

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

# SPOONNEWS

## VETS FEST 22

Vets pitch up  
for fundraising  
extravaganza

## REACH FOR THE SKY

Fully-accessible  
mobile flight  
simulators

## CYCLE CHALLENGE

Rugby legends  
cycle 750 miles  
to Twickenham

## PLAYFUL LEARNERS

Children at Rostulla Special School thrive  
as new equipment brings joy to their playtime



Wooden Spoon  
The children's charity of rugby



## POSITIVE FOCUS

**It is great to see so many fundraising events and project openings now going ahead, however, there is still much work to be done.**

With so much uncertainty in the world, as we recover from the effects of the pandemic, along with the atrocities happening in Ukraine, it can feel tough to know where to focus our minds and energies.

While we can't actively support efforts to help those in Ukraine, as this doesn't sit within our remit, we are very keen to be involved with programmes and charities in the UK and Ireland that support displaced children and refugees – not only from Ukraine, but from all over the world.

In a time where people need reassurance and confidence in who they are supporting and donating to, it has been a privilege to be partnered with The British & Irish Lions.

Wooden Spoon embodies what The British & Irish Lions partnership is about, four nations working together to do great things.

With that shared value in mind, we are thrilled and honoured that the partnership has been renewed for another year. We look forward to continuing our collaboration, highlighting the great work that goes on throughout the rugby community. Find out more in the Gavin Hastings interview on page 20.

It was a delight to attend so many regional fundraising events and project openings in the last few months, in particular the RAF flight simulator at Dundee Airport. It is an extraordinary project which underlines the value of children of all abilities, challenging themselves and realising what they can achieve (see page 6).

Following on from the huge success of last year's Vets Fest we are planning a bigger event this October and would love as many people as possible to get involved this year. We are aiming to raise £100,000 to go towards projects that support young people's mental health. It's estimated 1.5 million young people\* will need mental health support because of the pandemic, so we want to be there to help those affected. Please get involved, see page 18 for more details.

Once again, I would like to thank all our supporters and fundraisers. Every penny you raise and every event you plan makes all the difference. I feel very humbled and fortunate to be part of a community that has so much heart and demonstrates compassion at every turn.

Please keep in touch with us at [charity@woodenspoon.org.uk](mailto:charity@woodenspoon.org.uk)

**Sarah Webb, CEO**

## LOOKING FORWARD



6

Mobile flight simulators at Tayside Aviation

4

Wooden Spoon: A Good Year

5

New Trustee Adrian Alli



**Wooden Spoon**  
The children's charity of rugby

Email: [charity@woodenspoon.org.uk](mailto:charity@woodenspoon.org.uk)

Tel : 01252 773 720

Fax: 01252 773 721

Write: Sentinel House, Ancells Business Park, Harvest Crescent, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 2UZ

Contact details for our regions can be found on page 35 and at: [woodenspoon.org.uk/near-you](http://woodenspoon.org.uk/near-you)

Registered address: Sentinel House, Ancells Business Park, Harvest Crescent, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 2UZ

Charity Registration No: 326691 (England & Wales) and SCO39247 (Scotland)

Cover image: The new playground at Rosstulla Special School, see page 13 for full story.

6 Projects Scotland

8 Projects England

12 Projects Wales

13 Projects Ireland

14 Projects in Progress



15 Interview: Dewi Morris

16 Case Studies

18 Vets Fest 22

20 Interview: Gavin Hastings

22 Your Fundraising

26 Gallagher Cycle Ride



Join the Vets Fest 22

28 Across the Regions

32 Events Calendar

34 Tributes

\* Centre for Mental Health, Dec 2020

# A GOOD YEAR FOR WOODEN SPOON

Despite the challenging landscape, in the last financial year, Wooden Spoon:

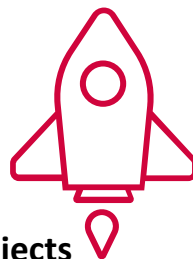
raised  
**£2.3 million**

over the last  
financial year



funded  
**43**

life-changing projects  
across the UK & Ireland



supported  
**150,000**

vulnerable children  
and young people



However,  
there was so  
much more  
that we  
could have  
done...

Wooden Spoon

received  
**478**



project applications

...but sadly had to

turn  
down  
**171**



due to  
insufficient  
funds in 2021

Help us change children's lives  
in 2022. This year we expect

Project applications



to increase

We need your  
support



to ensure  
we can  
fund

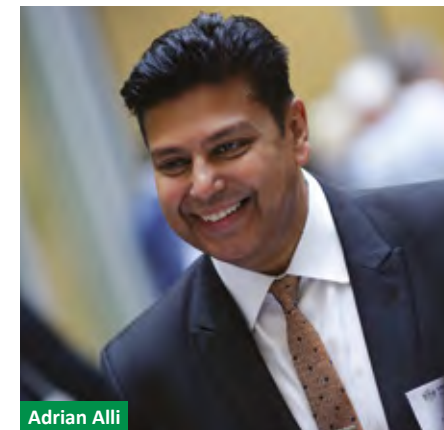


even more projects

supporting  
vulnerable  
children and  
young people



Get your friends and  
family involved today at:  
[woodenspoon.org.uk/  
fundraise-for-us](https://woodenspoon.org.uk/fundraise-for-us)



Adrian Alli

## ADRIAN JOINS AS TRUSTEE

Wooden Spoon is delighted to welcome new trustee, Adrian Alli. Adrian is Chief Financial Officer at London Irish Rugby Club, a member of the Bank of England's Decision-Maker Panel and trustee for the London Irish Foundation.

Before joining London Irish, he spent 11 years as Finance Director at Premiership Rugby, working closely with the board, chief executives and finance directors of the Premiership Rugby Clubs. During that time, he also sat on the finance sub-committee of the European Professional Club Rugby Board. Having worked in elite clubs rugby at a European, league and club level, he has a holistic perspective of the sport.

With over 30 years accounting and leadership experience, Adrian was previously financial controller at Kinnarps UK and Chief Accountant for MCA Records Ltd.

He was also a trustee of children's charity, Touraid, which helped disadvantaged children from across the globe through rugby.

Adrian has a passion for introducing more people to rugby and using its values for positive social change.



# A CHANCE TO FLY HIGH



**It was a big day for Wooden Spoon Scotland as three new mobile flight simulators arrived at Dundee Airport, bringing the thrill of flying to children with disabilities or facing disadvantage**

**A partnership between Wooden Spoon Scotland, RAF Scotland, RAF Air Cadets and Tayside Aviation, along with a £28,696 Wooden Spoon grant, made the project possible.**

The three fully accessible simulators offer youngsters with disabilities the chance to experience life in the skies while boosting their confidence and aspirations.

Wooden Spoon Edinburgh chair John Godfrey said: "We were delighted to fund these fantastic flight simulators. Wooden Spoon prides itself on funding life-changing projects that support children and young people with disabilities or living in disadvantage – and this is another great example of that."

**"The three flight simulators, generously funded by Wooden Spoon Scotland, are fully accessible to all and provide a realistic and fun flying simulation."**

*Air Vice Marshall Ross Paterson*

"We would like to thank everyone who has supported this project."

The official launch of the mobile flight simulators took place at Tayside Aviation, Dundee Airport, with former Scotland and British & Irish Lions rugby star, Andy Nicol, opening the scheme. Youngsters from Dundee Dragons Wheelchair Rugby Club were on hand, and eager to try the flight simulators.

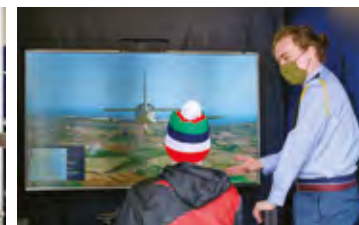
In 2015, Wooden Spoon Scotland supported the Dundee Dragons Wheelchair Rugby Club with £15,000 of funding to purchase five quad wheelchairs.

Andy said: "One of the best things about being part of Wooden Spoon is seeing what a difference the fundraising can make for the young people we support. I can't wait to see the flight simulators in action, along with some of the young pilots, at the launch."

The simulators will be used in conjunction with the Flying Aces to give vulnerable children flying experiences, to help build their confidence and their chances in life.



**Successful launch: Sarah Webb, Graham Allen, Air Vice Marshall Ross Paterson CB OBE ADC DL, Charlie Bryden MBE, Andy Nicol, Gemma Lumsdaine, John Godfrey and Charlie Mailer**



Air Vice Marshal Ross Paterson said: "The three mobile flight simulators, generously funded by Wooden Spoon Scotland, are fully accessible to all and provide a realistic and fun flying simulation."

"These simulators can visit day centres, schools and events right across Scotland to offer the opportunity for as many young people as possible and they provide a great stepping-stone to actual flying experience with the Flying Aces scheme."

Squadron Leader Tom McMorrow, Special Projects Officer for the Air Cadets in Scotland & Northern Ireland, was the innovator of the Flying Aces Scheme.

He said: "We encourage young people to think 'If I can fly an aeroplane, is there anything in life I can't do?' The exercise is about getting them to control the aircraft as much as possible."



**The fully accessible mobile flight simulator**



**Andy Nicol with Gemma Lumsdaine from Dundee Dragons wheelchair sports club**





The new wheelchair accessible roundabout brings fun and thrills to youngsters like Evie, pictured with Phil Novis

## ALL ROUND WINNER

Phil Novis and Oliver Richbell attended Woodlands Secondary School in Luton to formally open their wheelchair accessible roundabout, which was made possible by an £8,000 grant from Wooden Spoon Bedfordshire.

The special needs school caters for students aged between 11 and 18 years old, with severe learning difficulties or profound and



The young people at Woodlands School made Wooden Spoon a 'Thank You' card

multiple learning difficulties. Many students have additional complex needs including autistic spectrum disorder, epilepsy, physical or sensory impairments. In addition, some students have additional medical needs. All the students at Woodlands Secondary School have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

**"The wheelchair roundabout is a real focal point for fun for all and it is something that the budget would have never stretched to, so to fund it is what Wooden Spoon is all about."**

*Oliver Richbell, Wooden Spoon Bedfordshire Chair*

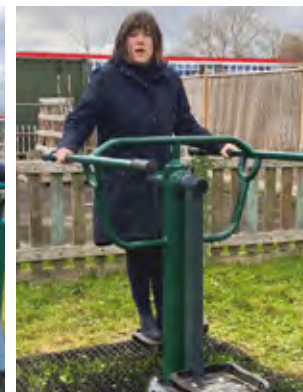
Through an increase in the number of service users the school has recently been extended and between the new wing and the existing school is a covered play area. This is sheltered from the elements and ideal for the most fragile and vulnerable students to explore and enjoy outdoors but in a safe environment.

The wheelchair accessible roundabout enables easy access to the multi-sensory play area for children with physical disabilities to play alongside their friends.

Wooden Spoon Bedfordshire Chair Oliver Richbell said: "Being able to support Woodlands School is a real honour – all the staff are so committed to providing the very best to the pupils and that is so evident in the joy in the children's eyes and faces.

"The wheelchair roundabout is a real focal point for fun for all and it is something that the budget would have never stretched to, so to fund it is what Wooden Spoon is all about.

"It is events like this that make the hard work in fundraising so worthwhile, and I am grateful to my committee for all their tremendous hard work."



## GROWING PLACES

For Oaks Specialist College it's all about upskilling their young people for independence, employability and community inclusion – and the new outdoor gym plays a big part in that.

Wooden Spoon Kent provided £5,000 towards gym equipment at the independent charity, in Tonbridge, for 18- to 25-year-olds with additional needs and disabilities.

The college works closely with a number of employers and organisations to ensure the skills, knowledge and understanding gained in college help develop young people who are respected and valued in their community.

The new gym equipment plays an important role, enabling the young people to feel confident and to contribute fully.

**"The outdoor gym equipment has been a great addition to life at our college. It has meant that everyone can workout together, as there are pieces of equipment that people with reduced mobility can use."**

*Lynsey, Pathway Lead*



**"I like the gym because it is good."**  
*James*



**"It is good because it makes me strong."**  
*Alex*



**"It keeps me fit. I like it."**  
*Praise*

## ROOM FOR ALL

With the help of a £8,000 grant from Wooden Spoon Yorkshire, Riccall Community Primary School was able to provide a sensory space for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.

The North Yorkshire school has transformed the space to offer a calming environment with an area for children to explore sensory experiences.

Emma's son Mason loves the new space: "The new sensory room gives Mason a safe environment to explore his senses and regulate his feelings. Mason is four, he has a diagnosis of ASD and is non-verbal."

Mason loves the new sensory space



Riccall School has put in place the sensory space to ensure the inclusion of SEN children in a mainstream setting.

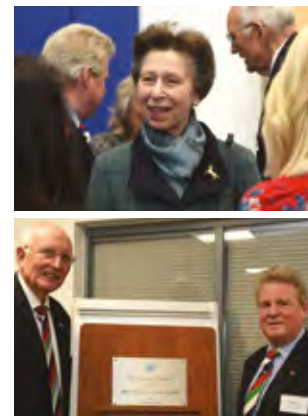
"We feel happier knowing he has this place to visit at school when he needs it. Mason is extremely happy at school and we receive several photos of him enjoying the room on a weekly basis.

"He is full of energy, loves to be outdoors, enjoys exploring, dancing and all things messy. He has a beautiful laugh and a smile that stretches across his face. The sensory space is a super addition to the school that we know he loves."



Nick Morton, David Fenton and Nick Hare from Wooden Spoon Yorkshire visit Riccall Community Primary School to open the sensory room

The sensory space brings a smile to these children at Riccall School



The climbing wall, funded by Wooden Spoon

## ROYAL LAUNCH REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

**Wooden Spoon Patron HRH The Princess Royal opened the new fully-accessible climbing wall at The Chamwell Centre, bringing exercise and thrills to all.**

Thanks to a grant of £47,000, provided by Wooden Spoon Gloucestershire, the centre now has an exciting interactive climbing wall, providing physical and mental challenges through fun and play.

The climbing wall is equipped with a hoist which stretches across its length and allows non-ambulant children to access the wall alongside their more agile friends.

The computer controlled hand and foot holds light up in differing patterns, providing interactive games and challenges.

The Chamwell Centre is a visionary new facility offering inclusive therapies, sports and social opportunities to people with severe and complex physical and learning disabilities.

As well as the climbing wall, facilities include large hydrotherapy pool, rebound therapy trampoline, three-storey soft play and opportunities for para athletics, adapted football, cricket, boccia and of course, rugby.

While linked with the Milestone Special School, whose 320 pupils use the wall throughout the school day, at other times youngsters with additional needs use it.

Wooden Spoon is delighted to have contributed to a project that brings so much joy and fun to children and young people.



A demo for Princess Anne at the Chamwell Centre



## GAME ON AT GELLI

A new games area in Gelli Primary School is enriching the lives of all the children at the school in The Rhondda. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) has been made possible by a £25,000 grant from Wooden Spoon Wales.

Madison's mum Claire tells *Spoonews* how it has helped her daughter: "My daughter has said it has helped her ball skills and social skills during playtime, as all ages use it together. Often the older children help teach the younger ones different games."

"Playtime and dinners are much more fun. She also enjoys it when outside clubs come in and use it with them."

Madison said: "It's amazing – I love going outside, playing different ball games and learning new ball skills with children from my class and the older children."

Lisa Pennington, leader of the G4 afterschool club, uses the MUGA daily and explains the benefits: "To have such equipment in the yard that we can use in our afterschool club is fantastic, and so beneficial to the children who attend our club."

"There is no other place in the area we could take our group that would offer the same safe facility, especially during Covid. The MUGA means we have had a safe place where our children can not only play, but also improve their social and physical skills."

Zaine's mum Talia said: "He thinks it is fun and he believes it has helped him with his football skills."

**"It's amazing – I love going outside, playing different ball games and learning new ball skills with children from my class and the older children."** *Madison*



Madison



Zaine



Maui



Tierien



Brontë

Tierien's mum Kerry explained: "She enjoys using it to practise her netball skills and also enjoys competing against the boys on it. She says it is fab and really fun."

Maui's mum Rhian added: "My son loves playing out in the yard. It helps him as he loves to play outdoors. He likes the new area, it's fun on break times."

Brontë's mum Louise said: "My daughter's confidence in sport and team playing has grown. She loves it, and it makes breaks more enjoyable."

Harlow loves playtime in the new playground



## LEARNING TO PLAY

Children at Rosstulla are thrilled with their new playground, thanks to a £12,000 grant from Wooden Spoon Ulster.

Rosstulla Special School, in Newtownabbey, caters for a wide range of needs.

Early years coordinator Jill McFarland said: "The playground had fallen into ruins and for the past two years our playground hasn't been suitable for use."

"We ordered playhouses, slides, trampettes and equipment that would meet their sensory needs. It's very bright, colourful and stimulating. The children are really keen to get out into the playground."

"They are more engaged and purposeful, where before they would just run about and bump into each other."

"The playground is now an extension of the classroom."

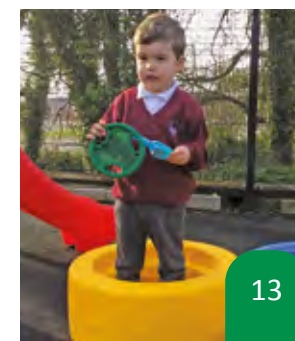
It has improved their learning and behaviour, because the more you address those sensory needs, the more focused they become."

Six-year-old Harlow is a pupil at Rosstulla and mum Gillain explains what the new playground means to them:

"The old playground was awful, and he came home mucked to the eyeballs. Seeing his wee face when he first saw the new playground was amazing."

"It's helped him so, so much. Harlow has Down's syndrome and learning difficulties, and needs physio, speech and occupational therapy."

"Now, when I take him to the park, I can see the difference in him from using the new equipment. He is more confident climbing, before I would have to help him. He just loves playtime now, it's absolutely great."



## OTHER WOODEN SPOON PROJECTS ACROSS THE REGIONS INCLUDE

**SURREY** £12,500

**Portesbury School**  
**Sensory Playground**

Children will be able to enjoy a sensory walkway joining all areas of play with full access for all.

**NORTHUMBERLAND** £16,666

**Cleaswell Hill**  
**Therapy Cabin**

This project will provide a standalone therapy cabin in an area of the playground. These funds are part of the STAY STRONG STU donation.

**HERTFORDSHIRE** £8,600

**Park Street Primary**  
**Sensory Room**

Children will have easy access to this new sensory room in the centre of the school.

**DEVON** £11,000

**Mill Water School**  
**Play Zone**

The funding will provide new activity play equipment as part of a new play space which is utilising an unused area of land.

If you would like to apply for funding, visit: [woodenspoon.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant](https://woodenspoon.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant)



**KENT** £25,000

**WeAreBeams**  
**Sensory Garden**

This project is a sensory garden which will be built as part of a larger project to renovate the whole existing garden, including play equipment.

**KENT** £13,000

**Broomhill Bank School**  
**RHS Garden**

This stunning sensory garden will be exhibited at RHS Hampton Court before being moved to the school.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE** £7,000

**Paternoster School**  
**MAR Rugby**

The grant will provide two years support for mixed ability rugby to be provided to children at the school.



© Paul Cooper

build and retain the next generation of rugby players – and in turn, ensure the future of the rugby clubs and their communities.

“Rugby is the greatest game, it’s a game for every shape and size and everyone can play it. My focus is to make our club the best amateur club in the north-west.”

Dewi’s passion is just as evident in the work he does with Wooden Spoon: “For ten years we did the Dewi Morris Curry Club three or four times a year – we made tens of thousands of pounds.

**“But it’s definitely not about me and it’s not about being a celebrity. It’s about going out and meeting the people that do the real work helping children who need it the most.”**

*Dewi Morris*

“Wooden Spoon is very much at the heart of me. It’s an easy one to belong to because all the good and the great of English rugby devote their time to help. It’s the simplest thing to do and it’s the least people can do by giving their time, because a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes.”

Following Covid, Chair Roger Smith is raring to return to the fundraising – and Dewi is keen to do whatever he can to raise awareness.

He explained modestly: “I’m not privy to the planning, but I’m the guy that’s happy to help when these things come up. I will go with the flow and do whatever is needed of me.

“If I’ve got something to give, as far as my notoriety – I managed to do twenty-plus years on Sky Sports, plus my rugby career – then great.

“But it’s definitely not about me and it’s not about being a celebrity. It’s about going out and meeting the people that do the real work helping children who need it the most.”

## TEAM PLAYER

**We are delighted to welcome Dewi Morris as the new honorary president of Wooden Spoon Manchester and Cheshire.**

However, Wooden Spoon is not new to Dewi: “I got involved with the charity when I got my first cap playing for England in 1988, and it’s continued from there.”

Dewi, the former scrum half for England, has had a very impressive rugby career, with 26 England caps, three Grand Slam wins and two World Cup campaigns under his belt.

When Dewi moved on from playing rugby, Sky Sports snapped him up as their go-to pundit and commentator for the next two decades.

These days, Dewi is busier than ever coaching at Winnington RFC. For him, grass roots rugby is vitally important. He’s working hard to





Theo enjoying the seaside

## SEA OF OPPORTUNITIES

**Splashing in waves is a reality for Theo, thanks to the new Inclusive Beach at Benone on The Causeway coast.**

A day at the seaside is something many take for granted, but for 11 year old Theo and his parents Dee and Gary, the inclusive beach is a lifeline.

Dee explained: "Anyone who has a child with a disability knows how difficult a trip to

the beach can be. There can be accessibility issues as well as remembering the right medicine, clothes and toiletry requirements.

"But Benone Beach has changed all that. It is safe and stimulating, it gives us peace of mind and allows Theo to have fun just like any other child.

Wooden Spoon Ulster was proud to support the plans by the Mae Murray Foundation with a £18,000 donation which helped fund specialist kit including hoists, changing benches, beach wheelchairs and special matting. This equipment is available, free of charge for families to borrow to enjoy a family day at the beach. Mae Murray Foundation also organise activity days at the beach, suited to all abilities.

Dee said: "He gets so much joy and delight from the big waves and he also loves to see us having fun with him.

"Theo is just a bundle of joy who thrives on having fun. He has cerebral palsy and epilepsy which means there are some activities that aren't available to him.

"But the beach has just been an amazing experience and opportunity for Theo – he absolutely adores it."

## SPACE TO THRIVE

**George's family share how a multi-sensory suite has created a positive and calming experience for him during his treatment for a rare heart condition.**

George was born with the right hand side of his heart not working. By the time he was six years old, he had gone through three major open heart surgeries at the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit.

Mum Jane said: "We've spent a large part of George's life in hospital and you need things that just take some of the pressure off."

Wooden Spoon Yorkshire helped fund The Ambient Experience Interventional Suite in 2019, in response to a fundraising campaign by Children's Heart Surgery Fund, a charity which supports people with congenital heart disease in Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.

Jane continued: "Seeing your son in hospital is really traumatic. Having to hand your son over to medical staff when he is crying, is the worst thing ever.

"But the sensory room has made it an exciting experience. George was four when



George and his family

he first saw the room. He was told it was a spaceship and he even packed his rocket slippers and chose the music. George ran in and thought everything was so cool. It was all so different to when he was in hospital the first time."

Jane described George, now eight years old, as "hilarious and very confident". She added: "He has learnt to live with his condition in such an amazing way. Any investment helping to advance cardiac surgery for young people is a dream for families like us."

## WE'RE FEELING GOOD

**New Sensory pads at Red Marsh school in Thornton, Lancashire, have created a safe and inclusive environment allowing pupils like eight-year-old Oliver to reap the benefits of Sports and PE.**

Oliver's mum, Sally, explained: "My son Oliver has Autism, ADHD and learning difficulties. He spent a year in mainstream education, but when they played outside, he found the space was huge. It was too much for him and he would run absolutely wild.



**Left: Oliver loves the new sensory pads which create a level, soft and colourful play environment**

"He constantly had bumps and cut knees. Oliver absolutely loves being outside and definitely learns better when he is outside. When he is learning in the classroom, he has a really short attention span.

"That is why the sensory pads are so good – they offer a bit of a break-out session and a chance for him to get outside and carry on his learning."

Red Marsh School specialises in education for two- to 19-year-olds with severe and complex disabilities. Providing a safe and inclusive

outside area for PE and sports programmes, the interactive panels form part of an outdoor activity area which enables young pupils to explore in a safe and comfortable environment.

Sally continued "They are lovely and colourful and really inviting to the children. From a parent point of view, it is also great knowing how safe your children are."

"They have held sports days using the pads and it is great to see all the children together enjoying themselves."





## VETS FEST IS BACK

**Our first Vets Fest was a huge success last year, and this year's Vets Fest in October is looking even better!**

The rugby tournament, at Birmingham Moseley Rugby Club, will see both men and women's teams represent their region, and all the teams' fundraising will be spent on projects in their own region.

Wooden Spoon is aiming to raise £100,000 from the event to support young people's mental health. It is estimated that 1.5 million young people\* will need mental health support, because of the pandemic, and as a charity we want to help support young people who are affected.

As well as the Wooden Spoon regional teams, other rugby charities have been invited to play against the Super Vets (over 50s) and raise funds for their respective charities. The charities involved with Vets Fest 22 so far are Brave Mind and The Atlas Foundation.

Brave Mind is a mental health charity supporting the rugby community. Their vision

is that rugby plays a positive leadership role in embracing matters of mental health and providing a 'stigma free' environment to share, support and heal.

Through health, education, and gender inclusion programmes and many rugby initiatives, The Atlas Foundation provides safety, education, food, sport, guidance and community to thousands of children across five continents.

We will shortly be able to confirm the third charity partner of this fantastic event. The aim is to have competitive fun while playing rugby and raising £100,000 for Wooden Spoon. We already have 24 men's teams and 12 women's teams signed up, each representing a Wooden Spoon region across the country.

We are looking for players to join these regional teams. If you would like to join the fun and help us to achieve our goal, then please visit: [woodenspoon.org.uk/vetsfest22](http://woodenspoon.org.uk/vetsfest22) to find out how to get involved.

\* Centre for Mental Health, Dec 2020



## PLAYING FOR THE VETS

**Wooden Spoon talks to James Russell about why he is backing Vets Fest 22**

James Russell knows more than most the positive impact rugby can have on mental health. For 25 years James has played club rugby with a prosthetic leg – after being born with a congenital defect to his right lower leg and right hand.

The support of family, school teachers, team mates and coaches made him realise nothing was going to hold him back in the sport.

He explained: "I know what a difference rugby can make. I can remember going through school and wanting to do all the things the other children were doing.



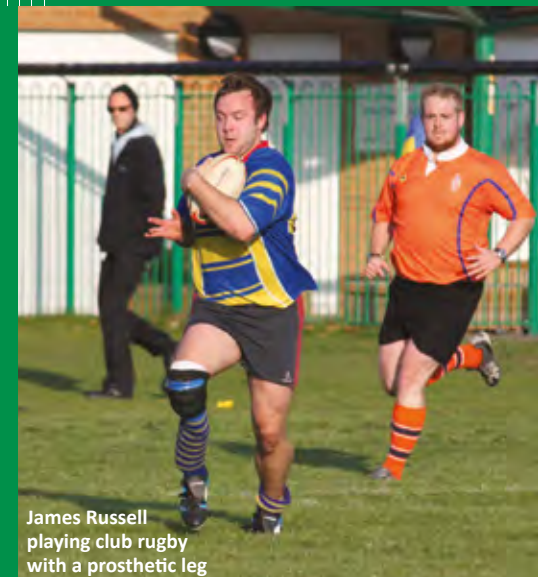
**"We are raising money for the amazing work of Wooden Spoon and, in particular, for mental health projects supporting local children and young people."**

*James Russell*

"I spoke to my PE teacher about whether I could play rugby with a prosthetic leg and he said as long as I had a knee pad to cover it, which was more to do with not injuring other players. I haven't looked back since."

Aware things might have been a lot different, James added: "I was really lucky as my parents never wrapped me in cotton wool. I never had any preferential treatment – and I never wanted any.

"The best feeling was in the dressing room after the game when players saw me hopping along. They couldn't believe I'd played rugby.



James Russell playing club rugby with a prosthetic leg

James' love of rugby saw him take part in the inaugural Wooden Spoon Vets Fest last year. The 38-year-old is already looking forward to taking his place in the charity tournament once again when it returns on Saturday, 8 October at Birmingham Moseley Rugby Club.

This year's Vets Fest will raise money for mental health projects supporting young people and James said: "I am delighted to be supporting the Wooden Spoon Vets Fest 22.

"There was a fantastic atmosphere at last year's vets tournament – I absolutely loved it and can't wait for this year's event.

"Nothing compares to the camaraderie you get in rugby, getting together for good games of rugby and then enjoying the social life.

"Best of all, we are raising money for the amazing work of Wooden Spoon and, in particular, for mental health projects supporting local children and young people."

**We are now looking for clubs or individual players from across the UK to enter players. Register your interest today at: [woodenspoon.org.uk/vetsfest22](http://woodenspoon.org.uk/vetsfest22).**





# ROARING SUPPORT

**We are proud to announce our partnership with The British & Irish Lions has been extended for another year. Spoonnews talks to British & Irish Lion, Chairman of the Lions Trust and Honorary President for Wooden Spoon Scotland, Gavin Hastings OBE about why he has been a proud supporter of Wooden Spoon for the last 35 years**

## What is your involvement with Wooden Spoon? And how did it come about?

As I started to attend dinners and fundraising events, I became more interested in the work of the charity and how it made such a difference to the lives of the children and families it supported.

Over time, I got more involved and I'm now very proud to be Honorary President of Wooden Spoon Scotland.

## How have you seen Wooden Spoon make a difference to the young people we support?

Quite simply, Wooden Spoon raises money for children who have challenges in their life, so there is no question about the difference it makes to so many families.

This is all about helping children and to see the smiles on their faces when you turn up at the opening of a new project really puts everything into perspective. You realise at that time that your money really does make a difference.

The charity cuts across a huge section of society, which means most people would have heard about Wooden Spoon, even all the way down to the famous tie.

## Do you have a particular memorable moment from your time with Wooden Spoon?

Wooden Spoon is known for big projects and big fundraising events. Whether that's the highest game of rugby on Mount Everest or the Four Peaks Challenge in the late 1990s

that I took part in. We raised a great sum of money and it was a really good experience.

Every event is important and every project is important. But the Four Peaks was probably my favourite fundraising event. And as a Scot, I remember raising money for a pier at the Ripple Retreat respite home.

I feel very lucky to have seen the projects Wooden Spoon has helped over the years. Whether it is a sensory room, new building or something different, I have seen all the hard work and fundraising that has helped make such a difference. It is really quite humbling and I'm more than happy to give my time.

**"I feel very lucky to have seen the projects Wooden Spoon has helped over the years."**

*Gavin Hastings OBE*

## What does the Lions charity partnership mean for a charity like Wooden Spoon?

The Lions Board and The Lions Trust are made up of a lot of distinguished former rugby players and we take this role very seriously. We had a lot of interest from various charities applying to the Lions Trust. We wanted to work with charities that would embrace and enhance the partnership. One thing in particular we were looking for was a charity that really made a difference in all four home nations. That was very important.

