



Photograph by David Kelly

# A BUNNY'S TALE

**'FROM CATWALK TO CANCER AND BACK ...!'**

As a beautiful young girl Marion Davren had a selection of beauty titles to her name and from there went on to carve out a career as a successful Scottish Model. She had always harboured the wish of becoming a bunny girl and only after her friends and family encouraged her did she then apply for an interview. To her absolute delight she was invited to London to attend an interview and this was to set her on a path leading to the start of a life beyond her wildest dreams, but later she was brought to the brink of disaster and an illness that almost destroyed her. After passing that important interview she spent 10 weeks of intensive training to obtain her gaming licence then began her glamorous career as a croupier in the prestigious Playboy Club, Park Lane.

"During my training I was staying with my aunt and uncle. He worked as a prison officer in Brixton Prison so I would be dropped off by him in the prison bus in Central London prior to him collecting the prisoners from the various courts. How unreal was that, dropped off by the prison bus and then entering into the glamorous and exciting world known as the Playboy club. From Central London I took the train to Victor Lownes Mansion "Stocks House" in Tring, Hertfordshire, which was used as the training school for the new Bunnies during the working week. At the weekend the house was transformed into a Party Paradise for everybody who was anybody, stars from rock music, sport, fashion, stage and screen, they would attend as guests of Victor and former Playboy cover girl Marilyn Cole. They would party all weekend and take up residence in one of its many rooms. Victor's guests list would include Rod Stewart, Dudley Moore Peter Cook, Barry Sheen, James Hunt, George Best, Sean Connery and Michael Caine...To name but a few. It was so exciting to be working in the same building where the rich and famous partied at the weekend".

## THE PLAYBOY CLUB – THE PLACE WHERE DREAMS ARE MADE

One day I had some news and I could not believe what I was hearing. I was invited to join the Los Angeles Playboy Club. This could not be real, but it was true. I was beside myself with excitement. America! The Playboy Club, Century City, Los Angeles! Within 3 weeks my life changed fantastically, this was my chance to work where Debbie Harry of Blondie and the famous actress Laura Hutton had started. I had made it. I met even more Hollywood idols, George Michael, Jack Nicholson, The Rolling Stones. Everyone who was anyone came to Century City. My life was all gloss and glamour, and I even did some acting myself. My favourite was when I worked with the "Fonz", Henry Winkler in the famous American series "Happy Days", now I was also an actress (well sort of), I had a great life, my good looks, and I had always looked after myself - but one day my luck just ran out.

"I had always been prone to breast cysts so had annual check-ups, but this time they said that my mammogram need investigation. An ultrasound picked up two aggressive tumours in my breasts and there was a likelihood that the cancer would spread". Marion heard these words and her world just collapsed. "I was so scared that I begged the surgeon not to let me die, little did I know how close to death I was, if I had been diagnosed 3 months later then it would have been terminal".

Chemotherapy was started, she had to have a double mastectomy and all her beautiful hair fell out in clumps. Marion said "All I could think of was that I was going to die, I had lost my hair, my boobs, my femininity. I contacted Breast Cancer Care - they saved my life. They gave me the kind of care that money can't buy, and that's what I want to do now for others".

Marion speaks openly about her cancer, shows pics of herself at her lowest ebb and fundraises for Cancer Research UK. Her most recent fund raiser earlier this month netted 1500 pounds with just 36 women enjoying a Michael Buble tribute night. Now she's writing a book "From Catwalk to Cancer and Back" to give hope to others. She said, "I'm proud that I'm still here and able to reassure other women going through this that they will look like a woman again". I didn't believe it myself for a while and I still have my sad moments, but I am back, I am alive and I feel great.



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