
From: Paul Hamilton
Sent: 25 November 2011 14:25
To: 'pawhamilton@gmail.com'
Cc: 'Harry McRandle'
Subject: URGENT: Please Help Martin - a plea for help

This is a plea for help in raising money for Martin Colligan, a great friend who only seven weeks ago was diagnosed with cancer of the lung. The appalling news is that the cancer is terminal.

Martin is only 42 years of age and sadly his physical state is deteriorating by the day.

He is well-known in the Island for his sporting exploits. He was driver of the Team Fox P1 Superstock powerboat team that has won races at national level. He won a race in Liverpool as recently as September. Martin is in the red overalls on the left of the picture.

<http://www.p1superstock.co.uk/galleries/liverpool#image-1875>

He only got involved in powerboat racing due to his work as a marine engineer at Fox Marine at La Collette. He has no independent wealth.

He was also an accomplished kick boxer and until more recently enjoyed teaching youngsters to train in the sport.

We, as a group of friends, are going to try to raise as much money as possible to enable Martin to enjoy the time he has left in peace and comfort. We want to try and avoid him having to be concerned about financial constraints. He has had to stop working for Fox Marine because of his cancer and will never return to employment.

The latest medical prognosis is that his life expectancy could be anything from 12 weeks to two years. The cancer started in the lung, but has now moved to the lymph nodes and bones. As such his legs are now so brittle, they are in danger of breaking just from supporting his own weight. He is likely to have to undergo an operation within days to have splints fitted to help avoid this.

However, although his physical condition is clearly not good, mentally he is alert. Incredibly he still retains his infectious sense of humour. Despite everything else, never ceases to stop cracking jokes. His courage and determination to get through each day is unbelievable and it's a measure of his strength of character and the kind of man he is.

All he seems to be concerned about is making sure his beloved wife Kirstie will be looked after when he is gone.

In a practical sense they are already facing daily difficulties. They live in a flat three floors up which is not serviced by a lift. Martin is having great difficulty now in managing stairs

Martin and Kirstie need to be in ground floor accommodation. Efforts are underway to try and achieve that aim but if you can help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.

We also want to give Martin and Kirstie as comfortable a Christmas as possible. We would like to be able to finance some time in a spa hotel where their needs can be taken care of.

Martin also wants to bring some family members to Jersey to spend time with him. His Mum and Dad live in Spain, so do one sister, his brother-in-law and his nephew's. He also has three sisters living in the UK.

Such is Martin's zest to enjoy life as much as practicable in the time he has left, he would also like to host a celebration of life party for his family and friends. We would hope that not only will you attend but are able to offer financial support to make this dream come true for him.

For those of us privileged enough to know Martin, it fills us with utter sadness to see this great man fall to this horrible, debilitating and painful disease.

Martin has always been fit, strong and lived life to the full, whilst helping others wherever and whenever he can.

He loves snowboarding and in recent years, he has also coached a kick boxing class at Fort Regent, teaching many youngsters the martial art.

In 2003, both Martin and Kirstie were part of a team that cycled across Mexico to raise money for Jersey Hospice Care. There is little doubt that he will be calling on their services very soon.

Many of you may know him through his job as a marine engineer. He is considered among the most skilled of marine engineers in Jersey. He always gave his best to his clients and looked after them and their boats to the best of his ability.

It was three years ago that his employers Fox Marine bought a 21 ft racing boat and started entering the UK P1 Superstock powerboat racing series.

Martin is the team's main driver and together with his co-drivers Gideon and Liam, through pure determination, have come top of the leader board in this year's races.

Only a week before being diagnosed with cancer Martin powered the boat to first place in the Liverpool leg, in Force 7 seas, while half the boats retired because of the rough conditions, Martin battled through to victory.

Martin is a true friend and a rare breed of man. Generous to a fault, he has helped many people throughout his life in so many ways. Now he desperately needs our help.

Both myself and Harry McRandle, the business editor at the Jersey Evening Post, are the co-ordinators of the fund raising efforts.

We are pleading with you to donate some money, no matter how much, into the following bank account:

HSBC Plc

Sort code 402534

Account number 61701614

Account name: Hamil – re: Martin

Alternatively, you can send a chq made payable to: 'Hamil – re: Martin' to:

PAW Hamilton

Claremont

Le Rue Du Cap Verd

St Lawrence

Jersey

JE3 1EL

Or to:

Harry McRandle

c/o Jersey Evening Post

PO Box 582

Five Oaks

St Saviour

JERSEY JE4 8XQ

We hope very much you are able to help us in making Martin's life as comfortable as possible for the time he has left with us. Thankyou so much for your support.

We will be writing to you over the next few days to also offer some fund raising ideas and silent auctions.

Should you have any other fund raising ideas, we would be very happy to here them. You can contact me on 07797 737211 or Harry McRandle on 07797 755158.