

THE RACEGOER

KEEPING YOU ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Comedy evening a success

DAVID THISELTON

THE majority of racing industry men asked who would win the Vodacom Durban July at the Nicholas Rey Foundation Trust Comedy evening at Sibaya on Tuesday night opted for the favourite Pocket Power, although Justin Snaith's choice of Big City Life was a notable exception, while Glen Hatt felt he had a great chance on his mount for the big race, River Jetez.

Nicholas Rey is not a benefactor of the foundation but has kindly lent his name in order to help the cause, which is to raise funds for people injured in horse-related accidents.

First benefactor

The foundation's first benefactor was Thalita van Rooyen, who was provided with a wheelchair, and funds are also currently being used to alleviate costs of her stay in hospital after complications in her condition had set in.

There have been a few other benefactors too.

Marion Milne's trip to the Paralympics was sponsored, a lady injured in Johannesburg had six months of physiotherapy funded and advanced medical equipment for paraplegics and quadriplegics was bought for Entabeni Hospital and has benefited a few people injured in horse-related accidents.

Nicholas enjoyed the evening in the

NICHOLAS REY is pictured flanked (from left) by his wife Gayle, Nicholas Rey Foundation trustee Dr Louis Gouws and celebrity ambassador for the foundation and entertainer Dennis East.



company of his wife, Gayle, who has recently been made a trustee of the Foundation along with a number of other esteemed citizens.

She believes the Foundation, which was started and is driven by Ricky Smit, is doing excellent work for a very good cause.

Nicholas, a son of former Miss World, Penny Rey Coelen, was in a polo accident that left him a quadriplegic due to brainstem damage.

His mental faculties, including memory, are still 100% sound and he is able to communicate with his wife and children.

Gayle and Rey family members are currently exploring possibilities of providing Nicholas with a communication device similar to the one that the legendary physicist, Stephen Hawking, uses.

The comedy evening, which featured comedian Kevin Perkins alias Michael Naicker, was very well attended.

A service to 2006 Vodacom Durban July winner, Eyeofthetiger, was auctioned and fetched R11 000.

Ricky Smit said that a good profit was also expected from ticket sales for the evening.

2 July 2009