

Sestriere Challenge in Support of Kelly Gallagher and Charlotte Evans

I know it is the time of year when you feel like you are constantly putting your hands in your pockets, but I would like to ask you all if you could consider a small donation towards my challenge to help Kelly Gallagher and Charlotte Evans in their bid to represent Team GB at the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympics games!

Kelly and her guide, Charlotte, will be competing in all 5 Alpine Ski disciplines, and successfully won Gold at the World Cup event hosted at Sochi earlier this year. You can find out more about Kelly and Charlotte and their Olympic bid via these links:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/disability-sport/23507045>
<http://www.fidelityintegrated.com//content/files/Kelly-and-Charlotte-Profile.pdf>
<https://www.facebook.com/KellyandCharlotte?v=info#!/KellyandCharlotte>

An exciting sponsored event to ski an epic 1,928 miles (the distance from London to Sochi) at the Hemel Hempstead ski centre to support Kelly and Charlotte is being organised for December 7th (please see the details below). **As part of this bid, I have decided to take a slightly different approach and attempt a more extreme skiing challenge!**

On December 12th I travel to Sestriere in Italy where I will take part in the FIS Masters Slalom and Giant Slalom races on the slopes that hosted the Winter Olympics in 2006. The FIS (www.fis-ski.com) is the controlling body for the Ski World Cup tour and the “Masters” is their veteran’s series, and the races usually include a number of ex-World Cup ski racers! I will be competing as part of a very small British contingent against racers from around the world.

The twist to this is that I have never trained or competed on any FIS race course before. I have only had training all this year on artificial slopes in the UK and one of my excellent coaches has been Charlotte Evans herself.

Please note that I am covering my travel and entry expenses (and insurance!) myself so all donations will go towards Kelly and Charlotte’s Olympic quest.

My Challenge

You can see the organiser’s bulletin page here that details the routes that the runs will take. I will be in the Masters A category. All results will be posted on the FIS website and hopefully I will also provide some photographic evidence of my efforts.

www.fidelityintegrated.com/content/files/Sestriere-Challenge.pdf



The racing will take place on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of December. The slalom will consist of two timed runs on the Saturday and the Giant Slalom will consist of two timed runs on the Sunday. The goal I have set myself is to complete at least one run, without skiing out or “straddling” any gates, in each of these two events at a decent race pace, i.e. I don’t come last !!

Donating

To help me support Kelly and Charlotte, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/local/project/londontosochi> and leave a message when donating including the words “Sestriere Challenge”. We have set a very conservative target of £ 1,000.00 but we are hoping to raise much, much, much more than this to aid Kelly and Charlotte in their ongoing fundraising efforts.

The Hemel Hempstead Challenge

If you would like to take a more active part in supporting Kelly and Charlotte, then why not take part in the exciting event at the Hemel Hempstead ski centre on 7th December. Details can be found here. www.fidelityintegrated.com/content/files/London-Sochi-2014.pdf

Many thanks to all of you in anticipation of your help and support !

Andy