

SPOONNEWS

WOODEN SPOON
AND RUGBY LEAGUE
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Wooden Spoon is a charity dedicated to supporting children and young people who are disadvantaged physically, mentally or socially.

We support a diverse range of projects and not just one particular need, illness or disability. Our work has benefited over 1 million children and so far we have granted over £20 million to projects such as sensory rooms, respite and medical centres and specialist playgrounds across the UK.

Please help us to continue our work and visit woodenspoon.com



Winners
of the Spirit of Rugby
Award 2011



The best kept secret in rugby



Where to start....a quote from 1983 perhaps?

“Let’s see again where that move started.....there you are, see, it started from its origins”

Eddie Waring BBC Rugby League commentator.

What origins Wooden Spoon has - now in its 30th anniversary year we have already celebrated in style with the Founders Golf Day at Farnham GC with our founders, major donors, ambassadors, corporate partners, friends, supporters and original attendees.

trophy from the current holders New Zealand. Being English, married to a Scot, with an Irish son-in-law and knowing Bob Harris (who tells me that Wales won the recent Lions Tour!) I will probably support a rank outsider like The Cook Islands. Seriously now, Kevin Sinfield and the England boys all the way for me!

Now as to that best kept secretWooden Spoon’s aspiration to be one of the top UK and Ireland children’s charities will look something like this:

It is a real honour to pen my first notes for Spoonews and what a first few months in office I have enjoyed!

I must pass on my thanks for the wise counsel that Life President Peter Scott, John Gibson and the Trustees, the Regional Chairmen and Wooden Spoon’s various advocates and, last but not least, our very talented staff who have shared their expertise and insights to enable me at Wooden Spoon HQ to be fully prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

- £50m fundraised, 1000 projects, 2 million children’s lives transformed
- 100,000 members
- Flagship project in place
- Membership retention of 95%
- Numerous £1m+ sustainable corporate partners
- Best in class for spending efficiency among major charities
- Industry recognition and awards (including Wooden Spoon award ceremonies)
- Wooden Spoon in Top 25 UK/Irish Charities for awareness (Advertising value equivalent measure)
- Wooden Spoon international expansion plan in place and being executed with IRB
- Government funding acquired
- Partnership with The British and Irish Lions
- Involvement in two World Cups: RLWC2013 and RWC2015

I also have to pay tribute to our patrons the four home unions: The RFU, The SRU, The WRU and The IRFU and of course The RFL (don’t forget we cover both codes) who have all shown remarkable and unstinting support in helping us grow the children’s charity of rugby.

The Council have recently supported a new visionary strategy entitled “Taking Wooden Spoon Forward to 2020” which will transform young people’s lives through the power of rugby. It is in two phases:

Now that’s a secret I can’t wait to tell everyone about!

By the end of 2016 to be the dominant rugby charity in Britain/Ireland.
By the end of 2020 to be recognised amongst the top Britain/Ireland children’s charities

My thanks to you all for your continued commitment to Wooden Spoon and for your passion, integrity, teamwork and fun that makes Wooden Spoon such a wonderful organisation to be involved with.....without you the members, and the hard working Regional Committees and volunteers, disadvantaged children and young people would not get the chance to achieve their full potential in life.

As a newcomer to Wooden Spoon, I felt that we had lost sight a little bit about our beneficiaries and their stories and that was why it was so wonderful to visit Trinity Fields School in Caerphilly to launch Wooden Spoon’s Official Charity Partnership of RLWC2013 recently.



I do hope that you can enjoy the experience of the World Cup - don’t forget that England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland are all involved trying to wrestle the

Steve Holt
CEO, Wooden Spoon

Who We Are and What We Do

Wooden Spoon was founded in 1983 and since then we have been making a difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people. Supported by our volunteer committees and their great fundraising ideas, we make sure that all the money raised stays in the local community to fund local projects.

teamwork, and fun have so far helped over 1 million young people and children in need.

We are honoured to have HRH The Princess Royal as our Patron, and in 2011 Wooden Spoon became the first charity to receive the International Rugby Board’s Spirit of Rugby Award.

Wooden Spoon is one of the largest funders of respite and medical treatment centres, sensory enhancement therapeutic facilities, specialist playgrounds, sports activity areas, and community-based programmes in the UK. So far we have granted over £20 million to these fantastic projects. Inspired by our rugby heritage, our values of passion, integrity,

With the generous team spirit of the rugby community and the help of its top sporting heroes, our projects truly make a difference.

We are very excited about our ambitious plans for the future, too!



Our rugby patrons



Our Royal Patron is HRH The Princess Royal who gives generously of her time. The RFU, WRU, SRU, IRFU and the RFL all support us in our charitable work.



RLWC 2013... Will you be there?

Visit rlwc2013.com and enter promo code **SPOON** to ensure £5 of ticket price goes to support children's charitable projects



Winners
of the Spirit of Rugby
Award 2011.



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Founders Golf Day

Celebrating 30 years of Wooden Spoon



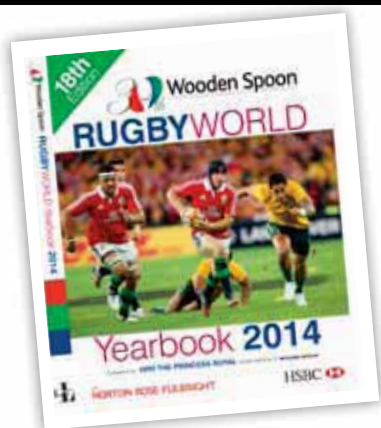
(L-R) Steve Scott, Mike Scott, Vic Durling, Peter Scott, Fred Hucker, Nigel Timson & Philip Lawless

With over 30 years to reflect upon, Wooden Spoon will be publishing a book looking at the highlights (and a few lowlights) of the charity's incredible history.

Rather than a typical chronological journey we'll be taking a look at the many components which have combined over the years to make the charity the success it's become. Interspersed with lively interviews featuring many high profile past and present rugby stars, together with famous names from the wider sporting community and the world of television who continue to lend their valuable support. Numerous photographs illustrating many of the amazing events and challenges we've organised, together with the brilliant projects currently benefitting thousands of disadvantaged children throughout the UK.

You would expect some disagreement and difficulties over a thirty year period, so we'll explore some of the mistakes made along the way and the lessons learnt. Do you have a story to tell? We'd love to hear from you regarding any memorable Wooden Spoon moment you've experienced.

Please contact Phillie James at pjames@woodenspoon.com



The 2014 Wooden Spoon Rugby World yearbook is here!

The 18th edition of the Wooden Spoon Rugby World yearbook is now available for order from Wooden Spoon HQ. The Wooden Spoon Rugby World yearbook combines a review of the highlights of the past year with a look ahead at the 2013-2014 season and beyond. As a special gesture to our members, you can now purchase your copy of the Wooden Spoon Rugby World yearbook for only £12.99, if you order before 18th December 2013, normal RRP £20. So hurry pick up your copy today before stocks run out! Contact charity@woodenspoon.com and order your copy today!

Order your Christmas cards through Wooden Spoon

As Christmas fast approaches Wooden Spoon will again be providing a selection of Christmas cards.

By purchasing your cards through Charity Christmas Cards, Wooden Spoon will receive 50p per card purchased. To request a brochure please contact charity@woodenspoon.com or you can view the whole collection by visiting charitychristmascards.com/woodenspoon.



Spoony Christmas Card

Let's get social!

Don't forget you can keep informed on everything we have going on here at Wooden Spoon by simply liking us on Facebook, following us on Twitter or watching us on YouTube.

Through Wooden Spoon's digital platforms we aim to keep you up-to-date with all of our news, events, competitions and giveaways. It also gives you a direct link to us here at Wooden Spoon, so you can tell us about everything going on in your community.

All of these are a completely free way of supporting us, so please just like, follow or share the work we do here at Wooden Spoon and help us spread our message.

You can like us on Facebook at facebook.com/woodenspooncharity, follow us on Twitter @charityspoon or watch us on YouTube at WoodenSpoonTV.



2 bikes, 3 blokes and 4 peaks!

On 14th June 2013, for 9 days, David Fenton and Brod Crawford cycled from Killarney to Fort William and along the way climbed each of the highest mountains in Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. That's 700 miles and 15,000ft!

These brave adventurers decided to embark on an alternative take on the Wooden Spoon 4 Peaks Challenge, in that they would attempt the 4 peaks in reverse and instead of driving between each peak, they cycled!

Sponsored by Black Sheep Brewery, the challenge has raised a fantastic £11,380.25 for the Yorkshire region of Wooden Spoon. A huge congratulations and thank you to all involved in this outstanding challenge.



Boys on the road!

Founder of Northumberland Wooden Spoon is awarded the British Empire Medal

Danny Hodgson, founder of Northumberland Wooden Spoon has been awarded the British Empire Medal for his half-century of service to Rugby.

Danny who lives at Bilton, has been involved with the sport at all levels in Alnwick, across Northumberland and beyond for almost 50 years.

He played the game at county level, and was involved in coaching and refereeing at his local club, Alnwick RFC, where he was chairman of selectors and a committee member for 35 years.

He has spread his love of the game across his county through the charity, the Northumberland Wooden Spoon, which he founded in 2000 and served as its chairman.



Danny Hodgson proudly received his medal.

Give as you live

For all you online shoppers "Give as you Live" works with 2516 leading stores that have signed up to donate a commission on every online purchase to the charity of your choice. This commission is already included in the price of what you are buying, so you can support Wooden Spoon at no extra cost to you.



Give as you Live™



Come and say hello!

We love nothing better than to welcome guests to Wooden Spoon HQ. With our new window branding, we really stand out in our home town of Fleet. So next time you are passing, please do drop in for a chat and a cuppa!

Wooden Spoon will be attending Rugby Expo 2013!

We are extremely excited to announce that for the first time ever, we will be attending and promoting all things Wooden Spoon at Rugby Expo 2013.

Rugby Expo is the ultimate meeting-place for the leaders of professional and community rugby and the businesses which support the sport. Now in its 5th year the event has grown year-on-year and returns to Twickenham on November 13th-14th. We will be using these dates to showcase Wooden Spoon in all its glory to the great and the good of the rugby world.

The event is packed with a line-up of A-list speakers and experts on the game including RFU Chairman Bill Beaumont and CEO Ian Ritchie, Aviva Premiership CEO Mark McCafferty, legendary sports entrepreneur Barry Hearn and George O'Grady, CEO of golf's European PGA Tour. In addition to this, a number of seminars will be given across the two-days, all with fantastic insight into industry best practice, new ideas and technological developments.

We will be taking a team along made up of Wooden Spoon CEO Steve Holt, Chairman John Gibson, Ambassador Phil Vickery and a number of office personnel with expertise in both the professional and grass-roots game, to hopefully come out of the event with the best results possible for our regions, head office and corporate partners.

We are hoping for an extremely successful two-day event and for this to become a regular fixture in the Wooden Spoon calendar, securing our position at Rugby's top-table.

Introducing The Wooden Spoon Wine Club in association with Charlie The Wine

Wooden Spoon is pleased to announce that we have teamed up with Charlie The Wine, as the Charity's official wine partner. The Wooden Spoon Wine Club will offer our members and supporters a fantastic array of wines, Champagnes, spirits and much more.

All purchases made via the Wooden Spoon Wine Club website will automatically generate a donation of 5% back to Wooden Spoon.

Unfortunately the Wooden Spoon Wine Club website is not yet live; however you can still support Wooden Spoon by purchasing any of your wine requirements from www.charliethewine.com.

Simply use the word SPOON as the promotional code at the check out and Wooden Spoon will receive 5% of your purchase payment.





Wooden Spoon Regional Projects

Our mission is to make a positive impact on the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK through our commitment to quality charitable work.

BRISTOL & BATH

CREATIVE YOUTH NETWORK

CENTRE FOR RE-ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF EXCLUSION.

Spoon donation: **£28,500**

Opened: 27th March 2013 by Mark Regan MBE

The Bristol & Bath committee travelled, together with Mark Regan MBE and a group from the Listening Partnership Disability Youth Forum, for the official opening of their latest project.

The Creative Youth Network is a centre of excellence for re-engaging young people at the risk of exclusion by creating opportunities to develop their creative and personal skills. The Creative Youth Network, with help from central government funding, purchased the freehold of a derelict Fire Station and accommodation units in the heart of Bristol City Centre to create a high

profile focal point for the provision of support Children's Services for the disadvantaged young people of Bristol and the surrounding area. At 32,000 square feet, The Station is now able to provide an extensive facility comprising performance studios, theatres, classrooms/workshops, counselling rooms, a cafe and a Crisis Centre for homeless children. Every aspect of the building is disabled-access friendly and it is anticipated that over 20,000 young people will use the facility each year, drawing in user groups from Gloucestershire and the wider environs Bristol and Bath.

Recognising the great results being achieved by the Creative Youth Network, the Wooden Spoon Bristol & Bath Regional Committee was keen to make a donation. The committee provided £28,500 to the project which was put directly towards disabled-friendly washrooms along with the purchase of the main doors which were specially designed to be electronically controlled, with wheelchair ramps and low-level, push-button activation panels.



Mark Regan MBE with a group from the Listening Partnership Disability Youth Forum

BRISTOL & BATH

HORSEWORLD

CLASSROOM AND BOOTROOM

Spoon donation: **£11,000**

Opened: 24th September 2013 by Lee Mears

On the 24th September the Bristol & Bath committee along with Lee Mears (Bath, England and British Lions) officially opened The Wooden Spoon Classroom and Boot Room at Horseworld near Bristol. Horseworld is a registered charity dating back to 1952 and was borne out of a campaign to save the lives of working horses. On its 177 acre site, it currently looks after more than 120 horses and 'loans out' a further 300 horses to suitable fostering families.

In 2009, Horseworld launched its Discovery Programme – bringing horses together with young people to promote emotional growth and learning. Every year some 400 young people with special needs undertake a 6 to 12 week educational programme aimed at encouraging interactive studies in numeracy, literacy and art, through first-hand experience of working with horses in the outdoors.

Measurable outcomes have shown that for these troubled and vulnerable youngsters anti-social behaviour can be calmed and levels of concentration and communication enhanced; and those suffering from restricted development can demonstrate previously unseen levels of self-confidence and team-building skills.



A group from the Discovery Programme

CHILTERNs

CLAYTONS PRIMARY SCHOOL

SENSORY ROOM

Spoon donation: **£22,995**

Opened: 22nd July 2013 by Tom Guest

The opening of the Wooden Spoon Sensory Room at Claytons Primary School in the Thameside village of Bourne End took place at the end of July.

Adjoining the Special Needs teaching classroom, the room includes light and sound projectors, bubble tubes, soft play cushions, special flooring, colour wheels, mirrors, keyboard, microphone and activity panels and was opened by Tom Guest of Harlequins and England Saxons.

Claytons school offers support to a small group of children with communication difficulties and also has a dedicated Additional Resource Provision catering for up to 12 children with Statements of Special Educational Need.

In addition to the school's own children, the room will be made available to a Special Needs group from a neighbouring mainstream school for limited periods every week, as well as further children at the school who have been identified as requiring additional pastoral/emotional care and for whom special provision has to be made within the school's daily routine.

TNT staff from Slough and Park Royal depots joined other guests of the school and representatives of the Wooden Spoon Chilterns Region for the opening. Thanks to the timing of the event, it was great to welcome Jim Cairns, PUD Driver, as it is usually particularly difficult to factor SIB visits into delivery schedules of lorry drivers. Jim was joined by Richard Sullivan (Traffic Operator), Andrea Lafferty (Field Sales Manager) and Glen Hutton (Secretary).



Tom Guest opens The Wooden Spoon Sensory Room

CHILTERNs

PACT

FAMILY THERAPY ROOM

Spoon donation: **£10,000**

Opened: 12th July 2013 by Andy Gomarsall MBE

Chilterns Region of Wooden Spoon has invested for the first time in a charity called PACT (Parents and Children Together) which manages adoption and fostering for children throughout Southern England. Unlike Social Services input to the adoption process, which tends to be short term, PACT recognises the traumas and relationship problems that adoption generally causes, throughout the child's early and teenage years.

Apart from the careful matching of children to parents, they provide counselling and therapeutic sessions for children and parents alike. Most of these sessions have hitherto been performed in the homes of the families which are often not the ideal setting for such sessions.

Wooden Spoon has provided funds for the creation of a specially designed therapy counselling room within the Reading premises of PACT. The room combines a light airiness with comfortable accommodation for parents, and play areas for the child (and siblings). This can be set out according to the needs of the particular child, unlike the home situation.

Caz, the mother of an adopted child, gave the story of Reece, her son. She explained the desperate state that they had found developing with their adopted offspring, that was until they were introduced to PACT and their therapeutic interventions. Reece attended some parts of the evening with his father, and met with his new idol, Andy Gomarsall. Reece already plays rugby and left the PACT centre with a manuscript of good wishes, signed by Andy.



Andy Gomarsall MBE with Chairman Barrie Mair at the PACT opening

CHILTERNNS

PENN SCHOOL

SENSORY AVENUE

Spoon donation: **£35,000**

Opened: **20th March 2013**

On the 20th March Penn School in the Chilterns Region officially opened their Sensory Avenue with help from British Lion and Wasps Player Rob Henderson.

Penn School is a charitable institution for children aged 11 – 19 years, with two main special needs of autism and hearing impairment – both of which present these children with communication difficulties. Whilst the children are predominantly from the Chilterns area the school services a wide geographic area and a number of pupils come from much further afield. The pupils receive a full and balanced curriculum not only in language and literacy development but also in the wider fields of science, drama, business studies and a range of life and work skills. There is a strong emphasis on horticulture and related agricultural education with a large number of greenhouses, allotments and vegetable gardens on site; the produce of which can be used in the school kitchens or in domestic science and life skills teaching.

