



Rochford team get on their Bikes for Charity

With the support of specialist promotional and branded product company Recognition Express

The owner of Rochford based Argon Computing and nine of his friends and colleagues are training hard to get ready for a charity bike ride in May to Paris in aid of the Marfan Trust.

Jason Smith who has owned the computer repairs shop for 11 years, first heard about Marfan syndrome when his best friend Steve O'Leary's daughter Skye (9) was diagnosed with the condition one year ago.

Marfan syndrome is an inherited disorder of the body's connective tissue that affects men and women of any race or ethnic group. Children and adolescents with Marfan syndrome look and feel different and restrictions are imposed on them because of their poor eyesight, painful joints and cardiac problems. Even the games other children play are frequently too dangerous for children with Marfan syndrome.

Team Argon raised over £2,000 for various charities in sponsored bike rides last year and they decided that the Marfan trust should be their charity for 2014.

Said Jason: "The outlook for sufferers of Marfan syndrome isn't great at this point in time and Skye is such a brave, happy, bubbly little girl. We'd like to hope that by raising money for the charity and helping to make more people aware of the condition one day through research they might find a way to combat the illness.

"We are all keen cyclists so these challenges for us are a fun way of keeping fit and fundraising for such a good cause that is very close to my heart."

The ride is just one of the fundraising activities planned by Jason which also includes a sold-out charity dinner dance in Colchester on 8 Feb when the cycling team will be dressed as waiters!

The team's stylish personalised cycling jerseys were designed and donated by another local businessman Graham Marshall, owner of Recognition Express which is based at Purdeys Industrial Estate in Rochford.

Said Graham: "Our business specialises in producing branded promotional goods and clothing so it made sense and was easy for me to support Jason and his team in this way. I'm impressed that they are taking on this tough challenge for charity. He's been a customer of ours for a long time and it was the least I could do."

Bad weather is preventing the team from doing much on-road training so they have taken to the gym instead doing spinning classes and using the exercise bikes.

Team Argon will be setting off from outside the shop in Southend Road at 7am on 19 May and hope to cover the 220 miles to Paris within three days.

To support Jason Smith and his team you can donate online at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/argon
team.argoncomputing.co.uk

About Recognition Express

Recognition Express was established in the UK in 1979 and is now the European market leader in corporate recognition products. It is the UK's leading franchise specialising in badge manufacture, signs, business gifts, plaques and promotional products, plus a full range of branded and corporate clothing, school uniforms and personalised sports clothing.

For further information tel: 01530 513 300 or visit www.recognition-express.com