

## CHARITIES

## Eye off ball

**Q**UESTIONS are being asked about a charity run by former Celtic, Aston Villa and Bulgaria midfielder Stiliyan Petrov (pictured), after it emerged that out of more than £450,000 raised, only 18p in every pound went to charitable causes.

For two of the past five years of accounts filed with the Charity Commission, it seems no awards were made at all, despite the Stiliyan Petrov Foundation (SPF) raising more than £250,000. Between August 2015 and August 2018, despite a total income of more than £344,000, only one award was made: £20,000 to the Birmingham Children's Hospital. For the same three-year period a staggering £254,000 was spent on, er, fundraising. A further £71,000 was spent on unspecified "general charitable activities".

Petrov launched his charity in 2013 with his wife Paulina after his successful playing career had come to a crashing halt the previous year when he was diagnosed with leukaemia. Fortunately, he has been in remission since 2015. The aim of the SPF, a grant-making charity that funds mainly cancer-related charities, was "to help other people affected by this terrible cancer".

The SPF started promisingly. Petrov ("Stan" to his many football fans) and his wife, the only trustees of the charity, made their first donation of £20,000 to Birmingham Children's Hospital in 2015, the earliest year covered by accounts. With a further £16,000 spent on general "charitable activities", the SPF paid out more than its £31,000 income that year.

But then it appears the charity got into a mess. From 2017 annual accounts were filed increasingly late, and by January this year, records for 2018 and 2019 had still not been lodged – an omission spotted not by the charity watchdog, but by researcher and campaigner Dr Alex May. He wrote to Petrov about the delay, and both sets of accounts were duly received by March. They show no grants at all for 2018 – but in 2019, for the first time in its history, awards were made to more than one named



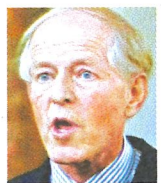
beneficiary. Payments totalling £41,155 went to Glasgow Children's Hospital, the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, a handful of named individuals and to "stem cell transplant funding" and "leukaemia and blood research" – 55 percent of that year's £74,500 income.

All fundraising incurs costs, but in 2017 and 2018 the foundation was spending more on trying to generate income than it was bringing in – while giving little to those it was supposed to help. There is no suggestion of illegality, but a question of whether Petrov and his wife, who receive no payments from the charity, have the skills to be running it without help or independent governance – and why alarm bells were not raised at the Charity Commission when accounts were so long overdue.

The watchdog said it had been in contact with Petrov over the duty to submit "timely annual accounting" and the need for independent trustees to oversee governance. Meanwhile, when asked why so little had gone to beneficiaries, Petrov initially told the *Eye* he thought there had been some mistake and he would get his accountants to look into it and send a full breakdown. None came, but he later said the charity raised money by organising "exclusive" events "to attract the right people who would donate as much money as possible. When organising events of this scale, there's always a cost that comes with it, so part of the money raised goes back to covering the expenses."

He said the last event was a charity football match in 2018 and the money was split between "three main big hospitals and charities and also to private individuals (cancer patients)". That almost matches the awards declared in the 2019 accounts.

He said there were no events in 2019, "and therefore we haven't had any funds to support hospitals or charities as we normally do". He added, however, that the charity in recent months had "managed to generate some more funds for the charity which we will be donating very soon". These explanations may not be enough to satisfy those who think their money may have been more usefully donated straight to the other charities.



## CHURCH ABUSE

## Justin time

**T**HE book *Bleeding for Jesus*, published this week, provides a horrific and comprehensive account of John Smyth (pictured), the Christian QC who groomed young men through the Iwerne camps network, of which he was chair. He beat them in his shed in Winchester until they bled. When his abuse was uncovered, church leaders arranged for him to move to Zimbabwe, where he went on to assault scores of children in his care. ("The C of E and the Sado-Evangelist", *Eye* 1438.)

The book, by Andrew Graystone, names dozens of adults – including many who are still Anglican priests – who knew about Smyth's abuse as long ago as 1982 but failed to stop him. By 2013, when a complaint about him reached Lambeth Palace, those who knew included at least six current bishops and a score of Church of England clergy, as well as senior teachers, lawyers and many others. Smyth was able to continue abusing young men in South Africa until his death in 2018.

