

FINAL

MS Therapy Centre Lothian to benefit from Extreme Challenge Weekend

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Lothian, which supports 200 people living in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife with MS, is to benefit from funds raised at Scotland's first extreme off-road biking challenge event.

Motorrad Central Scotland's Extreme Challenge Weekend, which takes place on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 August at Knockhill Racing Circuit, will see 600 motorbike enthusiasts don their helmets and leathers to raise money for the MS Therapy Centre, which has supported over 800 people in its 27-year history.

The Centre has been selected over hundreds of other Scottish charities because of the service and support it has given to one Fife man over the last 18 years. Henry Dalziel (79) of Kirkcaldy has been treated weekly at the MS Therapy Centre in Leith since 1993, with the Centre taking responsibility for organising transport from his local church to Leith to ensure Mr Dalziel received his much needed treatment.

Event organiser Alan Dalziel talks about the support the Leith-based treatment facility has offered his dad over the years:

"The MS Therapy Centre is an incredibly worthwhile charity, one that has provided an exceptional level of care to my dad since 1993. It was the Centre which organised a collection service to ensure Dad got to and from Leith for his much needed treatment as he continues to fight multiple sclerosis. This is my way of thanking them and giving something back for their endless support."

Alice Syson, Business and Funding Manager at the MSTC said:

"We're immensely grateful to have been selected as the charity of choice for Motorrad Central's Extreme Challenge Weekend. We rely heavily on donations from members and fundraising events so these funds will help us to continue to provide an invaluable lifeline to people, like Henry, living with MS."

The extreme weekend, the first-ever to be held in Scotland, will see motorbike enthusiasts take to their bikes for the ultimate off-road challenge experience and for the superfast track event on Knockhill's famous circuit.

The event will also include stunts from legendary Mattie Griffin, instruction from Simon Pavey's team of instructors, live demonstrations from World Superbike Endurance Champion Terry Rymer with music from Rock Radio.

A charity auction will see Alan Dalziel seek bids for various motorsport goodies to raise money for the MS Therapy Centre.

Alan Dalziel added:

"We've got a fantastic event lined up which will give motorbike enthusiasts the opportunity to challenge themselves on a specially created off road track, sample new bikes and watch some of the world's best stunt acts."

Over 600 bikers and over 10,000 people are expected to attend the two-day event. Entry for spectators is free and gates open both days at 8.30am. The event comes to a close on Saturday (27th August) at 10.30pm and on the Sunday (28th August) at 6.30pm.

Competitor packages are available for the Extreme Challenge Cup and Extreme Track Event. For more information, please visit: www.motorradcentralscotland.com

Henry Dalziel (79) of Kirkcaldy was first diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1986. Having been recommended to use the Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber by his then consultant because of its role in easing the symptoms of MS, Mr Dalziel has travelled weekly to Leith to undergo treatment.

Hyperbaric Oxygen extends the body's ability to heal and research from a number of countries including the US has shown the benefits of this form of treatment. For Henry, by breathing in pure oxygen while under increased air pressure, he has slowed down the progression of the disease.

The therapy requires going to the Centre regularly and in Henry's case it was recommended on a weekly basis. However, with his nearest treatment centre in Leith, Edinburgh, transport was always difficult to organise, especially in winter, and often resulted in much needed sessions being missed. However, with the support from the MS Therapy Centre, Henry has attended over 750 sessions and continues to fight the condition.

Notes to Editors

1. Motorrad Central Scotland's Extreme Challenge Weekend takes place on Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th August at Knockhill, Fife. This is the inaugural extreme challenge weekend which gives biking enthusiasts the opportunity to take their bikes off-road and to ride the famous Knockhill track.
2. The MS Therapy Centre Lothian, based on Bonnington Road, supports over 200 people living in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). It provides hyperbaric oxygen therapy which is known to relieve the symptoms associated with the chronic condition. It also offers an in-house physiotherapist, remedial yoga, and complementary therapists, and carries extensive information on the condition and local services produced by the MS Society, MS Trust and local providers.

The MS Therapy Centre is a registered charity and raises the majority of its funds through donations and fundraising events.

You can donate to MS Therapy Centre Lothian by text, Simply, text **MSTC40 £2** (or £1, £3, £4, £5, £10) to **70070**. This service, provided by Justgiving and Vodafone, is free. You will not be charged for this text. Your donation will be deducted from your phone credit or charged to your bill.

www.mstc-lothian.org.uk

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