

Professional Drivers

Foundation

Supporting Drivers

The Flysheet

Winter 2019

Happy 10th Birthday to the Professional Drivers Foundation



The haulage industry is a major part of the countries infrastructure and supplies everything from medicines to the food in our homes. All of these goods would not reach their destinations without the hard work of the warehouse staff and the drivers of thousands of haulage companies across the UK.

These people work relentlessly 52 weeks of the year both night and day ensuring all our needs are met whatever the weather.

The Professional Drivers Foundation is small team dedicated to help people within the haulage industry in their time of need.

People that may have suffered heart attacks, strokes or been seriously injured in an accident. People who through no fault of their own need support not just financially but also giving advice to help them through the hard times they have envisaged.

In the event of them not being able to return or continue in their present role we finance re-training for them to remain in the Industry they know best in an alternative role.

The PDF is the only Charity to look after lorry drivers when loss of licence due to ill health, or accidents and redundancy strike.

Misfortune frequently arrives without warning and hardship follows the inevitable period without income

During this last year we dealt with more cases than ever before.

Many received substantial financial help from the PDF, in some cases within 24 hours Misfortune frequently arrives without warning and hardship follows the inevitable period without income. As a small charity we have the flexibility to respond quickly and discreetly.

Your donations make this port in a storm possible in an emergency



Looking back over the years we used to be able to do Training Days at Brett's Transport Ltd, Guyhirn Cambs. These were always so popular but stricter Health and Safety rules sadly meant we could no longer afford to have the safety measures of the insurance in place to do any more safely. Marshalls were needed all around the yard along with key holders for vehicles. The Insurance considered it to be a great risk and

reflected that in the premium despite us never having got as much as a scratch on any lorry in years!



Roping & sheeting was always popular as was learning to reverse in between two trailers.

The present Trustees go back many years as do our supporters. Here's one from 20 years ago. There are two current Trustees and one long term and loyal supporter. Can you spot who they are?



If you can visit The Professional Drivers Foundation Facebook and post on there to see if you are correct!

<https://www.facebook.com/Professional-Drivers-Foundation-119989251405853/>

Or you can post on our forums on the PDF website here <http://www.pda-uk.org/phpBB3/index.php>

It's good to talk and we'd love to hear from you.



Annual Review 2018/19

Once again the trustees were kept busy with claims, on average arriving every 3 weeks or so, with the busiest time being the run up to Christmas. Our successful claim rate stays at around 45% of applications.

Unsuccessful claims are usually due to claimants not returning our forms or falling outside of our criteria for help. With more funds we could slacken off the criteria to enable us to include more applicants for consideration.

Of those we have helped, the reasons for claims have been as varied as ever, from Leukaemia, Eye sight problems, help to stay mobile, the sad loss of a brother and the parents of an ill child who needed to move into sheltered accommodation.

Of course, all of these were lorry drivers. There have been claims from as far afield as Scotland, Lincolnshire, the South West, the South East, London and the Welsh borders.

Although total claims are down the average amount paid to successful claimants is up.

The trustees could not do any of this without the continued help of our supporters both from the Commercial sector and individual lorry drivers, many of whom have signed Gift-Aid mandates to allow the Professional Drivers Foundation to claim back the appropriate tax refund from the Treasury, the only UK driver's charity registered to do so directly from H.M.R.C.

We acknowledge and thank all those who have so generously helped us once again this year.

All of our work is carried out on a strictly confidential basis, we never publicly identify claimants or donors. This yearly report is as far as we go to disclose any detail of what we do. All trustees are volunteers who receive no payment from the fund. Expense claims for sundries or travel are never submitted. We do not spend

money on merchandise or giveaways, preferring to pass all funds received onto the claimants. The reward the trustees of the Professional Drivers Foundation get for all their work is the thanks we receive from the recipients. By letter, text or phone message they are overwhelmed that there IS someone out there willing to listen and help, often in a short space of time. We count in hours and days rather than weeks, our record this year was 22 hours from application to the money reaching the applicants bank.

Without fail, they always ask us to pass on thanks to YOU all who have donated to make this help possible



Gift Aid 2018

Our Trustee responsible for administering our Gift-Aid reports that the claims for 2018 have resulted in a **£210** payment from HMRC. This will help us pay one more claim than we would otherwise be able to.

Once again may we thank all our donors who for their continued support and generosity, without you we could not operate.

Ticking the Gift-Aid box and submitting a mandate really does make a big difference to our income.

By having our own Gift-Aid account with HMRC we eliminate the fees that most online collection agencies charge.

To donate directly to us please go to our web page www.pda-uk.org and follow the link to our Donations page.



The Professional Drivers Foundation is HMRC Gift Aid Registered: XT19005

Happy 10th Birthday Driver CPC!

Yes, it's been with us for 10 years now. Do you love it or do you hate it?

I've seen a lot of changes of attitudes in the last ten years I have been a trainer. Drivers certainly don't resent it as they did in the first few years and some even tell me they enjoy it now!

Without exception, all the haulage firms I train for, report a huge reduction in infringements and drivers who have a better understanding of their responsibilities to keep within the law.

Drivers also tell me they feel far more confident in refusing to take out defective vehicles and run too tight to their hours.

I try and keep the training humorous but serious, and I feel that drivers do respect the fact I was tramping for 30 years before starting training.

I've had to step in once to stop a couple of driver's coming to blows but apart from that I find drivers to be a good crowd.

I even got my own parking space at one of my customers when they found out my nickname was The Flying Witch!



Of course some still resent it but I don't think they will ever change and it isn't going to go away, so I think we just have to learn to do it the easy way and enjoy 7 hours per year instead of leaving it to the last minute!

Pat Ratcliffe Fenland Training.

The PDF Promise to you

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.

Ken Thomas 

Wanted!

Is there anyone who would volunteer to produce or sponsor printing of 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

AUTO SMART
INTERNATIONAL

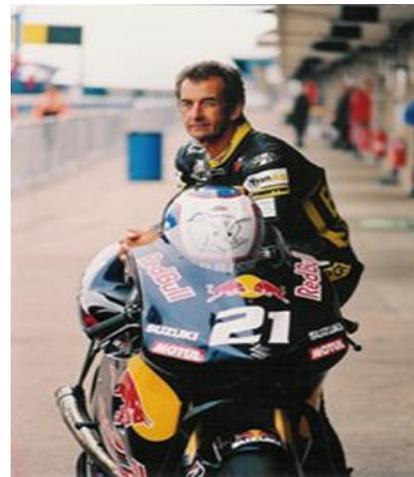
BRETTS
TRANSPORT

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.

Come and talk to us!

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