

25 February 2010

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

MASCOTS STRIKE GOLD FOR SUE RYDER CARE AT WETHERBY

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Organisers of the Mascot Gold Cup, held at Wetherby Races last month have announced that the event broke all records with a field of 83 mascots competing. The event also raised over £19,000 for charities with the major beneficiary being Sue Ryder Care who jointly organized the race with the Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs.

Mascots from across the UK traveled to Wetherby to take part in the third Mascot Gold Cup sponsored by Sky bet and took on the likes of Raw from Blackburn Rovers, Sonny the Sunflower from Sue Ryder Care and Charlie Challenge from BAE Systems.

Prior to the race as mascots fought in out to be crowned best mascot in parade. Winner of the award was Donny the White Knight from Doncaster Knights Rugby Club. The prize for most money raised for Sue Ryder Care went to Stuart Cracknell who ran as the 'Pippin' the Copper Dragon, representing the Copper Dragon Brewery who collected £592. During the parade, mascots had an intake of crucial supplies of ranges, Yorkshire Tea and water kindly supplied by Jaffa, Taylors of Harrogate and Nestle respectively.

Following the firstThe race has a handicapped start to give mascots large and small an equal chance and it was Mr Sausage representing the MLC who first held the lead until a dramatic fall at the first fence sponsored by Corus. This left Albie from the Piazza Centre, Huddersfield out in front until he too took a fall at the second fence sponsored by Skipton Building Society. Cliffe the Castle from Keighley Town Centre Association lost his foot at the second but carried on and was still in the lead by the time he reached the third fence sponsored by theme sponsor Morrisons. Cliffe was still leading on one foot by the time he reached the Sovereign Healthcare sponsored fourth hurdle but by the fifth fence, sponsored by the National Market Traders Federation the speedy Megumi Noodle Box from the Wokon Noodle bar in Leeds had caught and passed him and after clearing the final fence sponsored by Bradford Market Services he crossed the winning line from H'angus the Monkey from Hartlepool United. Third was Potato Pete, representing the Year of Food and Farming which was the theme of the race along with that of Healthy Hearts as supported by Heart Research UK and supported by Morrisons. The award for the first professional mascot home was Daddy Cool from Wakefield Wildcats and the prize for being last home without stopping was Jenny Jar from British Glass.

In the competition for best turned out home made Healthy Heart themed mascot, Thomas Ogden from Worth Valley Young Farmers Club was the winner with the club's effort, Jeckel and Heart which was themed on what was good and bad for heart health.

To see footage of the race log into the website www.mascotgoldcup.org.uk and click on the link.

NOTES TO EDITOR

Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs

- YFC is a nationwide youth organisation for people aged 10-26 years
 - There are 49 clubs in Yorkshire with over 1700 members
 - Clubs arrange a weekly programme of events for their members including talks, visits and social activities.
 - As well as weekly meetings members can also participate in sports, drama, quizzes, public speaking, community & conservation projects
- Membership is open to everyone, whether they have an agricultural background or not.

SUE RYDER CARE

- Sue Ryder Care has 11 neurological care centres and 6 Hospices around the UK;
- The charity needs to raise £13m each year to cover its running costs;
- Sue Ryder Care has four care centres in Yorkshire including Wheatfields in Leeds and Manorlands in Keighley.
- Last year Manorlands Hospice cared for 650 patients and supported hundreds more relatives, carers and friends of patients;
- Sue Ryder Care relies on voluntary contributions for the majority of its income and never charges patients for any of the care they receive.

Heart Research UK

Heart Research UK is a visionary charity founded in 1967 by Mr Watson, a working heart surgeon, who realised that patients were dying unnecessarily because of the lack of research in heart disease, especially surgical techniques. Having funded six of the first eight UK heart transplants the charity leads the way funding ground breaking, medical research projects into the prevention, treatment and cure of heart disease. There is a strong emphasis on supporting clinical and surgical projects and young researchers on their first steps into research. The Charity currently funds over £2.5m of research projects at 33 hospitals and universities across the UK. In addition over £450,000 has been awarded to community-based lifestyle projects that aim to prevent or reduce the risks of heart disease.