrying Charlotte Burgess in June but he is also taking part in a charity boxing match in aid of FORDS! Tim is training hard for the match and you can sponsor him via the Gift Aid link in the covering email or by text. We were hoping to bring you full details of how to sponsor Tim in this newsletter; unfortunately details are not yet available but will be on our website and social media in the coming week.

Darrell Page

Darrell will be making his Saloon debut at Kings Lynn on 31st October this year, sponsored for the benefit of FORDS. Details of how to sponsor him will also follow in the coming week. Darrell has raced bangers for some years and has always wanted to take up this new challenge. Please help us by supporting him.

Also coming up:

Dover, Late May Bank Holiday Monday 25th May

Kings Lynn 13th June Peewee's retirement meeting

Hednesford Veterans 21st June TBC; Al Oxby winner of the Chase Car Spares car from last year is due to race!

Amble at Arlington, 25th July

We have also been contacted in the last few days with more fundraising ideas so please do keep an eye on our website and social media.

FORDS loses over £1,500 due to sloppy admin

In the first year since gaining Charity status, FORDS held 10 sponsored events, including 9 races and one football match. In total 95 people took part in sponsored events and the total sums raised in this way came to £11,588. If every pledge had been correctly GiftAided, FORDS would have received a further £2,897 in Gift Aid but in reality we only received £1,356 - less than half the amount we were entitled to.

Some of the pledges would not have been eligible for Gift Aid, and that's fine. Non-UK taxpayers can't reclaim tax they haven't paid to give to a charity. But here's how we lost out:

- ◇ Unbelievably, 32 people's sponsor forms have never been returned (that's one in three);
- ◇ 216 sponsors did not tick the box, though oddly many of them did fill in their details;
- ◇ A further 151 did tick the box but did not fill in their details correctly.

Company names and addresses cannot be accepted for Gift Aid.

That's £1,541 worth of tax breaks we lost ...

... simply because one third of sponsor forms were not returned and one third of sponsors didn't take a minute to fill in the Gift Aid details correctly.

As we explained in the last Newsletter, we're relying on Gift Aid as our budget for the general running costs of the Charity: unavoidable non-recoverable costs like a phone, paper, postage, accountancy fees, and so on. This budget also includes buying collection buckets and promotional material, advertising, and any fundraising prizes and trophies to help us generate more funds, like paying for Emma's skydive. Just think what we could have done with that money! And if it wasn't needed for costs, we could have paid two injured drivers with it.

How to *giftaid it* correctly:

- ◆ Tick the GiftAid box
- ◆ Fill in your title, initials and surname
- ◆ Fill in your house number and postcode
- ◆ Company addresses are not accepted

These minimum details are needed to claim GiftAid. Otherwise the Tax Office can't identify you so they can't give us back the tax you've paid. We promise we won't use your details for anything else and we will never pass them to anyone else either!

Charity accounts 2014

The accounts for the year 2014 are currently being signed off and will be available shortly. These are also available on request together with a supplementary report giving further details of funds raised by event and promotion and some analysis of grants made in the year, as well as a comparison with the previous years.

FORDS' fourth birthday, and the future

As already mentioned in brief, we celebrated the 4th anniversary of our launch on 25th April. A great deal has been achieved and far more remains to be done, which seems to have become, all be it still very true, a bit of a mantra. A great deal more can (and should) be achieved if we can reach a wider audience. Please help us in simple ways, by adding us to the links on racing websites, by liking or following and sharing our social media presence. We really need this help. The more people are aware of FORDS, the better our chances of growing into the success the drivers deserve this fund to be.

Manuela

Secretary
on behalf of the Trustees

Chairman Dave Pierce; Nick Hughes; Jon Worstencroft; Bob Jones



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