Archbishop Justin Welby has promised that all those who failed to act on what they knew about Smyth will be subject to church discipline. Two dedicated staff have been

appointed to identify them – but so far all six bishops remain in post, and no one else appears to have been sanctioned either.

One of those who could have done more to stop Smyth was, er, Justin Welby. He knew the Iwerne camps well, having been a "dormitory officer" in his early 20s. There is no evidence that he saw anything untoward – though when questioned about his involvement since, his powers of recall have been sorely tested.

Speaking to LBC's Nick Ferrari the morning after Channel 4 revealed Smyth's abuse, in February 2017, Welby said: "I was at that particular camp in the mid-70s. I was young then – 19 to 21 or 22 – and I was completely unaware of any abuse. I went off to work in France in 1978... and had no contact with them [Iwerne] at all."

Four months later, he remembered that he had attended a camp in 1979 while Smyth was very much active. They knew each other well enough to exchange Christmas cards for several more years. After university, Welby's interests extended far beyond the Iwerne circle, but that didn't stop him attending the camps again in the late 1980s and the early 1990s while training for ordination.

Speaking to Cathy Newman of *Channel 4 News* in April 2019, he said: "I had no idea what

## FASHION INDUSTRY

## Waiting dame

**T**HE 270 beleaguered employees of Vivienne Westwood's fashion retail empire – where the dame and her chief executive Carlo D'Amario are at daggers drawn (last *Eye*) – should keep an eye on a separate entity that our Viv discreetly established in her name three years ago, which looks as if it is about to become operational.

The Vivienne Westwood Foundation was set up in September 2018 with the designer as sole director. It was originally registered at the retail company's headquarters in south London, but four months later the furious D'Amario bundled it off the premises and forced a name change to the Vivienne Foundation, to avoid infringing on the business of the main brand. After 18 months of little discernible activity, in July 2020 Westwood appointed a co-director: her son Joe Corrè, the erstwhile Agent Provocateur knicker magnate. The foundation has been officially based at his Clerkenwell business address since late last year.

The first public acknowledgement of its existence was a passing mention in *Catwalk*, a 630-page compendium of Westwood's fashion shows by *Financial Times* journalist Alexander Fury. The book, published in June 2021, includes this message from Westwood's husband, Andreas Kronthaler: "The Vivienne Foundation is a charity selling graphics and prints, and couture sold as art. *Buy Less, Choose Well, Make it Last.*"

*Shurely shome mishtake?* The Vivienne Foundation is not a registered charity: it is simply a company limited by guarantee. Its lawyer is a "luxury and lifestyle" specialist at Lewis Silkin LLP, Julia Poulter: "Advising the Vivienne Westwood Foundation [*sic*] on brand protection matters" is listed in the Legal 100 as one of her professional highlights, but with no mention of any philanthropic activity.

Now, particularly given Corrè's involvement, fashion insiders wonder if the Vivienne Foundation is the vehicle in which Dame Viv makes her escape from D'Amario, the man she calls "the Devil".

John Smyth was doing until 2013." But the new book reveals that he has now remembered being warned about Smyth as long ago as 1983. It was only this year that he recalled discussing Smyth with the Iwerne leader David Fletcher over dinner after his return from Paris. By that stage both men knew Smyth was in Africa and running camps for boys. In the 1980s, information was being shared by Iwerne Trust leaders in deliberately vague terms, so Welby may not have known all the detail about what Smyth had done. Still, it is unfortunate that when he was given a detailed report by the Bishop of Ely in 2013 he failed to connect it with warnings he had received 30 years earlier.

When challenged about what he did after being briefed by the Bishop of Ely, he told Nick Ferrari: "We kept in touch and found out what was going on." In the 2019 interview with Cathy Newman he said: "I wrote to the Primate in South Africa." He maintained this until June this year, when Lambeth Palace retracted it, saying that "Archbishop Justin clearly remembered he had written a letter, but was wrong in thinking he had written about Smyth".

Lambeth Palace has now issued a full account of everything Welby did in relation to the Smyth complaint between being notified by the Bishop of Ely in August 2013 and being contacted by survivors more than four years later. The answer is... nothing.