

NEWS DETAIL

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CHOCOLATE FOR CHARITY RAISES FUNDS FOR NEPAL

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Steve Nash (GBR) takes delivery of fund-raising Toblerone



Powertraveller's Squash Falconer personally hand-delivered a giant chunk of Toblerone chocolate to athlete Steve Nash (GBR) yesterday.

It was the last piece in a giant bar that she auctioned off in aid of post-earthquake relief in Nepal.

Paragliding is a big sport in Pokhara, Nepal, and the town has a vibrant community of paragliding companies and pilots.

When the country was hit by two devastating earthquakes in April and May, the paragliding community's collective efforts raised \$250,000 in three weeks from pilots around the world.

Squash, who is Powertraveller Ambassador for the Red Bull X-Alps, decided to sell chunks from a giant bar of Toblerone to help raise funds.

"It was a 4.5kg bar with 12 chunks, and I sold each chunk for £50. What was amazing is that some people paid more, and others donated the chunk back so I could sell it again. So I raised almost £1,200 in the end."

While training for the Red Bull X-Alps Steve Nash heard about it and jumped at the offer. "He rang me and said, 'I've just had the most amazing day training, and my friends in Nepal are out there working to help earthquake survivors. I am so impressed at what they are doing.'"

Squash promised to deliver the chunk of chocolate in person at the Powertraveller Prologue in Fuschl am See.

"My wife loves this," Steve said when he was given the Toblerone at the start of the Prologue yesterday, "She will be delighted!"



HELPING NEPAL: Adventurer to personally deliver chocolate treats to raise money for quake-hit country

'Chocs away' for Squash's challenge

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A DERBYSHIRE adventurer who once climbed Mount Everest has raised more than £1,000 for the people of Nepal by auctioning off a giant chocolate bar.

Squash Falconer sold chunks of a giant Toblerone piece by piece and has promised to deliver each one in person to the successful bidder.

The 34-year-old, of Thulston, said she "wanted to give something back" to the people of the earthquake-struck country after being so "overwhelmed by their kindness" on the four occasions she has been there.

Squash said: "When the earthquakes struck, I knew people who were on the mountain and who were on hand to offer aid and relief.

"I donated some money but wanted to do more which is where the idea came from.

"A few weeks ago, I was given this 4.5kg Toblerone bar by a friend in



something back to them, however small, then that makes me happy."

Of the 12 giant chunks of Toblerone, one was delivered to Emma Timmis, 30, formerly of Derby, who last year walked 4,000 miles across Africa in 89 days to raise more than £6,000 for charity.

And another chunk was successfully bid for by a friend of Squash's who now lives in London and who she hadn't seen for 15 years.

She said: "We met travelling when I was 19 years old so it was lovely to catch up.

"I still have some of the chunks to deliver but most of them are now safely in the hands of those who were successful in their bids.

"The only downside of it, of course, is that I cannot enjoy the chocolate myself!"

In the last month Nepal has been hit by two giant earthquakes that have seen more than 8,000 people lose their lives and another 20,000 people injured.

Since they hit people in Derbyshire have been rallying round to help raise money.

For more information on Squash's Toblerone for Nepal endeavour and details on where to donate visit her blog at squashfalconer.com

Squash Falconer with the huge bar of Toblerone she chopped into chunks, right, and sold off for charity.

France who knows how much I love chocolate, so I put something on my blog promising to deliver each individual piece to the highest 12 bidders in order to try and raise some money.

"It went bonkers and now all the pieces have gone and I have raised more than £1,000 which is absolutely overwhelming."

Four years ago, Squash climbed Mount Everest over seven weeks.

The challenge was part of a bid to become the first woman to paraglide from the 27,000ft summit but was hampered by bad weather.

She said she has been to Nepal four times and each time has been drawn in by the friendliness of the people who live there.

Squash said: "The people I have met during my times there are some of the friendliest and most generous I have ever met so if I can give