

Professional Drivers

Foundation

Supporting Drivers

PDF Trustee's Dodge with Storm Doris.

It began as just another windy day. The storm was well forecast, so I'd set off earlier than usual from our yard at Guyhirn. Five drops in N W London, all done in good time so I could be homeward bound before things got too windy.

Falling trees turned me off the A1 and across country towards my Kings Lynn reload, but at this point the weather wasn't worrying me at all.

That started to change as I passed Huntingdon, the gusts getting stronger. A foreign registered artic on its side in a ditch near Chatteris showed just how strong the gusts were.

Passing March the wind was still getting worse, until just north of the town one almighty gust tipped me up on two wheels. Unlike in the films, my lorry failed to drop back on its wheels at a convenient point. Instead we teetered for about five seconds, then keeled gracelessly over onto the driver's side and slid into an oncoming Volvo tipper.



The slide and impact seemed to take a very long time, and as the cab started to fold in around me I wondered if this was the end of my road. That thought left me feeling slightly peeved, as I would have really missed the wife if I was dead!

The Flysheet

Autumn 2017

Then everything stopped and suddenly it was very quiet, just the engine ticking over and an alarm pinging in the dash somewhere.

A quick physical stock check revealed nothing broken or bleeding, but also told me I was stuck, penned in all around by the battered Scania which had saved my life. Another driver managed to reach the ignition key and stop the engine, and my Bluetooth ear piece allowed me to answer phone calls from the office and the wife. Having reassured both that I was okay, just a little stuck, it was simply a question of waiting.

It took the fire brigade the best part of two hours to release me. Their initial efforts to get down to me from the passenger side were thwarted, so it was necessary to separate the two lorries and peel back the roof to slide me out. The other driver and I walked away from the wreckage. I was glad to be reunited with my glasses and phone.



Storm induced road closure made for a slow ambulance ride to the hospital, where the busy but wonderful staff checked me over. A query over a scan result got me transferred to a specialist unit, but eventually I was declared fit and discharged, 31 hours after the world fell over.

Thanks to all NHS staff, paramedics and everyone else involved. You all did a great job!

Ian Ratcliffe

Stop Press Update!

Following the worst blow job of my life, it looked like the unit would be written off because of the accident damage.

However, since she was barely 7 months old at the time, there was a lot of careful checking done to make sure the chassis was straight, and that the engine hadn't suffered from running on its side. Both were completely fine so the insurance co. decided to have her repaired.

Five months later, with a new cab and a fresh MOT, she now looks like this again!



As I write, we've been back together for 3 weeks and if you didn't know what the vehicle had been through, you wouldn't have any idea. For me, getting my lorry back once more after the events of Storm Doris brings the whole story to a happy conclusion, and lets me move on.

Ian Ratcliffe

Professional Drivers Foundation

Annual Review.
August 2016-July 2017

Another busy year for the PDF, where the trustees dealt with 28 claims for help and assistance. These claims came from all parts of the UK, from Cornwall to Scotland, Kent to North Wales and many places in between.

Of the total claims, 43% were successful and we paid out £3,165 in total.

57% were unsuccessful, either for failing to return our claim forms or they failed to meet our criteria. These failed claims amounted to over £13,000.

Among the successful claims

- We were able to help drivers recovering from operations.
- The widow of a driver killed in a road traffic accident.
- A re-homed driver to get some basic furniture so his daughter could stay.
- Travel costs for a driver whose wife was seriously ill in a London hospital.
- A driver with a son being treated for cancer.
- A DPCC course for a driver returning from long term illness to enable him to get back to work.
- We also were able to provide help and advice to others.

As always, confidentiality prevents us releasing too many details, but those we help are always grateful and wish us to pass on their thanks to all who so generously support us.
Your donations really do make a difference.

Swedefest 2016

Swedefest 2016 had lot of firsts!

The first time both Scania & Volvo were displayed, the first time the event was held at Stonham Barns and the first time The Professional Drivers Foundation raised over £1500.

Thanks to the generosity of all those attending and of course Rob & Michelle inviting us, not to mention an anonymous donation from a trade stand. The Saturday night light show was spectacular to say the least and there was also a quiz in the restaurant.

Sunday was show day where the crowds were amazed at the amount of time and effort needed to achieve the shine on all the trucks. The PDF organised a truck pulling competition on Sunday afternoon where teams of five could work off their Sunday Lunch, then show category winners were announced and the trophies handed out.

Rob personally thanked and saw off each truck as it left the site. An excellent weekend and we are looking forward to bigger and better this year.

