



# Keep Smiling!

the Newsletter of the Wessex Neurological Centre Trust

Registered Charity Number 286277

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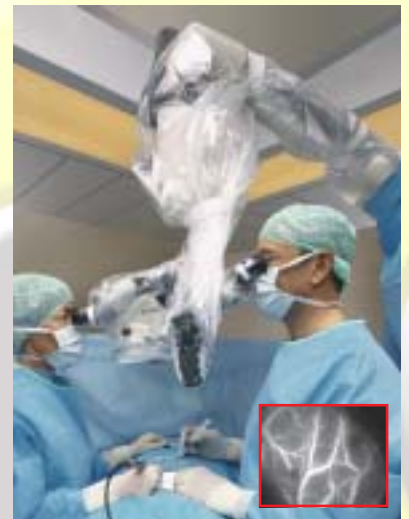
## Major New Appeal Launched...

As our regular readers will realise, this issue of **Keep Smiling!** is a little later than planned as we delayed publication to enable details of our latest appeal to be included. The following article explains how this new project aims to provide surgeons at the Wessex Neurological Centre with cutting-edge technology that can benefit hundreds of patients each year.

### THE FLUORESCENCE ENHANCED NEUROSURGERY APPEAL

Any procedure involving surgery on the brain is, quite obviously, an extremely complex procedure. The key to ensuring a positive outcome for the patient is for the neurosurgeon to have as complete a picture as possible, not merely of the tissue he or she is working on, but the effects on surrounding tissue. In neurovascular surgery, for example when repairing vessels damaged by an aneurysm/haemorrhage, the ability to clearly monitor the effect on bloodflow in adjacent brain tissue is crucial to ensuring a successful outcome. At present, surgeons at the Wessex Neurological Centre rely heavily on the use of micro dopplers which give an audible indication of bloodflow. However, this method provides only very localised information to the surgeon.

Fluorescence Enhanced Neurosurgery (FEN) offers a completely new way of visualising bloodflow within the brain, providing the surgeon with far superior data than is possible with micro-dopplers. Prior to surgery, patients are injected with a contrast dye which, when viewed through a neurosurgical operating microscope equipped with the FL800 Fluorescence system, enables the surgeon to see exactly how bloodflow in surrounding vessels is affected by his/her actions. Having this real-time information will eliminate the need for on-table angiography, reduce the likelihood of repeat surgery being required, and reduce the possibility of a recurrence of the bleed, or of a post-operative stroke.



Images courtesy of Leica Microsystems

Surgeons at the Wessex Neurological Centre perform neurovascular surgery on hundreds of patients each year. By equipping one of our operating theatres with a specially-equipped Neurosurgical Operating Microscope fitted with the FL800 Fluorescence system, most if not all of these patients would benefit.

Of course, such sophisticated technology does not come cheaply, but we hope you will agree that the circa £200,000 cost of providing this equipment is a small price to pay given the potentially enormous benefit to patients.

For further information, and to find out how you could help us achieve this aim, please see our special appeal leaflet or visit the appeal web site at [www.smile4rich.co.uk](http://www.smile4rich.co.uk)

Promoting Excellence & Innovation in Neurological Care and Research

# Our Sincere Thanks Go...

... to all who've given their support since our last issue. There's not space here to list everyone and so we hope you'll not be offended if you've been omitted. Please be assured your support is greatly appreciated.

Rachel & Lucy Lawrence  
Fortis Insurance  
Craig & Carla Jefferson  
RWE Systems  
Oliver Finn & Abigail Stadden  
Kerry Brown  
Mr & Mrs Noyen-Melendez  
Alkoomi Ltd  
Folkestone Rotary Club  
Cawsand Bay Sailing Club  
Royal Southampton Y C  
Weymouth & Portland C A  
Royal Dorset Yacht Club  
Fareham Sailing & M B Club  
Emsworth Sailing Club  
RNC & Royal Albert Yacht Club  
Mrs V Anderson  
Waitrose, Chandlers Ford  
Aerostructures Hamble  
Frensham Pond Sailing Club  
Richard Tolley / Elliotts  
Lytchett Minster RFC  
Helen Webster  
John Beard & Son Ltd  
460 Port Troop RLC (Falklands)  
Bethany Barfoot  
Nuffield Wessex Hospital Staff  
17 Port & Maritime 'Fishathon'  
Mrs Wynn Cook  
The Boxall Family (IOW)  
Mr & Mrs T Clark  
McNally (MinD) Support  
Mrs Jean Turner  
Lennox & Wyfold Foundation  
The Old Mill, Holbury  
Mrs Jolanta Rolt  
Mrs Jo Maidment  
Scottish & Southern Energy  
Ascot Racecourse  
Barton Peveril College  
Esso Refinery, Fawley

