COMPETITION COVER WINNER
WELL DONE - GRACE HASSALL FROM LEAMINGTON SPA P7

CHARITABLE PROJECTS
REGIONS SET RECORD P8

GAME ON FOR DISABILITY RUGBY PROJECTS P33
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Wooden Spoon
Ending on a high…

After nearly 4 years in office, it is with mixed emotions that I write, what will be my final foreword for Spoonews before I step down as CEO.

April 2013 heralds our 30th Anniversary year and as we busy ourselves finalising our year end accounts for 2012, we can reflect back on what has been one of the toughest fundraising years for some time. However, in saying that, it has also been quite extraordinary in terms of what we have achieved together!

During the year we have opened:
10 Sensory Gardens and Sensory Rooms, 19 Buildings and extensions to support children with special needs, 22 Specially adapted playgrounds and play areas, 4 Game On community projects aimed at getting disadvantaged young people into work, 1 Game On project to launch Wheelchair Rugby on the Isle of Man, 1 Game On Rugby Tag Festival for children with mild or severe learning difficulties, 3 Sailing boat and barge conversions to allow disabled access and use, 2 Converted caravans for respite care and 1 Converted minibus to transport disabled children.

This amounts to 63 projects and represents the largest number of projects ever opened in a single year in the entire history of Wooden Spoon.

Through these 63 projects we have invested over £1.3m and helped the long term future and happiness of over 100,000 children and young people in the British Isles. This edition of Spoonews highlights only a small sample of these stunning charitable projects, but all projects are available for viewing on our website.

It never ceases to amaze and reassure me that no matter how tough or austere the economic outlook, the loyalty, dedication, support and generosity of our Wooden Spoon members, volunteer committees, ambassadors, staff and corporate supporters always meet the challenge to achieve our charitable objectives. We certainly have “stirred a lot of smiles” this year.

Although I have been a charity volunteer for most of my private sector corporate career, I will always be indebted to Wooden Spoon for giving me the opportunity to fully appreciate and understand the inner world of charity. It has been an honour and privilege being team captain over the past 4 years and I wish the incoming CEO, Steve Holt, and the new Chairman of Trustees, John Gibson and all at Wooden Spoon the very best for the future.

Regards,
Bill Hill, CEO Wooden Spoon

Wooden Spoon
Who We Are and What We Do

Wooden Spoon is a children’s charity founded in 1983 that is dedicated to helping disadvantaged children and young people across the British Isles live happier, richer lives. We partner with the rugby community, receiving invaluable support for our activities and the opportunity to raise awareness of the work we do. In doing so, we involve some of rugby’s top sporting role models in making a difference in the lives of young people in need.

We proudly comprise over 40 regional volunteer committees, a central national team and over 10,000 members. All regional committees undertake many local fundraising activities and only spend the money raised on projects in their local community. During our first 30 years, over 600,000 young people benefitted from more than £20 million of charitable support thanks to the efforts of our staff and volunteers. We are proud of our legacy, the work we do, and our ambitious plans for the future.

If you would like to become involved or require further information please email charity@woodenspoon.com or contact the central national team on 01252 773720.

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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.

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www.halcyon-collections.com  Halcyon are proud to support the Wooden Spoon.
Steve Holt has been appointed the new Chief Executive of Wooden Spoon and will be commencing his duties in early May followed by a smooth transition process with Bill Hill.

Steve has spent the last 4 years as Executive Sport Relief, Comic Relief. Previously his career has been within the financial services sector (banking and insurance) with expatriate experience of the Asian, North American, European, Middle Eastern and African marketplaces.

Prior to joining Comic Relief he was an NED at Aon building upon his previous 7 years as Managing Director, Aon Ltd.

His professional expertise is managing strategic partnerships and alliances. He has worked successfully on various fundraising and media activities within both rugby codes by establishing long-term partnerships with The RFL, RLWC 2013, Premiership Rugby, ER2015, RFU, SRIJ, WRU, Dallaglio Foundation, Aviva Premiership clubs, The RPA, Rugby League clubs and Rugby League Cares.

A previous Chairman of Peterborough United Football Club and a Director of the Football League until 2006.

Steve is married to June, and has two married daughters Kerry and Laura, and one granddaughter Isabel.

Steve says “I am deeply honoured and privileged to be stewarding Spoon through its next era of development in this seminal 30th year. This means focusing on fundamentals, in a very transparent way by: increasing membership, revenues and growing the brand whilst tightly managing costs.

My first goal is to visit all regional chairmen and volunteer committees – they are the heart and soul of Wooden Spoon. I want to listen to people’s ideas and build constructive relationships with all of Spoon’s existing stakeholders. I aim to enhance Spoon’s proud and rich heritage with some thoughtful changes.

Sport (and both rugby codes’ values in particular) has the power to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can.

I absolutely believe that all children and young people deserve the chance to live happy fulfilled lives regardless of the challenges they may face and I know that every penny Spoon raises counts. As we have moved from a world of prosperity to austerity, Spoon is making a real difference to the lives of young people in need.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months and as Chris Laidlaw, the All Blacks legend said “Rugby may have some problems, but the gravest is undoubtedly that of the persistence of summer” (Lion’s tours excepted). Let’s hope we get one!

Thank you for your continued support, without you Spoon cannot be successful. John Gibson, the Trustees, the Spoon staff and I look forward to a wonderful 30th year – keep the fun in fundraising and enjoy this special year.”
Spoon announces new Chairman

We are extremely sad to announce, that after four years as Chairman, Steuart Howie will be stepping down from his role.

Steuart has done a fantastic job as Chairman, and we would like to thank him for all of his time and effort donated over the last four years in helping Spoon to grow to the size we are now, and enabling us to help so many disadvantaged young people.

Steuart left Spoon with this message:

"I would like to thank everyone for their support during my four years as Chairman. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as Chairman and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I will not however be disappearing into the sunset quite yet as I will be continuing as a trustee and also supporting as many project openings and events as I can."

Replacing Steuart as the new Chairman of Wooden Spoon will be John Gibson. John, a quantity surveyor, is a longstanding Wooden Spoon member and has been Chairman of the Worcestershire region since it was founded ten years ago. He therefore has an in-depth knowledge of Spoon from both a Central and Regional perspective. We are sure that John will do a great job in leading our charity through the next phase of our development.

Wooden Spoon gets dumpTackle’d

dumpTackle is the fans brand that is taking the Rugby clothing world by storm. After kicking off at the beginning of 2011, dumpTackle made it their business to provide great quality, good looking and affordable rugby clothing for anyone with even just a passing interest in the sport to enjoy. Their witty and unique t-shirts have become popular with the old guard and the new fans of rugby alike.

dumpTackle’s co-founders are two young and ambitious rugby fans who have long been supporters of Wooden Spoon. Previous work they have done for us including the creation of a very well received, special edition ‘Utensil of Shame’ Wooden Spoon t-shirt that was sold at the end of the 2011 Six Nations Championship and they have just launched another range of great looking Wooden Spoon tees that will be sold to raise money for Spoon.

Go to www.dumpTackle.com to purchase your Wooden Spoon themed t-shirts.

Cover Competition Winner

Back in December in our Annual Christmas brochure, we called on all the younger followers of Spoon to draw an image that celebrated our 30th Anniversary and that the winner would be used as the cover for this Spring / Summer Edition Spoons.

We had some great entries, but after much deliberation, we chose this fantastic effort by nine year old Grace Hassall from Leamington Spa.

Grace is in fact the niece of one of our longest serving Regional Chairmen, Phil Pemble, of West Midlands Spoon and attends the Arnold Lodge School in Leamington Spa.

Lions Tour Raffle Winner

Lucky winner of our British & Irish Lions Tour entry.
Spoon Charitable Work

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

**DEVON**

**LONGCAUSE COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL**

**SPORTS HALL**
For children aged 4-16 with communication and learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: **£70,000**
Opened by: Phil Vickery on 18th October 2012

In October former British & Irish Lion and England International Phil Vickery opened the first of a hat trick of Devon projects with a new sports hall at Longcause Community Special School, Plymouth.

Longcause is attended by pupils aged 4-16 from Devon and Cornwall who suffer from a wide range of communication and learning difficulties such as autism. In 2009 it was awarded with a sports specialist status and designated to become the recognised centre of excellence to which autistic children in Devon could attend for high level sports and physical education programmes. In addition the school will be used to host training sessions for both special needs and mainstream PE teachers in order to provide understanding of the teaching methods required to accommodate the learning capabilities of autistic children within a competitive sporting environment.

Central to the school’s ability to perform these functions was the funding to build a new, state of the art sports hall which includes elements such as special flooring, a climbing wall, fixed activity frames, hoists, screening and netting. This is where Spoon Devon stepped in and provided Longcause School with £70,000 towards the funding of the sports hall.

**DEVON**

**CHICKS**

**PLAY BARN**
For disadvantaged children aged 8-15.
Spoon donation: **£60,000**
Opened by: Phil Vickery on 19th October 2012

The second of Devon’s October project openings saw Wooden Spoon Lead Ambassador Phil Vickery continue his tour of the West Country opening a new play barn at the CHICKS Moorland Retreat near Tavistock on Dartmoor.

CHICKS was founded in 1992 by two teachers who realised the difference that a respite break in the countryside could have on disadvantaged children. The Moorland retreat is set on 8 acres in the foothills of...
Dartmoor and provides week long respite breaks free of charge for disadvantaged children from across the UK who would not otherwise have time away. During their stay the children, aged 8-15 take part in many new and exciting outdoor activities such as horse riding, swimming, abseiling and rock climbing.

Spoon Devon provided £60,000 to CHICKS to enable the Wooden Spoon sports hall to be built providing the only large scale indoor play facility at Moorland.

**HOLIDAY CARAVAN**

For pre school children with additional needs.

Spoon donation: £40,000

Opened by: Phil Vickery on 22nd October 2012

The more observant of readers will have noted that Celebrity Masterchef winner and Wooden Spoon Challenge enthusiast Phil Vickery completed a hat trick of project openings over a whistle stop 5-day tour of Devon with the last project seeing Phil unveil a new holiday caravan at Croyde Bay for The Friends of Plymouth Portage (FPP).

FPP is a small charity who offer support to pre-school children with additional needs and/or disabilities. They are exclusively dedicated to providing play equipment and facilities for use by the disabled children and families who are registered with The Plymouth Portage Service.

The charity wished to add a new permanent caravan to a site at Ruda Holiday Park, near Croyde Bay, North Devon. Spoon Devon agreed to provide £40,000 towards the Wooden Spoon Caravan. The caravan has 3 bedrooms with surrounding decking providing wheelchair access and will be available for one-week bookings approximately 35 weeks every year.

Spoon Devon provided £60,000 to CHICKS to enable the Wooden Spoon sports hall to be built providing the only large scale indoor play facility at Moorland.

**EASTERN COUNTIES**

**GLENWOOD SCHOOL**

**OUTDOOR GYM**

For children aged 3-19 with profound learning disabilities.

Spoon donation: £7,000

Opened by: Jason Leonard on 11th October 2012

On 11th October former British & Irish Lion and England International Jason Leonard attended and assisted with the official opening of the Wooden Spoon Outdoor Gym at Glenwood School, Benfleet. On hand to assist were members of Southend RFC whose support of Wooden Spoon helped to bring the project to fruition.

Built in the 1960’s by Essex LEA, Glenwood School now educates 111 of the most severely disabled youngsters in Essex. All are classified as suffering from severe, multiple or profound learning disabilities.

The pupils age range and severity of disabilities presents a particularly wide array of challenges for staff. Academic education possibilities are somewhat limited; therefore a huge emphasis is placed on physical, emotional and social development so that the youngsters can integrate in the wider community although the majority will remain institutionalised for the rest of their lives.

The school has a good range of physical activity equipment, a large area of grass and hard surface playgrounds surrounding the school.

However, there is a desperate need for some substantial and physically challenging outdoor gym equipment that will be of particular benefit to those children towards the upper age range and visiting disabled groups. The Wooden Spoon Outdoor Gym comprises of seven pieces of fixed equipment including two arm & pedal exercise bikes, a cross trainer and rowing machine.

After the opening all guests were treated to a fine buffet served by pupils from the school. Headteacher Judith Salter commented, “Our young people are really enjoying using the outside gym equipment. It is a wonderful facility to have. We would like to thank Wooden Spoon for their support and also everyone who attended the opening”.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**WATERSHED RDA**

**OUTDOOR RIDING ARENA**

For youngsters with disabilities.

Spoon donation: £40,000

Opened by: HRH The Princess Royal on 9th November 2012

Watershed is a small Riding for the Disabled Association Centre run by volunteers. The centre was in great need of an all-weather outdoor riding arena to expand and accommodate additional children.

Spoon Gloucestershire raised the necessary £40,000 for the Wooden Spoon Outdoor Arena that replaced the sub-standard facilities previously on-site. The new arena consists of 800 square metres, which will solve restrictions and enable the centre to embark on a major expansion of their disabled riding activities for the local community.

As President of RDA and Patron of Wooden Spoon HRH The Princess Royal officially unveiled the plaque of the new all weather riding arena. Having visited the centre before HRH The Princess Royal commented on how much the new arena was needed.

