

This month my fellow interns and I embarked on the Wild Hearts Group Micro-Tyco challenge with our respective Universities. We were to form a team of 5 at each, and aim to raise as much money as possible from a £1 micro-loan. A worthwhile challenge for a charity that does a lot of good and who's results were clearly shown to us by the founder of Wild Hearts, the enigmatic Mick Jackson. Our time with him for our induction into the concept, and the experience of listening to so many motivation entrepreneurs at the GEL Summit in Edinburgh, gave us a great basis to start formulating our own exciting ideas, which we hoped to reach the heady heights of all these inspirational people.

The first task was organising an effective team that would share the enthusiasm to succeed and do some good, in addition to the usual task and antics University students are involved in. Together we came up with ideas that utilise our social connections and improved upon ideas which had worked as money raisers in the past.

The ideas we came up with as group often involved help from outside groups and individuals who gave up time, and sometimes dignity (in terms of our Charity Naked Calendar), to help us with no more incentive than they wanted to be charitable. It was something I was so appreciative to experience and couldn't thank enough those that help my teammates and I.

As with many concepts and ideas there were challenges we encountered. While our communication with one another and with groups we were associated with was both timely and effective, we were often let down by the slow response of other parties. This often led to ideas having to be modified, put back, or even completely scrapped as we had missed the opportunity or lost out on what we wanted to do. As with any business venture it can be expected that poor communication may be a hindrance, and it was just unfortunate that it played a recurring part in our challenge.

My group put in tireless efforts throughout the challenge, I did not feel like I had to micro-manage or watch over their work. They were focused and efficient, and were amazing in the way they took to and added to the ideas and the concept of Micro-Tyco in general. I feel that I was correct in my decision to approach them, they have impressed me, and they should all be proud of what we will have achieved through the process and those we will help.

All of us who have taken part have seen how this money is used to help and do good in some of the poorest countries and communities and I can speak for all of us when I say I look forward to seeing how the money we raised helps to change lives.