PDF Corporate Donations

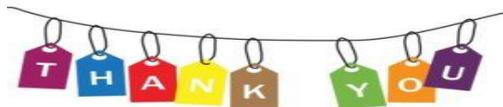
The Trustees of the PDF would like to take this opportunity to thank our corporate donors for their never ending donations whenever we ask for help. It's so heart-warming that there are so many firms who do actually appreciate that drivers have played a part in their success and are happy to help the PDF support those in need of help.



All of our Raffle prizes throughout the year are donated to us, and without this our fundraising would not be the success it is.



On behalf of all the drivers who have had grants from the PDF and asked us to pass on their thanks to you all.



These funds are raised by both the corporate donors, and drivers who never fail to dig deep to help their less fortunate colleagues, and of course Swedefest who thankfully, keep inviting the PDF!

Twenty Teaser Questions!

1. What's a straight Eight?
2. What's a four in line?
3. Who made Beavers?
4. Who fitted Tilling & Stevens engines?
5. What is a Guy's Mascot?
6. What was the blue line for?
7. What is an RTG?
8. What does BDC stand for?
9. What's heavier a tonne of coal or a ton of feathers?
10. Describe a Chinese six?
11. Where would you find a Pig's Ear?
12. What is Aberdeen Overdrive?
13. Where were ERF's built?
14. What was a bed board?
15. What was the Red Book?
16. What was the original meaning of DERV?
17. What are greedy boards?
18. Which motorway no longer exists?
19. After Buckden roundabout on the A1 northbound, where is the next one?
20. Of the six single digit A roads, which one does NOT start in London?

Answers on the back page.

PDF Christmas Raffle 2016

It was a bumper Christmas Raffle in 2016 and raised more than we have ever done before.

£830 was the grand total!

There was 25 prizes all donated from our supporters on the left and many more who continue to support us year after year. None of this would have been possible without the hard work by people who sell the tickets for us and of course the dedication of those who buy them and never expect to win anything.

The PDF Trustees would like to thank you all and ask you to do the same again this year!

Can we beat this total? Can we reach £1000 in Christmas 2017 Raffle ticket sales?
If you would like some tickets to buy or sell, or even if you would like to donate a prize please contact

ianexup@yahoo.co.uk

Promoter: Mr I Ratcliffe
Lottery Registration Number: 089

Teaser Answers

1. A Gardner Engine
2. Four wheels across the back of a trailer.
3. Leyland
4. Commer
5. Indian Chief
6. Secondary braking
7. Rubber Tyred Gantry (Container Handler)
8. Bedford Drivers Club
9. A ton of feathers
10. Two front and one rear axle.
11. On the corner of a sheet.
12. Downhill out of gear.
13. Sandbach.
14. Sleeping board across the seats and engine.
15. A Guide to night out digs.
16. Diesel Engined Road Vehicle.
17. Extra boards around the top of a tipper body.
18. The M10
19. Berwick on Tweed
20. The A6

How well did you do?

Where to find the Professional Drivers Foundation

Visit our website at <http://www.pda-uk.org/>
Where you can read far more about the work we do, our patron Steve Parrish, and even a bit about the Trustees! You can click on the links to make donations and contact any of us on the contact page.

We have a PDF Facebook page here
<https://www.facebook.com/Professional-Drivers-Foundation-119989251405853/> where comments are always welcome.

Or you can follow us on Twitter @PDFandPDA
<https://twitter.com/PDFandPDA>

It's always nice to get feedback bad or good from you all, and we always welcome suggestions or offers of help.

Requests for help are ALWAYS dealt with confidentially.

We are proud that we never disclose any recipient's details to anyone, even though it may make fundraising so much easier.

It always has been, and so it will remain.

Wanted!

Is there anyone who would volunteer to produce The Flysheet for us once a year please?
The wages are non-existent; the co-operation is usually very 'last minute' and the content very hard to come by!
However, the sense of satisfaction after climbing all of the above obstacles is excellent.
If you would be happy to relieve me of my duties please contact me at pat@fenlandtraining.co.uk or call me on 07909 995615.

Thanks Pat

Note from the editor!

Due to unforeseen circumstances it fell upon me to produce a newsletter of sorts!

My love of roping and sheeting prompted calling it the PDF Flysheet!

Any enquiries can be made to me
By email to: pat@fenlandtraining.co.uk

Any complaints can be directed to the head office, as I never volunteered for this job and after 4 years, I still don't know what I'm doing!

Pat

Professional Drivers Foundation, 8 Cheltenham Road East, Gloucester. GL3 1AE
HMRC Gift Aid Registered: XT19005

The last word has to go to Swedefest who have adopted the Professional Drivers Foundation and boosted our funds so much over the years.

Rob Billman, Michelle Lines and all the crew

Our thanks go to you all.