Spoon Devon provided £60,000 to CHICKS to enable the Wooden Spoon sports hall to be built providing the only large scale indoor play facility at Moorland.
GUERNSEY
GUERNSEY SAILING SCHOOL

HAWK YACHT
For disadvantaged children and youngsters.
Spoon donation: £1,500
Opened by: 15th September 2012

In September Spoon Guernsey were delighted to present a cheque for £1,500 to the Guernsey Sailing Trust for essential renovations to the Hawk Yacht.

In 2003 Spoon Guernsey funded £17,000 for the purchase of the Hawk 20 dinghy and during the past 10 years the boat has been invaluable to the success of the sailing activities arranged by the Guernsey Sailing Trust.

These activities enable the trust to help underprivileged and special needs children and adults onto the water.

However the boat was in need of a refit in order to get back to her former self. This included; fibreglass work and gel repairs, stripping down of the keel and re-painting along with replacement of the SHP engine, which was 9 years old. Spoon Guernsey were able to help the trust afford these necessary refurbishments and hope the boat will bring continued fun and excitement to lots of Guernsey’s disabled and underprivileged children.

The newly refurbished Hawk 20

“Our young people are really enjoying using the outside gym equipment. It is a wonderful facility to have. We would like to thank Wooden Spoon for their support”

LANCASHIRE
COPPICE SCHOOL

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
For children and youngsters aged 2-19 with severe learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £7,000
Opened by: Bill Beaumont on 17th December 2012

The Coppice School, Preston was delighted to be able to welcome former British & Irish Lion and England International Bill Beaumont to the grand opening of their new Wooden Spoon Outdoor Classroom.

The Coppice School is a community special school for children and young people aged 2-19 who have severe and/or profound learning disabilities.

The outdoor classroom will provide a space in which pupils can relax, play imaginatively, care for growing plants and learn collaboratively. Styled in the manner of a timber-lodge, the building is situated at the heart of the area within a small network of wheelchair friendly pathways and surrounded by seating areas, raised flowerbeds and timber decking.

The classroom will provide a valuable addition to the schools learning environment, as it will enable the pupils to access activities and new opportunities in the outdoors regardless of the weather. The school plans to use this space creatively to help in curriculum provision and staff are already thinking of ways to incorporate the outdoor classroom in story telling and numeracy as well as more traditional activities such as gardening.

Deputy Head teacher Sarah Seddon commented, pupils, parents, staff and governors were thrilled to welcome Bill Beaumont and other guests to the grand opening of the outdoor classroom. Even though we experienced a torrential downpour, the weather did little to dampen our spirits! We look forward to fun times ahead outdoors!

LEICESTERSHIRE
BELGRAVE PLAYHOUSE

SENSORY GARDEN
For children with special educational needs.
Spoon donation: £26,000
Opened by: Manu Tuilagi and Peter Wheeler on 27th September 2012

In September, Wooden Spoon Leicestershire Honorary President and former England International Peter Wheeler was joined by Manu Tuilagi at the opening of the Wooden Spoon Yellow Brick Road Garden.

Peter, a member of the England team who played against Ireland in 1983 when Wooden Spoon was formed, was accompanied by Manu, much to the delight of the 100 or so guests at the opening.

After the unveiling of the plaque Wooden Spoon’s England stars and guests were taken on a tour of the Yellow Brick Road Garden. The £26,000 donation from Spoon Leicestershire was used for the total renovation and re-equipping of the garden area, which is accessed from the rear of the Belgrave Playhouse and linked by a wheelchair friendly pathway, laid in bright yellow bricks. The garden itself includes a small paved play area, a water feature, trees and a small teaching area with seating and bird feeders.

Belgrave Playhouse occupies three terraced houses, knocked into one interlocking area in the heart of Leicester’s city centre Asian community. It serves the families of the three most deprived wards in Leicester and currently has over 500 youngsters on its register.

After the tour of the Yellow Brick Road, the guests were entertained by the dancers and musicians at the Playhouse before Peter publicly thanked Manu for giving up his own time to come to the event, regaled the guests with the famous story of how Spoon was formed, before paying tribute to the Leicestershire community for their effort in raising the funds for this worthy project.
On 13th November England U-20s International and Saracens RFC prospect Jamie George opened a Wooden Spoon design & technology workshop at Holmewood School.

The school, formerly a nursery, was opened in 2010 and works in partnership with the Hopscotch Children’s Therapy Centre specialising in meeting the needs of students aged 7-18 with a range of learning difficulties.

Holmewood caters for pupils who are unable to remain in mainstream schools and follows the National Curriculum up to IGCSE. The school motivates the students to become successful, confident and autonomous learners with a broad and balanced curriculum to address each individual’s specific needs. There is an emphasis on personal behaviour management and life skills and the provision of the D&T workshop will enable them to widen their learning experiences and hopefully develop skills for life which would enable them to move onto further vocational studies and increase their prospects of employment in the future.

MIDDLESEX

HOLMEWOOD SCHOOL

D&T WORKSHOP
For children aged 7-18 with learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £8,000
Opened by: Jamie George on 13th November 2012

On 13th November England U-20s International and Saracens RFC prospect Jamie George opened a Wooden Spoon design & technology workshop at Holmewood School.

MIDDLESEX

FORGE LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUTDOOR PLAY & LEARNING CENTRE
For children aged 4-11 with autism.
Spoon donation: £10,000
Opened by: Dick Best on 7th December 2012

In December former British & Irish Lions coach and Spoon Middlesex Honorary President Dick Best opened the Wooden Spoon Outdoor Play & Learning Centre at Forge Lane Primary School.

Forge Lane is a mainstream school for children aged 4-11 situated in the London Borough of Hounslow. The school recently expanded to include an Autistic unit which now caters for 16 pupils in two classes.

The outdoor play area is secluded and has a segregated quiet play and learning area to be used by the autistic children together with additional Special Needs children. Spoon Middlesex contributed £10,000 towards the cost of the play area with the remainder of the required funding having been raised by the staff and parents over the past couple of years.

The Wooden Spoon Outdoor Play & Learning Area was created by refurbishing an internal courtyard garden area. Facilities and equipment have been provided, which include a soft surface with a trampoline, a pond and wall mounted chalk boards, which will enhance the children’s experiences and develop their learning ability.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

CANCER WARD
For young cancer sufferers.
Spoon donation: £30,000
Opened by: Vicky McClure on 18th January 2013

The new ward, opened on behalf of the Teenage Cancer Trust and Wooden Spoon makes a huge difference by bringing young cancer sufferers together when in hospital, enabling them to share their experiences with their peers and reduce the loneliness and fear arising from having cancer.

The ward is equipped with a recreation area for the patients referred to as the chill-out room. This area, forbidden territory for visitors is well stocked with all the latest electronic gadgets for the youngsters to enjoy. From Xboxes and large screen TVs to a Juke Box that plays every Number 1 from the last 40 years. There is also a pool table and kitchen that is available for use day or night. The ward was funded by a £30,000 grant from Wooden Spoon Nottinghamshire and the opening was featured by both the BBC and ITV regional news.

Vicky McClure from Nottingham, who won a BAFTA for her role as Lol in This is England 86 said, “Dealing with cancer is frightening. Being taken away from your normal life, your friends and put in a cancer ward with small children or older people is simply unimaginable. Teenage Cancer Trust doesn’t believe that teenagers with cancer should have to stop being teenagers. These units are great and become a home from home for the young people treated on them. I am truly honoured to be able open this fantastic facility in my hometown.”

Vicky McClure tries out some of the facilities at the Teenage Cancer Ward
**SCOTLAND**

**PROSPECT BANK SCHOOL**

**SOFT PLAY AREA**
For children aged 5-12 with severe learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £28,000
Opened by: Stuart Hogg on 22nd September 2012.

In September, British & Irish Lions prospect and Scotland International Stuart Hogg opened a new interactive soft play facility at Prospect Bank School in Edinburgh.

Pupils at Prospect Bank have disabilities that mean their needs cannot be met in mainstream education and the soft play area will provide a fun and motivating learning environment to help pupils develop skills such as motor and social skills and will develop opportunities for academic learning.

Stuart commented, “These are challenging times for fundraising for good causes, but being here today and seeing the end result of the hard work put in by rugby fans for Wooden Spoon has brought home how important it is to give something back. This soft play facility means so much to so many people; the children, their parents and carers and the wider community. It has been a pleasure and an honour to declare it officially open.”

**SCOTLAND**

**PILTON YOUTH & CHILDRENS PROJECT**

**DANCE & PERFORMANCE STUDIO**
For youngsters aged 5-18.
Spoon donation: £10,000
Opened by: Chris Paterson on 28th September 2012.

Scotland’s most capped International Chris Paterson joined Spoon Scotland at the opening of the newly refurbished multi functional Dance & Performance Studio within The Greenhouse at Pilton Youth & Childrens Project (PYCP) in Edinburgh.

PYCP is a voluntary organisation based in the Pilton area of Edinburgh, providing a wide range of community based support activities for children and young people aged 5-18. The project operates a varied programme of open access and targeted activities, such as 1:1 and group support.

Spoon Scotland’s donation of £10,000 now allows PYCP to provide access outreach activities such as dance and drama within a purpose built studio. Not only can the space be used for day to day activities, but it will also provide a welcoming space that the community can access to see their children and grandchildren take part in the performing arts.

**SCOTLAND**

**RUTS**

**BICYCLE HUB**
For youngsters aged 14-19 with learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £36,000
Opened by: Sean Lineen on 7th December 2012.

Established in 1981, Rural and Urban Training Scheme Ltd (RUTS), provide alternative curriculum education to young people through a practical programme of activities utilising motorcycles as a focus.

In so doing they aim to equip young people with the confidence and skills required to achieve their highest potential and at the same time, raise their aspirations.

Thanks to a £36,000 injection of cash from Spoon Scotland a renovation project has facilitated the conversion of a derelict part the RUTS buildings at Newtongrange on the outskirts of Edinburgh, into a bicycle workshop, to be known as the Wooden Spoon Bicycle Hub. It is estimated that 100 young people will benefit directly from this new social enterprise project in its first year of operation.

Former Scotland International Sean Lineen unveiled the plaque commemorating the opening and commended RUTS for the incredible work they have undertaken since 1981 and complimenting them on their foresight and ambition in expanding the range of opportunity on offer to young people.

**SURREY**

**PORTESBURY SCHOOL**

**OUTDOOR GYM**
For children with severe learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £10,000
Opened by: John Inverdale on 5th February 2013.

Spoon Surrey was proud and delighted to have supported Portesbury School by funding their outdoor gym equipment area. Portesbury is a Special Needs School with some 65 pupils and the gym was opened by BBC pundit and Spoon Surrey Honorary President John Inverdale.

Portesbury is an all age day school catering for children with severe learning difficulties where some pupils have additional sensory impairments, physical difficulties or challenging behaviour.

After the official opening the children flocked to the gym area and were obviously delighted with the new equipment that will assist their development.
“We hope that this new service will offer a stimulating, vibrant and supportive environment where young people with complex support needs can develop their skills for independence.”

St Anthony’s Special School

**Playground**
For children aged 5-16 with learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £5,000
Opened by: Andy Gomarsall on 6th November 2012.

Former England International Andy Gomarsall formally opened a new Trim Trail Playground at St Anthony’s Special Needs School in Chichester.

Joining the former scrum-half were members of the Spoon Sussex committee and representatives from the Sussex RFU, Chichester RFC and Bognor RFC whose fundraising efforts contributed to the amount needed to fund the playground.

St Anthony’s Headteacher Helen Ball expressed her appreciation to Spoon and the local clubs for their support, noting that the playground was proving extremely popular with pupils of all ages.

After the official opening Andy was able to demonstrate both his agility and fitness by joining a group of pupils around the Trim Trail.

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Step by Step

**Cycle Track**
For children with autism
Spoon donation: £16,000
Opened by: Justin Bishop on 6th December 2012.

In December, members and supporters of Spoon Sussex gathered with friends and parents to see former Ireland International Justin Bishop open a new cycle track and play area at the Step by Step School in Sharpthorne.

The school caters for severely autistic children and Donna Fidler, the School Director noted that the new play area would offer the pupils the opportunity to improve co-ordination skills and to enjoy outdoor physical activity throughout the year.

The school has benefitted from the long term support of East Grinstead RFC through funds raised at the clubs annual Sunshine 7s tournament and it was fitting that East Grinstead coach Justin Bishop was able to open the play area.

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Tor Bank

**Children & Family Resource Centre**
For children with profound learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £100,000

Former British & Irish Lion and Ireland International Willie John McBride was delighted to open a new Children & Family Centre in Belfast.

The Lions Legend joined members of the Spoon Ulster committee at Tor Bank School to open the project that was actually approved by the Trustees nearly 10 years ago as part of the brand new Tor Bank School which cost 10 million but the Centre serves a real purpose for parents and children to mix with others.

Tor Bank Head teacher Colm Davis thanked the Spoon representatives for their patience and understanding during the whole building process, but all present agreed that it was well worth the wait!

Prior to the official opening a special school assembly saw all the children present saying a big thank you to Spoon for their support.

