



March Fundraiser of the Month is...Jamie Andrews



Congratulations Jamie. What have you been up to?

I decided to hold one event with all sorts of things going on including, raffles, hampers, auctions, Curry/Chilli pots and a paid karaoke. I sourced a pub that my Dad goes in and they said I could use it free of charge, but they would take all the bar money.

How did you come up with this idea and what did you do?

Last year when I ran for MACS I asked all friends and family for sponsorship money.

It was really hard collecting all the individual sponsorship monies, so this year I decided I would throw all eggs into one basket (excuse the pun with Easter round the corner).

I wrote letters to every single premieriership football club asking for donations of signed memorabilia and was overwhelmed with the response! My dad knows Peter Brame (formerly of *Fame Academy*) and he ran a Karaoke for me. We charged £2 a song which went into the charity pot.

The pub landlady also put in a request to all her regulars and displayed posters asking for any unwanted Christmas presents to be donated as raffle prizes. She also asked for any un-opened food items for a hamper. The response was so good that we ended up with two hampers so I used one as a raffle prize and the other as an auction lot.

I also approached local businesses for prizes including a local bike shop. Although the owner would not donate a bike for free, he did let me have a set of family bikes for £100 (I covered this initial cost myself).

This was advertised as a separate Mountain bike auction with the other general raffle containing over 30 prizes for people to choose from.



What prizes did you manage to secure?



In the end, I had more than 30 raffle prizes plus: two food hampers; a cleaning hamper; three Mountain bikes; a signed Chelsea shirt; two signed Spurs shirts; Signed Di Canio picture; a signed Everton team picture; a round of golf; a set of 6 Golf lessons; and a signed Jenson Button hat & t shirt.

The gentleman who won the mountain bike auction donated the bikes back to me and I re-auctioned there and then! I got double bubble for the bikes and ended with £225.

The total raised will reach over £1500!

What advice would you give to other fundraisers?

The main bit of advice is to start early, As soon as you get a spot confirmed, get planning. At this time of year, a lot of people are fundraising and asking for money from family and friends and in the current climate it is hard to sponsor everyone you know who is doing some form of charity work. I feel I had a good reaction to my fundraising as I was giving something back in the form of an event.

Another bit of advice is draw up a template letter, explaining who you are, who you're running for and a little bit about MACS. Then, ask for a prize... it can be clothes shops, perfume/aftershave shops, football clubs, local restaurants, leisure facilities, spa centres etc.

Well done again and thank you.

I have found running for MACS to be very infectious. It's like one big communal family. The group on Facebook is great to share stories and get useful tips and hints. Jenny Lupton is an amazing person who is always available for advice. I am not sure my knees will hold out for another Marathon but I am pleased to say I have found a second family in MACS and I will be back in some way shape or form to help MACS out again in the future.