

Northwich



R.U.F.C.

JOHN BLOWER TRUST

PRESS RELEASE 07/03/04

JOHN PROGRESS

On Saturday 6th December 2003, John Blower broke his neck in a collapsed scrum whilst playing rugby for Northwich RUFC. The irrefutable fact is that due to his level of severe disability John has lost the capacity to live a normal life.

John has now had his neck support cage removed and it has been confirmed by John's Medical Team at Southport Spinal Injuries Unit that he will not need an operation to help support his neck. Apparently as a result of John's injury some internal bleeding occurred that has transformed to act in the same way as new bone growth.

"Its wonderful to be without my neck support cage, I still have to wear a support collar similar to the one's you wear with a whiplash injury, but it has been great to place my head on a pillow and to feel it to sink in. Small things I used to take for granted are now a major pleasure for me."

John has not progressed further with the movement in his fingers, and this week John has been feeling poorly due to new medication to try and combat his frequent muscle spasms. John is also currently on a drip and antibiotics due to contracting a urinary tract infection and has been confined to bed. As John said,

"These last two weeks has seen me move two steps forward and one step back. I just have to realise that my recovery journey is going to have a few pit stops, and it looks as if I am in a pit stop at



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the moment. But there are people worse off than me and I just have to remain focussed and get on with life."

John's wife Julie said,

"John has been a bit down recently, I know that all he wants to do is get home and lead a normal life. We both know that this can not happen and I am taking things as they come. I need to plan for our future and that means getting on with it. Again I just want to say that all the help we receive from the local community really cheers John and myself up. We are both just knocked out by the support and we can not say thank you enough."

THE JOHN BLOWER TRUST MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW

On Wednesday the 3rd March 2004 the first draw of the John Blower Trust monthly prize draw took place at John's bedside at Southport Spinal Injuries Hospital.

The prize draw manager Tim Pickering was on hand to ensure that the draw went smoothly, as he explained: -

"The draw has nearly 100 people paying £5 per month via a standing order into the Trust Funds. Every month one lucky contributor will be picked out at random and they will receive a cheque for 25% of the prize draw income - the other 75% remains within the Trust. It's a fantastic prize and we decided to do it this way rather than have smaller individual prizes."

The Trust Chairperson was also on hand to officiate at the draw proceedings, he stated: -



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"The tension has been mounting all week as to the ignarual draw. We were hoping that somehow John would be able to pick the winner, however his injuries and the fact that he his feeling poorly meant that his wife Julie had to draw the winning number nine"

REFER TO ATTACHED PICTURES OF THE PRIZE DRAW.

The draw manager Tim Pickering confirmed that the winning number was number 9. This number belongs to a Mr. Brain Johns from Weaverham who will receive a cheque for over £90.

Brian Johns is the International Table Tennis player, and Shift Manager at ILFORD Imaging UK Limited. John was especially pleased that the first winner should be one of his ex work colleagues.

THE MEMORIAL HALL

Saturday 6th March 2004 saw the first major fund raising function for the John Blower Trust at the Northwich Memorial Hall. In excess of £1,000 was raised.

Northwich RUFC Chairman, Sam Naylor said,

"This was a great night with over 400 people attending the function. The Memorial Hall is a terrific venue and A & H promotions that put the three bands on did an absolutely fantastic job. All three bands were brilliant and I know that they were overwhelmed by the Trust aim to help John. So much so that they have agreed to play for nothing at our next major fund raising event at the May Bank Holiday Special at Winnington Park RUFC.



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This event is over 2 days and concentrates on Rugby, but on Sunday 2nd May the marquee will be buzzing with several bands including the three bands who played tonight at the memorial Hall".

Johns elder son Christopher who at 17 years of age proved to be a big celebrity at the event. Christopher put his reputation on the line by offering to kiss any girls for a £1; he managed to raise over £200. As Christopher said,

"You have to put yourself out to help my dads trust, it was hard work and my lips are a bit sore, but I am not complaining - someone had to do it"

JOHN BLOWER TRUST FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

The John Blower Trust Fund raising committee will soon be meeting. The Trust Chairperson Andy Naylor said,

"We need to organise one big fund raising event that brings the local community together in making a massive amount of money for John. I have no idea what the event should be but I want to make at least £10,000 on the day or night. I am appealing to anyone who has any ideas to contact me on 01606 76200. It would be brilliant if a big celebrity in the world of entertainment was to do a live gig at the Memorial Hall for instance."

John's father Alan Blower, who is playing a major part within the fund raising committee said,

"I want to see an event that is fun and open to all ages, maybe a fun run for instance. I know that any event takes up valuable



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resource and the Northwich Rugby Club lads are working flat out on John's behalf, but it would be nice if these people could just attend an event that has been organised for them, if a local running club could take ownership of running such an event it would be wonderful."

The fund raising committee already has a number of events planned these are: -

- Disco and live act on Saturday 27th March at the Gladstone Club. Contact Ian Blower on 01606 79822 for details.
- Disco Saturday 10th April at the Cheshire Spot, Lostock Social Club. Contact John Carter on 01606 835960 for details.
- Car Boot Sale at Moss Farm on Sunday 11th April. Contact Paul Taylor on 01606 783668 for details.
- May Bank Holiday Special at Winnington Park RUFC on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May. On Saturday Winnington host the County Senior Rugby game, Cheshire Vs Durham. Sunday sees a 10 a side rugby tournament with the several Spectacular Live Acts taking place on the evening. Contact Andy Naylor on 01606 76200 for details.

Any one wishing to donate to the John Blower Trust should make out a cheque payable to 'NRUFC John Blower Fund' and forward it to John Blower Trust C/O A.E. Naylor, 10 Townfield Court, Barnton, Northwich, CW8 4UT.

Andy Naylor 06/03/04



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