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Lewis Martin Court

**Scope**
For children with cerebral palsy.
Spoon donation: £20,000
Opened by: Bob Norster on 16th November 2012.

The ethos behind Wooden Spoon has always been to capture the community and fundraising spirit of the global rugby fraternity in a bid to improve the lives of disadvantaged children across the British Isles and there could be few better examples of this than the Lewis Martin Court project with SCOPE.

Lewis was the son of a rugby man. When he died, the local rugby community came together to help the Martin family realise a dream, which was to open a centre in their son’s name, designed to help other young people like Lewis to gain independence and learn new skills.

A large crowd gathered at the opening and moving speeches were heard from Lewis father, Andy Martin and friend Josh who now uses the facility.

Ian Thomas, Director Wales for the disability charity SCOPE said, “We hope that this new service will offer a stimulating, vibrant and supportive environment where young people with complex support needs can develop their skills for independence.”
**WARWICKSHIRE**

**TIVERTON**

**SOFT PLAY DEN**
For children aged 3-11 with learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £22,000
Opened by: **Phil Vickery on 25th September 2012.**

In September England World Cup winner Phil Vickery opened a new soft play den at Tiverton School in Coventry.

As a special school Tiverton is maintained by Coventry City Council through its Children, Learning & Young People’s directorate, and promotes lifelong learning for all within the school community in an atmosphere of support, security and respect.

The pupils decided amongst themselves that the project be called The Wooden Spoon Soft Play Den and thanks to the £22,000 contribution from Spoon Warwickshire it will provide the school with an interactive environment and resources that will enable full participation across the curriculum by all the pupils.

Phil Vickery was well received by the pupils and staff and a huge thanks must go to the staff and pupils of Tiverton School who made the opening a memorable occasion. Special thanks must also go to Carolyn Claridge and Philippa Jones who led the project and were instrumental in bringing it to completion.

**WARWICKSHIRE**

**NORTHLEIGH HOUSE SCHOOL**

**SCIENCE LAB**
For victims of bullying.
Spoon donation: £5,000
Opened by: **David Duckham on 27th February 2013.**

On 27th February former British & Irish Lion and England International David Duckham opened a new science laboratory at Northleigh House School.

Northleigh House is an Independent Charity School that provides Ofsted administered education to children aged 9-18 who are victims of severe bullying and, for the time being, cannot attend mainstream school. Their objective is to provide tuition and appropriate support in a safe learning environment until they are able to return to mainstream education or take up employment. The idea for the school came from Viv Morgan who has done a fantastic job in making her home become a school for bullied children. She has worked tirelessly raising funds for such splendid facilities and is continuing to raise more so that the school can accommodate more young people.

Two full-time teachers and a team of 10 part-time teachers at present cover a number of academic subjects to GCSE level. There is also a full support curriculum of life-skills and social awareness training. 15 students can be accommodated at any one time, although there are currently 27 on the register for the next academic year many of whom only attend on a part-time basis and the Wooden Spoon Laboratory will become an essential facility to allow the science students to perform the necessary experiments required for their GCSE studies.

The opening was an enjoyable occasion and after a tour of the school, Head teacher Jill Cornfield gave a superb talk about Northleigh House and her dedication and enthusiasm to the job was quite something.

David Duckham and Spoon Warwickshire Regional Chairman Ian Holroyd both echoed the importance of the work done at the school to help these vulnerable young people get their lives back on track and were delighted that Spoon Warwickshire could play a role in achieving this objective.

**WORCESTERSHIRE**

**FORT ROYAL SCHOOL**

**PLAY AREA**
For children aged 3-11 with severe disabilities.
Spoon donation: £25,000
Opened by: **Phil Vickery and Matt Mullan on 23rd November 2012.**

Fort Royal School welcomed former England Captain Phil Vickery to open a play area in Worcester in November where Spoon Worcestershire donated £25,000 for specialist playground equipment including a swing with wheelchair access and a roundabout, drums and paint-boards.

Phil gave all who attended an insight into the work done by Spoon and the role he plays. He was also supported by Worcester Warriors and England prop Matt Mullan and both were inundated with requests for autographs and they were happy to obligle.

John Gibson, Spoon Worcestershire Regional Chairman said, “This is a great project for Worcester. We have supported the senior school in Worcester with a playground and now we are delighted to support the primary school. The dedication of the staff here at Fort Royal is fantastic and the playground compliments all the other work they do; the children loved the kit we provided”.

Phil Vickery and Matt Mullan help release balloons at the new Fort Royal playground.
The Youth Centre serves approximately 1,500 young people in the Hessle Road area providing them with a range of activities to participate in. The centre was originally the brainchild of the Reverend Michael Hills who works tirelessly for the youth of Hull. The whole centre includes a sports hall, changing rooms and small library.

Spoon Yorkshire and the fledgling committee in Hull and the East Riding were delighted to see their £40,000 contribution being well used by the local community.

To commemorate the Archbishop’s visit he planted a tree and unveiled a plaque formally declaring this fine facility open for all.

The Archbishop and his assistant planting a tree.

Yorkshire

BROOMFIELD SCHOOL

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA
For children aged 4-19 with special needs.
Spoon donation: £40,000
Opened by: John Bentley on 9th October 2012.

The sun shone brightly in October for the All Inclusive Outdoor Play Area at the Broomfield South School in Leeds.

Broomfield is an all-age special school serving the whole of South Leeds; it currently has 152 pupils aged 4-19 with a range of special needs. The school provides the children with a wide variety of play equipment designed to offer safe play for the children with reference to their wide range of disabilities.

The school was in need of outdoor play equipment and Spoon Yorkshire were delighted to make a £40,000 contribution to this wonderful facility. The play area now includes swings, a roundabout and a balance trail.

Former British & Irish Lion John Bentley was on hand to open the play area and to treat the kids to his very own special repertoire of games during the opening.

Wooden Spoon favourite John Bentley makes friends on the roundabout.

Yorkshire

SAFE ANCHOR TRUST

THE E. AUSTEN JOHNSON CANAL BARGE
For disabled and disadvantaged children.
Spoon donation: £20,000
Opened by: HRH The Princess Royal on 5th October 2012.

Almost 24 years to the day since her father visited Mirfield and launched the E Austen Johnson, the Princess Royal returned to re-launch the canal barge after a few years of inactivity.

The original launch had been for the benefit of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as part of the challenge to obtain the coveted certificates of achievement but the role of the barge a quarter of a century late is somewhat different.

A special mention must be made to the husband and wife team Stephen and Jennifer Brook who thought it might be a good idea to row the 315 miles on English canals from Mirfield to Putney to raise £7,000 for Spoon and the Safe Anchor Trust.

The Safe Anchor Trust is a charity dedicated to offering rides on canal barges for disabled and disadvantaged children. The E Austen Johnson was but a rusting hulk two years ago but with the help of £20,000 from Spoon Yorkshire it has been restored to its former glory and is testimony to the dedication and enthusiasm of the Safe Anchor Trust.

Yorkshire

ROWAN SCHOOL

SENSORY ROOM
For children aged 4-11 with severe learning difficulties.
Spoon donation: £10,000
Opened by: Bill Reichwald on 12th September 2012.

On 12th September Spoon Yorkshire were delighted to return to the Rowan School in Sheffield to re-open the school’s sensory room.

Rowan School is a special school for primary pupils experiencing complex speech and language difficulties and/or autistic spectrum disorders.

In the blink of an eye nearly seven years had elapsed since in 2005 Spoon Yorkshire contributed £19,000 towards the original sensory room at the school. During that time the speech development technology advanced at such a rate that the time was right for Spoon Yorkshire to invest further to assist the development of the pupils speech and learning skills.

Here’s to the next seven years!

Yorkshire

HESSLE ROAD

YOUTH CENTRE
For children in deprived areas.
Spoon donation: £40,000
Opened by: Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu on 4th October 2012.

Spoon Yorkshire were most honoured when the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu attended the final phase of openings at the Hessle Road Youth Centre.

The Youth Centre serves approximately 1,500 young people in the Hessle Road area providing them with a range of activities to participate in. The centre was originally the brainchild of the Reverend Michael Hills who works tirelessly for the youth of Hull. The whole centre includes a sports hall, changing rooms and small library.

Spoon Yorkshire and the fledgling committee in Hull and the East Riding were delighted to see their £40,000 contribution being well used by the local community.

To commemorate the Archbishop’s visit he planted a tree and unveiled a plaque formally declaring this fine facility open for all.

The Archbishop and his assistant planting a tree.

Rowan School pupils enjoy their renovated sensory room.

Yorkshire

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Here’s to the next seven years!
Earlier this year the final learners graduated from the In Touch and Dynamite Club projects delivered by Worcester Warriors and Leicester Tigers respectively. Over the past 3 years the projects have worked with over 170 young people who were either at risk of, or who had already dropped out of education. 84% of learners successfully completed over 600 qualifications between them on the way to creating a brighter future for themselves.

Through projects like In Touch and the Dynamite Club, Spoon and our partners have shown that sport and education can be a great means of engaging hard to reach young people. Immersion in the values of the game such as honesty, team work and respect, serves to reinforce the messages given to the learners and helps to secure their commitment to the project as a means of turning their lives around.

Steve Joslin, Community Rugby Manager for Worcester Warriors stated, ‘The value of these projects can be seen in how quickly the students have found new opportunities for education / employment as a direct result of being part of the course. In Touch should be seen as a springboard for the future and everyone at Worcester Warriors Community Department wishes our students every success in their future lives.’

Leicester Tigers’ Community Manager, Scott Clarke, added, ‘The Dynamite Programme has been instrumental in changing young people’s lives and providing opportunities for them to move in a positive direction in their lives. Over the last three years we have had the pleasure of working with some challenging and extraordinary individuals and thanks to Wooden Spoon we have been able to make a difference to all who have taken part and trusted us with their future.’

The last word rightly goes to one such youngster: ‘Like so many of my mates at the time I did not know what I wanted to do. I did not try at school because of my Dyslexia and I became a nuisance. In Touch was a turning point in my life and also in my Mum’s life. I had something that I liked to get stuck into and as a result was nicer to live with and better behaved. The course helped me realise a dream that I thought would never happen. Having gained the grades I needed I was accepted into the British Army - that was over 2 years ago and now is life is good. I have a new team of my own now but won’t forget those that helped me at Warriors. Thanks to everyone who made it possible… Oh and my Mum says thanks too!’

William, aged 19

Wooden Spoon would like to thank everyone that supported these programmes including: Worcester Warriors, Talbot Underwriting and Wooden Spoon Worcestershire (In Touch) and Leicester Tigers, TNT and Wooden Spoon Leicestershire (Dynamite Club).

To read more about Game On! projects, visit www.woodenspoon.com/projects
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.

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<tr>
<th>CHILTERN</th>
<th>GLOUCESTERSHIRE</th>
<th>LEICESTERSHIRE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Evening with Simon Weston</strong></td>
<td><strong>Annual Dinner 2012</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wooden Spoon Leicestershire Oktoberfest</strong></td>
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<td>In November, Simon Weston OBE spoke at an intimate dinner event at the Little Missenden Village Hall.</td>
<td>A full house of nearly 300 guests enjoyed an entertaining evening at Kingsholm, home of Gloucester RFC for the annual Spoon Gloucestershire Book Launch Dinner in November.</td>
<td>There was more than just a touch of Bavaria in Leicestershire in October as over 100 guests descended upon the Cow and Plough pub for the second annual Spoon Leicestershire Oktoberfest.</td>
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<td>In 1982 Simon was aboard the Sir Galahad when it was destroyed on Bluff Cove in the Falklands Islands. He suffered 46% burns across his body and since then he has acted as an inspiration to countless thousands as he overcame his injuries to achieve his goals.</td>
<td>Former British &amp; Irish Lion and Scotland International Doddie Weir was joined by Gloucester Director or Rugby Nigel Davies and comedian Aaron James on stage and all three entertained the crowd with aplomb. An insightful and occasionally colourful Q&amp;A session was the highlight of a fantastic evening that raised close to £15,000 for charitable projects in Gloucestershire.</td>
<td>The event is becoming increasingly popular and has quickly become one of the most eagerly anticipated events in the Spoon Leicestershire calendar, which is hardly surprising as both funds and steins were raised with equal abandon.</td>
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<td>The dinner, which was organised by the newest member of the Spoon Chilterns Committee Rosemary Higgs was a resounding success. 120 guests piled into the small hall and were left enthralled by Simon’s after dinner speech and raised in excess of £5,000.</td>
<td>Spoon Gloucestershire Chairman Tim Heal commented that this year there was a ‘great atmosphere in the room’, which undoubtedly helped add to the fundraising total.</td>
<td>The Spoon Leicestershire committee were happy to report that the strict adherence to German culture stopped just shy of leather lederhosen but that the increasingly cheery guests were treated to a fantastic rendition of popular rock songs by a brass Oompah band.</td>
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In September the rugby code rivalry was renewed once more at the Spoon Merseyside annual League Legends vs Union Legends Golf Match.