The school approached Wooden Spoon to assist with funding for a major project; to develop a field in the wildlife conservation area within the safe school environment to include an orchard, a fruit tree, bush garden, a pond, a nature trail, a picnic area and a sensory avenue.

Wooden Spoon funded £35,000 towards the sensory avenue which enables students to work and play, outside the confines of the school building. The avenue includes opportunities for balancing, listening, seeing and feeling to provide the pupils with a stimulating environment. This includes bamboo bridges, tunnels, percussion boards, water features and a range of activity equipment which is mounted onto an all weather surface.



Students enjoying the sensory avenue

CHILTERNNS

UFTON ADVENTURE

KITCHEN

Spoon donation: **£25,000**

Opened: **4th September 2013 by Bryn Evans**

On September 4th Bryn Evans, London Irish and All Black International player, officially opened the Wooden Spoon Kitchen at Ufton Adventure.

Ufton Adventure is part of the Ufton Educational Trust which was established in 2006 to bring history and the environment alive for thousands of children every year through a range of innovative and exciting educational programmes. They operate on the Englefield Estate, a 16 acre site a few miles

from Bucklebury. In 2012, it was decided to construct an Adventure Camp, comprising 6 sleeping cabins and a central 'hub' cabin which will take 3000 students a year from deprived area schools in Reading and the surrounding counties, and give them an "outward bound" type experience in the countryside. The aims of the project are for both educational experiences and physical challenges which are designed to raise aspirations and remove barriers to achievement.

Wooden Spoon has funded £250,000 towards the cost of building and equipping a kitchen in the hub cabin which will be the central catering facility where staff and pupils will prepare and cook their own meals.



Bryn Evans opening the Wooden Spoon Kitchen at Ufton Adventure

The GXSA has been fundraising for the last few years in order to provide the only permanent skate park in Guernsey which is situated within the grounds of a municipal sports complex and is designed to accommodate skateboarders of all levels of expertise and the runs are specifically designed to be disabled-accessed, including wheelchair ramping.

Guernsey Wooden Spoon donated £50,000 towards the cost of building and equipping the GXSA Jubilee Skate Park. The donation was raised through funding from Guernsey Wooden Spoon member Stuart Hardie who in 2011 ran 40 sponsored marathons in 41 days specifically to support this project.

Wooden Spoon's contribution was dedicated to The Wooden Spoon Cafe and Picnic Area, which comprises of a permanent timber-lodge style catering facility surrounded by a seating area equipped with fixed tables and chairs and picnic space provision.

GUERNSEY

GUERNSEY EXTREME SPORTS ASSOCIATION

CAFÉ

Spoon donation: **£50,000**

Opened: **8th June 2013 by Lieutenant Governor**

On 8th June the Guernsey committee and a very large crowd, including some 200 youngsters, were present to see the Jubilee Skate Park in St Peter Port officially opened by Guernsey's Lieutenant Governor, Air Marshal Peter Walker. Chairman of Guernsey Extreme Sports Association, Minister of Culture and Leisure and Spoon Member, Mike OHara was also present to see the project he has been championing for nearly 12 years open.

The Jubilee Skate Park is Guernsey's only dedicated skate park and it has been the project of the Guernsey Extreme Association (GXSA) which is a charity with a specific mandate to provide skateboard facilities and experiences for the youngsters on the island.



The GXSA Jubilee Skate Park in Guernsey.

KENT

Swale MASH

SENSORY ROOM AND SOFT PLAY ROOM

Spoon donation: **£25,000**

Opened by: 29th June 2013 by Graham Brown

£25,000 was provided by the Kent Region to fund the installation of a sensory room and a soft play room at Orchards, a unique and specialist Multi Agency Service Hub (MASH). Orchards brings all services for disabled children and their parents under one roof with a one-stop shop for paediatricians and other consultants alongside a team of speech and language therapists, occupational therapists,

physiotherapists, dieticians and podiatrist from Medway Community Healthcare as well as teams from education, social services and parent-led charities.

This was a joint event and family fun day with Orchards being opened by Swale Mayor Councillor Sue Gent, Jenny Whittle, KCC cabinet member for children's services, Martin Cunnington, senior commissioning manager for disabled children and children with long-term conditions, and Christine Taylor, associate for disabled children, from NHS Kent and Medway.

This was immediately followed by the opening of the soft play and sensory rooms by Graham Brown MD of Denne, a local construction company based in Bordon near Sittingbourne. Denne and Graham have been big supporters

of Kent Wooden Spoon and have raised substantial sums for the Region over many years. Also in attendance were Graham's wife Maggie, the Kent chairman Paul Shrubbsall and his wife Sue, Robin Taylor and his wife Annette from Kent County RFU and Barry Monahan from Wooden Spoon HQ.

Spoony was also in attendance and was a great hit with all the children and parents.



Family fun day at Orchards

MERSEYSIDE

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM CATHOLIC PRIMARY

OUTDOOR CLASS ROOM

Spoon donation: **£1,000**

Opened: 5th July 2013

Merseyside Wooden Spoon's busy summer continued on July 5th with a visit to Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School in Netherton, Liverpool to officially open a gazebo for which £1,000 had been donated. This outdoor classroom is the focal point in a recreation area and will benefit pupils for both social (breaks and lunchtimes) and curriculum use, in addition to being available for community use out of school hours. Overall cost had been borne by a hard working Parents Association to make up the total cost of £8,000 whilst the school made up the remaining amount.

Head Teacher Bernie Shields commented, 'We hope that the creation of the gazebo will inspire parents and friends to attend PTFA functions, now that they can see what has been achieved. We first had a vision in 2012, as an amalgamated school coming on to this site, as to how best use might be made of this outdoor space.'



left to right - Committee Member David Matthews, Head Teacher Bernie Shields, and Merseyside Spoon Chairman Stan Bagshaw.

SCOTLAND

CAMPBILL SCHOOL

WELLBEING SUITE

Spoon donation: **£29,000**

Opened: 5th July 2013 by David Leslie

On 5th July David Leslie officially opened the new swimming pool at Camphill Murtle School.

Camphill School is an independent school, providing education, care and therapy services for youngsters suffering from autism and physical disabilities. Just over 100 pupils aged 3 – 19 years attend the school and they come from all over Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England.

Set in magnificent grounds, the school can boast a wide range of good-class activity areas, accommodation blocks and therapy suites. However as many of the buildings on

the estate are now over 50 years old they were in need of upgrading and refurbishment.

Scotland Wooden Spoon chose to donate £29,000 towards the cost of improving the swimming pool/hydrotherapy pool at the school. The Wooden Spoon Changing Rooms have been built which will provide a suitable space to provide children who require changing privacy. The rooms are segregated from the main changing room and include specially designed privacy cubicles and a ceiling-mounted hoist.



David Leslie opens the new swimming pool at Camphill Murtle School.

'We hope that the creation of the gazebo will inspire parents and friends to attend PTFA functions, now that they can see what has been achieved. We first had a vision in 2012, as an amalgamated school coming on to this site, as to how best use might be made of this outdoor space.'

SCOTLAND

PRINTFIELD COMMUNITY PROJECT

PLAYGROUND

Spoon donation: **£6,500**

Opened: 7th August 2013 by Peter Mitchell

Peter Mitchell officially opened Scotland's most recent project on the 7th August where they have provided £6,500 towards the cost of establishing and equipping a playground within the Printfield Community Project in Aberdeen.

Established as a charity in 1990, The Printfield Community Project is managed by Printfield residents to provide support and advice to the local community. This takes the form of running a calendar of events for adults and children, designed to both educate and entertain, and offer life-skills training, healthcare advice and counselling. Over one hundred children are involved with the project for whom the team provide fun days, picnics, zoo trips, art classes, a Christmas party, and a range of 'well-being' clinics.

The estate itself comprises just over 200 flats built shortly after the Second World War. They are built in the shape of a horseshoe with the enclosed area within having been grassed to provide a play area and communal meeting space, exclusively for the use of the residents.

It is within this communal area that the Wooden Spoon donation was put to use to give the area a refresh. The £6,500 enabled the purchase and installation of a see-saw, a roundabout and two metal picnic tables and benches. This was combined with a further donation from the Groundworks Charity who provided additional fixed play equipment and the area has been renamed as The Playzone.



Peter Mitchell opens the playground within the Printfield Community Project in Aberdeen

SCOTLAND

QUARRIERS EPILEPSY CENTRE

INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE

Spoon donation: **£50,000**

Opened: 30th May 2013 by Chris Paterson MBE

On 30th May Chris Paterson MBE opened The Wooden Spoon Young Person's Suite at The William Quarrier Scottish Epilepsy Centre.

Quarriers is a charity that provides practical support and care for children, adults and families suffering from physical or mental disabilities, poverty, family breakdown, exclusion and disadvantage, social, emotional or behavioural difficulties or homelessness. The provision of support for people with epilepsy has been a core activity of Quarriers since 1906. Today it is the leading charity providing epilepsy services in Scotland, delivering clinical diagnosis and treatment, supported living, respite and a range of community based initiatives.

A contribution of £50,000 from Wooden Spoon means the new facility

will replace Quarriers existing 10-bedded Epilepsy unit near Bridge of Weir, Perthshire. This facility will provide diagnostic and treatment services for hundreds of epilepsy sufferers every year, becoming the natural focus for epilepsy medical and care professionals.

There are approximately 9,000 people under the age of 25 suffering from epilepsy in Scotland. Eventually many of these plus those newly diagnosed, will benefit from this new Centre. Probably 80-100 new patients in this age group will visit the Centre each year for diagnosis and treatment definition. The Wooden Spoon Young Person's Suite includes two inter-joining rooms especially designed, configured, decorated and equipped to accommodate and treat children and young adults.



Chris Paterson joined by Wooden Spoon and Quarriers opens the Wooden Spoon Young Person's Suite

SHROPSHIRE

BROOKSBURY CHURCH STRETTON PLAY AREA GROUP

SENSORY GARDEN

Spoon donation: **£10,000**

Opened: 1st June 2013 by Tim Stimpson

When some parents of children in Church Stretton got together and decided to create a safe, sensory play area away from the main road, they mentioned it to Ian Barrett, a Wooden Spoon member and owner of a local wine bar. He arranged a meeting with Glyn Dobbs, Chairman of Wooden Spoon, Shropshire, and the project began to take shape.

Following consultation with children and parents, it was important that the garden was inclusive for children of all abilities, so young people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments could safely explore alongside able-bodied friends. Resting spaces to pause, relax and chat whilst looking at the views of the South Shropshire Hills were important, along with sensory planting that would provide different fragrances and textures.

After retreating to his studio, Mike Russell from Designs with Nature, returned with a rugby ball shaped design for the garden that reflected both the playing fields where the garden is situated, and the sponsor, Wooden Spoon, who donated £10,000 towards the project. Complete with a labyrinth where children can walk or wheel around to find themselves in the centre, and raised planters with chunky wooden edging that doubles as seating, the garden is accessible to all.

After some 12 months of preparation and building, the garden was finally opened on 1st June 2013 by Tim Stimpson, Honorary President of Shropshire Wooden Spoon, together with Jonathan Edwards, who suffers with serious autism. This is in fact the 2nd project that Jonathan has opened with Tim.



Tim Stimpson and Jonathan Edwards opening the Sensory Garden

SURREY

I CAN MEATH SCHOOL

WOODLAND ACTIVITY CENTRE

Spoon donation: **£38,000**

Opened: 18th September 2013 by John Inverdale

18th September saw the opening of the new Woodland Activity Centre at I CAN Meath School in Ottershaw, Surrey. Wooden Spoon was proud to have been a major contributor to the new Woodland Activity Centre. I CAN is the children's communication charity, providing a combination of specialist education and therapy for children with the most severe and complex speech and language disabilities.

The Wooden Spoon Woodland Activity Centre covers more than an acre of the school grounds comprising a cycle track and a range of activity

equipment including swings, a carousel, tower and slide, climbing frames and tunnels. It will be used constantly by the school and disabled groups Holiday Club visitors.

Wooden Spoon has been a major grant provider, contributing £38,000 towards the project. Other contributors have been Wolfson Foundation, Unum and Savills.

On a bright autumn day the centre was opened by John Inverdale, Surrey President along with Janet Dunn - the Headteacher, Peter Cox Governor and the Lady Mayor of Runneymede. Also in attendance were Steve Holt - the CEO of Wooden Spoon, Paul Taylor - Chairman of Surrey, various members of the Surrey committee and numerous parents and teaching staff.

The I CAN Meath School is a special school purely for primary aged children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), including Aspergers Syndrome. They specialise in young learners. The school accommodates some 50

children, aged 4-11 years, many of whom are unable to communicate verbally. Most of the children are day pupils but all of them stay overnight for a minimum of one night per week in order to enable them to mix socially outside school times. This is considered an essential part of their educational programme as, when they return home, the severity of their condition means that they are unlikely to enjoy any peer play group activity.



I Can Meath School enjoying their new play equipment

SUSSEX

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE

SMALL ANIMAL PAVILION

Spoon donation: **£14,000**

Opened: 25th April 2013 by HRH The Princess Royal

In glorious Sussex sunshine, HRH The Princess Royal, Royal Patron of Wooden Spoon, visited Ferring Country Centre, near Worthing, on 25th April to officially open the Wooden Spoon Pavilion.

In his welcoming speech, Bob Rogers, Chairman of both Sussex Region of Wooden Spoon and of Ferring Country Centre, explained that the Wooden Spoon funded pavilion will act as a focus for the centre's small animal farm and provides an educational facility for people with learning difficulties and visiting school children.

The Princess Royal unveiled a plaque, met members of the Wooden Spoon HQ and Sussex Wooden Spoon, chatted with the centre's trustees, staff and clients and had a tour of the centre including the small animal farm, the garden centre and the indoor riding school.



HRH at the opening of Ferring Country Centre

WALES

MISKIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

Spoon donation: **£20,000**

Opened: 13th September 2013 by Roy Noble OBE

Friday 13th September saw the official opening of the new Wooden Spoon Play Area at Miskin Primary School, Mountain Ash by Roy Noble OBE.

Parents, teachers, school governors and members of the Wales Wooden Spoon committee, were treated to a wonderfully enthusiastic concert of singing and dancing by pupils of the school, including a rousing rendition of Delilah!

Radio personality Roy Noble then entertained the audience with his memories of primary school including a 1950s version of Ben Hur and how to avoid dancing with girls!

All the guests were then invited to sample refreshments including some delicious cakes made by the pupils and teachers.

Huw Thomas, Chairman of Wooden Spoon in Wales thanked the school for their hospitality and congratulated them on the transformation of the old play ground into a modern, safe and exciting adventure play area.

The new play area at Miskin Primary School



WALES

TRINITY FIELDS SCHOOL

SENSORY ROOM

Spoon donation: **£25,000**

Opened: 12th July 2013 by Clive Norling

Two new sensory rooms have been unveiled at Trinity Fields in Ystrad Mynach providing state-of-the-art stimulation for the children who attend the school.

The rooms, never before used by the pupils, were officially opened by the former international rugby union referee, Clive Norling on Friday 12th July in the presence of Cllr Michael Gray, Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The rooms cost a total of £40,000 and Wooden Spoon donated £25,000 towards the cost. This money enabled the school to update the existing light and dark rooms, enhancing them with brand new equipment.

Cllr Robin Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services, also attended the launch of the rooms and commented, "It is fantastic to see the children making use of the first class facilities that have been so generously part-funded by Wooden Spoon. From what I have seen today the children are so excited to be benefiting from these amazing facilities and the light and dark room will play a massive part in stimulating the children and supporting them through their years at the school."

Mr Ian Elliot, Principal of the school added, "I am absolutely thrilled that Wooden Spoon has provided us with £25,000 to develop these fantastic facilities. I am also grateful to the Friends of Trinity Fields who also provided us with additional funding. These new state of the art rooms will allow pupils to develop their communication and interaction and will not only be used by our own pupils but also by other pupils with additional needs from across the county borough opening these new rooms has been an excellent end to a busy school year."



Clive Norling opening the new Wooden Spoon Sensory rooms

WILTSHIRE

GREATWOOD

R&R ROOM

Spoon donation: **£33,000**

Opened: 2nd June 2013 by Stephanie Milward and Andy Deacon

Attracting a lot of attention at Greatwood Open Day on Sunday 2nd June were two sporting VIPs there to open the charity's Wooden Spoon Sensory Garden. Paralympic swimmer Stephanie Milward and former rugby player Andy Deacon unveiled a plaque and chatted to fans.

Wiltshire Wooden Spoon granted £33,000 towards the build of the R&R room at Greatwoods, which will benefit disadvantaged children and young people.



Steve Holt, Stephanie Milward, Andy Deacon and others pose with official opening plaque, Olympic Torch and Olympic medals.

WARWICKSHIRE

HEREWARD COLLEGE

ACCOMMODATION SUITE

Spoon donation: **£12,000**

Opened: 19th April 2013 by Martin Johnson CBE

On 19th April, England's Rugby World Cup winning captain and former Coach, Martin Johnson CBE, opened The Wooden Spoon Suite at Hereward College in Warwickshire.

Hereward College is a general Further Education College in Warwickshire for 250 day-students, and 50 residential students, all aged 16-19 years. The students that attend Hereward College suffer from a range of serious mental and physical disabilities including Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Asperger Syndrome and Autism.

Hereward College was originally built in the early 1970s with the primary objectives of educating the students to a level where they can embark on an employment path and equip the students with a range of life skills which will enable them to live independent lives once



Martin Johnson and pupils of Hereward College

they move on to homes in the wider society.

