



July 10th, 2014

Karlie is the charity champ

Auxiliary nurse Karlie Davies has raised a knockout £3,200 for a South Tyneside cancer charity. She took part in FTC (Fight the Cancer) 3 at Rainton Meadows Arena, Houghton-le-Spring - the third in a series of boxing events in aid of Cancer Connections. Although her bout was awarded to her opponent following a split decision, she was still a winner, being awarded a trophy on the night for raising the most money.

Karlie, 39, of South Shields, who has worked at the District Hospital for 11 years and is currently on Ward 3, thanked all the staff, including doctors, nurses and domestic workers, and patients and their relatives, who sponsored her, as well as Westoe Taxis, who were her initial sponsors. She said: "I've been overwhelmed by the support I've received. I only set out to raise £300 and the final total is amazing."

She also thanked her sons Conor, 14, and Ethan, seven, for their backing and understanding while she trained for her match, adding: "Conor was great, helping to look after his brother." The night of the fight is one she will always remember, right from the moment she walked into the Arena to the stirring sound of the Star Wars theme and accompanied by Darth Vader and two stormtroopers – all arranged by her cousin, James Brown, who also works at the hospital, as a porter.

"It was the best experience of my life but it has taken it out of me," she said. "I started training for it four times a week in March, with the help of Harton Welfare Boxing Club, and I stepped that up to five times a week a couple of months before the fight. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter that the decision went against me because there was really only one winner and that was Cancer Connections."

FTC was set up to thank Cancer Connections for the support they gave to Steven Bruce, of South Shields, and his family. Mr Bruce lost his battle with cancer but his friends still run FTC, organising sporting and entertainment events. FTC have so far handed over £132,000, before the proceeds of the latest event are taken into account.



Deborah Roberts, Cancer Connection's co-founder and services manager, said they were hoping to build and furnish a special room at their base in Harton Lane for children whose lives are affected by cancer with the proceeds from the latest FTC event.

FTC 3, sponsored by Richmond Taxis, was a 'white collar' boxing night – a form of boxing in which men and women, most of whom have no prior boxing experience, train to fight at special events. East Coast Fibreglass sponsored the boxing training for the participants.

David Sharp, of FTC, said: "I think Karlie's achievement is incredible. She really gave her all."
ends

Pictured above: The photographs show:

- 1. Karlie Davies entering with Darth Vader and stormtroopers*
- 2. Karlie Davies, in red, in action*
- 3. Karlie Davies ready for the fight*

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

For press enquiries on this release, contact 0191 404 1128 or email kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk