

Professional Drivers Foundation



The PDF was started in 2009 to help lorry drivers who fall upon hard times through no fault of their own. We soon found that there was certainly a need for a dedicated lorry driver's charity, run by lorry drivers, who understood fellow lorry driver's needs. We understood the need for haste, compassion, and the inevitable pride we as lorry drivers have which makes it so hard for us to ask for any help at all.

With this in mind we vowed to keep any help the PDF granted to anyone, completely anonymous, and to this day seven years later, we have always upheld this and always will.

However it has proved to be a double edged sword because it means we can never publish the help we give, and in turn, means possible donors never hear of that happening.

Recently we saw an amazing act of camaraderie when lorry drivers actually came together and raised over £20,000 for a fellow driver's family via a Go Fund Me campaign.

It should have been the PDF helping the driver's family but sadly, in seven years our funds have never reached a quarter of this and go out as fast as they come in.

The Trustees were devastated, and felt we had all failed to what we should have been able to do for this family.

There are only five Trustees, we never claim expenses and can't do more than we already do, as we all do this in our spare time. Road Transport Media support us whenever they can but only one other company, who insists on remaining anonymous, regularly donates, and we are very grateful for that.

The Conundrum

After seven years, the PDF is finally getting recognised as a charity that will help swiftly and sympathetically in an emergency. People have heard of us, picked up a leaflet or read about us in the trade press, so we are getting more and more requests for help on a daily basis.

BUT, donations to the charity have stayed the same meaning we have to say no so many times, when we would love to be able to say yes. We always thought the Blue Chip Haulage companies would get behind the PDF and welcome the opportunity to give a bit back to the lorry drivers who have served them so well over the years, but sadly it seems not.

If the PDF is to survive it appears it will have to be by the ethos of 'looking after our own' and the old style camaraderie we saw recently.

We can do it!

Together we won't let the PDF fade away and die. We won't, as Trustees, give up and I'm sure you won't let us! None of us will let our fellow lorry drivers suffer alone while we all care about each other.

2015-2016 PDF Review

In the 12 months from August 2015 to July 2016 the Professional Drivers Foundation has dealt with some 24 requests for help.

Each claim is processed and considered by the trustees, a time consuming process to say the least.

From the total, eight were rejected as they failed to meet our criteria, while another ten did not return our claim forms.

The total of rejected claims amounted to £10,000.

We did however approve six grants during the year, paying out £3561 to urgent and needy cases.

Our record was **30 minutes from claim to payout** when a driver from Hampshire faced a weekend with no money and eviction after a breakdown in his benefits payments as he was recovering from a serious accident.

We have dealt with financial difficulties by stroke sufferers and other illnesses resulting in the loss of vocational licences.

We started the ball rolling by offering 10% of the cost of a wet room for a paralysed driver, after which other donors came in to make up the balance. Our latest case found us providing the cost of a washing machine to a driver getting back on her feet after a long period of debilitating illness prevented her working for 6 months or more. The last year has seen our case load increase which has caused us to apply our criteria fairly strictly.

Namely that we can consider drivers with at least two years provable employment history within the last 5 years who are in serious difficulties through no fault of their own.

There are borderline cases we would have liked to have helped but a lack of funds prevented us. All the above results have been carried out by a very small team of Trustees who also give up time in fund raising efforts.

There is much more to do on the fund raising front but we simply do not have the bodies to do so. None of the trustees are getting any younger and we all have commitments elsewhere so we are in urgent need for new people to come in and help with the workload.



Pay is non-existent.

Expenses, if claimed, are donated back

Just one thank you letter makes it all worthwhile

If you feel you can help please contact the trustees.

giftaid it

PDF Trustee runs the Great North

Our webmaster, Dean Ogley



Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page.

I am an LGV driver working for XPO Logistics in Scotland and with the PDF being a small charity and the only dedicated charity for Lorry drivers falling on hard times I would like to help raise funds so that they can continue their cause.

Dean has raised £250 of his £500 target after the run on Sunday, can you help him to reach that target after all the hard work?