Earlier this year, the College undertook a major refurbishment programme of the Accommodation Block. This was the first significant upgrade of the building and its facilities since it was originally built. Wooden Spoon stepped in and donated £12,000 for the building of The Wooden Spoon Suite. The Wooden Spoon Suite will comprise a bedroom equipped with a specially designed fixed-installation, heavy-duty, bed with remote control functions and overhead hoist plus a bathroom with a disability bath, integrated changing unit and dignity screens.

YORKSHIRE

CHELLOW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

INTERACTIVE ROAD

Spoon donation: **£35,000**

Opened: 5th July 2013 by Joanne Dodds, Deputy Mayor of Bradford

Wooden Spoon Yorkshire Region was delighted to support this unique project at a cost of £35,000 the very first portable Interactive Road in the UK!

Chellow Heights Special School in Bradford approached Wooden Spoon regarding a vision they had. This was to transform an outdoor space which was previously a large uninspiring tarmac area, into an imaginative play and learning zone.

The 'Wooden Spoon Interactive Road' is a simulated roadway complete with road and number markings, working traffic lights, zebra and pelican crossings, road signs and shops - all within a safe environment.

The aim of the project is to equip young people who have special needs with valuable life skills, e.g. road safety and cycling skills, to help gain independence and confidence, encourage healthier and more active lifestyles, and give them the same opportunities in life as others.

The road was formally opened in early July by Councillor Joanne Dodds, Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford. Also present was Stuart Watson Yorkshire Wooden Spoon Chairman, backed up by Committee Members Bruce Allison and Mike Coghlan as well as Bradford Bulls stars Jarrod Sammut and Jamie Langley. The whole event was witnessed by governors, parents, staff and many of the 127 students

Chellow Heights is a generic special school for learners aged 2-11 years. Situated in the west of Bradford its population reflects the diverse community of the area. It is located within a campus of schools, Heaton Primary, the Acorn Centre, a Children's Centre, Belle Vue Girls and Belle Vue Boys High School.



A young child enjoys the new Interactive Road

RLWC2013 and Wooden Spoon Review



Wooden Spoon was delighted to officially announce its status as Official Charity Partners to Rugby League World Cup 2013 on Friday 20th September 2013.

This exciting event was hosted by the amazing team at Trinity Fields School in Ystrad Mynach near Cardiff. RLWC2013 Ambassador Gareth Thomas joined our own Wooden Spoon Ambassador Shaun Edwards to spend the morning interacting with some of the extraordinary children in what has become a successful launch with an unprecedented level of media coverage.

Trinity Fields is a local authority special needs school, providing education to some 130 children aged from 3 to 19, who suffer from profound and multiple learning difficulties. Many of the children display challenging behaviour that requires permanent medical care.

The school was built in 1998 as the first purpose built special needs school in Wales, and is now recognised as a flagship facility which is utilised by many other schools and special needs groups. Wooden Spoon funded the refurbishment of these rooms earlier in the year, offering the children 'state of the art' equipment which will take the school through the next 20 or so years of associated learning. These new rooms were opened by Wooden Spoon's very own Clive Norling and he joined us and Trinity Fields School again at the RLWC2013 Partnership Launch.

The video that was created from the launch can be seen at woodenspoon.com and it features the first ever 'Egg and Wooden Spoon Race' which will now feature as part of our experiential activity through the World Cup tournament and then beyond into all community and capital projects supported by Wooden Spoon. The concept is very simple but will arguably create the long lasting association and awareness that we want to generate. Members of the public as well as professional rugby players, celebrities and journalists will all participate in the Egg and Wooden Spoon race against the clock.

Paying £1 to enter, the opportunity to 'race' against Kevin Sinfield, Sam Tomkins or our own Spoonsy will create both a competitive activity but good, light-hearted fundraising opportunities.

As part of Wooden Spoon's Partnership with RLWC2013, we have provided a grant of £80,000 towards the £1million Dance Programme that will engage hundreds of disadvantaged and disabled young people who will perform at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. RLWC2013 presents a fantastic opportunity for Wooden Spoon to enhance its reputation as the children's charity of rugby and to increase the national awareness.



The Opening Ceremony and double header at The Millennium Stadium on the 26th October will be covered by BBC Sport, as will the double header semi final at Wembley on the 23rd November and the subsequent final at Old Trafford on the 30th November. Television figures are expected to exceed 20 million with 112 territories being reached. 6.9 million fans in the UK will follow RLWC2013 and half a million spectators are expected to attend the 28 matches through the tournament.

Wooden Spoon is contracted with RLWC2013 tournament to have a presence at 13 matches. We will be able to fundraise at 5 games as well as the semi final and final and collect data and memberships at all 13 games. A group of volunteers will be sourced from around the UK to support the fundraising and experiential activity and it is anticipated that Wooden Spoon's regional teams will be able to get involved where practically possible.

It is recognised that RLWC2013 is not within every Wooden Spoon region and that certain areas are likely to benefit far more than others. However, the positive opportunities to use this partnership are far reaching and everyone can benefit. In celebration of becoming the Official Charity Partners of RLWC2013 we are offering £13 off our annual membership for new members until the end of 2013, making it just £27 for the year. Such are the connections to the number 13 in this 13-man game, that we are also targeting 13 legacy projects with 13 English Super League Clubs. You can join in with all the Wooden Spoon and RLWC2013 chat on Twitter using #spoon13.

Don't miss out on buying tickets, quoting 'SPOON' at checkout, for the Tournament Organiser to donate £5 from every ticket purchased to Wooden Spoon! Simply visit rlwc2013.com and purchase your tickets now!



OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER

Wooden Spoon
The children's charity of rugby

Enter promo code **SPOON** to ensure that **£5** of ticket price goes to support children's charitable projects

Wooden Spoon Regional Fundraising

The Wooden Spoon Regions and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Charity with over 500 regional committee members working tirelessly to raise funds to ensure that Spoon is able to maintain its charitable work to enhance the lives of children and young people across the four home nations. To get involved in your region's next event, contact your local Regional Committee.



BRISTOL & BATH

Spring Lunch and Golf Day

Two eagerly anticipated dates in the Bristol and Bath calendar took place this summer; the Spring Lunch and the Summer Golf Day.

On Friday 24th May the Annual Spring Lunch was held in the magnificent Bristol Hotel dining suite overlooking the river. The 130 guests were delighted to welcome Robert Jones, the former Swansea, Wales, Barbarians and Lions scrum half who entertained them throughout the evening. This was a welcome return to the West Country for Robert, having played for 'Bris' and indeed captained the club in 1997/98. A total of £3068 was raised on the day.

The next event was on Friday 21st June at Long Ashton Golf Club which hosted the regional golf day. This is always a great day's golf on a great course at the most hospitable of clubs, and this year didn't disappoint. 19 teams were welcomed and the winning team was The Monday Club. A total of £1400 was raised on the day.

Both events were thoroughly enjoyed and the committee look forward to hosting these annual events again in 2014!



Robert Jones and Stuart Hetherington

DEVON

Plymouth Summer Ball

The 10th Wooden Spoon Summer Ball took place at Boringdon Park Golf Club, Plymouth on Friday 5th July. Devon Spoon welcomed 150 guests to the great event, which included dancing to the fabulous "Souled Out".

The guest of honour for the evening was Wooden Spoon Ambassador Phil Vickery MBE, who entertained guests with a Q&A session.

The evening raised over £2500 for the Devon Region which will contribute towards one of the region's current projects, Southbrook School, where £100,000 will be put towards the cost of building the Wooden Spoon Life Skills Centre which will comprise two linked teaching rooms. One of the rooms will be dedicated to life skills training such as cooking and laundry and the other used for NOCN courses in horticulture, carpentry, plumbing, bricklaying and motor vehicle maintenance.

Kevin Norris from Devon Spoon said of the evening: 'Yet another great Summer Ball on a lovely summer's evening. 150 people wine and dined followed by a great Q&A from our special guest Phil Vickery a Spoon ambassador. Phil also conducted the auction which added to the great fund raising evening that was rounded off with dancing to 'Souled Out'. We now look forward to our next Anniversary Ball in 2014!'



Phil Vickery MBE poses with guests

"The Wooden Spoon Regions and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Charity with over 500 regional committee members working tirelessly to raise funds to ensure that Spoon is able to maintain its charitable work to enhance the lives of children and young people across the four home nations. To get involved in your region's next event, contact your local Regional Committee".

EASTERN COUNTIES

Community Fun Day

On 6th May, Colchester RFC supported by 16th Air Assault Regiment staged a family fun day to raise money for the Eastern Counties region. A great family crowd enjoyed the sunshine, the regimental unit stands, a mini assault course, bouncy castle and pony rides plus lots of supporting stands including a Wooden Spoon marquee with silent auction and raffle.

The day began with the Eastern Counties Colts final between Colchester and Shelford RFC. Shelford ran out winners by 32-13 and the club put on an excellent VIP lunch. There was a musical marching display by the band of the Parachute Regiment before the annual match between Colchester RFC Barbarians and the Dakota XV from the army.

In a closely fought contest played out in front of hundreds of spectators, the match ended in a 33-33 draw after each team scored five tries but missed a conversion. The result meant Dakota XV retained the trophy they had earned after winning last year's inaugural match.

Capt. Jamie MacMeechan was the organiser from the 16th Air Assault Brigade and the Deputy Commander Col. Jacko Jackson presented the cup with the Mayor, Christopher Arnold. Sir Bob Russell MP was also present, presenting prizes to the Mini Section. After all the action on the field the Parachute Regiment's pop group entertained the crowds.

Eastern Counties Region was represented by Alan Line, Maddie Mockler, Patti and Paul Hall and Seamus Farrelly and of course Spoony who was a great hit with all the youngsters. Also on duty that day was Trevor Back with his cycle trainer promoting his Monte Carlo Cycling Challenge later this year. Sponsors also got the chance to guess how many metres Trevor cycled during the day.

The event raised over £2,000 and a very big thank you must go to all the volunteers from Colchester RFC who went about with their collecting buckets and tins selling raffle tickets and wristbands.



Spoon having fun at the fun day

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Trekfest Fundraisers

On 8th June, Simon Lyes and David Aubrey from the Robert Hitchens Group set off on Global Adventure Challenges 27 mile Trekfest, aiming to complete a route up and over some of the highest peaks in the Brecon Beacons in the quickest time possible.

The pair were taking on the challenge to help raise funds for the St James City Farm Project, Tredworth, Gloucester supported by Wooden Spoon.

The Challenge started at Brecon Rugby Club and incorporated the ascent of Col Cribyn, Pen-y-Fan and Corn Du before looping back into Brecon. The first 7 miles of the route followed the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal before the ascent of the highest peaks began. The hot weather conditions made the tough climbs especially difficult, but the duo were the first team home in a time of 8 hours and 40 minutes, to date raising £1,595 on behalf of Wooden Spoon.

David Aubrey commented: We'd like to thank everyone who sponsored us, with special thanks to our main sponsors: Barnwood Construction Ltd and Rex Bishop & Son. The money raised will help support the work of Wooden Spoon and in particular the St James City Farm project; making a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged young people in Gloucestershire.



Simon Lyes and David Aubrey pose with Tim Heal (Centre) chairman of Gloucestershire

"The Wooden Spoon Regions and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Charity with over 500 regional committee members working tirelessly to raise funds to ensure that Spoon is able to maintain its charitable work to enhance the lives of children and young people across the four home nations. To get involved in your region's next event, contact your local Regional Committee".

GUERNSEY

Raising funds for the Dyslexia Centre

Going the extra mile took on a quite literal meaning for the latest two challenges undertaken to raise funds towards the new Dyslexia Centre at the KGV development.

Paula Dodd took on the challenge of running her first marathon and took part in the London Marathon on the 21st April finishing in a time of 4 hours and 11 minutes. Paula was delighted with her run and was overwhelmed by the hundreds of people who lined the streets throughout London in support of such a great event. Wooden Spoon mascot, Spoony, was at the finish line to congratulate Paula and gave her a big thank you hug on behalf of the charity.

Four ex rugby players from St Jacques RFC who have supported Wooden Spoon for a good number of years took on the London to Paris cycle ride covering over 300 miles in 4 days. Known as the Pushang Gang, Matt Chammings, Andy (Tank) Ingrouille, Paul Conway and Brian (Kezzy) Queru left Crystal Palace on a wet Wednesday morning spending some 8 or more hours in the saddle to complete 104 miles.

With strong head winds and lots more rain, the going was tough but the gang pushed on ready for the last 55 miles on Saturday morning. Just outside of Paris, all 140 riders in the organised charity ride gathered for the grand finale in the sunshine. Flanked by escort vehicles, the large group of bicycles made their way down the Champs Elysees, clapped and cheered by the Parisien public and hooted by the many cars, all the way to the Eiffel Tower where supporters, friends and family gathered to greet the weary riders. Both of these amazing challenges have raised an incredible £11,500 for Guernsey Wooden Spoon's current major project, the Dyslexia Centre at the KGV. Both Paula and the Pushang Gang would like to thank all sponsors for their support and kind donations.



Vive La France

HERTFORDSHIRE

Charity Golf Day

Knebworth Golf Club was the venue for Hertfordshire Region Golf Day for the 4th year running when exactly 100 golfers enjoyed a glorious late summer day's play. Starting at 10.30am Rob Brown's usual innovative and hugely entertaining trick show was just the prelude to a further 12 hours including golf, (in various degrees of competency); pre-dinner drinks on the patio in the wonderful evening sunshine with new President Will Fraser (Saracens & England Saxons); and a formal sit down dinner. All of this was interspersed with heads & tails, a raffle, prize giving, and some magical musical entertainment by long time Wooden Spoon supporter and tenor, Martin Toal together with violinist Emily Wainwright.

There were 5 separate opportunities to win prizes on the course, where David Griffiths & Chairman's wife Elke also provided hot dogs at the refreshment tent. There were team prizes for 'top 4' and 'most golf', the latter going to local Knebworth team led by Board Director John Morgan, which just goes to prove that local knowledge means absolutely nothing!

Conversely, Messrs Lloyd, Cuthbert, Beddoes & Davey (who had the round of his life with 45 points off 18 handicap) played great golf and won by a clear 7 points. They will go forward to the Nationals at The Oxfordshire full of hope.

So a great day enjoyed by all and demonstrating yet again, in raising a magnificent £5,600, that it is possible to adhere to Spoon's value of keeping the fun in fundraising to the ultimate benefit of the disadvantaged children throughout Hertfordshire.



John Batters, Emily Wainwright and Martin Toal

KENT

An Evening with 'Marvellously Marilyn'

A very enjoyable evening was had on 13th April at Knole Park Golf Club with a cabaret supper in aid of Wooden Spoon. 105 supporters attended for a two course supper and an evening with Marilyn Munroe. Sarah Applewood does a marvellous Marilyn impersonation and she was just outstanding. In spite of very little fundraising efforts the event raised over £1,200, thanks to the wonderful generosity in the room.

LEICESTERSHIRE

The Century Cycle Challenge

Malc Foulkes -Arnold, the Leicestershire Wooden Spoon's chairman completed the Century Cycle Challenge on the Saturday 4th May. As in previous years he set off with a group of 15 riders on the 100 mile cycle from Neville Holt, near Market Harborough. The route followed a figure of 8 pattern with a feed station every 25 miles.

The former Tiger lock forward raised £1900 through Just Giving. In his absence, on the 4th May the Tigers past players held a Tigers v London Irish reunion match at Welford Road and raised a total of £210.



Participants of the Century Cycle Challenge

LEICESTERSHIRE

Leicestershire St George's Dinner



Party time at the St George's Dinner

On Friday 19th April, Malcom Foulkes-Arnold, chairman of Leicestershire Wooden Spoon, welcomed the guests at the 6th Annual St.George's Day Luncheon. The event has grown with each successful year, with the luncheon being 200 strong.

The Cow and Plough was as ever the host venue and provided a traditional 4 course English lunch incorporating locally produced food, wines and English Ales.

Leicestershire's President, Peter Wheeler, entertained the audience with amusing anecdotes of his time as an English and British Lion Hooker. Ron Gould's "Rocking Ronnies" played throughout the afternoon with a Patriotic Sing-A-Long such as Swing Low, Sweet Chariot and Rule Britannia. The luncheon and singing was enhanced with the appearance of Mark Luther, a tenor of repute. It was a very profitable event with £6,000 raised.

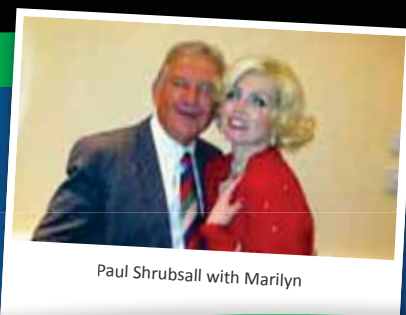
MERSEYSIDE

British & Irish Lions Lunch

The clubhouse at Liverpool St.Helens, Moss Lane headquarters was packed out for a very special Wooden Spoon event on Saturday, 8th June. Shortly after the British and Irish Lions had earned victory against the Queensland Reds, local rugby enthusiasts were treated to another four hours of entertainment from a Lions triumph in a different era: Manager Fran Cotton and Coach Jim Telfer, whose contribution to the successful 1997 Tour of South Africa will long be remembered, were the guests for a question and answer hosted by dual code international Ray French.

Merseyside Spoon Chairman Stan Bagshaw, who himself enjoyed a starring role as baggage man on that memorable trip, had masterminded the afternoon which began with a buffet lunch and ended with a unique prize draw, the first ever occasion it is thought that there has been a raffle at Moss Lane with no extra charge! Amongst numerous prize winners, local stalwart Tommy Jackson went away as the proud owner of a much coveted Wooden Spoon dressing gown, kindly donated by Wooden Spoon committee member Dave Reed, though no-one was quite sure where it had come from!

The rugby banter moved in all directions, with Jim Telfer and Fran Cotton never sitting on the fence in reply to a variety of Lions past and present questions. An Australian viewpoint, to provide the balance, came from St.Helens Rugby League Coach Nathan Brown; his question as to whether Quade Cooper would get the fly half spot in the test side was not as controversial as his second query "Why is it you think the Aussies aren't so good?" or words to that effect.



Paul Shrubsall with Marilyn

Merseyside Wooden Spoon Chairman Stan Bagshaw declared the afternoon a huge success. This might not be as high profile as the Christmas Lunch but it was a real coup for us and will provide a big boost to the on going fundraising.



Left to right, Ray French, Jim Telfer, Fran Cotton and Stan Bagshaw

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland Annual Golf Day

17 teams of 4 competed in this years annual golf day and despite blustery, cool conditions everyone enjoyed the challenge of the Texas Scramble format. Popular winners were the team captained by Northumberland Wooden Spoon Chairman Anthony Stoker which finished just ahead of last years winners captained by Michael Old.

Matfen Hall provided wholesome bacon butties pre golf and a very enjoyable 3 course meal afterwards. We would like to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Barclays Bank in supporting the raffle and Premier Insurance for sponsoring the longest drive. Also grateful thanks to all those who provided a variety of auction and raffle items.

In all we should see something like £4500 added to the coffers to support future projects in Northumberland.



Golfers at the Northumberland Golf Day

SCOTLAND

Stew Mel Lions raise funds for Scotland Spoon

As part of an initiative to fundraise for charity and a forthcoming Italy tour the P7 mini rugby squad from Stewart's Melville RFC were tasked with raising funds for Wooden Spoon.

After much car washing, grass cutting, housework, home baking and sponsored runs, to name but a few, a cheque was presented to Charlie Bryden, Scotland Regional Chairman, on the 11th May for £2,000. This was subsequently increased to £2,300 on the night following a memorable evening of games and presentation of the tour kit from Jim Calder and Roddy Grant.

After the fundraising had finished 28 dads and 28 lads travelled to the beautiful town of Clusone in Italy for a rugby tour which took place from the 17th- 20th May. This started on the Friday night with training by top Italian International try scorer Marcello Cuttitta where the P7 rugby squad learned to fulfil his exacting standard of discipline in their skill levels. The boys then competed against Italian opposition who were determined to win. On the

Saturday tournament, the boys were awarded 2nd and 3rd places below a tidy Parma side. Finally on the Sunday tournament, it was a great finish with a 1-2 podium place for the Stew Mel Lions sides!

Scotland Spoon would like to thank everyone involved at the Stewart's Melville RFC for raising the funds which enables us to continue to support projects and make a continuing difference to thousands of disadvantaged children and young people in the region.



The P7 mini rugby squad cheque presentation

SCOTLAND

Treorchy Evening

In August every year Edinburgh becomes one of the cultural capitals of the world and this year Wooden Spoon Scotland contributed to that status by inviting the world famous Treorchy Male Choir to give a recital in the President's Suite at Murrayfield Stadium.

Former Scottish and British Lions captain, and Spoon Scotland Honorary President, Gavin Hastings acted as master of ceremonies for the evening and was in irrepressible form.

Needless to say the Choir more than lived up to their reputation. Led by a dynamic trio comprising Conductor Dr Haydn James, Choirmaster Selwyn Jones and MC Dean Powell, they gave a diverse and hugely entertaining performance, which was given further vitality and humour by soprano soloist Ros Evans.

Those present quite clearly enjoyed themselves as almost £3000 was raised on the evening.



Scottish National Committee Chairman, Charlie Bryden, receiving the plaque from Dr Haydn Jones, flanked by the Choir and Ros Evans.

SHROPSHIRE

Shropshire Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament

On the 14th July, 24 players arrived for Shropshire region's first tennis tournament which took place at Shrewsbury Lawn Tennis Club on their six grass courts at the side of the River Severn.

The Tennis Club's Chairman Sue Dale had been so supportive of the idea of the tournament and the arrangements made by the club were absolutely magnificent. The idea of the tournament was to spread the word of Wooden Spoon beyond the traditional rugby heartland.

Glyn Dobbs, Chairman, said "At first we were a little apprehensive of arranging such a tournament and would we get the necessary support. The idea was to spread the word of Wooden Spoon rather than to raise funds although in the end over £500 was raised.

Jane Brown who organised the whole tournament and without whose help the afternoon would not have happened was presented with her Wooden Spoon top.

The afternoon was rounded off with tea and Pimms on the Club's balcony.



A grand day at the mixed doubles tennis tournament

SUSSEX

Fundraising in Sussex

On 6th June, 15 teams of golfers from rugby clubs and referees raised £2,200 for Wooden Spoon at the Sussex Rugby Golf Championship at Pyecombe Golf Club, near Brighton. The winners were Pulborough RFC with Old Mid Whitgiftians RFC second and Crowborough RFC third.

Earlier in the year, Sussex Wooden Spoon fielded a Wooden Spoon 7's team in the 55th Sunshine 7's at East Grinstead. 4 runners ran for Wooden Spoon in the Brighton Marathon and Sussex Wooden Spoon also fielded a mixed team in the Chichester RFC Beach Rugby Festival, held on the sands at West Wittering. The Sunshine 7's has traditionally been the preferred warm up tournament for Wooden Spoon Rugby before the official curtain raiser to the 7's season in Kinsale.

As always the team performed remarkably well, both on and off the field, reaching the semi-final of the plate competition, despite being a scratch side competing against seasoned 7's specialists, and raising funds for Sussex Wooden Spoon.

The teams were comprised of players from local clubs such as Hayward's Heath RFC, Worthing RFC, Uckfield RFC and Hurstpierpoint and Worth Schools. Our thanks must go to Steve May who organised the team on the day and to the Sussex Wooden Spoon committee and of course East Grinstead Rugby Club for their support throughout the tournament.

A new fund raising event took place on 18th June when 110 supporters of Spoon in Sussex enjoyed an evening's Horse Racing at Brighton Racecourse and raised £2,500.

ULSTER

Ulster Spoon 1st Lions Breakfast

The Ulster Wooden Spoon Committee hosted a Breakfast for over 100 Members and Guests at Belfast Harlequins for the First Lions Test. We were delighted that five former Lions were able to attend. These were our joint President Jack Kyle, who welcomed everybody to the event, Cecil Pedlow, Trevor Ringland, David Irwin and Nigel Carr.

An excellent breakfast was provided by Belfast Harlequins under the excellent stewardship of Bernie McGrath, and a quick Q&A took place with some of

the Lions before we all settled down to watch the match.

The Lions as we all know won 23-21 with George North's try the highlight - although some might say that the highlight was Kurtley Beale's final penalty attempt.

A great morning was enjoyed by all and the Ulster Committee would like to thank all at Quins for their assistance.

WALES

London Marathon

Clive Thomas of Cardiff-based, Watkins & Gunn Solicitors has raised over £4,000 for Wooden Spoon after completing the London Marathon.

Clive, who doubled his fundraising target of £2,000, completed his first marathon in five hours and 38 minutes.

In preparation for the grueling 26 mile run, Clive lost three stone. Due to injury he had to develop his own unique training regime which involved running in the pool at the Vale Hotel and, at one point, running in a rooftop pool in the tropical rain of Singapore!

Clive said: "The marathon was a hard but really rewarding and special experience that I will never forget. With all my training in the pool - I was hoping for rain on the day...but instead London was bathed in sunshine! It was a real challenge for me to get around, but the fantastic support from the spectators spurred me on to finish."

Dave Roberts, CBE Paralympic gold medalist and supporter of Wooden Spoon charity, said: "Clive has done a great job in raising a considerable amount for the charity. Completing the London Marathon is certainly no mean feat and it was a pleasure to present Clive with his medal. It is through the efforts of people like Clive that the charity can continue to make a difference to so many disadvantaged children in South Wales."

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The Wooden Spoon Men's team in action



Clive Thomas completes London Marathon

WALES

Valeride 2013

Over 100 riders took part in this year's Wooden Spoon 'Valeride', a gruelling 51 mile ride around the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan's lanes and coastline. The brand new route proved challenging with several tough climbs but everyone made it round safely in 4-6 hours.

Sponsored by Brains Brewery and The Vale Resort, the event attracted both regular and casual cyclists of all abilities including teams from Brains, Morgan Cole, Cowbridge RFC, WRU, Watkins & Gunn, and HLN architects as well as former Welsh International full back Rhys Williams.

Former International referee and committee member Clive Norling was also on hand to keep discipline with his red and yellow cards.

Several members of the Wales committee took part whilst others kept the riders fed and watered en route and welcomed them home.

It is anticipated that over £5000 will be raised for projects in Wales.



Wooden Spoon Valeriders

WARWICKSHIRE

Warwickshire Regional Golf Day

A glorious day was had by all 28 teams competing in this year's event. Congratulations must go to the Watermill Hotel Paisley Scotland for winning the event for the third year in succession. Many thanks to Maxstoke Park Golf Club for the pristine condition of the course. To Sheila and Sadie and staff for looking after us throughout the day and the superb dinner to round off the proceedings. We were all thoroughly entertained by Paul Boardman who was very professional and funny. Special thanks to Jim White and White Metals of Coventry who sponsored the day along with Paddy Carey of Carey's Nightclub Coventry and Neil Askew of Askew accountants.

A special presentation was made by Martin Wyles of Bablake Wine's to Warwickshire Wooden Spoon of £1200 which had been raised at their companies Golf day.

Through the generosity of our long standing supporters, we thank them all. We should have raised in the region of £7,000 on the day with the raffle, gamble hole and self generated auction prizes.

Joshua Davenport again helped in organising the day. He ran the gamble hole and sold raffle tickets which alone made £1000.



Presentation made to Jim White of Martin Johnson photograph at opening of Hereward College project.

YORKSHIRE

Black Sheep Firkin Challenge

One just had to admire the enthusiasm and sheer fortitude of all the entrants into this year's cycle challenge around the Yorkshire Dales. Since much of the route followed that of next year's Tour de France opener, it was considered already very challenging for the professional riders. Add to the mix some of the most spiteful weather imaginable, then we need to raise a glass or two of our sponsor's finest in praise and thanks to all participants and marshals. Both the 60 mile route and the 100 mile route were well subscribed as teams set off from Masham under dark foreboding clouds. There were one or two no-shows but in all honesty one look out of the window could have justifiably sent more back under the duvet!

There is a saying that there is no such thing as bad weather just bad kit. Well, by the time the front runners reached the 30 miles mark there were many who were wearing top class rainwear but were soaked and frozen to the core. Paul Theakston was concerned for the safety of some participants and because one or two were distressed, a cancellation was considered. However, fuelled by Mars bars, bananas, warm drinks and Betty's Fat Rascals few chose to stop

riding and showed commendable grit and sheer guts in continuing.

As by way of reward the heavens did relent but news of sunshine was unfortunately just wishful thinking. However, the day ended better than it had started as riders began to generate body heat upon their return to Masham. Further checkpoints at Hawes and Wensleydale rugby club found all riders in much better spirits as they neared the end of their ordeal.

No doubt about it, the "Yorkies" are a tough lot and their combined efforts have raised in the order of £18,476.41 for Yorkshire Wooden Spoon! What a great effort by all.

As ever grateful thanks to our main sponsor Paul Theakston and all at Black Sheep Brewery and Edward Jennings and his team from Manrochem. We couldn't do it without you!



Stuart Watson (in yellow), Yorkshire Spoon's new chairman, lines up with his BBOB team and those from Boys at the Back. smiles were soon to be wrenched off faces!!



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Wooden Spoon Regional Activity



As Wooden Spoon celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is impossible not to recognise the sterling and invaluable contribution of our main fundraisers – our regional volunteers, without whom the Wooden Spoon charity would not exist!

Since its formation in 1983 Wooden Spoon has grown from a handful of English rugby supporters enjoying a game of golf, to over 40 regions throughout the United Kingdom who undertake fundraising activities to raise money for local projects. The Wooden Spoon regions and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Charity with over 500 committee members working tirelessly to raise funds which ensure that Wooden Spoon is able to maintain its charitable work.

Our Head Office at Fleet in Hampshire has a dedicated team whose responsibility it is to provide support to the regional volunteers. They assist in the formation of new regions and help established regions by taking on much of the time-consuming elements of running a region, from mass mailings to providing merchandise and promotional material. This in turn frees up the regional volunteers to do what they do best – putting the fun into fundraising! Wooden Spoon is always striving to develop and grow, and there have recently been some exciting changes in the regional arena. The London region which has been inactive for a while has been reformed and now incorporates the old Middlesex region. Nick Mobley has taken the role of Chairman and is ably supported by committee members Sarah Griffiths, James Endersby and Will Bailey.

Our newest region is Bedfordshire which has been established within the last two months, with Chairman Oliver Richbell at the helm. He is joined by committee members Jennifer Davies and Patrick Carter.

Mid/North Wales Regional Committees are being revitalised and new individuals are currently being identified to develop the vast potential that exists in Wales.

We are also happy to announce that Guernsey have a new chairman. Julie Chamming who will replace Brian Queru, who took over as the regional chairman of Guernsey in 2008.

Wherever you live and whatever your background, your local region is always pleased to welcome new volunteers. If you would like to help Wooden Spoon in making a difference to the children and young people we support, please get in touch with your local regional chairman. Their details can be found on the back page of this issue.



Wooden Spoon Yorkshire



Wooden Spoon Wales



Wooden Spoon Isle of Man



Wooden Spoon Scotland



The Treorchy Male Choir Tour

By Bob Harris, Wales Regional Development director, Wooden Spoon.

Scottish National Committee
Chairman, Charlie Bryden and the choir

The World Famous Treorchy Male Choir recently embarked on a Wooden Spoon promotional tour to Scotland under the leadership of Dr Haydn James as the guest musical director. Haydn has conducted choirs at the Millennium Stadium on International day on more than 100 occasions and is a celebrity in his own right.

The 3 venue tour was organised to promote Wooden Spoon in the Borders, with concerts at Galashiels, Berwick On Tweed and in the President's Suite at the home of Scottish rugby, Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

The tourists arrived in Galashiels on the Thursday, when all 60 choristers were guests of the Rowan Boland Trust Sportsman's evening, where former Scottish and Lions captain, Findlay Calder, Jim Leishman and John Htet Kym were guest speakers.

The trust was set up by Rowan's mum and dad, Dave and Elaine, in memory of their son, who sadly passed away at the tender age of just 9 years. The trust has been designed to support young children and give them a better sporting chance in life, which fits comfortably alongside the wonderful work Wooden Spoon does. More information can be found about the trust at rowanbolandmemorialtrust.co.uk.

The evening was a wonderful success, giving the opportunity to promote Wooden Spoon and with many former Scottish Internationals present, which included John Rutherford, Peter Brown, Arthur Brown and current International, Greig Laidlaw. Also present was the 2013 Grand National winning jockey Ryan Mania. There was a great enthusiasm to support future Wooden Spoon events in the Borders, with Bill Turner having already arranged a planning meeting with Charlie Bryden.

On the Friday, the choir performed at Murrayfield, where a more intimate audience, brilliantly hosted by the legendary Gavin Hastings, were royally entertained. The audience included former Wooden Spoon UK Chairman Steuart Howie, Wooden Spoon CEO Steve Holt and his lovely wife June, and Wooden Spoon Scotland Chairman Charlie Bryden and his committee. Everyone thought the choir was absolutely brilliant. Plans are already taking place for the choir to return to Edinburgh, possibly at the Scotland v Wales International, 2015.

Back to Galashiels for the Saturday evening concert, which was a total sell out, with over 500 people eagerly awaiting the performance of the famous choir, they weren't to be disappointed! A standing ovation brought a close to a wonderful concert, leaving the audience thirsting for more. A big thank you must go to all who attended the evening and the organisers who did an excellent job.

Sunday afternoon and Berwick On Tweed was to be the final concert, with Alan Old (President) Anthony Stoker (Chairman) and their committee welcoming the choir for a matinee performance at the Maltings Theatre. Once again, the choir were on top form and a welcoming audience were once again, royally entertained.

Finally, it was back to Galashiels cricket club, where a very warm welcome, including drums and pipers, greeted the choristers for a 'farewell drink' before returning to Wales on the Monday. It was with sore heads and very fond memories that the lads began their long journey down the M6.

Nonetheless, the tour had achieved what it set out to do, win friends, promote Wooden Spoon and put a smile on people's faces. None of this would have been possible without the great Bill Turner. Also, Dave Boland and his committee. Scott Patterson at the Auld Mill, Charlie Bryden and his committee and Anthony Stoker and the Northumberland committee. Until we return 'Diolch Yn Fawr' (Thank you very much).





Cliff Morgan OBE 1930 - 2013

By Bob Harris, Wales Regional Development director, Wooden Spoon.

On such a very sad occasion, as a fellow man of the Rhondda valley and being born just 3 miles apart, it is an honour to be asked to write a tribute to a man all young Welsh fly halves aspired to be – Cliff Morgan.

Cliff was born on 7th April 1930 in the Rhondda Valley mining village of Trebanog. A former captain of his beloved Wales, he represented his country on 29 occasions, he also captained the British Lions against South Africa in 1955. He enjoyed a distinguished career in broadcasting, where he reached the position of Head Of Outside Broadcast at the BBC, he was also one of the first team captains of popular long running series of 'A Question Of Sport' alongside Henry Cooper.

