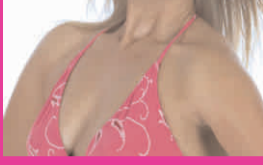


So who's Ralf Little cuddling?



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And our lovely cover girl is..?



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Win a VIP day at the races



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X-rated horror



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Boy band aid



BY AMANDA WILLIAMS

YOUNG Oxfordshire band Soverin are quids in with a fast-selling new CD – but they are donating every penny to the new Oxford Radcliffe Children's Hospital.

The boys, whose ages range from 14-16, have a special reason for their generosity – drummer Nick Swallow was treated at the hospital when he fell 15ft and badly broke both his feet.

He leaped from a low wall – not realising there was a 15ft drop the other side.

The Soverin lads – Nick on drums, guitarists Barney Williams and Tom Davies, and singer-guitarist Joe Hamilton – are currently living every young band's dream. A record on sale in top music

'Swallow dive' Nick and his mates donate CD sales to the hospital that treated him

stores, TV and radio crews arriving for interviews, and a string of gigs lined up.

But it's not gone to their heads. All proceeds from the sale of their EP Hold My Hand, and profits from their recent outdoor gig at Souldern Manor, are going to the Children's Hospital

Front man Joe Hamilton explained why the band decided to give everything to charity.

He said: "Not only does my aunty work at the hospital so we know all the good work that they

do, but the children's hospital helped Nick loads since his accident.

"He was on holiday in France. He jumped up on a wall and didn't realise that on the other side there was a 15 foot drop – when he jumped down the other side he broke both of his feet.

"We wanted to do something to help – so we wrote Hold My Hand and organised the outdoor gig at Souldern to raise money.

"We had a really good response from pre-release sales and we have

been on BBC Radio Oxford and Touch FM and have been on BBC news as well.

"It feels strange that our music is on sale from places like HMV and Virgin. We have already raised over £2,000 but hope to raise over £3,000 for the hospital."

Director of fundraising for CHOX, Alice Gosling, said: "I think it is great that a young band who are just starting out are doing so much to help others.

"Young people have a great voice in the community and it is brilliant they want to utilise that."

To hear the band that lists influences such as Red Hot Chili Peppers, and describes their own sound as a mix of rock and pop with a hint of metal, visit the website www.myspace.com/soverin.



The eco bike has cops in a bit of a tizz

RED-FACED police officers ended up issuing an apology instead of a summons for a blunder over a new eco-bike that could revolutionise commuter traffic.

Rus Yates-Aylott was riding the green machine – basically a push-bike with a low-powered electric motor – when he was stopped in The Broadway, Didcot.

The officers demanded to know why Rus was not wearing a crash helmet and his bike was not displaying a licence plate.

Rus, owner of RusTeK Scooters in Didcot, attempted to explain that the machines do not require a licence plate – nor insurance or even road tax – because they are not included in any vehicle taxation class.

But one of the officers took a statement from Rus – and then issued him with a verbal caution and a provi-

sional summons to appear in court. "I tried to explain to the officer what the legal position was but he showed no interest," said Rus.

"When asking for details of the bike, model etcetera, the officer also asked, 'so what CC is it?' I replied 'Duh! It's electric'."

On returning home from his shopping trip, said the eco-bike rider, he received a call from Didcot police station apologising for the mix-up and informing him that no further action would be taken.

The owner of RusTek Scooters does, however, advise the wearing of safety helmets.

He said: "Although it's a personal choice, I recommend that teenagers wear at least a cycle helmet when riding these bikes."

Police have so far failed to comment.

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