

Dad skied 10km to raise cash for kids' heart unit



www.sundaysun.co.uk

GALLERY

VIDEO

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Watch the video of the ski stunt

YOU TUBE STAR IS CHUFFED TO BITS

A DAREDEVIL dad has become an internet hit after skiing down a mountain wearing a miniscule mankini . . . and it's all for the hospital which saved his son's life.

Ivan Hollingsworth's pals dared him to ski 10 kilometres in the skimpy swimsuit while on holiday in the winter resort of Valloire, France.

Little did they know that Ivan will take on almost any challenge – so long as it raises cash for the Children's Heart Unit at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital, which saved his son Sebastian's life two years ago.

So, after handing over £500 for the Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF), Ivan's friends filmed him zooming down the ski run in the suit made famous by comedy character Borat, in temperatures of minus 5C, watched on by some rather bemused skiers.

And footage of the ski stunt has

By chief reporter COREENA FORD

● coreena.ford@ncjmedia.co.uk
Telephone: 0191 201 6331

now been put on video sharing website YouTube as well as on Twitter, where it is helping to raise even more cash for CHUF.

Pharmaceutical rep Ivan, 35, a former competitive athlete of Whitley Bay, North Tyneside, said: "It was cold, so I needed one or two warm wines first . . . but when I got to the bottom and saw my wife Nadine and Sebastian I got quite choked up. He and other children are what it's all about."

It was back in 2009 that Ivan and his wife Nadine, 34, were told their son was suffering from congenital heart defect tetralogy of Fallot when he was just 15 hours old.

A team at the Freeman Hospital carried out lifesaving surgery when he was just 16 weeks old and, ever since then, Ivan and Nadine have channelled their efforts into fundraising for CHUF through a fund set up called Seb4Chuf. Ivan said:

"I think my wife knows that if someone is prepared to put money in the charity I will do almost anything – she has a fear of how far I will go.

"We were on holiday in Valloire with friends a couple of weeks ago when one friend bet me £100 I wouldn't ski 10km in a mankini . . . I said no, but that I'd do it for £500. He was back five minutes later with the money.

"When I came to do it I was very nervous stepping out wearing so little fabric, but once I got going I was all right.

"Some friends edited the video down and I was very uncomfortable watching myself, but I hope people will watch it then go to our website and donate more money.

"The Children's Heart Unit embodies what is good about the NHS and everything they do – from the surgical team to the nurses – is just sensational."

For information on the couple's fundraising, visit www.seb4chuf.org.uk



ANGER: A protester at Sheffield yesterday

Protests at Clegg debate

A MASSIVE police operation was put in place yesterday as protesters gathered outside the Lib Dems' spring conference to oppose spending cuts and increased student fees.

Police defended their decision to deploy around 1,000 officers at the protest in the centre of Sheffield as an expected 10,000-strong demonstration failed to materialise.

South Yorkshire Police said between 3,000 to 5,000 people took part in the demonstration as Lib Dem delegates debated NHS reforms.

During the conference, Nick Clegg suffered a stinging rebuke from his own party over radical coalition plans to shake up the NHS.

Lib Dem activists overwhelmingly passed a motion criticising proposals to put GPs in control of commissioning services.

Speaker after speaker called for a rethink during a debate and former Cabinet minister Baroness Shirley Williams branded the changes "lousy".

Biggest range of Natural Limestone fireplaces in the North East all made by our master stonemasons in our own factory



Presidential Surround



Finance Available

- Cheapest fire surround package in the North East
- Free gas or electric fire with selected packages
- Free Measuring service
- Surrounds made to order
- Surrounds available from stock (no waiting)
- All surrounds installed by registered GAS SAFE fitters for your safety

washington
Buy direct from the factory
fireplace centre

16 Elswick Road, Armstrong Industrial Estate Washington (opp B&Q) NE37 1LH
Tel: 0191 416 5467 Open: Monday - Saturday 10am-4.30pm
Open Sunday 11am-3pm

THE NORTH EAST'S LEADING FIREPLACE COMPANY!