Whoever you speak to from the world of rugby, they will tell you Cliff was an extremely talented

player, a true gentleman and an extremely humble family man. Cliff will also be fondly remembered for his legendary commentary of the 1973 Barbarians v All Blacks match, when Gareth Edwards scored that infamous try.

Barbara Slater BBC's Director of Sport said of Cliff 'He was a rugby superstar, a pioneer in sports broadcasting, a scholar and a wordsmith who had a wonderful understanding of the use of language in broadcasting'

Gareth Edwards "We are all saddened by the news of Cliff's death. Let's celebrate the great man's life and the fact that we had the privilege of knowing him. He always underplayed his own achievements, but they were all fantastic when you think of it. It's well documented how much he achieved. He was the mainstay of Welsh rugby as a player and in the media he was well respected and held most of the top jobs.

JJ Williams "Of all the Internationals we've had in the past 100 years, I can't think of one that was better than Cliff Morgan. Apart from that and his brilliant commentary, he was a truly lovely person."

Dennis Gethin (President WRU) "I have lost a friend and we have lost one of rugby's greats who was also a true gentleman. Despite all his success, he remained a true gentleman throughout his life and always remained a true son of the Rhondda." Des Lynam, Former BBC Sport presenter "I knew him as a brilliant rugby player for Wales and the Lions through grainy black-and-white images from the 50s but later he was my boss at BBC radio, became my mentor and we formed a friendship that lasted 40 years. A brilliant broadcaster, his advice was wise and invaluable. 'Enjoy yourself' he would say, "It's not working down the mine, is it?"

The World Of Rugby always recognises greatness, Cliff certainly cemented his place in the IRB Hall Of Fame as one of the games greatest and his passing will leave a huge hole in the game of Rugby Football. Wooden Spoon is eternally grateful for the support and time you afforded our charity. You will be sadly missed, but I can assure you, YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

Project Name: William Quarrier Scottish Epilepsy Centre
Project Type: Epilepsy unit
Wooden Spoon Donation: £50,000
Opened by: Chris Paterson MBE



Chairman of SEC Appeal Bill Scott, TNT representatives, Chris Patterson, WS CEO Steve Holt, Gordon Ash, Head of Epilepsy Services Gerald Gahagan & Wooden Spoon Scotland Chairman Charlie Bryden.

The world-class William Quarrier Scottish Epilepsy Centre (SEC) opened on the 12 April this year to help transform the lives of Scots with the condition.

Thanks to a £50,000 award from Wooden Spoon, the centre itself has been transformed into a warm, welcoming place for the teenagers and young people who make up 19% of its admissions.

The Wooden Spoon Young Person's Suite was officially opened by Chris Paterson MBE on the 30 May this year and provides a vital home from home for teenagers and young people: a spacious, age-appropriate environment equipped with a music docking station, a PlayStation 3, and a computer area with an internet point.

The SEC Head of Epilepsy Services, Gerard Gahagan, said, "The Wooden Spoon room is ideal for people aged between 16 and 25 years old who are not used to being away from home in a medical environment. We have already had significant use of the room and even had a waiting list for it at one point. Once the young people are here, they become more

confident about being on their own."

The room has an adjoining carer's room so that a family member is able to stay, providing reassurance for both the family and young person. Once admitted, they can benefit from the SEC's state-of-the-art facilities as well as those at the nearby Institute for Neurological Sciences at the Southern General Hospital, which has one of the world's leading neurology teams.

"Like all other rooms in the SEC, the Wooden Spoon Young Person's Suite is fitted with assessment equipment, which is the significant difference with other hospital environments in that you usually have to move room. It's unique to the service."

Approximately 54,000 Scots have epilepsy (Joint Epilepsy Council, December 2011), with 28,000 of these controlling the condition with medication. However, around 26,000 live with uncontrolled epilepsy, which can lead to recurring seizures of varying severity. As well as these physical risks, epilepsy also has a considerable impact on relationships, work and self-esteem.

Many young people with epilepsy lead restricted lives, with seizures disrupting their education, social life and work prospects. In 2007, more Scottish children died as a result of epilepsy than of leukaemia and young people with epilepsy are five

times more likely to commit suicide.

The earlier young people receive an accurate diagnosis and the correct treatment of their condition, the greater the impact will be on the rest of their lives.

Kelsey began four weeks of assessment at the previous SEC the day after her 16th birthday. Fourteen years of uncontrolled seizures had led her doctors to recommend that she abandon her educational ambitions.

The assessment showed that Kelsey was suffering from three types of epilepsy, for which she subsequently received treatment and she has not had a seizure since.

"The Scottish Epilepsy Centre gave me my life back by getting my epilepsy under control," says Kelsey, who went on to study Highers at college. "I'm now seizure-free and can pursue my dream of studying to become a forensic psychologist."

The Wooden Spoon Young Person's Suite will no doubt enable many more young people to realise their potential.



For more information, please visit www.scottishepilepsycentre.org.uk

2013 Events List

<p>01 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Chilterns Sportsman's Dinner Adams Park Barrie Mair barriemair@bulldoghome.com</p>	<p>05 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Scotland Glasgow Wine Tasting The Trades Hall, Glasgow Sandra McKinnon sandramckinnon@livingstonjames.com</p>	<p>15 FEBRUARY</p>	<p>Eastern Counties Wooden Spoon Lunch Southend Rugby Club Neil Harding agh477799@aol.com</p>
<p>06 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Wales Annual Quiz SWALEC Stadium Phil Dobson phildobson@aol.com</p>	<p>06 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Merseyside Merseyside Christmas Lunch Crowne Plaza Hotel Stan Bagshaw 07968 856077</p>	<p>27 FEBRUARY</p>	<p>Surrey Surrey Sportsman's Dinner R.A.C Woodcote Park Paul Taylor paul@kingsmill.co.uk</p>
<p>15 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Central Wooden Spoon Annual Ball Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel Suzie Haworth shaworth@woodenspoon.com</p>	<p>06 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Warwickshire Annual Christmas Lunch Coventry RFC Ian Holroyd ian@look-whos-talking.co.uk</p>	<p>06 MARCH</p>	<p>Scotland Glasgow Dinner Glasgow Hilton Hotel, Glasgow Jamie Livingston jamie.livingston@livingstonjames.com</p>
<p>15 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Lancashire Lancashire West Coast Luncheon De Vere Blackpool Martin Long martin.long@napthens.co.uk</p>	<p>12 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Sussex Christmas Lunch on Brighton Pier Palm Court Restaurant Bob Rogers bobrogers@therfu.com</p>	<p>07 MARCH</p>	<p>Scotland French Pre-International Lunch Myreside Pavilion, Edinburgh Bruce Cartwright bruce.cartwright@uk.pwc.com</p>
<p>19 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Central Arctic Rugby Challenge Preview Icebar London Marlina Barnes mbarnes@woodenspoon.com</p>	<p>15 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Chilterns Carol Cruise Hobbs Yard Barrie Mair barriemair@bulldoghome.com</p>	<p>11 APRIL</p>	<p>Leicestershire St George's Day Charity Luncheon The Cow and Plough, Stoughton Gemma Bell GemmaBell@corporatearchitecture.co.uk</p>
<p>21 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Gloucestershire Book Launch Dinner - Sold Out Kingsholm Stadium Tim Heal theal@alderking.com</p>	<p>19 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Devon Christmas Lunch The Rougemont by Thistle Hotels Carley Warren carleywarren@passagehousegroup.co.uk</p>	<p>03 MAY</p>	<p>Central Kinsale 7s 2014 Kinsale RFC Ryan Shahin rshahin@woodenspoon.com</p>
<p>24 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Merseyside Merseyside RLWC Buffet Lunch St Helens FC David Matthews david-helen.t21@btinternet.com</p>	<p>20 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Yorkshire Christmas Sporting Luncheon Queens Hotel Adam Hirst adhirst@gmail.com</p>	<p>22 MAY</p>	<p>Scotland Aberdeen Dinner Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen Howard Roper howardhroper@tiscali.co.uk</p>
<p>27 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Guernsey Jonah Lomu Dinner - Sold Out St Pierre Park Hotel Karen Solwood guernsey@woodenspoon.com</p>	<p>17 JANUARY</p>	<p>Scotland Burns Supper Crowne Plaza Roxburghe Hotel Paul Dixon paul.dixon@munro-executive.com</p>		
<p>29 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Somerset Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Pearl Ball Somerset County Cricket Club Sally Reed davidreed952@btinternet.com</p>	<p>05 FEBRUARY</p>	<p>Yorkshire Sheffield Six Nations Dinner Baldwins Omega Bill Reichwald williamreichwald@icloud.com</p>		
<p>30 NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Concert Cheltenham Town Hall Brian King brian.king2@btconnect.com</p>	<p>07 FEBRUARY</p>	<p>Scotland English Pre-International Lunch Myreside Pavilion, Edinburgh Bruce Cartwright bruce.cartwright@uk.pwc.com</p>		

Now in its 30th year, Wooden Spoon takes a look back at where it all started

By Edward Hubbard.



Peter Scott hands over the keys to the new mini bus for Park School, the first ever Wooden Spoon donation in 1983



HRH Prince Edward officially opens the new wheelchair facilities at Twickenham in 1989

On 19th March 1983, the Irish ended their Five Nations campaign with a 10 point win over a struggling England, who had failed to win a match in the competition. Downhearted, a few luckless English supporters entered a Dublin bar in an attempt to drown their sorrows amongst their rival supporters clad in green. With as much jocosity that could be mustered by the English, they accepted a wooden spoon from their friends the Irish victors, symbolising their winless Five Nations disaster. From here the legacy was born.

A year after the English defeat at Lansdowne Road, the committee members decided that the bus should be presented at the England V Ireland match at Twickenham to commemorate the first anniversary of the charity. Other events in 1984 soon followed including a boxing tournament in March, another golf tournament in September, and events were planned to raise a further £10,000 to tackle other charitable needs and “stir some smiles”.

One of Wooden Spoon's first major events was a dinner dance on 30th November 1984 at the Regent Crest Hotel in London, to support the Great Ormond Street Hospital's “help a child to see” programme. The evening was a huge success with a specialist robot handing out the dinner dance souvenir brochures and drinks to surprised guests! Within a year over £80,000 was raised for the purchase of a fundus camera, the vital piece of equipment that can restore the gift of sight to blind children.

On 23rd April 1985, The St George's Day dinner occurred, later to become an annual event in the Wooden Spoon calendar. That particular evening in The Rose Room at Twickenham Stadium included “sporting stars, speeches and cabaret”. 30 years on, the Annual Wooden Spoon Ball is still going strong. Now in its 29th production, the theme for this year is the 1930s: a fitting tribute to 30 years of Wooden Spoon.

Throughout Wooden Spoon's history, many famous sporting faces have played a big part in the promotion of Wooden Spoon's charitable work, including Phil Vickery, Jason Leonard, Martin Johnson, Willie John McBride, Lawrence Dallaglio, Stuart Hogg, John Inverdale and Manu Tuilagi, to only name a few. However, the charity's royal engagements are probably the most famous of faces to have supported Wooden Spoon. The Princess Royal, Prince Edward and Princess Diana have all, at some stage, been involved with the charity. On Saturday 5th November Prince Edward opened the 2nd of Wooden Spoon's projects in 1988, a wheelchair enclosure at Twickenham Stadium, which was the day England had pulled off a memorable 28-19 victory over Australia. Today, HRH The Princess Royal continues to support Wooden Spoon as Patron, and regularly attends project openings.

30 years after the original founders golf day was held in 1983, Wooden Spoon replicated the tournament

again at Farnham Golf Club in celebration of the 30th Anniversary. Many of the original teams, along with new supporters, friends and family joined in the celebrations. The day was fantastic and full of Wooden Spoon spirit and will be remembered for years to come.

A headline printed on 23rd February 1984 stated “Turning defeat into success”, which is a fitting description of this society growing stronger and stronger with more support. Over the last 30 years Wooden Spoon has invested nearly £20 million in over 500 charitable projects that have benefitted over half a million disadvantaged children and young people throughout the UK. None of this would have been possible without the support of our members, the rugby community, the regional volunteers and our staff. We are proud of our legacy and our ambitious plans for the future.



Wooden Spoon donation to the Eye Unit at Great Ormond Street, the first of many medical equipment donations



HRH Diana, Princess of Wales at a Wooden Spoon project opening in 1992



The first ever Wooden Spoon Ball 30th November 1984



Founder Vic Durling enjoying the very first founders golf day in 1983



Spike Milligan with Peter Scott at the Help a child to see project in 1984

Wooden Spoon Ambassador Programme



We find it amazing the lengths people go to to make a difference where it really matters. Since our spring edition of Spoonews, our Industry Ambassadors have continued to contribute and support us in our fundraising in a variety of ways. Some have sponsored our Community Projects, some have given sponsorship and prizes for our fundraising events, and some have offered their expertise and services in kind. Others have quite literally gone the extra mile by pushing the pedal to the metal to participate in two new Spoon Challenges.

In June, Ambassador Jonathan Wright recruited a team from Financial News and other related businesses to cycle over 800 miles from their offices in London to Monte Carlo to arrive 8 days later in time for the Fund Forum Conference.

“Financial News set out to bring its staff and readers together in an exciting challenge with the aim of arriving in Monte Carlo for the Fund Forum Conference. The cycle from London to Monte Carlo exceeded all our expectations and our sincere thanks go to the support crew, the

riders and of course to Wooden Spoon for an experience of a lifetime”.
Jonathan Wright; Circulation Director, WSJ EMEA; & Publisher, Financial News;

Ambassador Adam Fox, from Arthur J Gallagher International, helped to drive forward an identical challenge, but this time for the Insurance Sector.

Andy Reid, Corporate Banking at Barclays, entered a team of 18 into this Challenge and he writes, **“It seemed a great idea back in 2012. We have as**

a team come an amazing way both pre and post the event. The tour had its ups and downs, tears and sores! What a lifetime experience for a great cause”.

Our thanks must go to Ambassador Paul Glen, CEO Cardiff Pinnacle, who sponsored the Lime Street Challenge, **“Very happy to sponsor the event. Maybe I'll ride it next year!”**

These two challenges have raised in excess of £150,000, a fantastic total - and our heartfelt thanks go to all those who took part.

2013 Ambassador Events

During the last six months our Ambassadors have enjoyed the following events.

Scrum Dine with Me 2013

On Tuesday 14th May at Ev Restaurant, Isabella Street London, Wooden Spoon held its fourth annual Scrum Dine with Me competition, once again generously sponsored by Aon Benfield. Battling it out to be crowned 2013 Scrum Dine with Me Champion were rugby legends Phil Vickery MBE, Lee Mears, Nick Easter and Olly Kohn. Each celebrity put their culinary expertise to the ultimate test as they prepared a course of delicious Turkish cuisine. Once prepared they presented their culinary creation to our highly esteemed panel of food critics, led once more by MasterChef's Gregg Wallace who joined us again to put his taste buds to the test! Joining Gregg on the Panel were: Baklava expert, Ahmet Ustunurmeli, Sky Sports Alex Payne and the BBC's Alastair Eykyn.

Once our chefs completed their kitchen duties they then went the extra mile to treat our guests to a hilarious Q&A session, looking back on the domestic season, Six Nations and of course the upcoming Lions Tour.

With the evening formalities over, the last thing remaining was to crown the winner of Scrum Dine with Me 2013. The scores were very close, but eventually Phil Vickery was crowned Champion, with Lee Mears a very close second.

The fundraising activities with the great Ian Robertson on hand to get guests digging deep throughout the night resulted in a great evening for the charity raising a minimum of £25,000.



Our fabulous judge, Gregg Wallace from MasterChef



Our rugby celeb chefs 2013

Ambassadors 30th Anniversary Dinner at the House of Lords, Thursday 3rd October

It is not often that the after dinner speech at a Rugby dinner is a serious affair but, when Wooden Spoon Ambassadors congregated in the prestigious surroundings of the Peers' Dining Room at the House of Lords to enjoy a celebratory 30th Anniversary Dinner, they were treated to an exceptional insight into what it really means to be a British Lion. In his trademark, mesmeric Welsh lilt, Gerald Davies, who scored 13 tries in 19 appearances for the Lions, spoke of the passion and commitment that it takes to become a Lion, the pride and camaraderie that it engenders and the goodwill and inspiration that it disseminates – a memorable and inspiring moment.

The Dinner, kindly hosted by The Lord Chadlington and attended by other great rugby names including Jason Leonard, Phil Vickery, Tom Shanklin and Paul Burnell was held to

thank Wooden Spoon Ambassadors and to raise awareness of the great work that Wooden Spoon is doing to support the Noah's Ark project at the children's hospital of Wales. Wooden Spoon's commitment is to fund two sensory rooms and four play rooms across two floors in phase two of the new building to a total of 250K.

Guests were welcomed by Lord Chadlington and then Steve Holt (CEO of Wooden Spoon) who outlined some of the charity's more recent work. He introduced Gerald Davies and his inspirational talk about the Lions who was then followed by Sir Keith Mills, Deputy Chairman of LOCOG, who spoke with great enthusiasm about his Olympic experience and how young lives can be transformed through the power of sport – a theme integral to the DNA of Wooden Spoon. Finally, Suzie Haworth (Wooden Spoon's Corporate Development Director) recalled the words of Mark

Twain and Sir Winston Churchill to thank those who had made significant contributions during the year. These included event sponsors Quilter Cheviot and Peter Brett Associates, Duncan Spence for his long time support, and generous contribution of his delicious Rickety Bridge wine enjoyed at the Dinner, Lord Chadlington for hosting the event and several Ambassadors who had made a major contribution to the charity during the year.

