

*Dear Friends,*

Welcome to the FORDS Care Newsletter, after a very busy Bank Holiday weekend, just as it should be!

## FUNDRAISING ROUND-UP

It seems to be Ladies' Year 2016 with a total of 4 sponsored ladies' races (starting with Modstox back in April) and the ladies have offered great entertainment as well as generating very good income for our work.

### Marie Mayes' 2-Litre Saloons Ladies' Race at Kings Lynn

Sponsored by Pete Carter of The Plumbers, with Kevin Wickham photos

This was a terrifically entertaining race from green flag to chequered, which was for 600 Gemma Russell who was (all too literally for the air filter) on fire. Hot on her bumper was a very quick 389 Mandy Smith, then 998 Lauren Overy. Despite some pre-race nerves everyone got into it quickly, with plenty of bumper action and some pretty determined racing.

The total raised was £3,870 gross (before deduction of day licences etc and addition of Gift Aid) which includes £265 not yet received. Becks Stevens took the top fundraiser trophy, single-handedly raising an enormous £500 and having every single sponsor correctly fill in their Gift Aid as well, making her total worth £625!

Our thanks to Marie for another tremendously successful race; Trackstar, Pete Carter and Kevin Wickham, Amanda and Sue for taking collection buckets round on the day, the brave Ladies who all did so well, and of course all the drivers for lending their cars.



### March RC Raceway Car Show (with the Chloe Lewis Appeal)

It was a beautiful day for the show this year, and a great turnout of cars from Fenland Old School Fords from Fiesta to Granada and Land Rover to supercar. Then we all went indoors to race old school Fords and Classic Saloons, and a great day was had by all. Chloe Lewis is a Junior Paralympic hopeful who has Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus - and a pupil at Westwood School where March RC meet. The appeal is to raise money for adapted equipment for her including a hand bike so that she can ride with her friends and a new wheelchair. We received a cheque from March Raceway a few days later for £250 and we are as always deeply grateful for all their generous support and kind welcome at their events.

### The annual RDC Big Raffle at Mildenhall

Following last year when the number of raffle prizes was becoming a little unwieldy, we trialled a new approach with a tombola running alongside the main raffle. As all prizes must go on the day, any left from the tombola were put into the raffle in time for the draw, which proved very successful. The total raised on this the last ever Mildenhall Big Raffle came to £735 and we're very grateful to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets. Thanks also to our lovely assistants Jess and Sue for all their help throughout the evening and to all at RDC who have made this event such a great success.

### Stormin' Norman's retirement raffle and micro banger raffle (with Macmillan Cancer Care)

The long awaited celebration of Stormin' Norman's illustrious racing career and the man himself had to borrow a starter motor from his truck to get onto the track! We still have many commemorative stickers left for sale priced £1 each plus postage, proceeds still split between FORDS and Macmillan. We also have a couple of items due to appear on eBay this week, left over from the raffle and again profits split equally between the two charities. For this reason we don't yet have a total raised but we'll bring you that as soon as we do.



We also had a raffle for a chance to race a Micro with Stormin' Norman, generously donated and supported by Andy Robinson with racewear by Gamble Motorsports. The winner was Joe Parsons, who kindly gave the car to Scott Chambers to race on the day.

Our thanks to Paul Norman, Hannah Styles who organised the raffle and Kath Morris, and of course Startrax for all their help and support with the raffle, and everyone for the wonderful prizes donated. Our best wishes to Paul for his retirement.

**Ladies' Banger race** at Mendips Raceway sponsored by Scott Benjafield Rookie Hire and the **Mulberry Raffle** featuring Emz Party Lite candles and accessories

With 20 ladies booked in the decision was made to run a first race of novices only and the first 5 finishers would go on to a second race with the 5 experienced ladies. The first race lined up with the beautifully turned out Sally Mintram and Nichola Raymond on the front row, Nichola's 151 car among three to have been purpose built for this ladies' race. Last minute entry 517 Paula Thomas took the win, followed by 384 Katie Chambers then 242 Leanne Terry, Nichola's 151 car having stormed ahead but fallen back on the last lap with fuel pump issues. All out for the second race with 13 starters, Sophie Fasey took a comfortable win followed by Paula Thomas and Katie Chambers again. Nichola didn't go home empty handed though, taking the top fundraiser trophy by almost three times the average funds raised.



The Mulberry raffle first prize was a Tessie Hobo bag, a classic beautiful and highly desirable prize generously donated by Mulberry, and won by a very happy Michelle from the burger van. Needless to say this generated a great deal of interest by ladies of good taste and perhaps gentlemen hoping to impress their ladies, though sadly the weather discouraged the crowd on the day that could have made the raffle an even bigger success. Second prize was also a very generous donation from Emz Party Lite of a candle and accessory hamper worth over £100.

All told the day raised £2606, our thanks to ladies and drivers, sponsors Scott Benjafield and Mulberry, Emz Party Lite Candles, Sally Mintram and Stacey Howe, Dan and Charlotte Chiplen, Mendips Raceway and everyone who supported the Ladies or bought a raffle ticket.

**Ladies' 2 litre Saloon race** at Smeatharpe sponsored by Jon Pearn, Buyrite Tyres and Tricky Cider plus Saloon 28 Ian Govier racing one very special banger in memory of Tony Jeanes ...

Ten of the fourteen booked in made it out on track, with an extreme range of experience from not yet driving on the road to regular racers from F2 to bangers! Sarah Bowden in 28 flew straight to the front from blue and held it for the win; Kat Dawe in 901 blasted through from the back for second while Amy Deeble in 199 held on to finish third. Most important, 10 big smiles came off the track, and that's what we like to see. Top fundraiser was very close but Kelly Bradford just snatched it from Sarah Bowden.