The Lions Trust is committed to establishing meaningful connections with the wider rugby community by supporting projects that enhance and promote the spirit of the Lions and the game. The Lions charity partnerships provide charities like Wooden Spoon with a platform to share their messages with a much wider audience, which helps to inspire beneficiaries and raise valuable funds.

## How do the values of rugby align with the Wooden Spoon charity?

Everyone involved in rugby is generally a good person and feels a special connection with the rugby family. When you get a lot of good people together, good things don't just happen by chance.

So it is no surprise Wooden Spoon has been so successful in helping to make a real difference given their rugby heritage, which has core rugby values of passion, integrity, teamwork and fun at its heart.

## What is your message for any rugby club, business or individual looking to support Wooden Spoon?

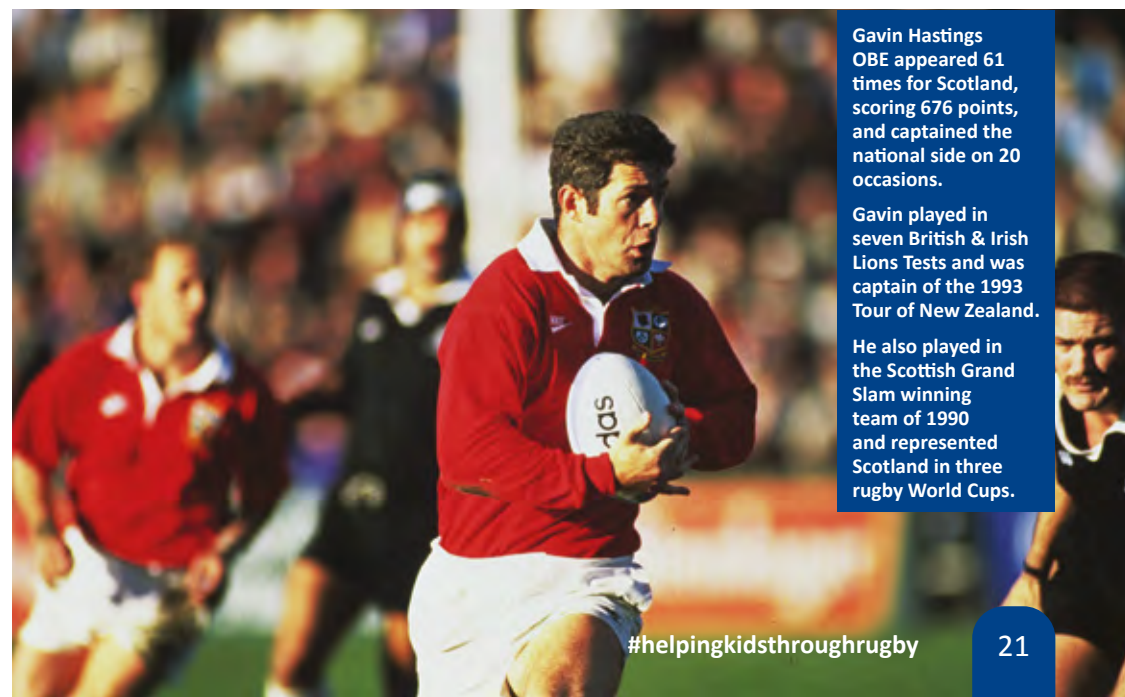
Quite simply, to get involved! You may have influential people within your club or you might simply just be enthusiastic. Either way, whether you are part of a club, business or just wanting to help those less fortunate, Wooden Spoon is a great charity and you will be supported by the Wooden Spoon team every step of the way.

## What are your memories of playing with The British & Irish Lions?

The Lions was an extraordinary thing to be part of. Every four years, a different challenge awaits with another group of coaches and players wanting to test themselves against the very best.

No tour is ever the same and that is what makes it all feel so unique. You are playing alongside the very best, players who have had stellar rugby careers, and it all makes for a very special club to be part of.

I think anyone who puts on that red jersey values the experience for the rest of their lives.



Gavin Hastings OBE appeared 61 times for Scotland, scoring 676 points, and captained the national side on 20 occasions.

Gavin played in seven British & Irish Lions Tests and was captain of the 1993 Tour of New Zealand.

He also played in the Scottish Grand Slam winning team of 1990 and represented Scotland in three rugby World Cups.

## SQUIRRELS ON THE PEAKS

Five friends from Camberley Rugby Club, calling themselves The Squirrels, took on The Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds for Wooden Spoon.

Despite car trouble, no sleep and bad weather, Ian Vandesluys, Jaid Wiltshire, Tom Chennell, Sam Voight, Ben Lovell-Smith and Greg Franzel completed the challenge.

The Three Peaks Challenge is to climb the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales – Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon – 26 miles horizontal distance and 3,000m vertical ascent.

Greg describes the epic climb: “We started the journey with little sleep, climbing Ben Nevis in some of the worst conditions we have ever experienced (howling winds and intense sideways rain).”

“It was a huge grind, but we knew it was the longest trek by a long way.

“Scafell Pike is a monster and was quite brutal in the dark with the track hard to judge as you get near the summit. It was a very steep climb, with a number of false summits, so your hopes evaporate a few times!”



**The Squirrels: Ian Vandesluys, Jaid Wiltshire, Tom Chennell, Sam Voight, Ben Lovell-Smith and Greg Franzel**

“As we set out for Snowdon, the team was shattered, but Snowdon was the most picturesque mountain, so it made it a lot easier to push ourselves to summit.”

The Squirrels’ challenge resulted in an amazing fundraising effort of more than £2,300.



## CHILTERN CYCLE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Dale and Al who completed the Dulux London Revolution cycle ride – a gruelling 156 miles over two days. An amazing achievement raising funds for Wooden Spoon Chilterns.

## FAMILY BURPEE CHALLENGE

When Anthony Evans agreed to the ‘31 Burpees for 31 Days’ challenge, he didn’t expect his children to join him. His sons, Dyfan, ten, and Idris, eight, also took on the daily fitness challenge – completing a total of 2,883 burpees in January, raising over £600.

Anthony said: “I have to admit that I thought the challenge would be OK to complete. But my stomach told me otherwise!”

“Having them join me on the challenge spurred me on. To do this challenge as a family makes it even more special.”

Anthony works as a sign language interpreter and played rugby for more than 30 years before becoming a regional fundraiser for Wooden Spoon Wales.



**Burpee masters: Dyfan, Anthony and Idris**

Anthony continued: “I started fundraising for Wooden Spoon about ten years ago, after my first son was born.

“The boys have grown up with the charity as I think it is really important they know about the crucial work of Wooden Spoon in supporting disadvantaged and disabled children.”

## FIRM FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Cyber-tech start-up Gemba Advantage set up a Six Nations competition and donated the proceeds to Wooden Spoon.

The company has some big rugby fans who have got everyone involved in the

competition. For a chance to win, you had to predict the winner of each match. Whoever got the most predictions correct won two tickets to an international game of their choice.

Euan Whitbourn from Gemba Advantage said: “This year we chose The Wooden Spoon children’s charity due to the fantastic work they do to positively transform the lives of children.”

**Could your company organise a corporate fundraiser in aid of Wooden Spoon? Contact us on [charity@woodenspoon.org.uk](mailto:charity@woodenspoon.org.uk) with your fundraising ideas.**



## MORE THAN MADE HIS MARK

Over the past 19 years, Mark Williams has raised more than £160,000 on behalf of Wooden Spoon Chilterns. In recognition, President Nigel Timson presented Mark with a ‘Certificate of Thanks’ on behalf of everyone at Wooden Spoon for his tremendous support.



**Mark Williams and Nigel Timson**





## FALCONS SOAR AT CHARITY DAY

Falcons Prep School in Richmond continued their long-standing charity partnership with Wooden Spoon when students took part in rugby challenges, raising more than £450.

Events across the year groups included skill-based games and team building exercises.

Wooden Spoon rugby manager Matt Mitchell said: "Spoony and I had a tremendous afternoon at Falcons School – the rugby challenges set by the staff required teamwork, strength and fitness as well as tactical and strategic thinking.