**023 8079 8882**

# BIG SMILES... FUNDRAISING NEWS

## Lytchett Minster RFC Remembers Steve Mason

### RUGBY CLUB PAYS TRIBUTE



On the evening of Friday the 5th December 2008 Lytchett Minster Rugby Club held the inaugural 'Steve Mason Memorial Match'. The game took place under the club's new floodlights and was attended by the Mason family. Steve was a long time stalwart member of the club who sadly passed away following a short and unexpected illness.

The match was contested by Lytchett's U13's v the U14's and refereed by one of Steve's sons, Darren. It drew an attendance of over 400 members and guests, including Annette Brooke, the local MP for Mid Dorset & Poole North, and Ben Williams a 'local boy made very good' with Bath Rugby and England Under 18's representative honours.

In agreement with Mrs Nicky Mason and her family the club wanted the evening to be a celebration of all that is good about the sport of Rugby and Steve's contribution to Lytchett Minster RFC and local youth rugby in particular. At the request of the Mason family, the proceeds of the raffle - a sum of £650 - was donated to the Smile4Rich Appeal and presented by Mr Dean Mitchell, the Chairman of Lytchett Minster RFC.

## Exbury Gardens Hosts Annual Charity Walk

### BLOOMING MARVELLOUS!

Exbury Gardens provided a spectacular setting for our annual charity walk on Sunday 10th May. Walkers, including several former patients of the WNC, gathered at the world-famous gardens to tackle a winding route of approximately 5 miles through the 200-acre estate. The magnificent Rothschild Collection of Rhododendrons and Azaleas, a riot of colour at this time of year, afforded the walkers breath-taking views at every turn.



And the blooming marvellous news is that the walk raised over £2,400 for our latest appeal.

The route and 'Treasure Trail' quiz took in the Camelia Walks, Azalea Bowl, Winter Garden, River Walk and Home Wood, before pausing for a delicious and well-earned Cream Tea at the Tennis Court Tea Garden. From there, it was on to the History Tree, Lovers Lane, Witcher's Wood, Jubilee Pond and the American Garden, before the final leg of the walk along Azalea Drive.

The verdict of one of the walkers, Patricia Livett of Southampton, was typical of the comments received. "It was a wonderful walk, the Cream Tea was magic and the Treasure Trail really made the day as it helped point out many things we may otherwise have missed."

**To make a secure online donation, please visit...**



Paul Wheatley (centre), and friends Derek Noble & Trevor Biddle on their 733-mile cycle ride from Montpellier to Rome.



Our 2008 Fundraiser of the Year, Cpl Dan Mason, with wife Kat and son Caleb, receive a cheque from Dan's colleagues who fished their way around the coast from their Marchwood base to the Severn Crossing.



The Lombard team prepare to tee off at the Guernsey Smile4Rich Golf Day



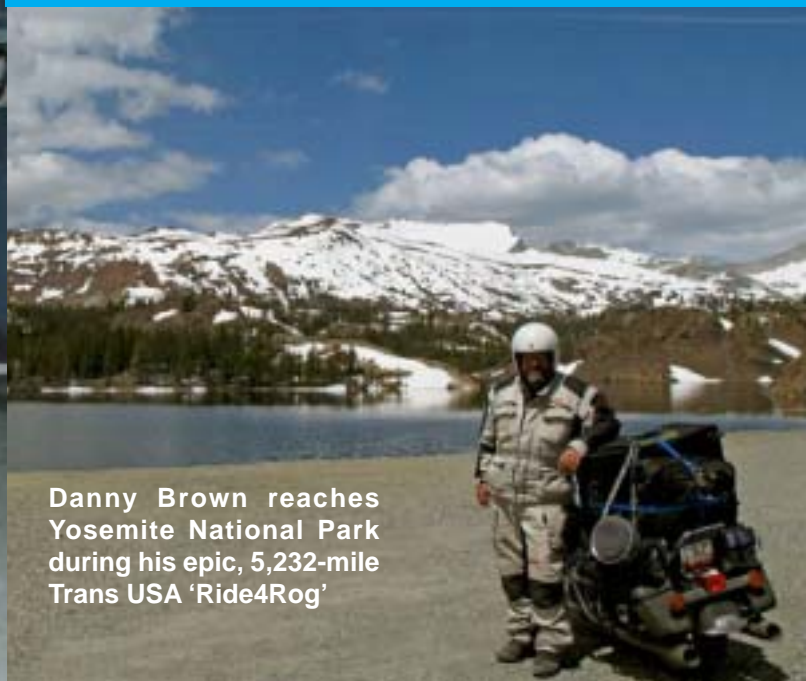
"Give us a clue!" A packed house for the Quiz Night at The Archers, Southampton.