Taking place at the magnificent Formby Golf Club it was the Union side who were considered to be early favourites with their team comprised of several talented former players who, being of a certain vintage perhaps had had more time to get used to playing with a driver in hand as opposed to an oval ball.

However, 2012’s match saw victory for Paul Scunthorpe’s thirteen-a-side heroes. The Union were then left cursing their fortunes once more when St Helens Rugby League Winger Francis Meli won the highest individual score of the day. Francis was one of a number of ‘present players’ to reveal their skill on the golf course and the Spoon Merseyside Committee commented how pleasing it was to see a number of young guns ‘coming through the ranks’.

Craster smoked salmon. This was followed by locally produced Northumberland roast beef and finally an Eton Mess and coffee. Dean was very well received and after the successful raffle and auction made plenty of time for guests for an informal chat and a beer or two.

The Spoon Northumberland committee would like to extend their thanks to all who attended for raising such a grand total and for all the Spoon Northumberland members for their continued support.

**SCOTLAND**

**Burns Supper**

Spoon Scotland’s New Year got off to a flyer in January with the traditional Burns Supper at the Edinburgh Hilton Grosvenor Hotel. Spoon Scotland celebrated the birth of the famous Bard’s birthday in the traditional style. After the haggis had been piped and traditional toasts to the Haggis, Bard and the Lassies kept the audience of almost 200 highly entertained from beginning to end.

The supper was jointly sponsored once more by Melville Independent Plc in conjunction with John Kerr Financial Services and their contribution helped underpin a resounding profit of £10,000.

During the evening Scotland Regional Chairman Charlie Bryden also took delivery of a cheque for £2,500 donated to Spoon by the directors and staff of Edinburgh based financial services advisers, Dunedin LLP.

The event at the MacDonald Linden Hall Hotel, Longhorsley saw guests greeted with a Backworth Shandy before sampling the

**SHROPSHIRE**

Spoon Shropshire were once again beneficiaries of the annual Telford Fun Day.

A team from Spoon Shropshire competed in the Telford Hornets Rugby Touch tournament and did fantastically well to win the entire tournament. However, rumours that members of Spoon invited some younger members of Telford Rugby Club to join the Spoon Shropshire side to aid some of the wearier but wiser limbs are still to be confirmed.
The day was a tremendous success with funds being raised for capital projects in Shropshire. As ever, Telford Hornets have proved themselves to be tremendous friends of Wooden Spoon and this is the third consecutive year that the club has raised money for the charity, and our considerable thanks must go to them. The team was led by Ben Winson of Strutt & Parker who thankfully this year did manage to find a shirt that fitted him reasonably well.

SHROPSHIRE

Shropshire Regional Golf Day

The winners of the Spoon Shropshire Regional Golf Tournament became intimately acquainted with the expansive road network of the UK on their way to becoming Shropshire Champions for 2012. Travelling a combined distance of 1,850 miles in less than 24 hours the team certainly showed their commitment to the Spoon cause.

Tim Denton, living in Manchester, attended the Paralympics the evening before the tournament to watch a friend compete in the swimming, rising early to travel to Telford for the tournament before heading back to Manchester. Lewis Brown arrived in Telford for the tournament before heading back to the swimming, rising early to travel to Telford for the tournament to watch a friend compete in the Paralympics the evening before the tournament.

Fortunately they’d all remembered their golf bags.

SURREY

Spoon Surrey celebrated it’s 20th birthday in October and to celebrate held it’s first ever Ball at The Duchesses’ stand on Epsom Downs.

The evening started off with a sponsored reception drink – thanks to Kingsmill Partnership – and two caricaturists and a photographer were there to capture the moment for our guests. After being seated Spoon Surrey Honorary President John Inverdale introduced a short film illustrating what Spoon is all about and then ran through the order of play for the evening. Grace was given by Wooden Spoon Life President Peter Scott and an enjoyable meal was served.

While the guests were busy digesting Inverdale hosted a ‘True or False’ game asking particularly obscure questions about what happened in the wide world on that fateful day 20 years ago. Further entertainment was provided by baritone Jamie Pugh who, with a little help from certain guests, sang a number of songs.

Yet for all the merriment, the charitable message of Wooden Spoon was reinforced by Janet Dunn, the head teacher from ICAN Meath School in Chertsey who spoke to the audience about the woodland trail at her school, a project that has been backed by Spoon Surrey.

John Inverdale then rounded off ceremonies with an auction where generous contributions were welcomed before Spoon Surrey Chairman David Jackson thanked all involved in the running of the evening.

In total £4,275 was raised for charitable projects in Surrey.

SUEROY

Wentworth Captains to support Wooden Spoon Surrey

Spoon Surrey are delighted to announce that the Captain and Lady Captain of Wentworth Golf Club, one of the most prestigious golf clubs in the country, have nominated the Surrey Region of Wooden Spoon as their charity for 2013.

The new Captain Alan Willis presented their decision to the club members following his drive-in on 1st January and there are many events already in the pipe-line to raise funds, the first of which was a Men’s Club dinner on the 1st March that had Mickey Quinn and Wooden Spoon favourite Ian Robertson as guest speakers. Further support will also come from Kathryn Wainwright who will be pounding the streets of London in the London Marathon on April 21st on behalf of the Wentworth Captains. ‘I’ve watched the London Marathon for 30 years and now it’s my turn to be one of those participants, to do my bit for a great cause. Knowing I’m raising £’000s for Wooden Spoon will get me through the training and the day itself on 21st April!’

The Captains have already identified a project in Surrey that they’d like to support – a therapies and counselling suite for Sebastian’s Action Trust. Make sure you check the Surrey Regional Page on woodenspoon.com regularly for updates on the charitable drive at Wentworth.
A sunny Sunday morning in September – imagine how beautiful the Vale of Glamorgan looked with the sun glistening on the dewy hedgerows and the reflectors of 81 bicycles as they made their way around the windy lanes. This was the view greening the intrepid pioneers who took part in the first ValeRide to be organised by Spoon Wales; a 44 mile charity cycle ride starting and ending in the town of Cowbridge where the local rugby club kindly hosted the event and the bar was well patronised by the ‘athletes’ at the finish. Their hospitality certainly made the day go smoother.

As the riders jockeyed for position to get a flying start there was only one person who could control the situation – former International referee and Spoon Wales committee member Clive Norling. The riders were sent on their way with a loud blast of his whistle – some quicker than others.

The entry fee of £25/person meant the event attracted entries from families, work mates and rugby teams as well as some ‘serious’ riders toning up for the Captains Ride in California. Yet despite the meagre entry fee a total of nearly £4,000 was raised and many participants are already gearing up for the ValeRide 2013.

On 20th August Spoon Warwickshire held their annual regional golf day and once again the magnificent Maxstoke Park was chosen to play host to the highlight of the Warwickshire calendar with the course being in particularly fantastic condition this year.

25 teams attended the event competing for a place in the National Golf Final but for the second year running the team from Watermill Hotel, Paisley won the competition. However the fun and frolics really started when the golf wrenches were safely packed away, shoes buffed and Wooden Spoon ties knotted and everyone was seated for a brilliant evening’s winning, dining and entertainment.

Comedian and impressionist Aaron James compered the evening and a total of £5,000 was raised from the golfing, gamble hole and raffles.

A special thanks must go to our friends at Maxstoke Park whose staff and members welcomed Wooden Spoon to their course, to Jim White of White Metals who sponsored the day and to Joshua Davenport who supported the raffle and gamble hole.

Pupils at Cranmore School in Solihull helped stir some smiles in October when they presented a cheque for £150 to Spoon West Midlands.

The funds were raised when the children donated money for the opportunity to pose for photos with the Olympic torch carried by Ben Smoldon.

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the charity was Spoon West Midlands Regional Chairman Phil Pemble, “Ben was the reason I got involved with Spoon after he was injured during a game, he’s a real inspiration and was nominated to carry the torch for his dedication to the sport despite being in a wheelchair. So I was delighted when he told me how much the children had collected and they wanted the funds to benefit less fortunate children.”

The funds raised have been allocated to a local project in the West Midlands for children with Downs Syndrome and it was commented that for children so young to raise charitable funds was a tremendous gesture that demonstrates that ‘the next generation is in caring hands’.

The money raised has also brought the region one step closer to passing the magical £1M milestone of funds raised locally in the West Midlands.

Speaking on behalf on the school Cranmore Headteacher Rebecca Ward commended the pupils’ efforts commenting, “It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to be able see the Olympic torch up close; it was the experience of a lifetime. Meeting Ben had a big impact on our children emphasising the importance of being resilient when presented with challenges. We were thrilled to be able to donate to Ben’s chosen charity, Wooden Spoon and the children supported through its projects.”
A partnership between police and Wooden Spoon in the West Midlands region is helping kick social disadvantage into touch.

Spoon West Midlands was delighted to have received £2,500 from being the beneficiary of the Diamond Awards at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, hosted by the Chief Constable. The awards recognise the contribution to the West Midlands community by the force’s officers, staff, PCSOs and specials as well as members of the public. The money raised, like that of Cranmore and specials as well as members of the public, will go to local projects such as the recent refurbishment for Birmingham Focus in Olton.

Chief Constable Chris Sims expressed that he school in Olton.

West Midlands Police support Wooden Spoon

Spoon Yorkshire held their 20th annual Christmas Sporting Luncheon at the Queen’s Hotel in Leeds on December 21st and were honoured to welcome England Head Coach Stuart Lancaster and his wife Nina to the event. Also in attendance were comedian Nick Miliar and Ian Robertson who acted as MC. Former New Zealand International Sean Fitzpatrick was the event’s speaker and had a full house of 500 people performing a haka of sorts at the end of a long day. The whole event was masterfully held together by the irrepressible Richard Strudwick the Toast Master.

The invited guests sat down to a sumptuous lunch just before 1pm and by the time guests were ready to leave, a grand total of £30,000 had been raised! This was testimony to the generosity of our Yorkshire members and their guests who approached the fundraising aspects of the day with gusto and altruism of the highest order. In these difficult years of austerity this was considered a very good result for the Tykes who could never be accused of being stingy.

Yorkshire’s new fundraiser at the event was the recently modified silent auction that ran wonderfully well and was responsible for over £8,000 of the proceeds. Although silent auctions had been run before at this event it had never been tried with new IT wizardry. It proved a little difficult at first but once it had been well explained (twice to former props) bidding began with great enthusiasm.

The event has over the years become the ‘must go to party’ for Spoon members in Yorkshire and as ever it was sold out very early on with the usual list of disappointed reserves. Everybody enjoyed the day and with Christmas just 4 days away the atmosphere was special. We hope that all members and their guests return again next year and support the disadvantaged children in our region.

Yorkshire Spoon would like to thank the main sponsors Devonshire Hotels, Marshall Wooldridge and all our 1st XV Sponsors, and last but not least Black Sheep Ales who kindly set up the Black Sheep Baaaaaaa for them!

Yorkshire’s 20th Annual Christmas Luncheon

Baldwin’s Omega restaurant was once more filled to the gunnels for the Steel City’s best-loved rugby event – Spoon Yorkshire’s Six Nations Dinner. Bill Reichwald organised another wonderful and joyous rugby evening. As ever the six courses drawn from the six nations were as delicious as ever and served in copious rugby portions. The company was good, the beer flowed and guests were all once again brilliantly entertained by MC Roger Dakin’s plethora of tales and anecdotes.

Guest speakers were top men from their chosen rugby paths and referee Nigel Owens was a very welcome guest. The last word on the night however went to Big Ben Kay. So nearly the main feature in pizza adverts after his near match turning knock on in the RWC in 2003, fortunately his teammates rallied round in the best traditions of English phlegm, stiff upper lip and no little dark humour. Jonny went on to save our skins in that epic final and the rest is history and no need for Ben to bow his head in shame.

Au contraire! He is still dining out on that knock on and is proving to be a most polished and amusing act. Thanks to all for an entertaining evening and with the help of fundraisers and a good response to the auction the event raised over £11,000.

Yorkshire Six Nations Ball

Yorkshire Spoon West Midlands would like to thank the 2013/14 Six Nations Ball and Six Nations Dinner at the Yorkshire Six Nations Dinner Westminster Hotel in Leeds on December 21st and were honoured to welcome England Head Coach Stuart Lancaster and his wife Nina to the event. Also in attendance were comedian Nick Miliar and Ian Robertson who acted as MC. Former New Zealand International Sean Fitzpatrick was the event’s speaker and had a full house of 500 people performing a haka of sorts at the end of a long day. The whole event was masterfully held together by the irrepressible Richard Strudwick the Toast Master.

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Spoon Corporate

Creating A Stir

At Spoon, we are indebted to our many Corporate Partners, without which a great proportion of our charitable work would just not be possible. A partnership with us can be guaranteed to cause a real stir across your business, whilst providing vital benefits for disadvantaged children and young people. The possibilities for engaging with Spoon are diverse, so please do contact us to explore options – it really isn’t just about raising money! Our work in communities across the British Isles brings relevance for our largest and longest serving corporate supporters, TNT UK, with widespread depots - or a local business alike.

Creating A Stir

A great way to get your employees out of the office, working together as a team and pushing their personal boundaries – whilst also having great fun. Spoon has a great selection of Challenge Events, some particularly suited to team and relay entries. With choice to trek, cycle, climb or canoe – often with rugby giant, Phil Vickery setting the pace!

