



News Release
For Immediate Release

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Top Jump Jockey Supports Magpas

On Monday 25th August, Magpas held its first ever Racing Funday at Huntingdon Racecourse and, prior to the event, the charity received words of support from top jump jockey, Graham Lee.



Graham Lee accepting one of the many trophies he has won

Graham knows only too well just how important Magpas' lifesaving skills are after he was saved by a Magpas doctor and paramedic following a fall from his horse at Huntingdon Racecourse last February.

Graham was riding in a novice chase when he came off his horse, Cash King. He was then kicked by a following horse, leaving him unconscious with his jaw broken in two places.

More follows...

Anglia Two flew the Magpas team to the scene where they were able to manage Graham's airway and give him pain relief. Once his condition had been stabilised he was taken to Addenbrooke's hospital by land ambulance.

Speaking before the event, Graham said, "I don't remember anything about the fall or several days after it but I know the Magpas team did a great job on me at the scene and that the service they provide is vital. I hope lots of people will turn out to watch the races at Huntingdon on Bank Holiday Monday and support Magpas at the same time. I was very surprised to learn that their doctors and paramedics are volunteers and that the charity doesn't receive any government funding. It is an amazing charity and I'm sure the day will be a great success."

Magpas' Emergency Medical Team is made up of 50 doctors and paramedics working in teams of two. They are based at RAF Wyton and use Anglia Two and the police helicopter to get the scene quickly.

The charity also runs the Community First Responder Scheme across Cambridgeshire. This involves non-medical volunteers who are trained and equipped to respond to local medical emergencies in their town or village. There are now 33 such groups across the county and last year they attended over 1,500 patients.

Magpas' spokesman, Christian Morris, said, "Our volunteers are so committed to the people of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Race Day at Huntingdon on Bank Holiday Monday was a great chance for everyone to come and have fun and to support their local lifesavers at the same time. We appreciated Graham's support in highlighting the day. It helped raise awareness of the difference the charity makes. He is actually recovering from another nasty accident at the moment so it is very good of him to take the time to show his support like this."

More follows...

The day raised thousands of pounds for the charity and Magpas is grateful to everyone who came and supported the event. In particular, we would like to thank the local companies that sponsored the day. They were Geodesys, CWL Systems, Pennington Properties, Hedley Solutions and the Lion Yard Shopping Centre Cambridge. Foundry Print in St Ives also printed the raffle tickets for the day and the St Ives branch of the N&P provided a wonderful raffle prize of a Nintendo Wii.

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