As guests and celebrities wandered away into the mild October night, they knew that they had participated in an event that reflected the true ethos of Wooden Spoon – an evening of camaraderie and good humour, but with the overriding purpose of making a real difference to the lives of the children and young people across the British Isles that are in urgent need of our help.

An interview with Ambassador Paul Greenslade

We catch up with one of our very generous Ambassadors Paul Greenslade, to reflect on how he has chosen to support Wooden Spoon in his Ambassadorial role.

During your Ambassadorial role since 2010, how have you made a difference?

This has come in a variety of ways: Through the Vitol Foundation where we have funded Community Projects in Wales and Northampton; and help to the Fair Play UK project to a value in excess of £100,000. In addition to this, running the two Oil Golf Days has raised £250,000.

You must be asked all the time to support lots of worthy causes, why Wooden Spoon?

When you described the work Wooden Spoon delivers and the kind of people involved with the charity I knew this was something I wanted to give to.

In recognition of your very kind generosity HRH Princess Royal invited you and your wife Carolyn to join her for lunch at Royal Ascot this year. Did you have a good time?

It was a wonderful afternoon and I was quite taken aback to find I was actually sitting on her table. Her Royal Highness was extremely well briefed on Wooden Spoon and some of the things I had been involved with personally. I was told off by my wife for hogging the conversation when we were introduced prior to lunch - she certainly knows her rugby!

How long have you been at Vitol and what is your key role at present?

I have been with Vitol for over 20 years and am in the process of handing over my various responsibilities to others ahead of my retirement at the end of the year. I came off the main Board in June which was something of a shock as that is when it hit home that I was actually leaving! It is a great company and I have been proud to see it grow to what it is today.

You are incredibly busy but when you have spare time, how do you relax?

When not being the taxi driver that most parents will recognise then I enjoy taking in the big sporting occasions and where possible get on the golf course. It was fantastic for me to go to the last Lions Tour with my two eldest children and my brother - hard to find that quality time together and I really enjoyed it.

You have decided to take retirement early. What will you be looking forward to doing?

I will have more time to see my children, and try to catch up for those times when work stopped me doing that. I have been fortunate in having a

fabulous wife. She shares our love of golf and the mountains and with the children moving on in the coming years we're planning to spend a lot of time doing those things that we have put off for 20 years! She's been a great supporter and I would not be where I am without her.

Wooden Spoon wishes to give thanks to Paul for his kind generosity which has made a difference to many children's lives.



Ambassador Paul Greenslade and Suzie Haworth

Wooden Spoon Corporate

Business collaboration pays off!

From Lime Street, London to the Reinsurance Rendezvous in Monte Carlo – representatives of the insurance and finance sector really pulled together!



The chain took the strain during the first week of September and saw like-minded European and Global Insurance industry professionals depart from outside of Lloyds of London for an epic business networking adventure. They cycled the 1,223 kilometers and arrived in Grand Casino Square to coincide with the start of the biggest convention in their industry calendar on 8th September.

The ride was the brainchild of Wooden Spoon Ambassador, Adam Fox of Arthur J Gallagher & Co, with a personal admission of 'Wow! What a crazy idea'! Adam had taken part in a previous challenge event and wanted to look at developing something specifically for the insurance industry. The idea of a cycle challenge, linking the insurance heartland of the City of London with the sector's key conference event, the Reinsurance Rendezvous in Monte Carlo was born and there was no looking back for Adam, who personally headed up the field.

The journey of a life time for many of the riders followed, providing what has to be one of the most memorable journeys ever to a corporate conference. From the flat lands of Northern France down through the stunning Loire Valley and then over the iconic French Alps – an amazing route with climbs of over 30 miles long and vistas which are



Arrival at Grand Casino Square, Monte Carlo

hard to surpass. Cyclists from 9 different businesses made up the field of 35 riders, demonstrating the camaraderie and support, as well as the business opportunity presented by a collaborative effort that was clearly identified. The event was also generously sponsored by Cardiff Pinnacle, recognising the opportunity of aligning raised awareness of this important conference event in the business calendar with support for Wooden Spoon.

The field of participants included an impressive team of 20 riders from Barclays alone. Andy Reid, Barclays Senior Director, Corporate Banking remarked ' It seemed a great idea back in 2012. We have, as a team, come an amazing way. The tour had its ups and downs, tears and sores! What a lifetime experience for a great cause.'

Could your business sector benefit from an unforgettable experience and great networking opportunity? Contact us for further ideas at corporate@woodenspoon.com

Business Breakfast with James Haskell and Alastair Eykyn, hosted by Baker Tilly on Tuesday, September 24th 2013

A misty September morning welcomed our Business Breakfast for Wooden Spoon Ambassadors and supporters. Guests gathered at the Farringdon Street offices of Baker Tilly for a Q&A with Wooden Spoon Rugby Ambassadors, James Haskell and Alastair Eykyn.

At 6' 4" and not far short of 18 stone, James gave a fascinating insight into club and International rugby, his struggle to regain fitness after his recent injury problems and his aim to get back fully into the England squad. The discussion was wide ranging and covered England's chances in the World Cup and the necessary preparation, the structure of the game today, pressure on players and a few amusing stories too of course!

Following on from the interview between James and Alastair, guests enjoyed a buffet breakfast where they had the opportunity to network with fellow Ambassadors and to hear about the work of the charity.

Thanks must go to Baker Tilly for being our generous host and for the support they give to Wooden Spoon.



James and Alastair in full Q&A swing



James Haskell posing with the city of London in the background



Raising the Game!

We are raising our game at Wooden Spoon to provide a programme of excellence for our corporate partners through Seeing is Believing. In addition to our existing project visits to see first hand how your fundraising makes a difference, our future plans include exciting opportunities for your staff and key stakeholders. From volunteer opportunities through to senior staff or client involvement, we aim to support you in achieving your targets for corporate responsibility and to create first class opportunities for engagement.

Our goals are high and we want to hear from you so that you can tell us what you would like to see from our future SiB programme. Please get in touch to share what your company would like to experience and help us shape our SiB programme by contacting Ren Fox at rfox@woodenspoon.com

Be a part of the action!

Wooden Spoon's transformation from a sleeping giant into a world class charitable organisation that dominates the rugby and children's charity sectors has officially begun!

Our official partnership with Rugby League World Cup 2013 marks an important milestone in our history, allowing us to raise vital awareness for our charity, as well as creating opportunities to raise much needed charitable income.

We hope our existing corporate supporters will enjoy sharing the experience with us and that new business contacts will be made as a result. Charity partnership selection at this level is a massive vote of confidence in Spoon on behalf of our patron, the Rugby Football League, and a fantastic opportunity to be placed in the spotlight.

You can help by promoting support for Wooden Spoon in your business community. In celebration of our partnership with Rugby League World Cup 2013, encourage employees to take out a Wooden Spoon supporter membership before the end of the year and they will receive a £13 discount on the annual donation (£27 instead of £40).



Wooden Spoon Golf 2013

With celebrations in full swing for the 30th Anniversary it is safe to say that Wooden Spoon Golf has celebrated in style. Starting in Portugal and finishing at The Oxfordshire for our National Golf final in October, it really has been an exciting few months.



The first founders golf day 1983



Investec and Wooden Spoon join forces to reproduce the original Founders Golf Day, held in 1983



On Monday 16th September 22 teams of golfers gathered at Farnham Golf Club to celebrate 30 years of Wooden Spoon, by recreating the original Founders Golf Day which was held on 16th September 1983. We were joined by many of the original attendees along with new partners, supporters, friends and family for what was a very special day.

The course was in glorious condition and players were blessed with the warm September sunshine. The golfers enjoyed various drink stops en route and also a delicious barbecue at the halfway house specially prepared by Sheila Scott, Angela Scott, Katherine Mills and June Holt.

After nearly 6 hours of golf our weary golfers returned to the club house for a well earned pint at the bar before they set off to spruce up for the evening's entertainment, that was sure to carry on well into the early hours.

The fabulous David Trick was our host for the evening and regaled us with earlier Wooden Spoon memories and also a few anecdotes from past rugby days, all of which kept the room highly amused. Between courses prepared by head chef Bob at the club, Clive Norling, former Welsh international rugby union referee, gave a rather amusing speech comparing today's rugby rules with those of the 80's. The evening was not complete without the singing voice of our wonderful Fred Hucker, who true to

tradition started the ever popular sing along with his rendition of God Save the Queen.

The winning teams were, in first place the Founder's team of Vic Durling, Keith Menzes, Vic Pengelly and Keith Wheatley. In second place UHY Marketing team of Marc Waterman, Michael Beavis, Steve Stroud and Jeremy Lichtenfield and in third place from TNT's team, Dave Cox, Phil Cheswell, Mike Thomas and Brian Inglis.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all who took part in making our 30th Anniversary Founders Golf Day so special- in particular to Peter Scott MBE and the founders, for their vision and commitment, without whom this day would not have been possible.

The Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Celebrity Rugby Golf Classic

What a way to kick off our 30th Anniversary celebrations; in the Algarve led by our new Golf Ambassador Lee Mears. Wooden Spoon voyaged to Portugal on 25th April for our first 2 day golf tournament at the Le Meridien Penina Hotel Golf & Resort. Congratulations to Handle Recruitment who took the trophy with pride alongside their rugby player Paul Burke who played a fantastic game of golf and also winning Beat the Pro.

Further special thanks are owed to our rugby players Lee Mears, Harry Ellis, Shaun Perry, David Trick, Paul Burke and Jeremy Pugh who made this an event to remember. A huge thank you to Arthur J Gallagher International, who generously sponsored this event.



The Wooden Spoon Golf Day at Stoneleigh Deer Park, Supported by TNT

Another year and another successful golf day, raising over £26,000 and sponsored by our principal supporter TNT. This year's 2013 competition was held for the third time running at Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club in Coventry on 26th September.

Though the weather was a bit touch and go leading up to the tournament, fortunately on the day the rain held off and we were graced with a warm and sunny autumn day. As the tournament got under way the Tom Bell's Whisky Challenge brought out our golfers'

competitive side with the chance to win a 4.5 litre bottle of whisky! Many tried and failed, some came very close but our very own comedian on the night, Aaron James, rolled in first and happily auctioned the whisky bottle off in the evening to help raise more funds for the charity.

Many thanks must go to our special guest Carolyn Claridge, Head Teacher at Tiverton School, who gave the audience a wonderful presentation showing how the contribution from Wooden Spoon has had such a positive effect on the children at Tiverton School.

We would like to give sincere thanks to TNT for organising such a great day, that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



National Golf Final, supported by Mastersgolf

On 4th October, Wooden Spoon held its annual National Golf Final at The Oxfordshire joined by our Rugby Ambassador Lee Mears and Wooden Spoon Chairman of Trustees, John Gibson. The Oxfordshire played host to the Wooden Spoon National Golf Final event and the course was in a fantastic condition, with 20 teams competing for the title of Wooden Spoon National Golf Winner of 2013 and the tournament trophy donated

by Nick Faldo. The winning team from Manchester & Cheshire won the competition with 91 points, followed by the Leicestershire team with 88 points and the Nottinghamshire team with 86 points. After a serious game of golf, the fun began in the evening with brilliant dining and entertainment led by comedian Martin Gold. Very special thanks go to our sponsor Mastersgolf who have generously sponsored this event for the last 4 years.



Wooden Spoon Case Study

Project Name: Coppice School, Lancashire
Project Type: Outdoor classroom
Wooden Spoon Donation: £6,500
Opened by: Bill Beaumont CBE



Our outdoor Classroom

Our outdoor area prior to development. There was little to motivate the pupils and stimulate their curiosity.



A work in progress!

“The generosity shown by Wooden Spoon through the provision of an outdoor classroom has brought a new lease of life to the outdoor environment of our school and with it, many more opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom.”

The Coppice School is an all age community special school based in Preston, Lancashire. Our youngsters have a range of needs to include severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties and complex medical needs. We have 65 pupils currently on roll at the school aging from 2 up to 19 years.

Having such a diverse range of learning needs highlights the importance of a personalised curriculum for our special learners. Thankfully, our wonderful staff team know our pupils well and ensure that activities are carefully planned to motivate and engage children in their learning. However, this can prove challenging when physical space is limited and when the outdoor environment is uninspiring and in need of development. Indeed, this was the problem we faced just a couple of years ago and so we set about transforming the area to take the curriculum outside and encourage outdoor learning opportunities.

The grassy mound was especially ‘boggy’ and required the installation of drains in order to make the land accessible throughout the year.

Next, we focused on the construction of a specialist trim trail and outdoor mobility area to promote mobility and transfer opportunities for many of our youngsters experiencing difficulties in independence of movement. We were very keen to use natural materials and so a story telling corner, picnic area and pathway were constructed using age-old dry walling techniques and the skills of Cumbrian farmers.

The outdoor classroom kindly provided by Wooden Spoon was simply the ‘icing on the cake’. This facility has ensured that our pupils can access the outdoor area all year round regardless of the weather. It is fully equipped with lighting, heating and a power source – all very useful during the cold winter months. Staff from a local firm NIS Ltd (Chorley) were especially helpful and volunteered to wood stain the outdoor classroom in preparation for the coming winter months.



A member of staff from NIS Ltd (Chorley) painting the outdoor classroom with a protective woodstain.

Back in December 2012 we were thrilled to welcome Bill Beaumont CBE to The Coppice School to officially open the outdoor classroom. Sadly, the weather was far from kind and produced a downpour of rain but this did little to dampen the spirits of our pupils, special guests and parents who were keen to attend this exciting event.

Staff are keen to keep the outdoor classroom as a blank canvas, free from decoration and furniture as they didn’t want the space to have any limitations in its use. Consequently, the classroom is used for many different purposes to include;

- Drama and story telling (it has featured as Grandma’s cottage in the tale of Red Riding Hood)
- As a base for outdoor orienteering activities
- Plant potting and gardening (we now grow our own vegetables)
- A festive grotto at Christmas time
- Exploration in Science and Geography
- A lunchtime activity centre
- Outdoor activities based in many curriculum areas, e.g. Mathematics, music

We are assured that the outdoor classroom will continue to provide the ideal space for a whole host of different learning opportunities for many years to come.

Thank you Wooden Spoon!



The official opening of our outdoor classroom (December 2012)

Project Name: Autism Anglia; Doucecroft School
Project Type: Wooden Spoon Trampoline
Wooden Spoon Donation: £16,862
Opened by: Phil Vickery MBE

Doucecroft School was delighted to welcome Spoon Ambassador Phil Vickery MBE to officially open its Wooden Spoon Trampoline. The specialist school in Colchester, owned by Autism Anglia, provides day and residential boarding facilities for children and young people with autism.

Thanks to a wonderful grant from Wooden Spoon, the charity was able to install a tightly sprung outdoor trampoline to help overcome the sensory difficulties that the children face.

The sensations offered by the trampoline provide an effective way of helping children with autism to calm, organise and regulate their responsiveness

to everyday sensations which can often be overwhelming and confusing. The trampoline is used by the children throughout the day as part of a strategy to aid concentration and classroom learning, all of which helps them to reach their full potential.

"It was wonderful that Phil Vickery was able to come to Doucecroft to open the new trampoline" said Anna Rogers, Fundraising Officer for the charity. "He spent so much time talking to the children, posing for photos and signing Rugby balls and despite being a bitterly cold day, spent a long time bouncing on the trampoline with the children. The interest and kindness he showed made them feel very special indeed".

"The new outdoor trampoline has been a great success", added Jane Smart Head of Education at Doucecroft School. "It plays an important role in our sensory diet approach which enables students to manage their arousal levels and be ready to learn. Another very important function for our trampoline is that it is GREAT FUN and helps keep the students fit!!".



Phil Vickery and Ricardo Lee cutting the ribbon at Doucecroft School



Project Name: Stepping Stones Play and Learn
Project Type: Sensory Room
Wooden Spoon Donation: £7,800
Opened by: Phil Vickery MBE

The new sensory room has been a fantastic addition to our group, by offering an immediate calm and helping us to work with our children's individual needs.

Each day, when our autistic children arrive we often chose to use the sensory room first, as after this visit they are far more cooperative with us throughout the rest of the day.

We then return to the room after the school day to help the children relax before they go home to their families.

Physio, although needed, is often uncomfortable for our children but with the new sensory room the children are distracted by the various light programmes, making the whole process easier for

both staff and children.

All of our children have little or no language, but the sensory room helps to stimulate language by using light to react to different sounds.

Giving our children opportunities to have fun and play is at the top of our priorities and the room provides this to approximately 100 children from birth to 16yrs every week. In fact we had a little boy with cerebral palsy and autism who refused to go home as he was having such fun!

We are extremely grateful to Wooden Spoon for their support in providing the funding enabling us to have this wonderful sensory room. By providing the equipment we need, it enables us to concentrate our own fund raising on the running costs and staffing, so your support is invaluable.

On behalf of the Children, Staff and Parents we would like to say a very big THANK YOU to you all!



Stepping Stone's children enjoying the new sensory room



The sensory room is a vital part of the children's daily activities

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Wooden Spoon is a charity dedicated to supporting children and young people across the UK who are disadvantaged physically, mentally or socially.

Making a donation or leaving a gift in your will to Wooden Spoon would bring us valuable funds to help us continue our work. For more information please contact:

Wooden Spoon, 115-117 Fleet Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 3PD. Tel: 01252 773720
Charity Registration No 326691 (England & Wales) and SC039247 (Scotland)



Thank you from Wooden Spoon

There are of course many reasons to thank you, our supporters, probably as many reasons as there are thousands of you! But we would like to take this opportunity to thank a particular and special group of people – the families and friends who have donated to the charity in memory of loved ones who have passed away.

