

**Contractor and Supplier Corporate Ball, 2nd October 2009, Whittlebury Hall, Towcester** – Anglian Water fundraiser for WaterAid

Whittlebury Hall Spa Hotel near Towcester was the stunning venue for the WaterAid committee's 2nd fundraising Ball. The theme this year was 'Grand Prix' and was helped by the venue's close proximity to Silverstone. The bar is full of Formula 1 memorabilia and the rooms are named with a motor sport theme so it was very easy to choose Grand Prix and bring the theme into all elements of the evening.

Guests who were staying at the hotel were greeted in their rooms by champagne Welcome Packs and Driver's Safety Packs for that dreaded morning after feeling.



The event began with guests being photographed by vintage Hesketh Formula 1 cars from the 1970's whilst the sounds of F1 cars roaring by were played around them. Guests then enjoyed a champagne reception where they listened to the sounds of the Anglian Water Pipe Band and had the opportunity to visit the Pit Stop to buy Pit Stop Packs. These packs were goody bags and some of them

contained golden tickets entitling winners to various Red Letter Days.

The MC for the evening was once again Alan Dedicoat ('Voice of the Balls' on the lottery, Terry Wogan's right hand man on Radio 2 and announcer on Strictly Come Dancing) who treated guests to a commentary of sponsors and the night ahead as they raced to the Ballroom.

The Ballroom looked stunning and as guests were seated they were welcomed by chairman of the WaterAid committee, Paul Valleley. Alan's first official duty was to make a Spot Prize Draw and one table were lucky winners of digital cameras and iPods. Guests enjoyed a three course meal and speeches by Peter Simpson and Andrew Cook – WaterAid's Director of Communications and Fundraising.



A silent auction ran throughout the meal and after dinner guests had the opportunity to bid for some fabulous prizes including a five day trip all expenses

paid trip to the 2010 Monaco Grand Prix. Guests took part in a 'Stop, Go' quiz to win prizes for each couple on their table and also had the opportunity to enter the Star Prize Draw for a Vauxhall Corsa sponsored by May Gurney. The winner of the Clancy Docwra sponsored raffle car draw that had run throughout Anglian Water and some of the companies attending the Ball was announced – congratulations to Mick Murfet, a network technician from Isleham.

The Grand Auction prize was a stunning Vauxhall Corsa with sports pack and bespoke decoration sponsored by GTM Joint Venture – this item alone raised us a whopping £9.5K!

Once all the formalities were over guests were entertained by the incredible Bogus Brothers courtesy of Barhale. They packed the dance floor for 90 minutes during which guests also had a flutter in the Casino. The main event finished at 1:00am but the night wasn't over yet! Bacon rolls, tea and coffee were served in the lounge and the Late Night Games Room where guests could have a go at slot car racing, laser target shooting, simulator racing and play on the Wii's.

The event was a huge success raising £150,000 for WaterAid – our biggest ever single earner yet! Many thanks go to the Ball committee for all their hard work and to all of the contractors, suppliers and guests for helping us enable 10,000 people take their first steps out of poverty.

**Profit for this year's event was a fantastic £150,000**