Entertainment all the way

Providing great opportunity for client hospitality and entertainment, consider sponsorship or support for one of our less physical events, such as an Ambassador breakfast, Scrum Dine or our fantastic Annual Ball. Guaranteed to be enjoyable for your guests, with opportunity to network with a wider, high profile, potential client audience. Fancy something more intimate and focused? Consider adopting Spoon for a benefiting dinner or Golf event and allow us to introduce the work of our charity and surprise with our rugby celebrity Ambassadors. Bringing your clients together in this way will clearly demonstrate your corporate responsibility credentials. CBRE, AON Benfield, Village Developments and Norton Rose have already firmly up their events support for 2013, with many under development.

Great profile

Consider sponsoring one of our events and enjoy extensive brand awareness. Examples include TNT sponsorship of the Great British Bike Ride, with Wooden Spoon the sole benefitting charity for 2013 and which completes in front of an audience of over 80,000 people inside Twickenham stadium. Also Cardiff Pinnacle, newly confirmed title sponsors of our Lime Street to Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge, scheduled to coincide with one of the largest gatherings across the insurance sector, the Reinsurance Rendezvous.

Sponsorship and client entertainment budgets dried up?

Direct monetary support is often not the most valuable or easy route to support, but don’t give up on working with us. Some of our most valued support comes through ‘gifts in kind’ and employee support. We are keen to give recognition, however you choose to help us. Suggestions include provision of venues and catering for meetings or events, donations of auction or raffle prizes, drinks for events or prizes, hotel accommodation and preferential rates for hosting some of our prestigious events and finally (but not least), enthusing your employees and stakeholders to support our great cause. Those who have supported us in this way include the likes of Ford Ranger, Whitbread (Premier Inn), Halcyon, Diageo, Barefoot Wine, Greene King, Wragge & Co and Finance Mitsubishi, to name but a few.

Mix and match

Variety keeps a relationship fresh and is a great way to witness the different aspects of our work. Global property group Goodman have successfully combined a package of funding for Spoon’s work with disadvantaged young people in Warrington together with employee fundraising through a combination of Spoon Challenge Events, their own bespoke cycle challenge and more traditional means, such as dress-down days. This is topped off with employee engagement in supporting projects, adding value with provision of CV and Interview workshops for young people and encouraging their employees to attend Seeing is Believing opportunities, to discover first hand how their fundraising makes a difference.
Despite challenging times in our economy, the loyalty and support of our Ambassadors has continued and the Wooden Spoon Ambassador programme continues to grow in strength. The Ambassador programme provides excellent opportunities for Ambassadors to attend prestigious events where they can meet and network with fellow Ambassadors and other key supporters of the charity and to hear about how their support is making a real difference to the lives of thousands of children across the British Isles. The support of our Ambassadors this year has been considerable. They continue to donate money can’t buy prizes and auction lots, in some cases the venues themselves for our fundraising events, some have taken part in our exciting charitable challenges or personal challenges, while others have supported us through sponsorship of our events and our charitable projects. In whatever way they have chosen to give, it all enables us to maximise our fundraising and to be able to deliver urgent and valuable charitable projects to those children and young people who are in need of our support.

Below are listed just a few of the Ambassador events that we held last year to thank our Ambassadors.

### Ambassadors Christmas Reception at CityGolf

The Ambassador Christmas Reception, generously sponsored by EDI, was held at CityGolf, Great Coleman Street, London on Monday 3rd December. Spoon Ambassadors, CityClub Members, Corporate and key Spoon supporters enjoyed Christmas cocktails and canapés during the evening as well as the chance to challenge friends and colleagues to a few rounds of Virtual Golf. In the run up to the Christmas reception a virtual golf competition had been taking place, where participants and their teams were able to visit CityGolf and play for the ‘Nearest the Pin’ and the ‘Longest Drive’ title, which was to be announced at the Christmas reception after the top two scoring teams went head to head in an exciting play off. Jim Quinn’s team, The Shire London were crowned the winners of the entire competition, with a score that even Rory McIlroy would find hard to beat. Ian Robertson, along with Richard Greenwood, Phil Vickery MBE and Craig Chalmers were on hand to amuse guests with a lively Q&A. Ian, as quiz master questioned the panel on a range of topics, from Scotland’s disastrous autumn, England’s magnificent defeat of New Zealand, and the upcoming Six Nations and Lions Tour: A big thank you to all in attendance, and in particular EDI for generously sponsoring this event, and our four fabulous Rugby Celebrities who kept us all amused throughout the evening.

### Business Breakfast with Sir Ian McGeechan and Ian Robertson

On a sunny morning in the City of London, Ambassadors and members of the CityClub gathered at the RPC, Tower Bridge House, where Sir Ian McGeechan, member of the 1974 British Lions and five times Lions coach, and thirty-year BBC veteran Ian Robertson joined forces to host a special business and networking breakfast. Over 80 guests gathered to listen to the two legends shed light on the inner-most secrets of previous Lions tours, this summer’s potential captain, and the Six Nations favourites. Our generous sponsors RPC, who hosted the event in their London offices, put on a delicious breakfast and we would like to thank all at RPC for hosting such a fantastic event and also a special thank you to Sir Ian McGeechan and Ian Robertson.

In this 30th celebration year for Spoon, we would like to ask our Ambassadors to pay close attention to our exclusive 30th Anniversary Dinner, hosted by the Lord Chadderton in the Peers Dining room at the House of Lords on Thursday 3rd October. We really hope you will be able to join us for what will be a wonderful evening for the charity.

Also please make note of our fabulous Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Ball on Friday 15th November at the Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge. The theme this year is the 1930’s and it promises to be a stunning evening of unrivalled quality and entertainment.

As always, full details of all our events can be found on our website www.woodenspoon.com.

For more information about the Ambassador programme please contact Suzie Haworth at shaworth@woodenspoon.com or call 01252 773720.
Spoon in the City of London

We are delighted to welcome many new members to the CityClub this year. Together we have achieved great results for the charity including the funding of two CityClub projects in London; the Eleanor Smith School and OASIS. Many of you have attended our fundraising events, taken part in our challenges and helped spread the word about the good work that Spoon does. Last year we introduced the Youth CityClub, to allow the leaders of the future to find out more about the work we do whilst enjoying the company of like-minded individuals and up and coming rugby stars. We are also delighted that in November we introduced our Ladies CityClub Membership. Ladies are now given opportunities to attend all our events but also to network at exclusive Ladies only events.

Swing back to the 30’s at our 30th Anniversary Ball

This year the Park Plaza Hotel, Westminster Bridge, will play host to a fantastic night, the Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Ball on Friday 15th November. The theme this year (appropriate for our 30th Birthday!) will be the 1930’s and it promises to be a stunning evening of unrivalled quality and amazing entertainment all in aid of Spoon. So please join us and support us at this year’s celebration ball. For more information or to book a table please contact Susie Haworth or Ren Fox at rfox@woodenspoon.com or call 01252 773720.

Fantastic debut for the Youth CityClub

The Cinnamon Kitchen Devonshire Square played host to our Inaugural Youth Dinner on Tuesday 13th November. Spoon Ambassador and Celebrity Chef Vivek Singh kindly donated the venue, and Barefoot Wine and Greene King IPA generously supplied the wine and beer for the evening. This was the perfect opportunity to allow younger members to find out more about Spoon in the informal surroundings of Cinnamon Kitchen. We were joined by London Irish’s Shane Geraghty and Cai Griffith, and London Welsh’s Sonny Parker, who mingled with the guests and performed a light hearted Q&A. The event was a sell out and a real success, the proof of this was when asked who would like tojoin the YCC, every hand went up! The annual subscription to the Youth CityClub is £50 or £5 a month.

Exquisite jewels and champagne for our very first Ladies Event

The evening, generously hosted by Boodles, welcomed thirty Ladies from a variety of backgrounds and industries to a networking evening to hear about Spoon, Membership to CityClub and, of course, to admire the dazzling jewels displayed throughout the evening. As Ladies chatted and enjoyed their champagne they were able to wear pieces of Boodles valuable and beautiful jewellery. Guests own jewellery was whisked away only to be returned sparkling after being cleaned by the experts. A truly memorable evening which has resulted in an influx of new Lady Spooners.

There are lots of great networking and fun events coming up in the next few months, so please join us and support us where you can:

Fashion and Millinery Show – Thursday 18th April, Harvey Nichols (Ladies event)
Youth Wine Tasting – April 2013
Scrum Dine with Me – Tuesday 14th May, Ev Restaurant, London
Wooden Spoon Shooting Day – Wednesday 19th June, E.J Churchill shooting ground, High Wycombe
Fishing Day – September 2013 (Date TBC), Lake Down Trout Fishery, Sussex
Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Ball – Friday 15th November, Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge Hotel

In addition to these events we will be holding various business networking breakfasts and wine tasting evenings throughout the year.

For more information please visit www.limestreet2montecarlo.com or call 01283 841600.

For information on joining Spoon CityClub or any of its events please contact Pippa Cracknell on pcracknell@woodenspoon.com

Lime Street 2 Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge

We are extremely proud to announce our new CityClub flagship challenge, the Lime Street 2 Monte Carlo Bike Ride, departing on the 30th August and arriving on 7th September 2013 to coincide with the start of the Reinsurance Rendezvous. Eighty like-minded European and Global industry professionals will cycle the 1,223 kilometres from Lime Street, City of London arriving in Grand Casino Square, Monte Carlo. This will be the journey of a lifetime, from the flat lands of Northern France down through the stunning Loire Valley and over the iconic French Alps. It will offer our participants an unforgettable experience, all whilst raising money for Spoon. Catering for beginners, intermediate and advanced cyclists alike, entrants will also benefit from a package that takes care of everything they need, to allow them to focus on completing the challenge. For more information please visit www.limestreet2montecarlo.com or call 01283 841600
PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 30th ANNIVERSARY BALL

SWING BACK TO THE 30's

Friday 15th November 2013

Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge

Our 30th Anniversary Ball will be a stunning evening of unrivalled quality and amazing entertainment.

TABLE OF 10 - £2,500 - TABLE OF 12 - £3,000
INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICE - £250

For more information and to book a table please contact Ren Fox on 01252 773720 or at rfox@woodenspoon.com

Sponsorship opportunities available www.woodenspoon.com
## 2013 Events List

| April 13 | Kent | An Evening with ‘Marvellously Marilyn’ | Knole Park Golf Club | Sandra Taylor |
| April 14 | Sussex | Brighton Marathon | Brighton & Hove | Alex Pincus apincus@tinyworld.co.uk |
| April 15 | Chilterns | Project Opening | PACT | Barrie Mair barriemair@bulldoghome.com |
| April 17 | Warwickshire | Project Opening | Hereward College | Ian Holroyd ian@look-whos-talking.co.uk |
| April 18 | Spoon City Club | Spoon City Club Ladies Event | Harvey Nichols | Marлина Barnes mbarnes@woodenspoon.com |
| April 19 | Yorkshire | St George’s Dinner | Railway Hotel | Iain Leedham iain.leedham@thepureycust.co.uk |
| April 19 | Somerset | Somerset’s St George’s Day Dinner | Taunton Rugby Club | David Reed davideedwards9522@btinternet.com |
| April 19 | Leicestershire | Leicestershire St George’s Dinner | Cow and Plough | Malcom Foulkes-Arnold mfva@corporatearchitecture.co.uk |
| April 20 | Ulster | Ballyclare RFC Festival | Peter Wood peterwood44@btinternet.com |
| April 23 | Devon | St George’s Day | Palace Hotel, Torquay | Roger Haywood rogerhaywood@passagehousegroup.co.uk |
| April 25 | Sussex | Project Opening | Ferring Country Centre | Bob Rogers bobrogers@therfu.com |
| April 25 | Gloucestershire | Rugby Club Golf Competition | Brickhampton Golf Course | Colin Gibson colingibson850@btinternet.com |
| April 25 | Central | The Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Celebrity Rugby Golf Classic | Le Meridien Penina Golf and Resort, Algarve, Portugal | Marлина Barnes mbarnes@woodenspoon.com |
| April 28 | Sussex | East Grinstead RFC Sunshine 7’s | East Grinstead RFC | Sandy Fleming sandyfleming@aol.com |
| May 03 | Northumberland | Northumberland Annual Golf Day | Matfen Hall Hotel | Anthony Stoker anthony@villagefarmcottages.com |
| May 11 | Shropshire | Shropshire Rugby Club Bike Ride | Glyn Dobbs gdobbs@btinternet.com |
| May 14 | Spoon City Club | Scrum Dine With Me | Ev Restaurant | Suzie Haworth shaworth@woodenspoon.com |
| May 15 | Leicestershire | Leicestershire Regional Golf Day | Luffenham Heath Golf Club | Malcom Foulkes-Arnold mfva@corporatearchitecture.co.uk |
| May 17 | Bristol & Bath | Bristol & Bath Spring Lunch | Bristol | Andrew Sheridan radiosheri25@yahoo.co.uk |
| May 18 | Hampshire | Black Tie Dinner | Basingstoke Golf Club | David Ashcroft davidashcroft@btinternet.com |
| May 18 | Yorkshire | Black Sheep Firkin Cycle Challenge (Fully Booked) | Masham | John Little johnlittle411@btinternet.com |
| May 19 | Sussex | Simon Vinney Memorial Rugby 7’s Festival | Barns Green RFC | Alan Jenkins ajfather@hotmail.com |
| May 19 | Wales | Run for Bracken | Edward Cochrane e.cochrane007@btinternet.com |
| May 19 | Yorkshire | Ripon Races | Yorkshire’s Garden Racecourse | Richard Tully tully540@btinternet.com |
| May 23 | Devon | Regional Golf Day Devon | Boringdon Park Golf Club | Kevin Norris kevin@akn7.co.uk |
| May 23 | Scotland | Aberdeen Regional Dinner | The Marcliffe | Howard Roper howardroper@tscali.co.uk |
| May 27 | Kent | Kent Cricket Week | Paul Shrubsall pshrubs@gmail.com |
| May 30 | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire Regional Golf Day | Ross on Wye | Richard Powell family.powell@btopenworld.com |
| May 30 | Devon | South Devon Regional Golf Day | Dainton Park Golf Club | Roger Haywood rogerhaywood@passagehousegroup.co.uk |
**Sussex**
- Sussex Rugby Golf Championships
  - Pyecombe Golf Club
  - Peter Harbridge
    - harbridge@btinternet.com