In the last twelve months alone, we have received numerous donations, both in memory of loved ones and in lieu of flowers at their funerals. We would like to thank the families of Chris Mapletoft, Gordon Provan, Vera Booth, Malcolm Thomas, Malcolm Bartlett, John Bradshaw, Paul Buschini, Rex Burdett, Hughie McFadden and David Maconachie. Their support at such a difficult time is hugely appreciated and incredibly poignant.



From sadness comes smiles

The Chilterns Region has recently received a sizeable donation from the estate of someone who wished to remain anonymous. This donation has enabled the Committee, led by Regional Chairman Barrie Mair, to support two projects in their Region to date. The Committee elected to support the Special Effect Stargaze project by contributing towards the costs of purchasing two vehicles and equipping them with a range of IT demonstration units. Funds have also been directed towards the cost of building and equipping a kitchen at the Adventure Centre at Ufton Court Educational Trust, near Reading. Although we are unable to publicly acknowledge the donor's support of these projects, we are extremely grateful that Wooden Spoon has been able to improve many more lives of disabled young people in the Chilterns Region as a result of these funds.

Grateful for

giftaid it

A final thank you is to those members who, after receiving either the last edition of Spoonnews or a letter in the post, responded by giving Wooden Spoon permission to reclaim Gift Aid on any donations they had made in the last four years. We appreciate the positive response and would strongly encourage any other members or donors not currently 'Gift-Aiding' to contact the office and speak to someone about boosting your donations to Wooden Spoon at no additional cost to you.

For more information please contact Karen Macaulay at kmacaulay@woodenspoon.com or call 01252 773720

Wooden Spoon Community Projects

Working in partnership with professional rugby clubs and specialist education providers, Wooden Spoon Education Projects support disenfranchised young people back into education, employment or training.



Education Projects

Warrington Wolves' Ben Harrison (Loose Forward) joins Warrington learners at the graduation event in July. Also pictured: Inspector Richard Spedding (Community Safety Partnership) and project delivery partners from Wooden Spoon, YMCA Training and Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation.)

9 education projects up and running
(Bath, Northampton, Leicester, Worcester, Newcastle, Sale (all HITZ projects), Edinburgh, Glasgow and Warrington)

121 Learners completing education courses
(for most the first significant qualifications in their lives)

Over 1000 NEET* young people aged 16- 24 engaged in community sports sessions
*not in employment, education or training

85 young people achieving a positive progression
(to college, apprenticeship, employment)

Education Projects by Numbers

Of the 85 learners that achieved a positive progression, the majority, (68%) have gone on to study at college. Elsewhere learners have gone on to find employment or training opportunities with the likes of Hyundai, Network Rail, Travis Perkins, Church's and Timpson.

The cost to society of each NEET young person is estimated as being upwards of £100,000, and can reach as much as £300,000 depending upon the length of time NEET, and the degree to which

the person becomes involved with the criminal justice system. With just under 1 million young people aged 16- 24 years old unemployed in UK at this time, it is easy to see why this area remains a government priority.

The 85 young people who are no longer NEET represent an equivalent cost to society of £8.5 million. This represents a return on Wooden Spoon investment of £17 for every £1 invested in education projects to date.

Michael, HITZ Northampton



Army work on team building and problem solving challenges with Learners

Michael was referred to HITZ Northampton by Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service (YOS) as he came to the end of a community service order at the age of 17. Michael had multiple issues and was at serious risk of getting into further trouble or coming to serious harm:

- He had been in and out of trouble and was coming to the end of a community order
- He was a habitual drug user
- He was homeless
- He had medical conditions including Asperger's Syndrome and ADHD

Because of his age, at the end of his order he was placed in Bed & Breakfast accommodation by the YOS and Social Services and referred to HITZ. In spite of the trouble that Michael had been in, he was naturally very shy and found it very hard to work with new people. HITZ rugby

sessions provided Michael with a positive outlet and opportunities to meet new people in a safe, structured environment. Through regular attendance, Michael's confidence has grown and he has developed leadership qualities and improved his self-esteem. Thanks to issue-based sessions, covering areas such as drug abuse and sexual health, Michael has also had a significant improvement in terms of his drug use, claiming to have quit smoking cannabis. He has joined Northampton Casuals RFC where he trains once a week and trains in the gym almost every day. Throughout the Foundation Learning programme, Michael had varying levels of attendance depending on how the issues in his life were affecting him. As he progressed, his attendance generally improved and he has now completed the Foundation Learning course, achieving a YMCA Level 3 qualification. Michael has just started college in Northampton.

Disability Rugby Projects



Wooden Spoon supports a range of disability rugby project types including wheelchair rugby and special school tag rugby. There are currently 7 live disability rugby projects (for more information go to woodenspoon.com/projects).

At the September Council, Wooden Spoon Trustees approved an exciting new visual impairment pilot project. Wooden Spoon and Action for Blind People (Action), will bring each organisation's respective 'beneficiary groups' together through rugby, and will use the sport and its ethos as a vehicle for positive progression and inclusion. Action for Blind People is a national charity with local reach, providing practical help and support to blind and partially sighted people of all ages.

There are approximately 2 million people living with sight loss, with an estimated 360,000 people registered blind or partially sighted in the UK, of which 25,000 are children and young people. Blind & partially sighted people often become isolated due to their disability. Two thirds of blind or partially sighted people of working age are unemployed, and spend on average 5 more years unemployed than the general population.

Over a number of sessions, Wooden Spoon education project learners are 'buddied' up with Action's young people. The culmination of the 6 week project sees the young people attending a rugby match together where the Wooden Spoon learners provide live commentary for the blind or partially sighted young people.

This pilot project is seen as a 'bolt on' to existing education projects, and aims:

- To encourage the breaking down of 'client group' perceptions and barriers, and creating a legacy of positive and non-judgmental peer support amongst young people of transitional age. In pairs, participants will make their own plans for going to the game together.
- To encourage personal and social development in NEET participants by challenging the communication skills of Wooden Spoon learners. Wooden Spoon Ambassador and BBC Rugby Correspondent, Ian Robertson will provide training on how to commentate on the game.
- To ensure that every blind and partially sighted participant gains the confidence to access mainstream education, employment and sporting provision, thus aiding independent living.

This is an exciting new development for Wooden Spoon disability projects.

See www.woodenspoon.com for updates on project delivery.

Coming Soon - RLWC Dance Programme

In conjunction with Rugby Football League and the Arts Council, and as part of the Rugby League World Cup 2013 (RLWC) legacy programme of activity, Wooden Spoon is supporting a dance programme that will engage 2500 community dancers aged 8 to 25 years. Dancers will be recruited from socially deprived communities across the country, and will include hard to reach, disabled and wheelchair dancers, and those with learning difficulties. Many of the youngsters will be new to dancing, and will be performing during the Millennium Stadium opening ceremony,

at the semi-finals at Wembley, and the World Cup Final at Old Trafford. All the dancers will be wearing Wooden Spoon branded tops, providing a lasting legacy for Wooden Spoon's involvement with RLWC. This will also provide a significant number of young people from challenging backgrounds with aspiration and access to a continued sporting activity, while also increasing awareness, raising funds, and gaining new members for Wooden Spoon.



For more information on Community Projects please visit: woodenspoon.com/projects or contact Jai Purewal at jpurewal@woodenspoon.com



Working in tandem

One TNT Express duo proved teamwork and trust are just as important as physical endurance for completing the Great British Bike Ride



When Chris Stanley crossed the finish line of the Great British Bike Ride (GBBR) in 2012, he told his good friend and work colleague Wayne Thompson that they would both do it the following year – but on a tandem bicycle.

Riding a tandem up steep hills for a few hundred miles is hard enough work, but for Wayne it also meant putting his life in Chris' hands. Wayne is partially sighted and only has around 5% vision due to a rare disorder called Choroideremia, which is characterised by progressive vision loss and the onset of tunnel vision. The condition means he would not normally be able to ride a bike, let alone tackle a journey on two wheels from Land's End to Twickenham.

"I thought Chris was joking when he first mentioned it," said Wayne who has worked at TNT Express for 19 years. "But when the bike turned up a few months later, I realised he was serious! Being on a tandem was the only safe way for me to do the GBBR, so it was an offer that was too good to refuse." The pair work in the ICS division at TNT Express and became good friends after meeting up during regular sessions at the gym. Chris was determined not to let Wayne's visual impairment hold him back from taking part in the challenge and sourced a tandem bicycle for them to practise on.

Although Chris has worked at TNT Express for 12 years, it has only been in the last five years that he has actively started to raise funds for Wooden Spoon. He has found the GBBR is a great way to show his support for the charity and his enthusiasm proved to be infectious as three others from his department also took part in this year's bike ride – alongside 12 other employees from TNT Express.

It was a visit to Focus Birmingham in May this year that made Chris really appreciate the importance of fundraising. The charity is a key provider of special support to those with visual impairment and other disabilities and Wooden Spoon funding has helped them to build a new wing, among other developments.

"It was amazing and the people I met were so appreciative," said Chris who met the beneficiaries of the services as well as those who deliver the support. "The amount of work they are doing there is impressive. They showed us how to say thank you in sign language. It was incredibly moving seeing what we have achieved and what they have achieved. When I left I was dumbstruck for a while about what I had seen."

Knowing that his friend also has to cope with a visual impairment only spurred Chris on more to ensure the pair could complete the 340-mile bike ride. Ahead of their challenge,



sure we can

“The amount of work they are doing there is impressive. They showed us how to say thank you in sign language. It was incredibly moving seeing what we have achieved and what they have achieved. When I left I was dumbstruck for a while about what I had seen.”



Wayne built up stamina on exercise bikes in between practising with Chris on the two-seater. And it was stamina and TNT Express' Sure We Can spirit they both needed when faced with excruciatingly steep hills.

“We climbed something like 23,500ft across the week and 16,500 of those were on the first two days,” said Wayne. “Some of the hills I have never seen the like of before. A car struggled to get up some of them!”

Despite the leg cramps – Chris was in severe pain on the first two days after cycling for a total of 24 hours – the duo made it through their five-day mission. Their achievements proved something of a surprise to the more professional cyclists, especially when Wayne and Chris rode in each night to meet them all at the tented camp the army built for the cyclists.

“The experienced riders didn't think we would get to the end of day one,” said Wayne. “They were really supportive though and very pleased for us when we finished.

They said they were in awe of us a little bit and that we made the week for them, which was quite moving.”

As well as the obvious physical strength needed to cycle 70-90 miles a day on a tandem, it was ultimately a trusted friendship that saw them through to the finish line in Twickenham.

“I wouldn't have got on the back of a bike with anyone else,” explained Wayne. “It's a huge amount of trust because some of the roads we were going along were quite dangerous. I had to ride along some dual carriageways and steep downhill roads too, which sounds like fun but when you've got 30 stone of blokes and a big heavy bike, it wants to go downhill very quickly.”

Chris is equally appreciative of his cycling partner and also said he wouldn't have ridden with anyone else. “I'm absolutely amazed by Wayne. He kept me going on a couple of days and I would have gone a lot slower if Wayne hadn't encouraged me. He is an amazing guy to ride with.”

Both of their families were there to meet them as they pushed through to the finish and watched them as they paraded around a packed Twickenham stadium with Wooden Spoon Ambassador Phil Vickery, the British Lion and Rugby World Cup Winner.

For both of them, it's an experience they will never forget and while money is still pouring in for their efforts, they are hoping to raise near to £1,500 for Wooden Spoon. “TNT Express put a lot of effort into running the event and it makes you proud to work for the company,” said Wayne. “It was great to be given the opportunity to do something like this as I would never have thought it was possible for me.”

Wooden Spoon's Sporting Ambassadors



Nick Easter, Olly Kohn, Wayne Barnes, Lee Mears and Phil Vickery at this years Scrum Dine with Me.

Wooden Spoon are extremely fortunate to have some of the biggest names in the world of rugby choosing to support the charity. Year after year past and present players, coaches and rugby personalities have continued to support Wooden Spoon in any way they can, from embarking on epic challenges, speaking at events, opening projects to supporting us via social-media and donating auction items.

With the number of events increasing, so have the number of projects opened and corporate partnerships formed, which in hand calls for more support from our Sporting Ambassadors. Thankfully we can report that our needs are being far exceeded with a number of former internationals recently asking "What else can I do?"

The support we have received from our Sporting Ambassadors so far this year has been absolutely fantastic. We hope to form much stronger relationships with our existing Ambassadors and look forward to seeing plenty more new faces supporting us in the near future.

Pat Sanderson saddles up for Wooden Spoon

Former England International and Worcester Warriors legend, Pat Sanderson, has been using his motivational skills to Wooden Spoon's benefit in recent months.

As a keen cyclist himself, Pat has been on hand at the start of both our Financial and Insurance industries London to Monte Carlo Cycle challenges.

Pat, who now works at Deutsche Bank, as well as regularly appearing on Sky Sports rugby coverage, came along to give a few famous last

words to these groups of cyclists as they were about to embark on their 850-mile cycle in aid of Wooden Spoon.

His amusing anecdotes and advice seemed to distract the cyclists from their rather daunting journey that lay ahead, even if it was just for a few minutes!



Pat Sanderson starting the cyclists off en route to Monte Carlo



Pat Sanderson giving a final few words of encouragement to the riders before they set off for Monte Carlo

Lee Mears steps up to the plate

October and November are traditionally busy times for Wooden Spoon, with season launches, book launches, Autumn Internationals, the Rugby League World Cup and the Annual Ball ; this is a time that always stretches our resources.

Lee Mears, who after retiring at the end of last season sat down with Wooden Spoon and said he would like to help out in whatever way he can. He has appeared at numerous events in the last six months, from our 30th Anniversary Golf Classic in Penina, Scrum Dine with Me and also finding time to open a project for his local region. Lee has quickly become a "fans favourite" amongst Wooden Spoon supporters, and we soon noticed

the requests for him had piled up to almost 10 events over two months.

With some trepidation we sent the list over to Lee, and held our breath in anticipation. Within the hour, he showed what a fantastic Ambassador of Wooden Spoon he is and signed up to a variety of cycle rides, golf days and speaking engagements.

Lee has become an absolutely fantastic asset to Wooden Spoon in recent months and we might not have got through it with out him. We are looking forward to a long and enjoyable relationship with this former England, Lions and Bath legend.



Lee Mears

League legends sign up to Wooden Spoon

With Wooden Spoon's appointment as the official charity partner of Rugby League World Cup 2013, this marks the start of an increased commitment and alignment to Rugby League as a whole.

Wooden Spoon will be looking to launch it's Community programmes across all of the UK based Super League clubs as part of the tournaments legacy plans, where we will have increased focus on the League heartland areas and the sporting community as a whole.

Part of our plans with Rugby League is to get some of the biggest names in the sport to

buy-in to what we are trying to achieve and to support Wooden Spoon during the tournament and afterwards in the implementation of our community projects and future plans with the League community.

So far we have already met with England Legend Paul Wellens, Wigan's wing sensations Joshua Charnely and St. Helens and England's Jon Wilkin, who are all eager to support Wooden Spoon, and hoping to meet many more of the players soon, as they are about to embark on Rugby League World Cup 2013



St. Helens and England favourites Jon Wilkin and Paul Wellens

Josh Lewsey leading the peloton

Rugby World Cup winning full back, Josh Lewsey has recently been making waves at the business end of professional rugby, with a stint as CEO of Cornish Pirates and now being named as Head of Rugby for the WRU, he has been an extremely busy man. Thankfully this hasn't stopped him donning his lycras and hitting the road for Wooden Spoon.

With the recent 350-mile TNT Great British Bike Ride starting in Josh's current home of Lands End, Cornwall, we approached the former British Lion to ask if he would like to pop along to start the cyclists off on their journey. However, simply saying a few words and cutting a ribbon was nowhere near enough for this extreme

challenger. He arrived, bike in tow ready to do 27 miles with the rest of the cyclists.

It wasn't until a couple of hours later, where he was nowhere to be seen at the check-point that we began to worry. He had mentioned that he hadn't been on his bike in a while but we were sure he was able to keep up... It turns out in an adrenaline filled haze, he had cycled straight past the check-point and just kept going with the other cyclists leading the peloton.

Wooden Spoon would just like to say a huge thank you to Josh for his recent efforts, and we wish him the very best of luck in his new position at the WRU.



Josh Lewsey at the GBBR

Wooden Spoon would like to thank all of our Sporting Ambassadors for the support they continuously provide. We would not be able to help the children that we do without them.

For any information about the Sporting Ambassador programme, please contact Ryan Shahin at rshahin@woodenspoon.com or call 01252 773720.

Final Whistle for Wooden Spoon Rugby 2013



The Women's side celebrating the end of a fantastic season with another win at the Legends Rugby Festival

After months of planning and discussion Wooden Spoon's invitational Men's and Women's 7's sides finally gathered at Birmingham airport in early May, ready to fly to Kinsale to kick-off an extremely ambitious 2013 7's season.

As ever during the winter months, Wooden Spoon's 7's Marcus Copeland, Lee Rust, Karen Findlay and Dawn Mason, worked hard on pulling together competitive squads from all corners of the UK that could go out and spread the name of Wooden Spoon Rugby in the best way possible... by going out and beating the best there is.

Kinsale 7's

First up was the Heineken Kinsale 7's, the biggest rugby club organised tournament in Europe with over 10,000 players and spectators attending for a fantastic weekend of competitive rugby.

After the Wooden Spoon Women won the tournament in 2012, they were extremely keen to go out there to defend their title, and hopefully get the men to match this feat.

