

Racing enthusiast delivers F1 gear

Sarah Lawrence



A FORMULA One enthusiast and international shipping boss oversaw the break up of the defunct Caterham team by sending 10,000 items to 57 countries from his Reading HQ.

Chief executive of Pack and Send, Mike Ryan, said F1 teams, drivers and motorsport enthusiasts bought the items big and small when the team's belongings went under the hammer in eight separate auctions.

The company, based on Kings Road, had to package items in crates and send everything from entire racing cars to nuts, bolts and tools, hospitality trailers and even used, unwashed racing suits to people who placed winning bids at auction.

Mr Ryan, of Reading, said one of the easiest items to ship was the 10 F1 cars at a cost to the new owners of £10,000 per car.

He said: "They were relatively easy to deal with as they are strapped and secured in a crate with lots of silica bags to absorb the salt air when they are being shipped to prevent them going rusty."

"The more tricky items were body panels like nose cones as they were incredibly fragile, some of the high value computer equipment, pit walls and in particular their 16m by 16m cast iron metal planning table."

He said that they had miscalculated the unknown weight of the table, and as a result the crane was lifted off the ground while trying to move it.

The company, which specialises in items of value and antiques, also had to ship frozen carbon fibre to Germany.

Mr Ryan said: "That was quite a logistical feat as we had to pack it with dry ice as it only has the life of an hour after it is taken out of deep freeze. It got to the owners still frozen."

The company based itself in Langley, Oxfordshire, during the eight auctions spanning four months to measure and weigh each individual item up before



Uncomfortable: Mike Ryan trying out one of the F1 cars before packing it away for delivery

going up for auction.

He said: "The auctioneers had to be satisfied we were up to the job of being able to field all the enquiries about the team as well as get them safely to the purchasers that includes a list of people I can't tell you about."

"However, there were racing drivers, and other racing teams, who bought some of this highly specialised equipment."

At the height of interest in the items after Caterham went into administration in February this year, the shipping company was fielding one call a minute from prospective purchasers asking how much it would cost to ship all around the world to destinations including Japan, Australia, California, and Dubai as well as throughout Europe and Asia.

One purchaser, who bought one of the racing cars, even allowed Mr Ryan to sit in it — a particular highlight for him.

He said: "It wasn't very comfortable as the seats are moulded to each individual driver."

"This was a unique opportunity for

us as it was the biggest single auction in the UK and we have spent 680 hours arranging this without one piece going missing or damaged."

"It was a logistical phenomenon to handle everything on our part."



Ready to go: a sports car in its crate



Inspiring: guest speaker Marla M... and Bart Przybylo of Genting C...

Trainer's speech t

"YOU are your priority" was a message guests heard from speaker at last week's First Club.

Representing her co Bestlife Basics, Marla M... gave an emotional speech to an audience about her transition from an average desk job to managing her own fitness company.

Speaking at the networking event, held at Genting Casino in Richfield Avenue last Friday, Marla said losing some of her friends to various conditions had triggered her change in career.

She said: "I am here to tell people the importance of putting themselves first and to tell them

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