"All great skills to develop, not just for rugby, but for life in general. Seeing every pupil wearing our Wooden Spoon striped socks and working hard made me very proud to be part of the rugby family.

"It was great to see the boys at Falcons recognise how their efforts (with the support of their families) will help to make a difference to the lives of children and young people less fortunate."

Falcons is a school for boys aged 3-13 and girls aged 3-4. [falconsprep.co.uk](http://falconsprep.co.uk)



## MARAUDERS RUGBY 7'S FESTIVAL AT STAINES RFC

9th July 2022

Registration: 11:00, First Kick Off: 12:00

Price: £120/team, Men's & Women's teams welcome

Please contact: [rugby@woodenspoon.org.uk](mailto:rugby@woodenspoon.org.uk)



## SCRUM DINE WITH ME IS BACK!

EXPERIENCE RUGBY'S FINEST SHOWCASE THEIR CULINARY SKILLS IN THIS CHARITY COOK-OFF EVENT

Wednesday 2nd November 2022

Cinnamon Kitchen, Devonshire Square, London

For more information email Danni: [events@woodenspoon.org.uk](mailto:events@woodenspoon.org.uk)



100  
SQUATS  
A DAY  
IN MAY



WE'RE CHALLENGING YOU TO DO 100 SQUATS EVERY DAY IN MAY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR WOODEN SPOON!

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

SIGN UP TODAY: [WOODENSPOON.ORG.UK/SQUAT-CHALLENGE](http://WOODENSPOON.ORG.UK/SQUAT-CHALLENGE)



# PEDAL POWERED FUNDRAISER

**Between June 11 and 18, The Road to Twickenham 750-mile charity cycle challenge will take place, as hundreds of cyclists unite to raise funds for Wooden Spoon and Premiership Rugby Club Foundations**

Taking place over eight days, a core group of rugby legends will cycle the Gallagher trophy over 750 miles, from Newcastle Falcons to Twickenham Stadium, in time for the Gallagher Premiership Rugby Final 2022.

At the final, the trophy will be cycled into the stadium and placed on the hallowed turf, ready for the champions to take home with them.

The core group of riders are listed on the map to the right, and more names will be revealed nearer the time.

On their journey, the riders will stop at each Premiership Rugby Club to meet a group of day riders, who will join them on the next leg.

## How you can get involved?

The core riders will be raising funds for Wooden Spoon, along with all fundraising

on match day via a 'text to donate' campaign and the day riders will be raising funds for the Premiership Rugby Club Foundations of their choice.

Day riders will ride a leg of the journey (see map and day ride routes for details). The entry fee is £50 and there is a minimum fundraising pledge for the Premiere Rugby Foundation of your choice of £150.

The entry fee includes, a branded top, refreshments, transportation from start and finish points and a Q&A each day with the rugby legend cyclists.

Spaces are limited to 50 cyclists on each leg, so will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

**To secure your spot in this event please contact:**  
[Premiershiprugby@ajg.com](mailto:Premiershiprugby@ajg.com)

## RUGBY LEGENDS CYCLING THE 750-MILE ROUTE

**Nathan Hines**  
Gallagher

**Jack Clifford**  
Harlequins

**Lee Mears**  
Bath

**Ollie Philips**  
Newcastle

**Al Hargreaves**  
Saracens

**Tom May**  
Northampton Saints

**Charlie Sharples**  
Gloucester

**Jonny Arr**  
Worcester

**Dave Attwood**  
Bristol

**Tom Stephenson**  
London Irish

*More names will be revealed nearer the time*

## CORE RIDE ROUTE

<b>DAY 1</b> 11 JUNE	<b>Newcastle - Skipton</b> 100 miles
<b>DAY 2</b> 12 JUNE	<b>Skipton - Sale - Uttoxeter</b> 107 miles
<b>DAY 3</b> 13 JUNE	<b>Uttoxeter - Leicester - Wasps - Northampton</b> 105 miles
<b>DAY 4</b> 14 JUNE	<b>Northampton - Worcester - Gloucester</b> 95 miles
<b>DAY 5</b> 15 JUNE	<b>Gloucester - Bristol - Exeter</b> 115 miles
<b>DAY 6</b> 16 JUNE	<b>Exeter - Bath</b> 81 miles
<b>DAY 7</b> 17 JUNE	<b>Bath - Newbury - Twickenham Stoop</b> 112 miles
<b>DAY 8</b> 18 JUNE	<b>Twickenham Stoop - Rugby HQ</b>

## DAY RIDE ROUTES

<b>DAY 1</b> 11 JUNE	<b>Newcastle - Darlington</b>	51 miles
<b>DAY 2</b> 12 JUNE	<b>Skipton - Sale</b>	48.9 miles
<b>DAY 3</b> 13 JUNE	Part 1: <b>Uttoxeter - Leicester</b> Part 2: <b>Leicester - Coventry</b> Part 3: <b>Coventry - Northampton</b>	47.5 miles 23.7 miles 37.7 miles
<b>DAY 4</b> 14 JUNE	Part 1: <b>Northampton - Worcester</b> Part 2: <b>Worcester - Gloucester</b>	73.8 miles 32.7 miles
<b>DAY 5</b> 15 JUNE	<b>Gloucester - Bristol</b>	41.2 miles
<b>DAY 6</b> 16 JUNE	Part 1: <b>Exeter - Millfield</b> Part 2: <b>Millfield - Bath</b>	57.2 miles 34 miles
<b>DAY 7</b> 17 JUNE	<b>Newbury - Twickenham Stoop</b>	56.3 miles





### WOODEN SPOON GUERNSEY HAS SUPPORTED:

**Guernsey Sailing Trust**  
£17,000 towards a sailing boat

**Guernsey College of Further Education**  
£25,000 towards a minibus

**Le Rondin School**  
£41,000 towards paediatric communication aids service, and play areas

**The Coach House (Guernsey Sports Commission)** £23,900 towards a minibus

**Le Murier School**  
£87,915 towards a climbing wall

**Guernsey Sailing Trust**  
£1,500 towards the renovation of dinghy

**GXSA** £50,000 towards café at the skate park

**Le Murier School**  
Minibus £25,000

**Guernsey Sailing Trust**  
£12,560 for Sailability Boat

**Dyslexia Centre**  
£12,000

**KGV** Installation of lift for access to all floors  
£12,000

**Le Rondin School**  
Sensory Rooms  
£14,640

**Bright Beginnings**  
£750

**Home start** £750

**Safer** £750

**Guernsey Beach Wheelchairs** £17,000

**Guernsey Christmas Appeal** £8,165

**Guernsey Rugby Academy** £6,000

**Les Voies Playground**  
£20,000 tbc

**TOTAL** £375,930



L-R: Ollie Philips, Wooden Spoon Guernsey Chair Karen Solway, Lieutenant Governor Sir Ian Corder and Mike Tindall MBE

## 21 YEARS OF WOODEN SPOON GUERNSEY

**Founded in 2001, Wooden Spoon Guernsey has raised a fantastic amount for local causes through various fundraising events, dinners, 6 Nations events, golf days and challenges.**

All of the projects supported have significant importance. However, there are some that have had a wider social impact and a real legacy project such as Le Murier Climbing Wall, Guernsey Sailing Trust Sailability Boat and Guernsey Beach Wheelchairs Scheme.

Le Murier School's annual Everest Challenge sees teams scale the climbing wall to reach the height of Everest. The event raises around £20,000, funding residential experiences for pupils.

Alongside vessels and equipment, Guernsey Sailing Trust has also benefited from a

Sailability boat, making sailing available to all. In addition, Guernsey Harbours installed a special hoist, making the harbour fully accessible to any disabled sailor or visitor.

Pembroke Bay is equipped with three special beach wheelchairs in situ at each of the beaches through the Beach Wheelchair Scheme. The feedback from the users has been amazing, enabling all ages and abilities to enjoy time at the beach.

