

Professional Drivers

Foundation

Supporting Drivers

The Flysheet

Winter 2015

Gathering of the Griffin 2014

Motor Transport Awards 2015

The 2015 Motor Transport Awards held at The Grosvenor House Hotel, London selected the **Professional Drivers Foundation** as their nominated charity. Thanks to the casino run that night, plus other generous donations over £1700 was raised. This is a tremendous amount for the charity and we thank all who contributed.

MotorTransport

Subsequently, trustees Eric Wilsher and Ted Boucher met with Motor Transport's editor, Steve Hobson, to discuss other ways they could help the **PDF**.

Many points were discussed and one urgent need became obvious, the production of our new flyers, available for the first time at the **Gathering of the Griffin**.

As our previous flyer was produced in 2010 we desperately needed an update. Thanks must go to the Art Room and printing staff at **Motor Transport** for the professional look to the new flyers.

There are also other projects in the pipe line so watch this space! Finally it seems the PDF is getting the support and recognition from within the industry. **Well Done Motor Transport and thank you.**



The **PDF** were once again given a prime spot for our small stand, showing the ever growing pile of raffle prizes.

Ted, Pat and Ian arrived early on Saturday to set up and enjoy the atmosphere as more and more Scania's of all shapes, sizes, colours and ages rolled into **Orwell Crossing Truck Stop** for the event.

Despite not everybody making it in by Saturday night, the light show that evening was simply stunning.



Sunday dawned bright and clear, unlike a few of the exhibitors who'd

continued carousing long after the lights had gone out! Raffle tickets proved very popular, and combined with the collection of donations at the car park entrance, the PDF came away over **£700** better off. That's a truly remarkable amount from what is a relatively small show.

The Professional Drivers Foundation would like to say thank you very, very much to Rob, Michelle and all the Drivers and families who make the Gathering of the Griffin such a wonderful event, and make the PDF so welcome.

CREATIVE

Creative Funding Solutions based near Gatwick Airport, who specialise in Transport finance and leasing, have been supporting the Professional Drivers Foundation since early 2015. Dealing with hauliers and plant hire contractors, director **Mike Lowe** would like to put something back into the haulage community.



To this end we have received a donation of **£500** which will be a great

help to our work.

Creative Funding Solutions have also donated a selection of Goodie Bags, just for the ladies, for this year's raffle at the **Griffin Gathering**. Thank you all at **Creative!**

HGVLGV Training



With many stories in the media about unscrupulous Lorry Training Brokers taking prospective drivers for a ride it is very difficult for those wanting good value as well as honest training for their money to know where to look. This is where **Sean Pargeter** and **HGVLGV Training** comes in with their website www.nolgvbrokers.co.uk promoting the UK's reputable and independent training providers. Their huge database allows visitors to search by postcode and find approved local training companies dealing with all aspects of road transport training. No matter where you live in the UK, whilst **Sean** may not provide your training himself, he knows a reputable company who can.

It's very expensive getting an HGV I licence these days and you need to be sure you are getting what you pay for.

Sean has been a long time regular supporter of the Professional Drivers Foundation for which he is much appreciated.

Two Tales to Gladden the Heart!

A driver we helped back in 2009 when the PDF was in it's infancy, with very little funds, contacted us to say thank you for the help we gave him at a particularly difficult time due to his wife's ill health.

He did not know where to turn but someone pointed him to us and we were able to step in where others had refused to help.

He had never forgotten that help and now six years later and with his wife recovered, he was in a position to pay back what we gave him.

The PDF duly received a cheque for the full amount. This was never part of the original deal but it does mean we can now use the money to help another driver.



The Professional Drivers Foundation is HMRC Gift Aid Registered: XT19005

More recently the PDF helped the family of a driver whose licence had been withdrawn by DVLA. Living in an isolated area with no public transport or mains gas supply he was facing the winter without any heating oil and a car off the road with no tax. With doctors and hospitals being beyond reach the family once again found those expected to help in such circumstances turned them away. We however didn't, and gave them enough to tax their car and get some oil in the tank.

We have since heard that the driver has suffered more health problems but that didn't stop his wife sending us a nice thank you letter, part of which is reproduced below:-

*I would like to send a belated Thank you to PDF for the kind money you sent us, we couldn't be more grateful as it has really helped us out financially during a very tough time. We put the money to good use, we taxed the car for 6 months, filled our oil tank up and we had some money left so we stocked up on tin food and packet food as this will keep. We were so pleased that such kind help was there for us **as it has been a struggle getting help from such bodies that should be there to help when times are tough.** ~ ~ Thank you once again and if there is anything we can do to help your foundation then please let us know,*

All of this is only possible with your help so many thanks to all our kind donors. Every little really does help.



Fancy doing something silly to raise funds for the PDF? We have a Just Giving Fund Raising page to make it easy for your sponsors!

<https://www.justgiving.com/professionaldriversfoundation/>



A busy year for the PDF in 2015

We have been able to offer help to various claimants including a driver from Scotland who'd suffered a stroke throwing the family finances into turmoil.

Despite his wife taking all the overtime she could, as well as caring for him, there was a two month black hole during which they could lose their house.

The PDF stepped in and bridged the gap.

Another driver, homeless and sleeping in his car couldn't get back into the employment cycle without a resident address and couldn't get an address without an income.

The PDF cleared the Catch 22 situation and got the driver back on the employment ladder.

A young family living in a small isolated village had their lives turned upside down when the father had his licence withdrawn on medical grounds by DVLA. Their car tax was due and with no car, visits to hospitals and shops became very difficult. They needed heating oil for the winter.

All the usual agencies and social services were unable to help but much to their surprise, the PDF did.

This is a small selection showing how your donations are spent and as always, we ensure any driver who approaches the PDF of full anonymity.

The Trustees are all volunteers who do not receive any remuneration or expenses whatsoever.

Last but not least, we need YOUR help.

The one thing we need, apart from money of course, is more volunteers to step up to the mark as trustees.

Too much is falling on too few shoulders at the moment and any help would be appreciated.

Can do/will do attitude needed, along with a sense of humour!

Contact the PDF

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