## FUN FUNDRAISING FUN

Our grateful thanks go to all for helping to raise funds for our appeal, and for helping to put the **FUN** into fundraising!



Professor Liam Gray (left), head of the Epilepsy Surgery Team, receives a cheque from Diane & Jeremy McNally



Danny Brown reaches Yosemite National Park during his epic, 5,232-mile Trans USA 'Ride4Rog'

## Kick4Rick Event Dazzles De Vere Diners

### (T)RICKY RECOVERY CELEBRATED

On 11th August 2007, Ricky Fernandez's life changed in an instant. Ricky, a community coach with Southampton Football Club, was involved in a road traffic accident whilst riding his motorcycle. On arrival at the Wessex Neurological Centre it was clear that the injuries he'd sustained, including to his head & spine, were among the worst that had ever been seen at the Centre. Suffice to say his condition was critical. Several operations alone were required to stem bleeding on his brain, and a total of 48 platinum coils were inserted. But thanks to the skill and dedication of the team of Wessex Neurological Centre staff who cared for him, Ricky has made a quite remarkable recovery.

To show their appreciation, Ricky and the rest of the Fernandez family organised a glittering event at Southampton's De Vere Grand Harbour Hotel. The 'Kick4Rick' Dinner & Dance attracted over 220 friends & family, including a number of the neuro team who looked after him, and the BASICS doctors who attended Ricky at the scene of the accident. Ticket sales, sponsorship, raffle tickets and an auction of a number of unique sporting memorabilia and other items raised just over £20,000 for the WNCT. Of course, the Fernandez family can be extremely proud to have raised such an astonishing amount but, as for everyone else in the audience, the family's most memorable moment must surely have been the standing ovation for Ricky as he walked to the stage to deliver his own personal thanks to those who helped to save his life.



Ricky (third from right) and the rest of the Fernandez family.  
Image by David Goff Photography. [www.dg-photo.co.uk](http://www.dg-photo.co.uk)

## Guernsey Golfers Drive Fundraising Total Beyond £41,000

### ANOTHER TEE-RRIFIC ROUND

Our Guernsey Golf Day, now in its third year, was again sponsored by RBSI & Lombard and was contested by 21 teams, including three teams who flew into the island from the mainland to compete for the trophy. A warm sunny day greeted the 84 players to the course at La Grande Mare, situated on the beautiful west coast, but a stiff breeze made the tight course a real challenge. Reigning champions, 'The GBGs' eventually emerged as winners in a very closely fought battle for the honours, carding a score of 83 points to win by just one point.

The dinner which followed, and at which many of the golfers were joined by their partners, was a lively affair with much talk of missed putts and sliced drives. But spirits were high and feverish bidding at the after dinner auction lifted the total raised on the day to just over £14,000 (bringing the total over the last 3 years to over £41,500). Our sincere thanks go to organisers Glyn Smith, John Southwell & Paul Wheatley, and to all who so generously supported the event, particularly those who provided (and bid on) items for the auction, which included a signed Portsmouth FC shirt, one weeks accommodation in a converted barn at Les Angles in the Eastern Pyrenees, a programme of the 1966 World Cup Final signed by ten of the team, and six months free full-page advertising in Guernsey's favourite monthly magazine, 'GBG' which alone raised £3,000 on the night! Those present are already looking forward to the 2010 event, and to continuing Guernsey's remarkable support for this charity.

