

Matthew Stone

Matthew, otherwise known as Stone or Stoney, is a 24 year old male who is an intelligent, comical, and most importantly, kind and caring individual who would do anything for anyone who knew him. He was often described as the life and soul of any party or social occasion he attended. It was once said that it was impossible not to have a great time if Matt was around.

Matt was active in many parts of society including a keen member of both the local, school and university football teams. He has supported Liverpool F.C. all of his life and followed them religiously.



He grew up and spent most of his life in Southend on Sea where he attended Bournes Green School and achieved great things both socially and academically. After studying for his 'A' Levels at Southend High School for Boys and yet again achieving excellent results, he was accepted to the University of Birmingham where he read Money, Banking and Finance, a three year BSc course in which he gained a high 2:1 classification.

During his second year at university he gained an internship at a large investment bank in the city where once more he proved to be a hit with both the staff that he worked with and in terms of proving his competence in the tasks he was given. He was consequently offered an excellent job with a high starting salary on completion of his university degree. However, Matt was not money motivated and had a dream to follow a career in the direction of football, more specifically as a football agent.

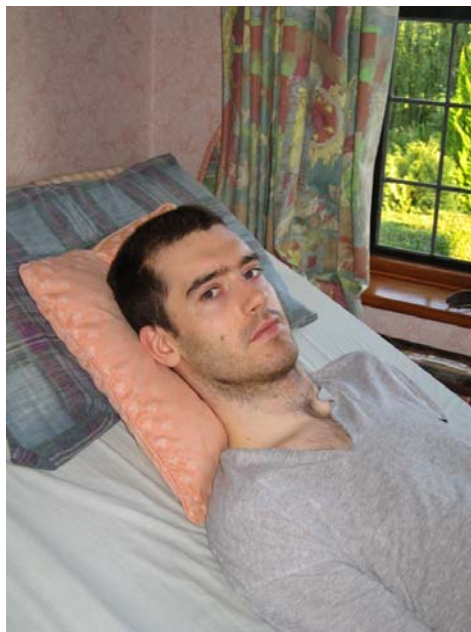
After much research (watching 'Jerry McGuire' repeatedly), he established that the best way to achieve this goal would be to undertake an MBA (masters) in Football Management at the University of Liverpool. As you can imagine, the competition for places on this course was extremely keen, however Matt seemed to fly through both the application and interview processes and gained a place on the course.

In the interim period after finishing his first degree and starting the MSc, Matt decided that he wanted to travel and this would begin with a ski season in Canada. Once more Matt made numerous close friends and very much enjoyed his time in Whistler, Canada, working as a lift assistant. Matt had then planned to go off on a round the world trip and had booked his flights to such destinations as Africa and Australia.

However, during his time in Canada he had started to feel very tired most of the day and this tiredness progressed to such a severe state that Matt had to finish his stay in Canada early and fly home. He also had to cancel his round the world ticket as he did not feel he had the energy to carry out this trip. This was back in 2002 and, after numerous consultations with specialists, Matt was diagnosed with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME).

This is a condition about which little is known and where research is limited, as both Matt and his family have discovered, it is a horrific condition that can completely turn your life upside down. Matt's deterioration was slow to begin with and he just noticed becoming tired very easily. However, he has now reached a stage where he is unable to walk or move much of his body without causing severe exhaustion; he is unable to eat, is in constant pain and requires 24-hour care.

Matt and his family have followed the conventional medical routes to no avail and have since tried everything open to them, including acupuncture, healers, Chinese medicine, special diets, nutritionists, homeopathy and many more.



Due primarily to the lack of research in the field of M.E. and the stigma attached to the condition that it is 'posh person's flu', the NHS have nothing to offer Matt and he has had to turn to the private sector for treatment. This has now meant that Matt has moved from his home in Southend to Hemel Hempstead to attend The Breakspear Hospital. The Breakspear is a day hospital only, which has meant that Matt and his mother Sue have to rent accommodation near to the hospital where they can stay in the evenings and at weekends. The treatment at the hospital is costing £2,000 a week, along with £150 per day for a private ambulance to the hospital, plus the rent on the flat where they are living. In addition to this Matt's mother has had to stop work to give him the care he needs which has put the family under incredible financial strain. This has now reached the extent to which they are considering selling their family home to pay for the treatment.

I have often heard that bad things always happen to those who do not deserve it and this is a perfect example of just that. Matt has never had a bad word to say about anyone or anything, let alone cause anyone pain or suffering. In fact quite the opposite, he brought joy and friendship to all those he met and most definitely does not deserve the card he has now been dealt.

All Matt wishes for now is to be able to walk, talk, eat, drink and carry out some of the basic daily tasks that we all take for granted as he once did. Our aim, however, is to help Matt rehabilitate to a stage where he can start his MBA in Liverpool and achieve the dream of which he has recently lost sight.

It is for this reason and the dire financial situation that his parents have had no choice but to fall into, that we are fund raising for the Stone family. Therefore, any assistance that you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

