



February's Fundraiser of the Month is... Ian Rowe

Ian, congratulations on being MACS Fundraiser of the Month! Can you tell our readers what you've been up to?



Last Saturday I hosted a *Bubble Dogs Bonanza Extravaganza* for approximately 50 friends. Activities included a dart competition, blackjack table, shot wheel and of course some gourmet hot-dogs and bubbles. The target was to raise over £1000 on the day, and thanks to some generous donations from local businesses including La Divina, Dishoom, The Canonbury and Turner & George, we raised around £1185! Another venture I've been running to raise funds is the *Men of All Seasons* calendar.

How did you come up with the idea of the Men of All Seasons calendar and convince your friends to pose?

A few of the men featured in the calendar (Mr July) fancy themselves for a career in modelling, so before I'd even pitched the idea their clothes were off and props in hand! In all seriousness, it's for charity so the gents took little convincing which was really great.

We raised £300 plus from the calendars alone, so it was definitely worthwhile. Special thanks to the George and Vulture for accommodating us at 11pm on a Monday for the cover shot and the open-minded bar chap who took on the role of photographer with little warning as to the subject.



Tell us more about the Bubble Dogs Bonanza Extravaganza event and who came up with the name?



The name, along with the calendar narrations, must be attributed to our word sleuth, Mr May. The day was a big success, thanks to some very generous bidding from our friends; and the fervent auctioneering of Mr May. We had a committee of five people who

were really keen to support MACS and were instrumental in the lead up and throughout the day. Without their help I think we'd still be rattling tins down at the tube station.

What advice would you give to other fundraisers?

Some people feel uncomfortable about requesting donations but there is nothing selfish about raising money for charity. I think it's important to remove the personal aspect of "I'm running a marathon" and focus on promoting the charity you're representing.

Enlisting the help of reliable, creative friends is also key to making sure you're not overlaid with the burden of hitting your fundraising target.

Thanks for all your efforts Ian!