The next project in Guernsey's sights is an outdoor recreation area for Les Voies School. Most of the children have complex family circumstances, and yet there is currently no outdoor recreation equipment. Wooden Spoon Guernsey will help fund a climbing frame, to enhance their education and well being.

Guernsey Beach Wheelchairs



## SOLID SUPPORT IN WALES

The Concrete Society Lunch raised an astonishing £26,700 for Wooden Spoon Wales, which will help to bring smiles to many faces.

More than 470 guests attended the event, held in the grounds of Cardiff Arms Park, home of Cardiff Rugby.

Guests were welcomed by the chairman of Concrete Society (Wales Region), Mel Francis. Presentations were given by Kevin Thomas of The Indigo Group, the main event sponsor, and Ant Evans, who told the guests about Wooden Spoon's life-changing work.

After dinner, compère Sean Holley was joined on stage by



legendary England and Lions stars, Simon Shaw MBE and Jason Leonard OBE, pictured above, who entertained all the guests with their rugby tales and chat.

Wooden Spoon has been the chosen charity of many clubs, societies and businesses in Wales over the years, but no partnership has been as

strong as the one we have with the Concrete Society (Wales Region).

For many in the construction industry in south Wales, the Autumn lunch and the smaller Spring lunch are important fixtures in the diary and they have raised in the region of £150,000 for vulnerable children in Wales.

Photo: Paul Fears

## NEW MEMBERS AT NEWQUAY

Wooden Spoon Cornwall held their annual dinner at the Hotel Bristol, Newquay.

Guests were joined by Wooden Spoon's CEO Sarah Webb, and they heard first-hand from Sam Murray, Head Teacher of Curnow Lower School, of the positive impact the latest Wooden Spoon project has had on the children at the school.

Wooden Spoon also offered a warm welcome to new members – who will be eagerly awaiting the arrival of their Spoon tie!

British and Irish Lion John Bentley joined the dinner, bringing his entertaining and engaging spirit to the event. Thank you to everyone involved for making the evening a great fundraising success.





## BURNS NIGHT BASH

Beating away the January blues, a squad of Wooden Spoon Vets travelled to Edinburgh and fielded a team against Haddington and East Lothian Barbarians XV.

The energetic game saw some fantastic tries, while the final score was 'not enough' vs 'too many', with rugby proving to be the real winner of the day.

The game was followed by a traditional Burns Supper with entertainment and the day raised over £6,500 for Wooden Spoon Edinburgh.

Wooden Spoon Rugby Manager Matt Mitchell said: "This special group of rugby Vets is quintessentially what rugby and Wooden Spoon is about – they will travel anywhere to play rugby and help raise funds for the children and young people the charity supports. Each and every one of the squad brings something to the team either on the pitch or in the clubhouse."



To get involved with your local Wooden Spoon Vets XV or the Wooden Spoon B&I National Spoon Vets XV email a brief rugby CV to: [rugby@WoodenSpoon.org.uk](mailto:rugby@WoodenSpoon.org.uk)



## LUCKY SOCKS!

Basildon U18s girls supported Wooden Spoon by wearing Wooden Spoon socks at the National U18 Cup Quarter Final. Must be lucky socks as they won 27-10 and progress into the semi final!

## RUGBY ROYALTY AT FYLDE

Lancashire West Coast held their annual joint Sportsman's Lunch with Fylde RFC recently, sponsored by Questa Chartered. The event sold out and 180 guests joined the ever popular lunch event.

Former British & Irish Lions and Scotland player and coach Sir Ian McGeechan made a fabulous guest speaker at the lunch. Former Lions and England player John Bentley acted as MC, joining Sir Ian for a superb double act.

If that wasn't enough rugby royalty, Chairman of World Rugby, Lancashire Wooden Spoon Honorary President and former Lions and England captain Sir Bill Beaumont made a guest appearance, making it truly an event not to be missed.

The lunch raised £12,000 and the guests agreed £1,000 of this sum should be donated to the Disaster Emergency Committee – Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.



Martin Long, John Bentley, Mark Cadley, Sir Ian McGeechan, Sir Bill Beaumont with Stuart Dewin and Anthony Hoskisson (rear) from event sponsor Questa Chartered

## NICK AND JOHN DRAW THE CROWDS

Over 170 Wooden Spoon supporters enjoyed a splendid evening in the magnificent setting of The Royal Automobile Country Club, Epsom, raising nearly £9,000 for the charity.

The highlight of the evening's programme was a highly entertaining and interesting Q&A session between Surrey Region's Honorary President John Inverdale and All Blacks and Harlequins' legend Nick Evans.

Nick provided a wonderful insight into what it means to be an All Black. He also explained the regime that he and his coaching colleagues at Harlequins have introduced which has produced the dramatic uplift in the club's performance in the Premiership and resulted in Quins now being viewed by many as the most exciting and adventurous side in the competition.

Predictably, he was quizzed by the audience about Eddie Jones's track record as England's coach and what he felt about Jones's treatment of Danny Care, Marcus Smith and Alex Dombrandt. Mirroring his playing style, Nick sidestepped the more contentious issues and displayed a remarkable level of diplomacy in his answers!



Nick Evans and John Inverdale



# EVENTS CALENDAR



**21 APRIL 2022**

## Leicestershire

St George's Day Luncheon, Leicester Racecourse

**28 APRIL 2022**

## Durham

Durham Golf Day, Rockliffe Hall, Darlington

**29 APRIL 2022**

## Chilterns

Wooden Spoon Chilterns Sport Luncheon, Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, Marlow

**20 MAY 2022**

## Devon

Devon Golf Day, Yelverton Golf Club

**9 JUNE 2022**

## Ulster

The Recall – Belated Celebration Lunch for Willie John McBride's 80th birthday, Culloden Hotel, Belfast

**10 JUNE 2022**

## Kent

West Kent Golf Day, Redlibbets Golf Club

**10 JUNE 2022**

## Surrey

Annual golf day, Effingham Golf Club

**11-18 JUNE 2022**

## National

The Gallagher 'Road to Twickenham' charity cycle challenge

**12 JUNE 2022**

## Bristol, Bath & Somerset

Bristol, Bath and Somerset Fan Dance Challenge, Pen y Fan, Brecon Beacons

**15 JUNE 2022**

## Leicestershire

Theatre Event: Carousel, Kilworth Open Air Theatre

**26 JUNE 2022**

## Kent

Kent Club Together Cycle

**1 JULY 2022**

## Cornwall

Cornwall Golf Day, Lanhydrock Golf Club

**1 JULY 2022**

## Lancashire

Lancashire Annual Golf Day, Blackpool North Shore Golf Club

**8 JULY 2022**

## Kent

Mid Kent Golf Day, Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden

**15 JULY 2022**

## Guernsey

A night with the Home Nations Legend Dinner

**17 AUGUST 2022**

## Chilterns

Chilterns Golf Day, Henley Golf Club

**17 AUGUST 2022**

## Leicestershire

Theatre Event: Half a Sixpence, Kilworth Open Air Theatre

**19 AUGUST 2022**

## Kent

Kent Rugby Club Golf Challenge, Redlibbets Golf Club

**8 SEPTEMBER 2022**

## Bristol, Bath & Somerset

Annual Black Tie Gala Dinner & Auction

**14 SEPTEMBER 2022**

## Leicestershire

Golf Day, Luffenham Heath Golf Club

**2 OCTOBER 2022**

## National

London Marathon

**7 OCTOBER 2022**

## Hertfordshire

Golf Day, Knebworth Golf Club

**8 OCTOBER 2022**

## National

Vets Fest, Moseley FRC

**18 NOVEMBER 2022**

## Lancashire

Annual Luncheon, Village Hotel, Blackpool

**2 NOVEMBER 2022**

## London

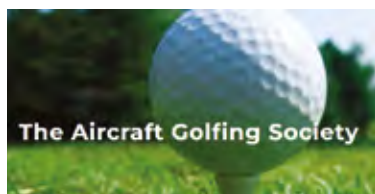
Scrum Dine With Me, Cinnamon Kitchen, Devonshire Square

**25 NOVEMBER 2022**

## Surrey

Rugby Club's Curry Lunch, Old Reigate RFC

\*Please note that all events will run in conjunction with Government guidelines and may be subject to change.



