



July 2015

The nsif newsletter

Summer is here and the nsif events season is set to be a scorcher. Don't miss out!

This year at nsif we're hoping to raise a record amount of funds because the research we support is at a crucial point in its development. As many of you will know, the research project we support in Poland – in collaboration with the UCL Institute of Neurology – is gearing up for the next phase. Its success in the first patient, Darek Fidyka, needs to be repeated and improved upon. We remain totally committed to this line of research because we believe it provides the greatest hope today of providing a natural cure for paralysis from SCI.

For the first time, treatment for this debilitating and life-altering condition is within medicine's grasp. We are asking you today to help us make spinal cord injury history. We need you to continue your incredible efforts that allow us to fund this groundbreaking research.

Scientific progress

It has been a while now since we were able to make the brilliant news about Darek Fidyka's progress public, with the release of BBC Panorama's To Walk Again documentary. For anyone who missed this, a recap of the programme, which details the research nsif funds, is available [here](#). Preparations for the next phase are underway in Poland and we look forward to being able to share more news soon.



Prof. Geoffrey Raisman and Dr. Pawel Tabakow

And how you can help fund it...

The Nicholls Spinal Injury Foundation is thrilled to be partnering with the Guards Polo Club this summer. The club, home to many an illustrious guest over the years, is generously donating the use of its Club House and Royal Box in honour of nsif. Guests in the Club House will be treated to a delicious lunch prepared by Guards as they watch the Duke of Wellington semi-finals, and there will also be a live auction.

To attend the Duke of Wellington Semi Finals in the Club House email: alice@nsif.org.uk

Tickets for the Club House event are £50 and **all profits will be going to fund the research supported by nsif.**



Guards Polo Club

Meanwhile, our ninth golf day is around the corner...

We're delighted to say that this ever-popular event has already sold out. Organised by nsif's events manager Alice Crookenden, Golf Day 2015 will no doubt delight, with entertainment organised by the fabulous **Jennifer Shah**.

For anyone who has missed out this year and would like to be on our list for 2016, email alice@nsif.org.uk.

Regular golf day guests will know that the auction is always a highlight but we think this year's luxury prize list might be the best ever. The good news is that you can place advance bids even if you are not attending the Golf Day. Whether you have an anniversary or birthday to celebrate, or simply want to indulge your other half, check out the stunning range of holidays and other gifts on offer and see if anything takes your fancy [here](#).

Email alice@nsif.org.uk if you'd like to place a bid. Special thanks must be given to the charity's trustees, who work incredibly hard to provide these prizes each year, Harry Murray, David Nicholls and Willy Bauer.

Run your own event

Our supporters regularly organise third-party fundraising events on our behalf. These provide crucial ongoing support for the research into curing paralysis from spinal cord injury. Check out the range of events on offer at: www.nsif.org.uk/events.

Or if you'd like to organise your own event, contact alice@nsif.org.uk.

Looking back: an incredible six months

As the first half of 2015 draws to a close, we can reflect on some of the successes of our fundraisers so far this year...

nsif was honoured to be selected as a beneficiary charity for the Grocers' Charity Annual Fundraising Dinner, hosted by the venerable Grocers' Company. The history of this City of London livery company can be traced back to the 12th Century, and it has a rich history of charitable giving in areas including medical research. The black-tie event was held at the Grocers' Hall and guests were treated to a candid talk about living with spinal injury from nsif patron Frank Gardner, the BBC's celebrated security correspondent. In excess of £45,000 was raised on the night.

Another glamorous fundraiser was hosted by Leonie Hallam. Leonie got in touch with nsif following Panorama because, like many people, she was moved by David's promise to his son to find a cure for paralysis. Leonie knew what David had been through because her son Mathew had suffered a spinal injury just a few months earlier. Leonie has since become an active fundraiser for SCI-related causes and her midsummer ball raised an impressive £4,000 in one night. She donated the money to nsif and another fantastic cause: the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries.

Leonie also produced a star-studded video - Claire Lomas, Bear Grylls, Will Greenwood, Allan Lamb - about spinal cord injury and the importance of a cure. If you haven't seen it yet check it out [here](#).



Grocers' Annual Charity Dinner, May 20th 2015



Leonie Hallam and guests at her Midsummer Ball, June 2015

Also in the first half of 2015, **Claire Lomas** added to her ever-expanding roster of talents by taking up motorbiking and organising a Road2Recovery Ride Out for nsif. The event saw 125 bikers ride through Melton and Rutland and raised over £2000.

Special thanks goes to the Trike Shop in Cardiff who had previously kitted Claire out with an adaptive road bike and who provided her with a Trike for this event. Claire was very positive about the success of the event and is considering making it an annual fundraiser. "It was lovely to have blue skies in June and the support was incredible," she said.

Finally, the nsif story received an overwhelming response when it was told by David Nicholls to 60 Minutes Australia. The programme made a fantastic mini-documentary about Daniel and David, giving Australian viewers a chance to learn more about the story behind the charity. If you didn't catch it, check it out [here](#).



Claire Lomas on her bike at the Ride Out, June 14th 2015

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who are getting behind a cure for spinal cord injury. Get in touch with the nsif team if you want to help us reach our target for 2015 and make spinal cord injury history!