

19 January 2015

Falmouth 001 2015

Moustache challenge raises money for Falmouth RNLI

A challenge between two brothers to see who could grow the best moustache has resulted in a cheque for £500 being handed over to Falmouth RNLI Coxswain Mark Pollard at St Mawes Sailing Club recently.

Rob Mathewson, one of the brothers, said the challenge, dubbed 'The Great Handlebar Moustache Event' came about while having a conversation in a pub with his brother who claimed to have by far the stronger facial hair growth of the two them. Rob suggested having a moustache race until Falmouth Week and then do something useful with the result. This gave them both just over 8 months to grow the facial hair.

Rob explained what happened: 'My brother failed miserably to achieve even a wisp of moustache, let alone a roughly 9" banger such as adorned my lip by August. Therefore I was clearly the winner. Apparently the itching got to him by the 5th day. I confess that I did not let him in on the secret for successful germination of good facial hair!'

He continued: 'After 8 months, during which 50% of all pedestrians crossed the road to avoid me, and the last month of which my wife Cai hinted that divorce was not out of the question, the moustache was publicly removed during the evening of the 15th August, in St Mawes Sailing Club bar, by Mark Humphries of Freshwater boatyard. Prior to the removal, Lindsey Thomas (SW Ajax Class Captain) and I went out and about in St Mawes, asking people for donations. We managed to raise £500 and I decided I would like the money to go to Falmouth RNLI'.

Rob added: 'I spent a fair part of my childhood with my aunt and uncle, who lived by Restronguet creek on the Feock side. Through them, and sailing out of St Mawes, I have always been aware of the Falmouth station's activities. Having been an engineer working on-board a yacht that got in to difficulties on the coast of Sardinia, I am very conscious of the unparalleled resource that the RNLI provides in British waters when compared with the maritime emergency services elsewhere. Also of the commitment of all of the personnel involved, their bravery, their kindness and their professionalism'.

Falmouth RNLI is very grateful to Rob and his friends for their support and also to the people of St Mawes who donated money.