Just Giving page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Dean-Ogley>

?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=fundraisingpage&utm_content=Dean-Ogley&utm_campaign=pfp-share



with eprtraining.co.uk
train for your HGV licence



The Griffin Gathering

What has become clear is that without the support we have from the Griffin or Swedefest as it is this year, we would be have given up by now.

The camaraderie from all of the drivers and their families. The endless help and support from Michelle Lines and Rob Billman and everyone else involved, Keeps us determined and tops up that enthusiastic feeling we had for the PDF seven years ago when it first started.

We've made so many friends among the regular supporters of the PDF.

So many drivers who can probably ill afford it but give so generously each and every year to help colleagues less fortunate than them.

Our thanks go to you all.



So, what can we do?

Come and tell us, we welcome suggestions of any sort. Talk to us.

Practical help by 'can do, will do' people is always so valuable.

What can you do?

- Give up the cost of a cup of coffee per week and donate it to the PDF
- Talk to your Boss and tell him about the PDF
- Ask him to adopt us as the firms charity
- Sponsor the PDF when you do events
- Swap lbs. for pounds with a sponsored slim!
- Create a Just Giving page for your sponsored event for donations
-

Just £1 per week from every lorry driver would mean the PDF would never have to refuse another plea for help

Contact us.

Follow us:

Website: www.pda-uk.org

Twitter: @PDFandPDA

Facebook: Professional Drivers Foundation

By email to:

pat@fenlandtraining.co.uk

Mail: Professional Drivers Foundation, 8 Cheltenham Road East, Gloucester. GL3 1AE

Urgent emergency contact for claims only:
07909 995615

PDF Christmas Raffle 2015

Once more, as Santa's big day drew near the Professional Drivers Foundation Christmas Raffle took place.

We had some truly stunning prizes last year from our friends and sponsors in the industry. Without them the task would be impossible so I'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to:

**EP Training,
RTM who publish Commercial Motor and Truck and Driver among others,
Stobart Truckstops,
Live Promotions Event who are the power behind Truckfest,
CDC Truck Accessories
Creative Funding Solutions.**

The raffle raised a truly marvelous £725 for PDF funds this year.

That's a very splendid sum for our Christmas draw, and combined with the generosity of visitors to the Gathering of the Griffin earlier in the year mean raffles have added nearly £1400 to our accounts in 2015. Coming as it does primarily from drivers and their family and friends that is a really smashing sum.

Prize Winners

1st Prize A complete CPC course including exams from **EP Training** down in Surrey goes to Mr M Chad field of Wisbech

2nd Prize A high spec Waeco coolbox from **Stobart Truckstops** at Rugby has been won by Mr P Beale of Livingston

3rd Prize Five joint Commercial Motor and Truck and Driver Subscriptions from our good friends at **Road Transport Media** go to:

D.Fuller in Minehead,
J Bramwells in Eye,
G Lewsey in Chipping Norton,
J Wren in Portsmouth and
S Bruce in Clitheroe.

4th Prize from **Road Transport Media** again providing a limited edition Renault Trucks print, which will be winging its way to A Metcalfe in Carlisle

5th Prize was some great Truckfest T shirts from **Live Promotions Events**, soon to be worn by P Davies in Fareham and L Fairweather of Forfar

6th Prize a pair of luxury bath sets from the fragrant folk at **Creative Funding Solutions**. These were won by L Street of March and P Empson of Dereham

7th Prize was a lovely model lorry from **CDC truck accessories** going to M Clarvis in Havant

8th Prize was again from **Road Transport Media** who came up with a pair of mugs, one from DAF and one from Truck and Driver. These are going Hamish in Forfar and M Stacey of Havant respectively.

To all who won, congratulations!

To all who donated prizes, bought tickets or helped in any way to make the Xmas 2015 Raffle a success I express my sincere thanks.

We couldn't do this without you.

Ian Ratcliffe (Trustee)

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 3 years, I still don't know what I'm doing!
Pat

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