

RADIOHEAD SET TO ROCK HOP
THE WHO ALSO TIPPED FOR FESTIVAL

EXCLUSIVE: DRIVER WHO LEFT TEEN BRAIN DAMAGED SAYS HER LIFE IS RUINED TOO



Two lives wrecked for ever



THIS time last year 15-year-old Bethany McCarthy was a typical happy-go-lucky teenager full of aspirations and a whole life of opportunity before her.

Now she is confined to a hospital bed, unable to speak, walk, or eat after being left brain damaged following a car crash.

This week the inexperienced teenage driver of the car she was in walked away from court with six points on her licence and a fine.

But driver Rhiannon Thomas, 18, from Maidstone, says those who think she got off lightly should think again, as the moment she lost control of her car marked the moment she lost control of her life.



BOUND: Bethany McCarthy and her parents Tracey and Terry; inset, Bethany before the accident and far right, crash driver Rhiannon Thomas Picture: Ruth Cuerden PD1816855

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BIDING HIS TIME: Eventual winner Freddie's Return, above, ridden by Philip York in a chequered shirt, tracks race leader Bannister Lane in the Kent Grand National at Willow Hall leads the field
Pictures: Matthew Walker pd1815870, above; pd1815873, left. Buy these pictures

POINT-TO-POINT: KENT GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPION LIKELY TO BE BACK IN ACTION AGAIN THIS WEEKEND

Steady Freddie's easy win

FREDDIE'S RETURN picked up his third win of the season in the four-mile Shepherd Neame Kent Grand National at Detling point-to-point on Sunday.

Sent to the front by jockey Philip York with a mile to go, the 10-year-old, an odds-on favourite, went on to beat his seven rivals by eight lengths.

Another winner was Roaringwater in the ladies' open and the result was a real family affair. The horse is owned by

Michael Haydon and ridden and trained by his daughter Cynthia, while the race was sponsored by his wife Sue in memory of her late friend Dimpy Betts.

Former pony racing riders Tom Cheesman, Will Hickman and Tom Cannon all gained winners at the meeting, while veteran Marcus Gorman introduced his Irish import Forgotten Symphony in the restricted and won easily.

With soft ground in his favour,

Freddie's Return is likely to reappear at Tweseldown on Sunday in the men's open.

York, with seven winners already this season, has three other rides at the Hampshire venue.

He said: "Freddie's Return is unbeaten this season and won nicely at Detling last weekend.

"He is so well I will probably run him again, although the competition looks more serious this time."

Tweseldown has attracted an entry of 143 for seven races and on going likely to be no worse than soft on fresh turf, competitive racing is guaranteed.

Nick Pearce has entered Simon Tindall's Letterman, twice beaten by Freddie's Return this season, seeking compensation for a fall at Godstone when he felt his horse was going better than the Kent Grand National winner.

Philip Hall rides Delgany Gale

in the club race in the maiden, Grissell sisters, Sam Whiskey in Mr Tee Pee in the Braxton).

The first race Admission is £10 for car parking and 16 free.

The racecourse a mile south of the B3013, the GU52 8DY.

Driver opts to stay with team

■ Motorsport

ADRIAN QUAIFE-HOBBS will compete again in this season's GP3 series with Marussia Manor Racing.

The 20-year-old from Tonbridge tested with GP2 and WSR teams during the close season before opting for a second year with the Manor Racing team.

Quaife-Hobbs said: "It's great to be back with the team for a second year.

"This puts us in a stronger position compared to last season. I think we have a good opportunity to fight at the front. Our pace was strong last year and I'm sure we are capable of carrying it into the new season."

■ **STAPLEHURST** racer Dan Parker is hoping to gain much-needed sponsorship as he prepares for this season's Ginetta G55 Supercup with Century Motorsport.

Budget problems mean Parker has yet to complete a full season in championship car racing, having previously competed in Formula Ford, Lotus Elise, Toyota MR2, Production BMW, and Renault Clios.

The Ginetta G55 Supercup is a support series for the British Touring Car Championship and the winner will receive a funded drive in the BTCC for 2012.

Anyone able to offer support can call Dan on 07747063067 or email danparker racing@yahoo.co.uk.



NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT: Maidstone rally driver Louise Cook took part in the 2011 Sunseeker Rally, finishing 18th overall
Picture: Dzenis/PSF

Cook at home in top class

RALLY driver Louise Cook gained points in her debut outing in the Dulux Trade British Rally Championship.

The 23-year-old from Maidstone wrote her own pace notes for the opening event of the season, the Rallye Sunseeker in Bournemouth, at the weekend and finished eighth in the Formula 2 class and 17th overall, claiming her first two international rally points.

Intercom failure on the first stage, followed by a drop in her Ford Fiesta's engine power in the third stage, held her back, however.

Cook said: "It was great to be driving flat out with my own notes. The stages were pretty slippery and muddy but I liked the challenge."

The next round is the Bulldog International in North Wales on April 2.

Barming's Parkes leads by example

■ Table tennis

BARMING'S six teams in the District Table Tennis Association having mixed fortunes.

In Division 2, their B team are off Trosley A's bid to steal second promotion, leading by 116 points. Barming have played a game more.

Captain Ian Parkes is doing well on 86 per cent, holding second divisional ratings.

Division 1 sees Barming A in doing well in the doubles league from the more fancied Workington.

After a period of illness, Wayne done especially well to improve performances, sitting fourth in the league having an 80 per cent playing record.

Like their A team, Barming B and E and F in Division 4 are trying to hold on to a mid-table position. Barming C are in 10th place in Division 3, relegation in the face on 47 points, just one of their 15 matches and 10 points.

■ **LEWIS GRAY** performed well in the Junior and Cadet Open at Oreston International Junior Circuit.

The 17-year-old member of Cranbrook School, Cranbrook-based Wayne came second in his junior (under-19) singles group.

The Cranbrook School pupil lost in the knockout section and put up a good fight before going down to the seeded player from the Czech Republic.