**Scotland**
- Scotland Regional Golf Day - Edinburgh Royal Burgess GS
  - Charlie Bryden
    - cbispoon@aol.com

**Yorkshire**
- Hull & East Yorkshire Golf Day sponsored by Hatfields Jaguar
  - Land Rover
  - David Hewitt
    - david@hewitt1.karoo.co.uk

**Yorkshire**
- Annual Touch Rugby Tournament
  - Moortown RUFC
  - Stuart Watson
    - swatson1@uk.co.uk

**Kent**
- Tag Rugby Festival
  - Aylesford RFC
  - Paul Shrubbs
    - pshrubs@gmail.com

**Sussex**
- Chichester RFC Beach Rugby Tournament
  - The Beach
  - Chris Keeley
    - ckservicing@dsl.pipex.com

**Sussex**
- Midsummer Ladies Horse Race Evening
  - Brighton Racecourse
  - Alan Jenkins
    - afather@hotmail.com

**Central**
- Wooden Spoon Shooting Day
  - E.J. Churchill
  - Marлина Barns
    - mbarnes@woodenspoon.com

**Kent**
- Tag Rugby Festival
  - Gillingham RFC
  - Paul Shrubbs
    - pshrubs@gmail.com

**Central**
- Village Developments Golf Day
  - Marлина Barns
    - mbarnes@woodenspoon.com

**Leicestershire**
- Leicestershire Rugby Clubs Championship Golf Day
  - Kilworth Sporings Golf Club
  - Malcolm Foulkes-Arnold
    - mfa@corporatearchitecture.co.uk

**Kent**
- West Kent Golf Day
  - Wildernesse Golf Club
  - Peter Johnston
    - peter.aileen@btinternet.com

**Bristol & Bath**
- Regional Golf Day Bristol and Bath Golf Club
  - Andrew Sheridan
    - radiosher125@yahoo.co.uk

**Northumberland**
- Northumberland Annual Luncheon
  - Catraw farm
  - Anthony Stoker
    - anthony@villagefarmcottages.com

**Yorkshire**
- Corporate Golf Day
  - Pannal Golf Club
  - Bruce Allison
    - bruceallison_23@hotmail.com

**West Midlands**
- West Midlands Regional Golf Day
  - Ladbrook Park GC
  - Phil Pemble
    - phil.pemble@ppdg.co.uk

**Dorset**
- Dorset Bike Ride
  - Colehill & Winborne Youth Centre
  - David Gullick
    - davidgullick@hotmail.co.uk

**Shropshire**
- Shropshire Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament
  - Shrewsbury Tennis Club
  - Glyn Dobbs
    - gdobbs@btinternet.com

**Gloucestershire**
- Polo at Cirencester Park
  - Cirencester Park
  - Christopher Haslam
    - cjaslam@robert-hitchins.co.uk

**Scotland**
- Musical Evening with the Treorchy Male Voice Choir
  - The President’s Suite, Murrayfield Stadium
  - Charlie Bryden
    - cbispoon@aol.com

**Warwickshire**
- Warwickshire Regional Golf Day
  - Maxtoke Park GC
  - Ian Holroyd
    - ian@look-whos-talking.co.uk

**Kent**
- Kent Rugby Golf Challenge
  - Knole Park Golf Club
  - Peter Johnston
    - peter.aileen@btinternet.com

**Central**
- Great British Bike Ride
  - Land’s End to Twickenham
  - Barry Clayton
    - team.sport@virgin.net

**Dorset**
- Dorset Regional Golf Day
  - Canford Magna Golf Club
  - David Gullick
    - davidgullick@hotmail.co.uk

**Sussex**
- Cricket Meets Spoon
  - Sussex County Cricket Ground
  - Bob Rogers
    - bobrogers@therfu.com

**Shropshire**
- Shropshire Regional Golf Day
  - Wrekin Golf Club
  - Glyn Dobbs
    - gdobbs@btinternet.com

**Central**
- Founders Golf Day
  - Farnham Golf Club
  - Marлина Barns
    - mbarnes@woodenspoon.com

**Kent**
- Rugby Club Golf Challenge National Final
  - Knole Park Golf Club
  - Peter Johnston
    - peter.aileen@btinternet.com

**Central**
- Wooden Spoon Fishing Day
  - Lake Down, Surrey
  - Marлина Barns
    - mbarnes@woodenspoon.com

**Spoon City Club**
- Ambassador & CityClub Business Breakfast
  - Baker Tilly
  - Suzie Haworth
    - shaworth@woodenspoon.com

**Central**
- TNT Golf Day
  - Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club
  - Marлина Barns
    - mbarnes@woodenspoon.com

**Yorkshire**
- Annual Fundraising Ball
  - Brantingham Park
  - Paul Staniford
    - paul.staniford@stanifords.com
Wooden Spoon is a charity dedicated to supporting children and young people across the British Isles 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
Website: www.woodenspoon.com
Charity Registration No 326691 (England & Wales) and SC039247 (Scotland)

A gift to Wooden Spoon in our 30th anniversary year

If a friend or family member were celebrating their 30th birthday, what kind of gift would you give them? Tickets to a Six Nations game, an all-expenses-paid trip on the Lions Tour this summer, a surprise party at their local rugby club or perhaps some money to spend as they wished? As Wooden Spoon enters its 30th anniversary year we’d like to ask you, our members and supporters, to consider leaving the charity a gift in your will to mark this very special year.

Gifts in wills are crucial to everything we do and help our vital work to continue. Every gift you make to Wooden Spoon – whatever the amount – is gratefully received and will be put to the best possible use by supporting our projects for children and young people who are most in need. Of course, you will always want to look after friends and family first, but after that, we would like you to help us fund Spoon projects for disadvantaged children and young people with a residuary legacy.

A residuary legacy means leaving a percentage of your estate to charity. This means that, however much your estate is ultimately worth, you ensure your loved ones are looked after as well as further supporting Spoon’s work. It also means you don’t have to keep altering your will as your circumstances change.

Even if you already have a will, making changes to an existing will is very straightforward. If you want to add Wooden Spoon to an existing will, your solicitor simply attaches a written instruction, called a codicil. This must be done by your solicitor and requires the signature of two independent witnesses. Suggested wording for a codicil can be found in the Donate / Leaving a Legacy section of the Wooden Spoon website or by contacting the office (details below).

If there is a particular project you would like Wooden Spoon to support in your memory, we will do everything in our power to spend the money where your wishes indicate the funds should be used. If you choose a county, parish, city or local area it may be easier for us to spend the funds than if you specify a particular town or school. And please remember that if you name a particular school or sensory room there is a risk that the facility may no longer exist at the time your will is read. Your solicitor or will writer should be able to advise you on appropriate wording in this case. If for any reason we are unable to carry out your wishes, we would return the gift to your estate.

For more information about the type of gift you can leave, or if you have more general questions regarding leaving a gift to Wooden Spoon in your will, please don’t hesitate to contact us. We cannot give legal advice, and would always recommend you seek professional advice from a solicitor regarding your will, but are happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Please write to us using our address above, or speak to Karen Macaulay on 01252 773720.
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Empower Results™
Seeing is Believing! How TNT

The partnership between TNT Express and Wooden Spoon spans more than 16 years and the enthusiasm with which the company’s employees raise money for the charity remains as strong as ever. So what is it that keeps nearly 10,000 people such fervent supporters?

When, in the middle of last year at the TNT Great British Bike Ride it was announced that TNT Express had raised a staggering £3.25 million for Wooden Spoon since 1997, employees of the company celebrated as one – for a moment – and then got straight back down to business.

The business of raising even more money for the company’s chosen charity.

The “Sure we can” attitude that TNT’s employees apply every day to servicing customers transfers easily to their fund raising efforts.

Whether they are running the London Marathon, swimming the English Channel, cycling from Land’s End to Twickenham, trekking to the summit of a mountain or simply baking a cake, they know and appreciate their efforts are for a good cause.

They are going to make a difference.

And therefore, the monotonous pain – step after step, stride after stride, stroke after stroke, mile after aching mile – is worth it.

Employees of TNT care passionately about Wooden Spoon because they see first hand, where the money they raise goes. The support the company offers doesn’t stop when the cash is handed over. The Seeing is Believing initiative enables TNT staff to visit projects funded by Spoon throughout the UK. At these projects, they spend time with the young people the charity is helping.

They find it moving and inspiring which makes them all the more willing to roll up their sleeves and help. They take their experiences back to work and share them with colleagues, often spurring on others to think of ways to raise money.

Gillian Diamond, Service Delivery Manager at TNT’s Contact Centre in Lount, Leicestershire, is one of the charity’s staunchest supporters. Last year, Gillian and a band of merry trekkers scaled Mount Snowdon to raise more than £1,500 for Spoon and this year she intends to double that – at least – when she leads a walk through Dovedale in the Peak District.

“When we climbed Mount Snowdon in Wales on our Grand Day Out, we knew the money we raised would go to a good cause.”
“We knew Spoon did great work with sick, disabled and disadvantaged young people, but it was only when I, along with others, visited one of the projects supported by Spoon that I truly understood the huge amount of good it does.”

“When I visited Northleigh House School, in Warwickshire, I was completely inspired by what I saw.”

The pupils at Northleigh House have one thing in common. Each has been bullied. Bullied to the extent that they have had all confidence completely knocked out of them or stripped away.

Northleigh House, with the support of Wooden Spoon and companies such as TNT, is helping to rebuild their shattered lives; to restore their confidence and give them life skills that will enable them to live happily.

The school accommodates a maximum of 15 pupils at a time. Aged between 11 and 18 years old, they are bright and capable but many have completely shut down because of past physical or mental bullying.

“The anxiety that young people have to go through is bad enough but some of these youngsters have suffered so much bullying that they are not even able to speak,” adds Gillian. “These children are more vulnerable than most but Northleigh House is helping them to rebuild their shattered lives.”

“The school is set in open countryside and provides a safe learning environment for these young people, who have been traumatised, to continue with their education. One boy was able to open up again and use his skills to build a duck house.”

The staff at Northleigh also offer support to parents, who are often so distressed by their childrens’ predicaments that they are at their wits’ end. “Having a chance to see what the school has achieved in preparing young people so that they might one day move back into mainstream education has been inspirational to those of us who attended,” says Gillian.

“It showed us how important the fabulous fundraising we all do across TNT really is. This year, on our Grande Day Out 2, we hope to have at least double the participants and raise double the money.”

The commitment of TNT employees to Spoon stretches from bottom to top. Alistair Cochrane, Managing Director TNT Express Services UK & Ireland, has taken part in marathons, bike rides and Seeing is Believing visits and actively encourages all members of staff to get involved.

“When our people see the fantastic work Wooden Spoon does throughout the UK, it inspires them to not only do something to raise money but also to get involved,” says Alistair. “It is important that people can see where the money is used.”

“I have been to projects such as the Red Balloon Learner Centre in Harrow, Middlesex, and Focus Birmingham, in the Midlands, where it is amazing to see how Spoon funding has helped. “When you see, in the smiling faces of young people, how – together – TNT and Spoon can really make a difference, it makes all the efforts our people have gone to really worthwhile.”

Alistair Cochrane
MD TNT Express Services UK & Ireland
Kukri Sports are proud to be Official Kit Supplier to Wooden Spoon

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www.squirrelsports.co.uk/wooden-spoon

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Community Projects
Game On for Disability Rugby projects

Since 2009 Spoon has invested £1.5 million into operational or community projects designed to, engage with at risk youngsters and support them on to a brighter path in life (Game On, Education) or provide opportunities for mentally and physically disabled children and young people to play wheelchair or tag rugby (Game On, Disability Rugby). Whilst a more modest £150,000 of this total commitment has been spent on Disability Rugby projects, these projects continue to form an important part of the Spoon offering.