As well as organising the Ladies' race Ian Govier made a substantial donation to the fund to hire Dan Chiplen and his 107 banger for the day to race in memory of Tony Jeanes. Our close followers will remember that Tony's final time on track was in a FORDS mechanics race last year, and that we were overwhelmed by the generosity of his friends and family's donations for his funeral. In addition to this, Dan had built the car for his sister to do the Mendips ladies' race the day before, keen to help support the fund after his own injury last September kept him off work for 10 months and forced him into a change of career. We love it when things come together like that, and Ian certainly finished the car in style for Tony.

The complete event raised a fantastic £1503 and we'd like to thank Ian; Dan; sponsors Jon Pearn, Tricky Cider and Buyrite Tyres; hosts Autospeed; and of course the Ladies who raced and the Gentlemen who offered cars.

## FIXTURES

**Sunday 18th September, Skegness: Sean McKnight** will be racing Ian Govier's Saloon in aid of FORDS. You can sponsor him on our MyDonate page, just click the link in this email.

**Saturday 24th September, Stoke Tombola:** Donations of items very welcome, big or small, to appeal to kids and grown-ups, spectators and racers. Talk to us or Hannah Styles if you have something for us.

**Sunday 9th October** - the draw of **Tim Moore's Buxton Bomber Raffle**. Tim, who previously took part in a boxing tournament for us, is retiring from racing. But before he does he is raffling a day in his Bomber (limited contact banger) on 30th October. Tickets available from Buxton Raceway or contact Manuela if you can't get there.

**Sunday 16th October, Crimond Fun Day:** Experience the thrill of racing from the passenger seat! We hope to have pace car rides for kids again before the start of the meeting, as last year.

**Weekend 29th/30th October, Cowdenbeath Supertombowla:** Donations of tombola items very welcome, again we'd like a range of things to appeal to different people. Contact us direct or Darren Millar if you can help.

## SPOTLIGHT: FORDS and RDC Mildenhall

Four weeks ago the shock news broke that after the F2 World weekend in September Ron Coventry's side of the family would no longer be promoting and working at Mildenhall Stadium: Ron and his wife Dorina, son Michael (MCI) and his wife Sian. It is not our place to comment or speculate on this announcement, but it does have an impact on us as the ORC charity fund for injured drivers, staff and media, and on that we do have something to say.

RDC Promotions has been from the outset among our strongest supporters both in fundraising and in ensuring that all injured drivers and staff are given access to our help, whether they actually take it up or not. In fundraising they have actively encouraged grass-roots involvement, something that is critical to the long-term success of the fund. They remain the only promotion to have asked drivers on the day for a voluntary additional £1 on top of the levy £1 (which comes to FORDS on one fundraising day per track only) and made a commitment to match those £1s, raising £3 per driver before we even start.

The Coventry family and specifically Michael and Sian are among the very few in the sport who have taken the trouble to understand exactly how the charity works and why, what we are trying to achieve and how we plan to do it. With that in mind, MCI who has been the organiser of the annual Mildenhall Big Raffle has taken care to offer us the right date and do the bulk if not all of the work generating prizes for it. And donated prizes, too. Victim of its own success, the number of tickets to be drawn and read out has become high enough to warrant a tombola running alongside the raffle this year. Michael has always wanted not only the current year's figures but every preceding year as well for comparison, to pick out what's been more or less successful and keep on improving.

MCI's commentary is legendary, his knowledge impressive and his passion tangible. A commentator can make or break a fundraising event, and his mantra "if every person here today put in just £1 ..." and constant battering – fish and chips, Impact video, FORDS raffle, next meeting – meant every person in the crowd knew about it and had their money ready if they wanted to play. It's a format that worked, grew year on year, and would have continued to work for many years to come, because it was dynamic and constantly improving. It worked because all the factors were there: participation, preparation, consistency, cooperation, commitment, communication, and vitally ambition.

In short, RDC Promotions at Mildenhall has been, for the six first years of FORDS, uniquely outstanding in their engagement with us as a charity. Ron, Dorina, Michael and Sian have been a tremendous asset to us, and will be an immeasurable loss. We wish them all the best for the future, whatever it may bring, and thank them with all our hearts for the truly great contribution they have made to FORDS in supporting injured drivers through our early years.

## Secretary's Comment

Ian Govier's name appears in not one but three fundraisers this summer. We're very grateful for his support, without which the Ladies' race would have been much more difficult and his banger race and Sean McKnight's race at Skegness in two weeks' time would not have happened.

Hannah Styles from Startrax is another whose name pops up also three times this year, organising the raffle at Stormin' Norman's retirement, selling raffle tickets and stickers, charging spectators just £1 on practice days, and now busy organising the big Tombola for the 24th September meeting.

This grass-roots involvement is exactly what we need to secure the long-term future of the Fund. The more people get involved like Ian and Hannah, and Roger Hore with the Westworld DVD box set, Dan Chiplen and his wife Charlotte, Marie Mayes, and many others - the better. The stronger our roots within the racing community, the bigger we grow, the further the branches can reach out to those in need and the more fruit we can give.

Thank you all for your wonderful support this year, it really does mean the world to me, knowing that others share our vision for a future where nobody has to worry financially if things go wrong on track.

## *Manuela Stento*

Secretary, on behalf of the Trustees

David Pierce (Chairman), Nick Hughes, Jon Worstencroft & Bob Jones