## Fundraising Shorts....

### Montpellier to Rome Ride

Together with friends, Derek Noble & Trevor Biddle, Paul Wheatley has recently returned from an 8 day, 733 mile ride from Montpellier, France, to Rome. Taking in such towns as Cannes and Monaco (where they were actually permitted to ride the circuit immediately following one of the F1 Grand Prix practice sessions), the memories will live long. Each rode for their favourite charity, with Paul raising in excess of £1,100 for the Smile4Rich Appeal.

### Trans USA Ride4Rog

When Danny Brown's brother-in-law, Roger Parratt, passed away in 2005 after suffering a brain haemorrhage, Danny set about planning an epic Trans-USA ride, from Plymouth Rock to the Golden Gate. With sponsors covering much of the cost, and Danny the rest, he ran an online 'guess the mileage' competition to raise funds. Ride4Rog saw him cover a staggering 5,232 miles, and raising much appreciated funds for the charity in the process.

### Surviving the Fastnet

Author, Nick Ward, has a special place in his heart for the WNC. A survivor of the infamous 1979 Fastnet Race, which left many yachts sunk and 15 fatalities. His book, *Left for Dead*, tells the story of his survival against all the odds. Since its publication, Nick has been in demand to give talks at numerous sailing clubs across the country, but has refused to take any fee for doing so, preferring instead to ask for donations to our appeal. Our thanks to Nick and to all the clubs who've made donations.

or visit the [Smile4Rich](http://Smile4Rich) Appeal web site at

[smile4rich.co.uk](http://smile4rich.co.uk)

# EVENT DIARY

JULY - DECEMBER '09

**Wednesday 9th September - Quindell Club, Fareham**

## RYDER CUP-STYLE GOLF DAY



Despite last year's play-off hole defeat, after scores had finished tied at 25.5 points apiece, we're delighted that Matt Le Tissier will be returning in the hope of making it third time lucky this year. And after being ably substituted by Steve Claridge in 2008, we're equally pleased that Guy Whittingham will be returning to defend the Smile4Rich Trophy which he first lifted in 2007.

Based on Ryder Cup golf, but played over 27 holes in a single day (comprising 9 holes of 4-balls and 18 holes of singles), the event will again be staged on Quindell Club's picturesque, 5,683 yard 'Woods Course', near Fareham. Aside from the honour for the winning team of lifting the 'Smile4Rich Trophy' sponsored by the Pinnacle Group, there'll be a medal for every participant, plus trophies and prizes to be won in our 'Longest Drive' and 'Nearest-the-Pin' competitions, and the chance to win a car worth £10,000 for a hole-in-one!

Entry costs just £100 per pair of players (including coffee/tea & bacon roll on arrival, and a 'Brunch' breakfast after the first 9 holes) and, with a maximum of 38 pairings available, places for the 2009 event are sure to be in great demand. Further details and entry forms are available from the appeal web site, or by calling/emailing the fundraising office. Please apply early to avoid disappointment.

**Friday 16th October - NV Cabaret Lounge, Southampton**

## SMILE4RICH GALA DINNER

Our Gala Dinner is one of the highlights of our calendar. It's an evening on which to enjoy great food, great company, and to recognise & celebrate the achievements of the last year. To help ensure that this 5th annual Smile4Rich Gala Dinner is the best yet, we have a very special performance for you to enjoy this year as Stephanie Benson, who was Stevie Wonder's special guest singer at his 2008 O2 Arena concerts, performs classic Motown that will have you dancing the night away.



All ticket prices have been reduced this year, starting at just £55 and include a drinks reception on arrival, a superb three-course dinner, cabaret and disco. Options to include table wine, or both wine & Champagne, are also available, and the after dinner auction will feature some unique and highly desirable items for those who wish to bid on them.

Full details of the event, including some excellent corporate sponsorship opportunities, can be found on the appeal web site. Alternatively, please contact the fundraising office for further information and ticket sales. Please note that only 150 tickets are available so please book early to ensure your place at what promises to be a very special evening.

[www.justgiving.com/wessexneurological/donate/](http://www.justgiving.com/wessexneurological/donate/)

Or join in with the fun at...

**18th July 2009**

### Summer BBQ & Concert

Join the fun at Deerleap Farm, Ashurst, with our summer BBQ and concert by local band, 'The Strand'. Entry just £5. Please visit the appeal web site for full details and ticket information.

**19th September 2009**

### Party for Charlotte

Dinner with a view! - this black tie event will be held in a marquee overlooking the sea at Icart Point, Guernsey. For full details please see the event calendar on the appeal web site.

