

Hi There!

You are reading the first bulletin that The David Azhar Appeal has published. I want to keep everyone informed of both my own and the Appeal's progress and to share with you some of the ways people have supported the Appeal.

Kind Donations

One of the most frequent questions that I am asked is, '*what will my contribution go towards?*' I can tell you that since the Appeal was founded in November 2002, several very important items of equipment has been purchased to help my muscles and increase my bone density which is decreasing due to the fact they are not getting used as frequently as they used to.

Here are some examples:

- An exercise bike. This machine prevents the muscles in my legs and arms from becoming stiff.
- Last summer saw the purchase of a tilting table, which enables me to stand in an upright position thus increasing the strength in my bones.
- Just after I was discharged from hospital, Glasgow Rugby and St Vincent De Paul purchased a specially adapted electric wheelchair for me. This would create a level of independence for myself.



Many donations and offers of help have been made to the Appeal. There has been a lot of fun and every single penny donated is greatly appreciated. But, it doesn't all go to equipment, as the Appeal Leaflet states, your donations are divided into different areas to assist me in my development and the many challenges that lie ahead.

As we approach our second year as an established Appeal, I would be lying if I said it has been an easy ride. Many of the events require a great deal of preparation and I am as actively involved as I can be. Here is just a flavour of some of the things that the Appeal and our supporters have been doing.

Events

The Highland Poo!

The photo (right) shows our most recent gathering at Lochinch-
The Highland Poo! This day involved selling 7,000 squares on the rugby pitch. A highland cow was brought in to select the winning square. However, after a long wait 'farmers' Phil and Moe decided "number 1" was sufficient. That old phrase working with animals and children is true! This was the biggest event we had ever undertaken and it raised a total of £4159.50.



Marathon Efforts



Several people have ran the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Paisley and even the New York Marathon on behalf of the Appeal! These are the teachers from Barrhead High School after completing the full 26 miles: From I to r Ray Shankland, Kenny Crawford, Ronnie Lowrie, Gillian van Looy. Tom McGee of Spark of Genius, Paisley who ran the Paisley Marathon for the Appeal also very kindly sponsored the t-shirts for the Edinburgh runners.

The Recruits

At Tulliallan – The Scottish Police College, each course of first year recruits nominate a charity or organisation. Karen Robb (my cousin) nominated the Appeal. Through different events, they raised £4109.52. Karen is into her second year of police life and is enjoying the beat. I had a great day at the college and wish all the recruits good luck with their careers.

Doc Rock



Liz Fortune organised this event at *The Waterside* in Ayr. This involved a group of G.P.'s and their friends musically entertaining us with tunes from past and present. With ticket sales and raffles lots of money was raised.



International Appeal

Word of The David Azhar Appeal is beginning to spread via different avenues. The first way of spreading the word of the Appeal was to create leaflets. These may be familiar to many as it has an application form, which we prefer you to complete if you are going to do a fundraiser or offer any help.

However, we have now received international status, for example, during the Rugby World Cup of 2003, in Australia, these three "athletes" were spotted!



I also spent an afternoon at the Hilton Hotel in June, in the company of the under 21 international rugby players from South Africa, Tonga and France. They were over playing in the world tournament and it was a great day.

The Future

Many thanks to those I have not been able to mention, I do appreciate your support. I didn't realise how much has gone on and how little space I have to tell everyone. Already we have a few events planned:

In November The Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra is performing at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on the 14th of November.

Scotland's Rugby Gordon Bulloch will be open this event with

December This year's event will be a Casio Lochinch in

December. This night long to sell out and we looking forward to it.

2005: Check out the

for details of past events or to find out what's happening and how you can support us. If you would like to help the Appeal or organise your own fundraising activity, then just give us a shout.



Captain there to me. Christmas Night at

didn't take are all

website

Finally

I was really pleased with my all my Higher results and gained a place at Strathclyde University. Thanks to ALL in education who have helped me achieve these results. I received huge support whilst in hospital, at school and at home. I am studying 5 subjects (geography, psychology, human resources, law, economics). So far the Uni experience has been good.

I know the weather hasn't been that great this year, but I hope you all managed to have a relaxed summer and that you all enjoy the Christmas holidays!

Thank you, to all The David Azhar Appeal committee members for their hard work in making everything a success!

**Look out for the next edition of
The David Azhar Appeal Bulletin**

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