Thanks to the generosity of members and guests at golfing fixtures throughout the year, the Aircraft Golfing Society is able to support selected charity partners including Wooden Spoon. If you are interested in becoming a member of the AGS or playing in one of their golf events, please contact Jane on: [jane2ags@outlook.com](mailto:jane2ags@outlook.com)


**Wooden Spoon**  
 The children's charity of rugby



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR RUBY RUGBY BALL**  
**COME AND HELP US CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF WOODEN SPOON**  
**Friday 10th February 2023**  
**Landmark Hotel, London**

For more information email Danni: [events@woodenspoon.org.uk](mailto:events@woodenspoon.org.uk)






 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR


**Wooden Spoon**  
 The children's charity of rugby



**RUN THE LONDON MARATHON AND RAISE FUNDS FOR WOODEN SPOON**  
**WE STILL HAVE PLACES IN THE LONDON MARATHON ON 2ND OCTOBER 2022**

To apply please email Danni: [events@woodenspoon.org.uk](mailto:events@woodenspoon.org.uk)






 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

## TIM HEAL

Tim Heal, former Chairman of Wooden Spoon Gloucestershire, has sadly passed away, aged 71.

Tim was the ultimate professional in his career as a property expert with Alder King. He had a positive influence on all who met him and had an abundance of enthusiasm for whatever project he took on.

A huge supporter of Gloucester Rugby Club, he would regularly be seen at Kingsholm.

Tim was involved in Wooden Spoon Gloucestershire since 1997 and was Chair from 2011. During these years, Tim made a huge

contribution to many projects including Riding for the Disabled facility in Cirencester, St Roses School Sensory Garden and The Chamwell Centre Climbing Wall.

We all have very fond memories of Tim which we will treasure forever. Tim made an enormous contribution to Wooden Spoon and many charities throughout Gloucestershire and will be sorely missed by his friends, colleagues and above all his family.

We send our deepest condolences to his wife Deb and their two children Rebecca and Nick.



## ALAN BLACK

We are mourning the loss of Alan Black. Originally from Northumberland, Alan played for Newcastle RFC & Northumberland, before moving south to Berkshire to be sports master at the Sir William Borlase School.

He joined Wasps RFC where he served the club in a number of capacities including player, captain, coach, and president. He eventually left teaching and joined

the RFU's fledgling community programme before retiring back to the North East.

He first became involved with Wooden Spoon in the 1990s when he met Peter Scott (Spoon Founder and Life President), attending many Wooden Spoon events and supporting our charity in any way he could. Alan was hugely liked and well respected, both on and off the pitch, a true rugby man.



## BARRY WILLIAMS

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Barry Williams who was a tremendous supporter of Wooden Spoon for many years.

Barry was compère and after dinner speaker at many of the Wooden Spoon Balls, accompanied by his wife, Jenny.

Barry's presence, performance and expertise in planning the event helped make the Wooden Spoon Annual Ball the most sought after function of its type, especially within the motor industry.

We will miss him and Wooden Spoon has lost one of its greatest supporters.



Want to join our growing squad? Contact your local team below and make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children living near you.

### ABERDEEN

Chair: **Norman Fiddes**  
aberdeen@woodenspoon.org.uk

### BEDFORDSHIRE:

Chair: **Oliver Richbell**  
bedfordshire@woodenspoon.org.uk

### BRISTOL, BATH & SOMERSET

Chair: **Bob Densley**  
bbs@woodenspoon.org.uk

### CHILTERN

Chair: **Chris Henkey**  
chilterns@woodenspoon.org.uk

### CORNWALL

Chair: **Alan Milliner**  
cornwall@woodenspoon.org.uk

### CUMBRIA

Chair: **John Cunningham**  
cumbria@woodenspoon.org.uk

### DEVON

Chair: **Roger Haywood**  
devon@woodenspoon.org.uk

### DORSET, WILTSHIRE & HAMPSHIRE

Chair: **Brett Bader**  
dorsetandwilts@woodenspoon.org.uk

### DURHAM

Chair: **Paul Tully**  
durham@woodenspoon.org.uk

### EASTERN COUNTIES

Chair: **Seamus Farrelly**  
eastern@woodenspoon.org.uk

### EDINBURGH

Chair: **John Godfrey**  
edinburgh@woodenspoon.org.uk

### ESSEX

Chair: **Richard Austin/James Crouch**  
essex@woodenspoon.org.uk

### GLASGOW

Chair: **Jamie Livingston**  
glasgow@woodenspoon.org.uk

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Chair: **Rob York**  
gloucester@woodenspoon.org.uk

### GUERNSEY

Chair: **Karen Solway**  
guernsey@woodenspoon.org.uk

### HERTFORDSHIRE

Chair: **John Batters**  
hertfordshire@woodenspoon.org.uk

### ISLE OF MAN

Chair: **Allan Thompson/Peter Jenkins**  
iselofman@woodenspoon.org.uk

### JERSEY

Chair: **David Wilton**  
jersey@woodenspoon.org.uk

### KENT

Chair: **Richard Russ**  
kent@woodenspoon.org.uk

### LANCASHIRE

Chair: **Martin Long**  
lancashire@woodenspoon.org.uk

### LEICESTERSHIRE

Chair: **Malcolm Foulkes-Arnold**  
leicester@woodenspoon.org.uk

### LEINSTER

Chair: **Niall Browne**  
leinster@woodenspoon.org.uk

### LONDON

charity@woodenspoon.org.uk

### MANCHESTER & CHESHIRE

Chair: **Roger Smith**  
manchester@woodenspoon.org.uk

### MERSEYSIDE

Chair: **Mark Flett**  
merseyside@woodenspoon.org.uk

### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Chair: **Steve Valentine**  
northampton@woodenspoon.org.uk

### NORTHUMBERLAND

Chair: **Anthony Stoker**  
northumberland@woodenspoon.org.uk

### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Chair: **Diane Orson**  
nottingham@woodenspoon.org.uk

### OXFORDSHIRE

Chair: **Will Deeley**  
oxfordshire@woodenspoon.org.uk

### SHROPSHIRE

Chair: **Chris Bristow**  
shropshire@woodenspoon.org.uk

### STAFFORDSHIRE

Chair: **Trevor Jenkins**  
staffordshire@woodenspoon.org.uk

### SURREY

Chair: **Brian Hodges**  
surrey@woodenspoon.org.uk

### SUSSEX

Chair: **Sandy Fleming**  
sussex@woodenspoon.org.uk

### ULSTER

Chair: **Peter Wood**  
ulster@woodenspoon.org.uk

### WALES

Chair: **Huw Thomas**  
wales@woodenspoon.org.uk

### WARWICKSHIRE

Chair: **Ian Holroyd**  
warwickshire@woodenspoon.org.uk

### WEST MIDLANDS

Chair: **Martin Owen**  
westmidlands@woodenspoon.org.uk

### WORCESTERSHIRE

Chair: **John Gibson**  
worcester@woodenspoon.org.uk

### YORKSHIRE

Chair: **Stuart Watson**  
yorkshire@woodenspoon.org.uk

Nowhere near you? If you would like to represent Wooden Spoon in your area please contact: [regions@woodenspoon.org.uk](mailto:regions@woodenspoon.org.uk)



AS SEEN ON



MAKE YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT MORE FUN!

# TRY RUGBYTOTS

Our dynamic weekly play sessions enable **boys and girls** aged **2-7** to develop their social and physical skills in a fun, positive environment. For more details, just call or email.

**0345 313 3242**

**[enquiries@rugbytots.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rugbytots.co.uk)**



**[rugbytots.co.uk](http://rugbytots.co.uk)**

**The world's favourite rugby play programme**