**27th September 2009**

### Cross Solent Swim4Rich

From Stokes Bay to Ryde on the Isle of Wight, 24 brave souls will attempt to swim the Solent. Why not come along to cheer them on, or you can sponsor them online (see link on web site).

## Get Involved!

There are many ways in which you can get involved with the Smile4Rich Appeal, and by doing so you'll be helping us to provide support to the Wessex Neurological Centre.

You can come along to one of our events, or organise your own (we'll be glad to help out). Alternatively, you could take part in events such as the London Marathon or Great South Run, though if that sounds a little too energetic for you, then there are a thousand other ways in which you could help us raise funds.

Of course, if you simply wish to make a donation then you can do so either by post or online. For full details please visit [www.smile4rich.co.uk](http://www.smile4rich.co.uk) or call the appeal office on....

**01489 582259**

## About The Wessex

The Wessex Neurological Centre provides a dedicated, integrated 24-hour acute neurosurgical and neurological assessment, investigation and treatment service. It is one of the largest neuroscience centres in the country, serving a population of around 3 million across Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, West Sussex, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands.

Each year the centre, which was first opened in 1966, treats approximately 4,000 inpatients and 13,000 outpatients.

## Want to be kept informed?

If you've enjoyed reading *Keep Smiling!* and would like to receive future issues and other news about the Smile4Rich Appeal then please email [news@smile4rich.co.uk](mailto:news@smile4rich.co.uk)

### Contacting Smile4Rich

Tel: 023 8079 8882 or 01489 582259

email: [info@smile4rich.co.uk](mailto:info@smile4rich.co.uk)

web: [www.smile4rich.co.uk](http://www.smile4rich.co.uk)

Write: **Smile4Rich**

Mailpoint 101

The Wessex Neurological Centre

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Southampton

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## See How You're Support Makes a Difference

### OPEN DAY AT THE WESSEX

Here is your chance to see for yourself just how your support for our appeals is helping to make a difference. And there's plenty to see!

Firstly, the new Paediatric Video-Telemetry Suite is now fully operational, and visitors will have the chance to hear how it's providing surgeons with the vital data needed in order to perform life-changing surgery on children with severe Epilepsy. The Smile4Rich Ambulance, the unique 'neuro-intensive care bed on wheels' which has carried over 1,300 patients since coming into service in March 2007, will also be on display.

And if you've ever wondered just how research is conducted to identify new treatments for neurological conditions, then you'll be interested to learn about the research work that the charity is currently funding. This includes a very important project which aims to identify chemical markers that will make it possible to predict whether patients, who've suffered a brain haemorrhage, are at risk of a secondary stroke - enabling clinicians to give appropriate preventive care.

Finally, you'll be able to hear all about our latest appeal project (see front cover story) and how it will provide surgeons at the Wessex with a revolutionary new way of visualising bloodflow in the brain during neurovascular surgery. The Open Day will be held on Sunday 6th September and there will be a choice of two sessions, at 11.30am or 2.30pm. Numbers are restricted so please reserve your place early to avoid disappointment.

## New Board of Trustees Have Tough Act To Follow

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The role of Trustee is one of considerable responsibility as the Board are in effect the guardians of the charity. Between 1994 and 2009, the WNCT has been under the safe stewardship of David d'Arcy Hughes, Glenn Neil-Dwyer and Duncan Lofts, a period during which they have discharged their duties with great diligence, ensuring the funding of numerous deserving projects. Over the past five years, they have also overseen a period enormous growth in the charity's activities, public profile, and indeed the funds it generates. However, with Glenn and David having recently retired from their professional careers, the time seemed right to pass the baton to a new team.

A new board has now been appointed and comprises of; Lea Brocklebank, a partner with Southampton legal firm, Bond Pearce; Owen Sparrow, a senior Consultant Neurosurgeon at the WNC; Prof Lars Sundstrom, A Professor of Clinical Neurosciences and former head of the Clinical Neurosciences research division at Southampton University; and Adrian Price, a partner with chartered accountants, Morley and Scott. I'm sure you will want to join us in thanking David, Glenn and Duncan for their considerable contribution to the work of the charity over so many years, and to welcome Lea, Owen, Lars and Adrian. They will shoulder the responsibility of overseeing the charity's future development as it aims to increase the number and scale of projects it funds.



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