Living up to expectations, the women's side soon

made it a hat-trick of finals and reclaimed the Kinsale Championship for the 2nd time in 3 years.

The Wooden Spoon Men's team also did well to reach the quarter finals of the Elite tournament after suffering a spate of injuries in the group stages.

The Kinsale 7's really was a brilliant way to kick off the 2013 Wooden Spoon 7's season and we would like to thank to tournament organisers for selecting Wooden Spoon as the tournament's official charity partner.



Receiving a cheque from our tournament partners, Kinsale Sevens

For more information on Wooden Spoon Rugby, whether you would like to play, support or sponsor, please get in touch with Ryan Shahin, rshahin@woodenspoon.com Tel: 01252 773720

Wooden Spoon RFC Partners:



Bournemouth 7's

Next up, was the premier UK 7's tournament, Bournemouth 7's. With over 20,000 people descending on the seaside town for a festival-like 7's tournament, with live music, camping, beer tents and jacuzzi's, this really was a tournament where Wooden Spoon wanted to show off its 7's abilities to the world.

With a side made up of Premiership Academy players, England 7's players and few Wooden Spoon "Old Heads" (Tom Jarvis!), Wooden Spoon came within a whisker of causing the biggest upset of the season by almost defeating the all conquering Templars in the Men's Elite semi-finals. Templars, the eventual winners of the

tournament, who fly players in from all over the world and had Premiership regulars such as Guy Thompson in their squad, just edged Wooden Spoon out with a 21-10 victory, by far their most competitive game of the weekend.

Rugby Rocks

Rugby Rocks was the next fixture on the list, with Wooden Spoon determined not to lose any momentum gained in Bournemouth and Kinsale. The coaches had managed to put together extremely competitive squads, for both the men's and women's sides, to ensure they would be involved in the business end of the tournament.

Matching their fantastic performance at the Bournemouth 7's, the Wooden Spoon Men's side again lost in the semi-finals to eventual winners, Filton Old Boys. With an extremely young, and less physical side in this tournament, all of the boys made up in character what they lacked in physical presence and were great Ambassadors for Wooden Spoon on the day.

The Women's team pride themselves on being the best female 7's side in the UK and after suffering defeat at Bournemouth, they were determined to go out and restore order.

Defeating one of their main rivals Pink Ba-Baas and England Women en route to the final, they came up against a tough Ireland side that they had drawn with in the group stages. With Wooden Spoon favourite Jackie Shiels opening the scoring in the corner, Wooden Spoon were able to keep Ireland at the metaphorical arm's length adding another score before half time. While Ireland did manage a consolation try. Victory



Rugby Rocks Champions



Men's side at Rugby Rocks

West Country, Find Rugby Now and Legends Rugby 7's

To cap off an amazing season, we had our all conquering Women's side take on the three final tournaments without their male counterparts. Due to the fantastic sides that Karen Findlay and Dawn Mason were able to put together that regularly defeat international sides and rarely fail to come home without the tournament

silverware, we knew that the Wooden Spoon 7's image was in safe hands.

We were soon proved right, where after defeating the likes of the Army, England, Ireland and Wasps, the Wooden Spoon Women walked away with 3 from 3 trophies in the bag, securing their position

as the most successful women's 7's side in Europe.

So this brings an end to 2013 Wooden Spoon 7's season, and as always all of our players managed these fantastic on-field exploits whilst taking the time to raise the profile and funds for the charity off the field.

The Steven Sims Cavaliers

This season, friends of the late Steven Sims who tragically died on 26 May 2012 aged just 23 from ITP - a rare immune disorder that affects the number of platelets in the blood, formed a charity rugby team in his honour with the sole purpose of raising funds in Steven's name for Wooden Spoon and the ITP Association.

The Sims Cavaliers made their official debut at the St Andrews 7s in April. On what was an emotional day the squad was selected exclusively from ex-teammates and friends of Steven with Stewart's Melville, University of St Andrews and even the Fife Constabulary Pipe Band of which Steven was a

member, all contributing players for the occasion. The team also joined forces with the Wooden Spoon Men's side and competed in the Edinburgh Rugby Rocks tournament, agonisingly losing out to the British Army in the final, 28-26.

Over the season the Cavaliers managed to raise over £5,000 which will be put towards a charitable project in Scotland that will improve the lives of disadvantaged children in the local community.



The Steve Sims Cavaliers

Spoon Challenges 2013 what a year!

London Marathon

On Sunday 21st April, 15 runners completed the 26 mile 385 yard course of the 33rd London Marathon. To date they have raised a whopping £41,000.

The Four Peaks Challenge

Our 15 teams worked tremendously hard training and fundraising for what was an absolutely fantastic 24th Wooden Spoon Four Peaks Challenge. Not only had hundreds of feet of training been completed in the preceding months, but herculean fundraising and sponsorship efforts had been made by all of the challengers with teams pledging a recession-busting £88,918.36 for Wooden Spoon.

Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge

The 17th Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge was certainly a challenge with the promised heat wave sticking around, seeing temperatures soaring well into the 30's. England rugby legend and Wooden Spoon Ambassador Phil Vickery joined us to cheer on the eight teams who gave it their all to canoe England's longest lake, cycle its steepest pass and climb its highest mountain, all within 12 hours!! Teams have pledged £42,019 to date.

London to Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge

On Friday 7th June, our inaugural London to Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge saw 24 intrepid cyclists set off from the home of English Rugby, Twickenham stadium. Over the 7.5 days riders enjoyed some of the most amazing views all the while enjoying great camaraderie amongst their fellow riders. The challenge was not without equal measures of blood, sweat and tears, however all riders successfully made it to Monte Carlo and raised an impressive £79,550.



For more information please visit spoonchallenges.com or call 01283 841600

Looking forward to the 2014 Spoon Challenges... Are you up for it?

Join Spoon Challenges in 2014 for one of our exhilarating challenges. We have something for everyone. For an individual challenge, why not run the world famous London Marathon? If you feel more comfortable in the saddle and fancy a real cycling challenge then get training for our End 2 End Cycle Challenge. Conquer four of the highest peaks in the UK and Ireland within 48 hours in the Four Peaks Challenge. Canoe, cycle and climb your way through our ultimate team event in the Great Lakeland Challenge. Perhaps you fancy taking on an overseas adventure in the London to Monte Carlo Challenge ... the opportunities are endless.



London Marathon, Sunday 13th April 2014

Run 26.2 miles through the streets of London passing by some of the city's famous landmarks including Tower Bridge, Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace whilst being cheered on by over half a million spectators.

Fundraising required: £2,000



London to Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge, 6th -14th June 2014

A journey of a life time, from the flat lands of Northern France down through the stunning Loire valley and over the iconic French Alps. This is the most amazing journey with climbs of over 30 miles long and vista's which are hard to surpass.

Fundraising required: £2,950 per cyclist



Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge, Friday 20th June 2014

The Great Lakeland Challenge is the ultimate team challenge. Teams of four (three challengers and a driver) paddle the 10.5 mile length of Lake Windermere, pedal 26 miles up 1:3 gradients of Wrynose and Hardknott passes and conquer the 3,208 feet of Scafell Pike, all in less than 12 hours.

Registration Fee: £400 per team

Minimum Sponsorship: £2,000 per team (no vehicle)

Teams raising £3,500 (Plus £400 registration Fee) or more in sponsorship will receive a team vehicle and a Spoon Challenges rugby Shirt each.

Relay Entry: £4,500 per team



Four Peaks Challenge, 3rd – 5th July 2014

This awe-inspiring challenge sees challengers conquer Ben Nevis, Helvellyn, Snowdon and Carantouhill. Over two days challengers travel over 1,000 miles and climb 14,000 feet to achieve this ultimate and most iconic UK Challenge.

Entry Level One: Registration Fee, £400 per team. Minimum Sponsorship, £2,600 per team of four (a driver and three climbers) **no vehicle included.**

Entry Level Two: Registration Fee, £400 per team. Minimum Sponsorship, £4,100 per team of four (a driver and three climbers) **vehicle and fuel allowance included.**



End 2 End Challenge, 16th – 23rd August 2014

Pedal 865 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End in 7.5 days. Our End 2 End challenge will take you from the Lochs and Mountains of Scotland, to the beautiful landscape of the Cumbrian Lake District, through the gentle rolling tranquil Wye Valley and onto the rugged Cornish Coast Line.

Fundraising required: £2,750 per cyclist

ARCTICRUGBY

CHALLENGE 2015

ARE YOU COOL ENOUGH?



For more information, please contact Marlina Barnes on 01252 773720 or at mbarnes@woodenspoon.com

www.woodenspoon.com

Reg Charity in England and Wales No: 326691, Scotland No: SC039247



Wooden Spoon
The children's charity of rugby

Wooden Spoon Membership

We are extremely grateful for your annual membership donation and continued support. As you are aware it is through the generosity of our members that we are able to continue to make a difference to the lives of thousands of disadvantaged children and young people in your area. From reading Spoonews you will have seen how many local projects have benefited from your support.

Who are our members?

We want to get to know you better and see pictures of you out and about fundraising or increasing the awareness of Wooden Spoon. Please get in touch with your ideas, pictures and feedback and who knows your photo may feature on this page in the future!



How can we help you?

Please have your say in what you would like as a membership benefit. We have enclosed a survey on the cover sheet with this magazine for you to complete and return to us so we can understand your preferences and secure some exciting and relevant benefits for you. If you prefer to help save us costs please fill in our survey at woodenspoon.com/survey.



Are you connected electronically?

We have found that email is the quickest and most cost-effective way of communicating with you. If you aren't receiving your monthly enews then please update us with an email address here woodenspoon.com/emailupdate



Ladies - why do we need you?

With so many exciting changes taking place over the coming months now is the time for all you ladies to create a bit of a stir and invite your friends!

We know that when likeminded women come together to have fun they can achieve greatness, so we would love to see more of you at our regular events as we begin to create our exciting female focus at Wooden Spoon. Come and join us and find out what all the fuss is about!

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information about annual membership to Wooden Spoon please contact us at membership@woodenspoon.com or call us on 01252 773720.

Strired into action at / by :

I would like to become a member of Wooden Spoon or make a one-off donation.
Please complete all 3 sections of the form.

1. MEMBERSHIP DONATION:

Please select one of the following membership options:

Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4	Monthly donation	<input type="checkbox"/>
£40				
Annual donation	<input type="checkbox"/>	£3	Monthly donation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	£2	Monthly donation	<input type="checkbox"/>
£30				
Annual donation	<input type="checkbox"/>	£2	Monthly donation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	£2	Monthly donation	<input type="checkbox"/>
£20				
Annual donation	<input type="checkbox"/>	£2	Monthly donation	<input type="checkbox"/>

I am not looking for membership,
I just want to make a donation

One-off donation £

GIFT OPTION:

Wooden Spoon Tie

Tote Bag

Whistband

No Gift

2. YOUR DETAILS:

Title First Name

Surname

Home Address

Post Code

Home Tel

Work Tel

Mobile

Date of Birth

Email

Data Protection:

Wooden Spoon values your support and promise to respect your privacy. Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 Wooden Spoon will store and process information about you for the purpose of providing services in accordance with its charitable aims. We would like to keep you updated by email about our work and how your support is changing lives. If you object to receiving such communications please tick the box.

Would you like to make your donation go even further?

giftaid it

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made today and in the future. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 5p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2012.

3. PAYMENT:

Pay by Direct Debit

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS.
Please return the completed form to:

Freeport RS17S-RSYS-HSXR,
Wooden Spoon, 115-117 Fleet Road, Fleet, GU51 3PD

Please indicate your and your clients' interests in the following events by placing an X in the appropriate box.

<input type="checkbox"/> Rugby Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Challenge Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Ball	<input type="checkbox"/> Art Event
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Made Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Ball	<input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Event
<input type="checkbox"/> Help/ny/regional committee			

Other (please specify)



Name and address of your Bank or Building Society

Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Service user number
9 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 8

Reference (Spoon Use)

Branch Sort Code

Bank/ Building Society/Account Number

Instructions to your Bank/Building Society:
Please pay Wooden Spoon Society Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Wooden Spoon Society and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

SIGN: Signature Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

Pay by Credit / Debit Card

Name on Card

Card Number - We are unable to accept Diners

Start Date Expiry Date

Security Code

SIGN: Signature Date

Wooden Spoon Contacts

Bedfordshire

Oliver Richbell
 07905 408759
 oliver.richbell@pictons.co.uk
 woodenspoon.com

Bristol & Bath

Andrew Sheridan
 radioshi25@yahoo.co.uk
 07774 196881
 woodenspoon.com/bristol&bath

Chilterns

Barrie Mair
 barriemair@bulldoghome.com
 07836 534269
 woodenspoon.com/chilterns

Cornwall

Kevin Oliver
 klo@welcome-rest.com
 07980 532523
 woodenspoon.com/cornwall

Cumbria

John Cunningham
 jmc@chguk.com
 07808 909241
 woodenspoon.com/cumbria

Devon

Roger Haywood
 rogerhaywood@
 passagehousegroup.co.uk
 01626 355515
 woodenspoon.com/devon

Dorset

David Gullick
 davidgullick@hotmail.co.uk
 07967 185708
 woodenspoon.com/dorset

Durham

Michael Stephenson
 07714 213753
 stephenson15@aol.com
 woodenspoon.com/durham

Eastern Counties

Seamus Farrelly
 seamus@iceni-fs.co.uk
 07768 875789
 woodenspoon.com/easterncounties

Emirates

Robin Haddrill
 robinhaddrill@hotmail.com
 woodenspoon.com/emirates

Gloucestershire

Tim Heal
 theal@alderking.com
 01452 627128
 woodenspoon.com/gloucestershire

Guernsey

Julie Chamings
 chamings@cwgsy.net
 woodenspoon.com/guernsey

Hampshire

Tony Wilkin
 tony@oak-bm.co.uk
 0845 392 1462
 woodenspoon.com/hants

Hertfordshire

John Batters
 01438 816077
 johnbatters@aol.com
 woodenspoon.com/herts

Isle of Man

Allan Thompson
 allant@manx.net
 07624 475810
 woodenspoon.com/iom

Jersey

Roger Trower
 roger@broadlandsjersey.com
 01534 880770
 woodenspoon.com/jersey

Kent

Paul Shruballs
 pshrubs@gmail.com
 01732 368102
 woodenspoon.com/kent

Lancashire

Martin Long
 martin.long@napthens.co.uk
 01253 754870
 woodenspoon.com/lancs

Leicestershire

Malcolm Foulkes-Arnold
 mvfa@corporatearchitecture.co.uk
 01162 789257
 woodenspoon.com/leics

London

Nick Mobley
 0208 8785381
 nick@londonschoolofdiving.co.uk
 woodenspoon.com/london

Manchester & Cheshire

Charlie Womersley
 charlie@charliethewine.com
 07771 510052
 woodenspoon.com/
 manchester&cheshire

Merseyside

Stan Bagshaw
 bagshawstan@gmail.com
 07968 856077
 woodenspoon.com/merseyside

Mid Wales

Ted Cochrane
 e.cochrane007@btinternet.com
 woodenspoon.com/midwales

Northamptonshire

Steve Valentine
 srvalentine@tiscali.co.uk
 07708 195202
 woodenspoon.com/northants

Northumberland

Anthony Stoker
 anthony@villagefarmcottages.co.uk
 07801 378691
 woodenspoon.com/
 northumberland

Nottinghamshire

John Cohen
 cohenjhr@hotmail.com
 07798 670808
 woodenspoon.com/notts

Oxfordshire

John Deeley
 simmsfarm.deeleys@virgin.net
 07753 432354
 woodenspoon.com/oxfordshire

Scotland - Glasgow

Jamie Livingston
 jamielivingston@livingstonjames.com
 0141 5723068
 woodenspoon.com/scotland

Scotland - National Chairman

Charlie Bryden
 cibspon@aol.com
 07831 101 183
 woodenspoon.com/scotland

Shropshire

Glyn Dobbs
 gdobbs@btinternet.com
 07740 774573
 woodenspoon.com/shrops

Somerset

David Reed
 davidreed952@btinternet.com
 01823 332045
 woodenspoon.com/somerset

Surrey

Paul Taylor
 paul@kingsmill.co.uk
 0208 686 7942
 woodenspoon.com/surrey

Sussex

Bob Rogers
 bobrogers@therfu.com
 01903 785046
 woodenspoon.com/sussex

Ulster

Peter Wood
 peterwood444@btinternet.com
 07799 711914
 woodenspoon.com/ulster

Wales

Huw Thomas
 huw@huwthomaspcp.com
 07976 602734
 woodenspoon.com/wales

Warwickshire

Ian Holroyd
 ian@look-whos-talking.co.uk
 07831 602 131
 woodenspoon.com/warwickshire

West Midlands

Phil Pemble
 phil.pemble@ppdg.co.uk
 0121 711 5084
 woodenspoon.com/westmidlands

Wiltshire

Gareth John
 johng2@sky.com
 07813 140226
 woodenspoon.com/wilts

Worcestershire

John Gibson
 johng@firmingers.com
 01905 20636
 woodenspoon.com/worcs

Yorkshire

Stuart Watson
 swatson1@uk.ey.com
 01937 841027
 woodenspoon.com/yorkshire

Head Office

Fleet Office
 01252 773720
 charity@woodenspoon.com
 woodenspoon.com

Editor

Phillie James
 pjames@woodenspoon.com

Contributing Team

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this magazine. Regional Committees, supporters and Wooden Spoon staff.

For all advertising enquiries:

Phillie James
 Tel: 01252 773 720
 pjames@woodenspoon.com

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