Spoon’s Jai Purewal (Senior Development Director, Community Projects) has been talking to a number of Spoon Chairmen to find out more about the Disability Rugby projects, the place they hold as part of Spoon’s broader charitable giving and the difference they make to beneficiaries and Spoon in our communities. Game On Disability projects come in two types, projects providing opportunity for special school children with moderate or severe learning difficulties (MLD/ SLD) to play tag rugby and wheelchair rugby projects for disabled children and young people. Kent, Shropshire, Northumberland and Lancashire Spoon regions have all supported MLD/ SLD tag rugby projects in the past. In Lancashire this support has been for a number of years.

Martin Long, Chairman of Spoon Lancashire said, ‘We are proud to have supported the North West MLD/ SLD Tag Rugby Tournament for the last 6 years. The sheer enjoyment on the faces of the young people from Special Schools from across the region is a joy to behold. Speaking to their teachers, we know that participation means more than a fun day out for these pupils with moderate or severe learning difficulties. Being physically active is an important part of life for these kids just as any other. With Spoon’s support Tag Rugby is delivered in school time as well as at the annual tournaments which is great.’

Spoon’s support of this type of tag rugby project is not confined to ‘in school time’, Shropshire Spoon is part way through a three year commitment to an out of school tag rugby club for MLD/ SLD children and young people.

Glyn Dobbs, Chairmain of Spoon Shropshire said, ‘We were approached by the Shropshire Rebels Rugby Club for support a couple of years ago now. They are a small club providing opportunity for some 25 young people with moderate or severe learning difficulties to play tag rugby. To cut a long story short we introduced the Rebels to Telford Hornets RFC, a strong community grassroots rugby club that had long been supporting Spoon as we decided that between Spoon and the Hornets we could better support the growth of the Rebels tag rugby club. We are now into year 2 of our existing 3 year commitment (£5k over 3 years) and the Rebels have gone from strength to strength with more regular participants and we have even got some of the Hornets’ Mini and Junior Coaches trained up and regularly coaching the Rebels sessions. The Rebels are now a formal part of the bigger Hornets club which we are delighted about.’

Game On Disability Rugby projects are not just about tag rugby, a number of regions including Scotland and the Isle of Man have supported wheelchair rugby projects. Allan Thompson and Peter Spoon Isle of Man, Joint Chairman are delighted with their Isle of Man Wheelchair Sports Club project.

“We funded a set of generic sports wheelchairs and the associated equipment for their upkeep. The chairs are used by all sorts of groups on the island in providing wheelchair users with an opportunity to get involved and have fun. Also an important part of a programme is to breakdown barriers by getting able bodied individuals into chairs and playing wheelchair rugby, basketball etc. against the regular wheelchair users. Anyone that has had a go will tell you it’s a real leveller, great fun and a great project’ said Allan.

‘The young wheelchair users have responded well and have been involved with adult users resulting in the formation of the Wooden Spoon Wheelchair Club. The Club are a very active bunch with their own fund raising and competitions. Spoon Isle of Man receives a lot of publicity in the local media because of the above, it has really been a major success’ added Peter.

It is clear that this type of project work is well regarded by those Spoon Regions that have been involved. It is estimated that only 18% of disabled people undertake physical activity for more than 30 minutes a week, and those with impairments are still around half as likely to be active than their able-bodied counterparts. This illustrates a clear need for Game On Disability Rugby projects which are a cost effective, highly impactful way for all Spoon Regions to support the growth of disability sports participation in our communities.

For more information on Community Projects please visit: www.woodenspoon.com/projects/charitable_projects.php or contact Tom Conway at tconway@woodenspoon.com
Community Projects
Game On (Education) Projects Round Up

Game On (Education) sees Wooden Spoon teaming up with professional rugby clubs across the British Isles (including Premiership Rugby, Super League and Pro12 clubs) and specialist educational training providers (YMCA Training, Rathbone and ACT) to engage and recruit disadvantaged and disillusioned NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people aged between 16 and 19 onto a unique education and training programme that will provide inspiration, motivation and opportunities to gain achievement and success. Importantly, through partnership working in local areas, the programme provides progression routes on to a range of employment, further education and training (including apprenticeships), volunteering and continued sports participation opportunities.

Mike Konig (Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Wooden Spoon Projects) reviews project progress to date and looks ahead at exciting developments for Game On projects in the first half of 2013.

On Friday 30th November, the HITZ Northampton project participants enjoyed a team building day at Northampton Saints Rugby Club with the 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian regiment (The Poachers) of the British Army based in Rutland.

Matt Goode, HITZ Northampton Project Officer stated;

“The Army team building day was focussed around the students and developing their ability to communicate and problem solve together in a group. I think the day was a great success and there was a 100% positive feedback from all those that took part. From this students would like to go and visit the Army base for a three day activity”

Scott Hynes, HITZ Northampton participant said;

“It was a great day, I really enjoyed it and it got everyone talking to each other. I want to go to the army base to do the obstacle course and do it all over again”

For more information on the HITZ Northampton project and how to get involved, please contact Matt Goode, HITZ Northampton Project Officer on the following details: 07525 159090 or mattgoode@northampton-saints.co.uk

Wooden Spoon would like to thank:
The Warrington Wolves Foundation hosted its first TRY HARD Warrington ‘Seeing is Believing’ visit for sponsors and guests at the Halliwell Jones Stadium on Tuesday 4th December 2012.

The day kicked off with a session on CV writing & interview techniques delivered by Kate Lefever, UK Human Resources Director at Goodman, before Kate joined other guests and project participants for a fun afternoon of team building games designed to get people active whilst breaking down inter-generational barriers.

Kate Lefever, UK Human Resources Director, Goodman stated;

“Today has been an excellent opportunity for me to engage with the guys on this programme on behalf of Goodman, to see the environment that they are working in and to meet the main support group that is helping them with their journey of change. After spending most of the day with them I was pleasantly surprised by the positive feel within the group and the progress that some of them have made already. I was also pleased with their participation in the morning CV session and was very encouraged by their interaction and answers to my questions.

All in all it was definitely a very helpful and uplifting meeting and I am confident that the participants in the programme are being provided with every opportunity to be successful.”

To date the Warrington TRY HARD project has engaged with 30 locally based, NEET (not in employment, education or training) youngsters with 4 young people, so far gaining full time employment or an apprenticeship in the town.

For those interested in participating in the project, there are places still available. Further details on TRY HARD Warrington can be obtained from Dave Morley, TRY HARD Warrington Project Officer, on the following details: 07779286983 or DaveMorley@warringtonwolves.com

Young people engaged with Game On projects are to be given the chance to develop community enhancing projects thanks to a new partnership with O2.

To become a Youth Partner, Wooden Spoon has demonstrated to the National Youth Agency, which delivers the O2 Think Big programme on behalf of O2, that they have the necessary practices in place to support their young people through the programme - recognised by being awarded the Think Big Quality Mark.

Jai Purewal, Development Director Community Programmes at Wooden Spoon, said:

‘Wooden Spoon is delighted to have been accepted as an O2 Think Big Partner and receive the Think Big Quality Mark. Through Game On projects our learners are given support to make a positive change in their own lives. Now thanks to the support of O2 and the National Youth Agency our young people will have the chance to deliver a social action project in their neighbourhood. We see this as part of the positive impact of our work across communities.’

The Think Big programme aims to bring about positive change in local communities by championing the ideas of young people.

Young people between 13 and 25 can apply for an award for their projects and benefit from a package of training, support and mentoring; from project management to communications, and from presentation skills to networking. After the initial grant, they will also have the chance to apply for a further £2,500 to boost their project. Think Big has been developed in partnership with two of the UK’s leading youth charities, National Youth Agency and UK Youth. By the end of 2012, O2 want to award grants to approximately 2,500 projects.

Helen Parker, Community Manager at O2, commented:

‘We believe in young people and we believe that they can make a difference. Through the Think Big initiative, we are giving young people cash, training and support so that they can make a positive change to their areas. By partnering with Wooden Spoon we are ensuring more young people are supported to deliver a social action project in their area.’

Wooden Spoon has become an O2 Think Big Youth Partner enabling them to apply for funding for young people involved with their projects to undertake a social action project to benefit themselves & their community and access to a wide range of O2 volunteers to support them in this venture.

www.woodenspoon.com • SPOONEWS | SPRING 2013
Talbot Underwriting is proud to support the Wooden Spoon Charity.

Talbot continue to support Wooden Spoon and their Community Programmes, such as Game On a high profile programme to address prevalent social issues with those young people not in employment, education or training.
Joing PHIL VICKERY on the WOODEN SPOON FOUR PEAKS CHALLENGE for a once in a lifetime opportunity for you and your club!

Wooden Spoon, the children’s charity of rugby, are offering you a once in a lifetime opportunity. Spend 3 days, from 27th to the 29th June, with former England Captain and Lions legend Phil Vickery, win an evening with Phil and a Kukri kit package for your club, all whilst raising money for charity. If this sounds like something you would be interested in then read on...

Wooden Spoon are offering a limited number of individual places to undertake their most popular and arguably toughest challenges. This awe-inspiring Four Peaks Challenge will see you conquer Ben Nevis, Helvellyn, Snowdon and Carantouhill. Over two days, competitors, driven by bus by Phil, will travel over 1,000 miles and climb 14,000 feet to achieve this ultimate and most iconic Spoon Challenge.

Each Challenger will have to raise a minimum of £1,500 to gain a place on the bus with Phil, and the overall winner will be calculated through a combination of money raised and time taken to complete the Four Peaks.

This really is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and you will be helping a fantastic cause along the way!

If interested please go to www.woodenspoon.com/challenges or call Phillie James on 01252 773720.
Spoons Challenges
Wooden Spoon’s 30th Anniversary Challenges

Fronting our challenges in this special anniversary year is the ‘Raging Bull’ rugby legend, Celebrity Master Chef winner and Wooden Spoon Ambassador, Phil Vickery MBE.

Challenges come in many different forms for many different people, whether it is just the challenge of day to day life, financial challenges or fitness challenges, the word has a different meaning for almost everyone.

But there are certain people you come across, in all walks of life, that seem to just take these challenges in their stride, and one of those people is former England Captain and British Lion, Phil Vickery. At 6ft 3 inches and just under 20 stone, there isn’t much that you would think would challenge this Rugby World Cup winner, but here seems to tell a different story.

“I’ve faced huge challenges throughout my life, whether it was on the family farm in Cornwall, trying to force my way into my first professional club Gloucester, or challenges that I faced later in my rugby career with Wasps, England and the Lions, there has never been a moment when I haven’t been facing a challenge.”

I have also faced tough challenges away from the field as well. Leaving the family farm at 17, forming my clothing company Raging Bull, retiring from professional rugby and the day to day challenges of a young family are just a few that come to mind. Maybe it is due to my West Country roots, but I have always felt the need to go out and earn whatever it was that I wanted, and can’t think of a challenge that I haven’t faced up to yet.”

Phil has achieved a lot at his relatively young age; he has captained England and won on to win 73 caps for his country, played in two Rugby World Cup finals, including one winner’s medal, toured
including one driver and climb four of the biggest mountains in the UK and Ireland in just 48 hours. The sense of achievement when your team gets to the top of a mountain like Ben Nevis or Snowdon is unattained, and what starts off as a pretty competitive event, soon turns into one big team event, with all the teams helping each other around, and the atmosphere at the summit of the final mountain in Ireland is really something special."

Why not join Phil and sign up to one of our 30th Anniversary Challenges....

For 2013 Phil has agreed to try something even more extreme for us here at Spoon, over a period of 8 weeks he will participate in all five of our flagship challenges: the Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge, the Four Peaks Challenge, London to Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge and the TNT Great British Bike Ride.

“What I have agreed to do this year will be extremely difficult not just physically, but also mentally and it will be hard on my family. The training I am currently putting in, is already taking it toll, and in the weeks and months leading up to the events, I want to be cycling around two to three hundred miles a week and running around 20 miles as well, which no matter how fit you are takes up a lot of hours of the day, but I am hoping the sense of achievement of both completing the challenges and the money we will raise, will more than make up for the sacrifice.”

“First up is the London to Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge, which I am trying to convince myself is a holiday to the South of France, rather than a 000 mile cycle challenge, which hopefully will be enough motivation to get me down there, then after that I will just be taking each challenge as it comes.”

Over the 8 week period, Phil will cycle over 2000 miles, row 12 miles and run and climb 5 of the biggest mountains in the UK and Ireland. For anyone this would be a monumental task, but for someone who is almost twice the size of the average man, this could be Phil’s toughest challenge yet.

See the full list of challenges on the opposite page, and if you would like to join Phil on any of these, please contact the Spoon Challenge Office on 01283 841600.

Are You Up For It?

The London to Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge: 7th – 15th June 2013
Cycle from the centre of London to the French Riviera, 790 miles and 28,000 feet of climb all in just 8.5 days.

The Four Peaks Challenge: 27th – 29th June 2013
Teams of three climbers, supported by a driver conquer four of the highest mountain peaks in Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland. 900 miles all in just 48 hours. New for 2013 - The Solo Challenger. Individuals can now enter the Four Peaks Challenge.

The Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge: 12th July 2013
Teams of three, supported by a driver, canoe England’s longest lake, cycle up the two steepest passes in England, Wrynose and Hardknott, before conquering foot England’s highest peak, Scafell Pike, all in under 12 hours. New for 2013 - The Solo Challenger. Individuals can now enter the Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge.

The Great British Bike Ride: 3rd – 7th September 2013
Cycle 350 miles in 5 days from Land’s End to Twickenham. The grand finale finish is a parade around Twickenham in front of a crowd at the Aviva Premiership Rugby London ‘Double Header’.

Our challenges offer a great opportunity for teams or individuals to participate in physical challenges that raise funds for Wooden Spoon whilst building teamwork within a competitive, safe and fun environment. Our dedicated Challenge Team organise accommodation, branded apparel as well as provide support and advice on training and fundraising.

A huge thanks to our challenge supporters: TNT, Ford, Groupama, Panavision, Audiolink and Laser Crystal

Visit www.woodenspoon.com/challenges for more information or call 01283 841600
Wooden Spoon’s 30th Anniversary

30 years ago, a wonderful and enduring legacy emerged after England’s rugby team were defeated by the Irish, finishing off a winless Five Nations Championship for England. Whilst drowning their sorrows in a Dublin bar, in jest a group of English fans were presented with a wooden spoon by the victorious Irish fans to symbolise England’s poor showing in the 1983 championship.

Accepting the spoon with as much good humour and grace as could be mustered under the circumstances, the group of friends resolved to hold a charity golf match later that year to see who would have the honour of keeping the Spoon. The money raised that day bought a minibus for a local school and the Wooden Spoon Society was born.

In the 30 years since, Wooden Spoon has gone from strength to strength, having now donated over £20,000,000 to over 600 amazing causes across the British Isles. With our focus normally on growth and expansion, we thought a special anniversary such as this would be the perfect time to look back on the last 30 years and ask some of the key people involved with formation and growth of Wooden Spoon, just what this charity means to them.

Peter Scott MBE, Life President and Founder

What is your best memory of Spoon? What a difficult question to answer, as the last 30 years have been full of so many! Of course the trip to Dublin in 1983 with Nigel Timson, Vic Durling, brother Steve and son Mike when our Irish colleagues presented us with the Wooden Spoon is a weekend that will live in the memory as will the very first golf day at Farnham which kicked off the charity.

St George’s Day stag dinners at the Rose Room at Twickenham, chasing round the country to organise seven golf days a year for Iveco Ford, so many great memories.

Attending small personal lunches hosted by our Royal Patron at Buckingham Palace, receiving the MBE from Prince Philip and travelling as guests of the IRB to New Zealand in 2011, with Bill Hill, for the Rugby World Cup to receive the Spirit of Rugby Award, the first charity to receive such an accolade.

Being Chairman for the first 12 years through a period of growth was both exciting and at times challenging, but always good fun.

Finally, the most memorable times have been attending openings of projects throughout the country, meeting the children and young people, the teachers and helpers who do such a magnificent job and also meeting some of the Spoon Regional volunteers who devote so much of their time to raise funds for the projects in their region.

What made you want to get involved with Wooden Spoon? I wanted to help children and have some fun at the same time.

What was your role within Wooden Spoon? I was asked to join the Scottish committee, later became Regional Chairman, was invited to become a trustee and then Chairman of the trustees four years ago.

Steuart Howie, former Chairman and Trustee

What is your best memory of Spoon? What a di

Steuart Howie (left) flanked by rugby stars Michael Gibson, Jack Kyle and Willie John McBride
Phil Pemble, Regional Chairman

How did you become involved with Wooden Spoon? When our Colt teams hooker broke his neck during a collapsed scrum. I used to arrange an annual trip to the Pilkington cup final fixing it for him to go to the after-match reception and meet the players. I drove him down in an adapted mini bus to take his wheelchair asking him ‘How did he get such a nice piece of kit’. He said Wooden Spoon so I made the effort to find out who they were and went along to a meeting in Coventry. Always playing the game I found it strange that we had our own charity and yet no-one knew about it at club level!

What is your favourite thing about Wooden Spoon? Life lasting friendships made through rugby and the charity, being able to help those less fortunate and looking for any excuse to wear the tie!

What is your best memory of Wooden Spoon? Besides actually hosting our royal patron at project openings, the story she related to me about the time she saw me wearing my spoon tie at Murrayfield - ask me sometime and I’ll tell you.

What does Wooden Spoon mean to you? Being able to give something back to society through the sport I love, rugby.

David Trick, England winger in 1983 and Sporting Ambassador

How long have you been involved with Wooden Spoon? I played in the match on the 19 March 1983 and made a hugely successful personal contribution to England losing against Ireland. Without this defeat there’s a reasonable chance the charity would not have been founded. I can’t imagine the founders would have started a charity called ‘Fourth Place.’

How did you become involved with Wooden Spoon? One of the founders, Vic Durling, contacted me to play in a charity rugby match for Wooden Spoon. At the time I hadn’t heard of the charity and to this day wish I hadn’t heard of Vic Durling (a social hand-grenade!) As soon as I saw the blue, red, white & green shirts I thought ‘This is a charity worth supporting.’ Once I found out more about the work Wooden Spoon do, I knew it was going to be my chosen charity.

What was your role within Wooden Spoon? I’ve supported the charity since 1984 and been Honorary President of the Devon Region since 2000

What is your best memory of Wooden Spoon? The first Wooden Spoon Ball my wife and I attended was as guests of another founder (Life President) Peter Scott. To this day it remains the best single event I’ve ever attended. Also, the five Wooden Spoon golf trips to La Manga I participated in. Not so much a memory, more an assumption I had a great time.

Bill Hill, CEO

How long have you been involved with Wooden Spoon? For over 20 years

How did you become involved with Wooden Spoon? In the early 90’s a friend needed help to raise funds for a hydrotherapy pool for a school that her daughter with Cerebral Palsy was attending. I helped do some fundraising but the total value of £300,000 seemed so far away. Wooden Spoon came along out of the blue and pledged £150,000…. I immediately joined!

What is your favourite thing about Wooden Spoon? It has to be the project openings…. You just cannot believe what hardship some of the kids we support go through and yet they keep on smiling!

What is your best memory of Wooden Spoon? I was holding a tackle bag for one of our Game On projects and next to me, also holding a tackle bag was the deputy commissioner of the Met Police. The young 16 and 17 year old kids were really thumping into me and it was beginning to hurt. As each tackler came up I told them that the other guy was a “copper”… funny enough this deflected a lot of the pain.

What is your favourite thing about Wooden Spoon? Going to project openings and seeing the children we help and the incredible dedication of the staff.

What is your best memory of Wooden Spoon? Visiting the new Struan House autistic school in Alloa in Scotland which we helped fund and learning about how the staff deal with severely autistic children - a very humbling experience.
Wooden Spoon prides itself on being the children’s charity of Rugby, and it is the addition of that word “Rugby” which makes Wooden Spoon special.

We are extremely fortunate that some of the biggest names in world rugby continually choose to support Wooden Spoon and the work that we do. Year after year we rely on past and present players, coaches and rugby media personalities to give up time in their hectic schedules to help us out, and we are constantly blown away by their generosity.


As you can see, it is a pretty impressive list, and it humbles us here at Spoon that names such as these continue to hold Spoon so close to their hearts, and having them involved makes the work we do so much easier.

We would just like to thank all of the Sporting Ambassadors that have helped out in the last 12 months, and we are looking forward to a bumper 2013 and beyond! Here are just some of the highlights of an amazing year.

Wooden Spoon Six Nations Shooting day with Tom Voyce

On Thursday 22nd January, members and supporters of Wooden Spoon gathered on a cold morning in High Wycombe for the inaugural Wooden Spoon Six Nations Shooting Day.

Around October time, we here at Spoon were approached by one of our most active Ambassadors, London Welsh and former England winger Tom Voyce. Tom proposed to us a fantastic event that would combine two of his passions, shooting and Wooden Spoon, and would allow him to dip his toe into the corporate hospitality field. After a few discussions the idea of the first ever Wooden Spoon Six Nations Shooting Day was born.

After this initial meeting, Tom went about recruiting teams, a venue and fellow rugby celebrities Sonny Parker and Shane Geraghty to come along to the event, and before we knew it we were all set for a fantastic day.

Guests were greeted at the E.J Churchill Shooting Ground in High Wycombe, at 9.30 am with bacon sandwiches, pastries and coffees, and after a few introductions and safety talks the shooting was soon underway. Guests tried their luck on four simulated shoots, with a variety of targets and team games.

Post-shooting, guests assembled in the dining room where they were treated to a delicious lunch, presentations for best (and worst) shot, the winning teams prize giving and a light hearted Q&A with the rugby players.

Guests and rugby players mingled and enjoyed a great day together.

Wooden Spoon would like to thank Tom Voyce, Celerity JPA and E.J. Churchill for making this day such a success, and it proved so popular it has now become permanent fixture in the Wooden Spoon calendar, with the next event being held on 19th June 2013.
Lee Mears teams up with Spoon

It was with much sadness that in late February 2013, we read that one of the games most popular and respected players, Lee Mears, had been forced to retire from the game.

The Bath, England and British Lion’s hooker had been forced to retire from rugby due to a heart problem aged just 33. Lee had been extremely popular at Spoon events in years gone by, and when we reached out to him; we were met with a fantastic response.

With his recent retirement, a young family and a thriving coffee shop empire named Jika Jika, which now has two locations in the heart of Bath; it is fair to say that Lee is not exactly struggling for things to do. So when we approached him to become an Ambassador of Spoon we were fully prepared for him to say he was currently too busy. But we were met with such positivity, it quickly became clear as to why he was such a popular member of the rugby community.

Lee has already signed up to take part in our upcoming celebrity golf classic in Penina, Portugal, with plans underway of getting him to attend most of our major golf days across the British Isles. He has also already enquired about joining in on a Spoon Challenge, but we are still waiting for the penny to drop on just what he has let himself in for there, so watch this space!

Lee is looking forward to joining a long list of famous front-rowers that have become Ambassadors of Spoon over the years, and we are really looking forward to working with him on a variety of events and projects in the upcoming months.

Phil Vickery signs up for another year

It is hard to believe that it was over two years ago when we first sat down with England and Lions Legend Phil Vickery MBE, to discuss him becoming an Ambassador of Spoon.

In the time that has passed since then, Phil has travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles all to promote the work we do here at Spoon and to raise an amazing amount of funds along the way.

We are extremely pleased to announce that Phil has agreed to perform this role for a third year. He will be participating in challenges, dinners, fundraising events and project openings throughout 2013, and we could not hope for a better person to get our message out there.

To join Phil on any challenges or at the various events he will be attending over the year, keep an eye on www.woodenspoon.com for details of where he will be!

Just Retirement British and Irish v French Legends match

On a cold February evening at The Stoop, over 6,000 fans braved the weather to witness some of the greats of the game from years gone by lace up their boots for Wooden Spoon.

The British and Irish Legend’s team, captained by Martin Corry, which included Jason Leonard, Josh Lewsey, Shane Byrne, Rob Henderson, Colin Charvis, Doddie Weir, Andy Gomersall, Ben Cohen and many others faced up to a French Legend’s team captained by Serge Betsen and including: Christian Califano, Yann Delaigue, Franck Comba, Patrice Lagisquet and Thomas Castaignède. With national pride at stake, the legends flew into contact like it was a Six Nations decider, rather than a charity match, with the ferocity and pace soon taking its toll on a few battered and bruised legends.

The crowd were treated to a fantastic game of rugby, in which the British and Irish Legends eventually ran out 64-24 winners with Colin Charvis being named Man of the Match, with the overall event being a huge success. The evening raised in excess of £20,000 for charity with over £10,000 of it coming to Wooden Spoon.

We would like to thank Martin Corry and Jason Leonard in particular for nominating Spoon as their charity of choice, and we were extremely thrilled to be part of such an amazing evening!

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.
Calling all cyclists – support Hitz, Premiership Rugby’s award winning community programme and cycle your way to the London “Double Header” at Twickenham on the 7th September 2013.

Have you got what it takes to join England and Lions legend Phil Vickery on his 350 mile cycle quest from Land’s End to Twickenham and arrive to the ear splitting applause of a packed Twickenham Stadium at the Aviva Premiership London “Double Header”.

The entry fee is £100 and you will need to pledge a further £1,000 to secure your place on this epic ride. All funds raised will go towards Premiership Rugby’s award winning community programme Hitz. www.hitzrugby.com

So what are you waiting for.... Visit www.greatbritishbikeride.com and register NOW!

Package includes:
- A ticket for the “Double Header”
- All food and overnight accommodation
- A fantastic commemorative event cycle shirt
- An experience of a lifetime!
It’s a hole in one for Wooden Spoon Golf 2013!

2013 is set to be an exciting year for Wooden Spoon golf as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. To coincide with this remarkable achievement, we are hoping to put on even more top golfing events to help celebrate this special anniversary. We are extremely pleased to relaunch our overseas celebrity golf classic in Penina, Portugal in April, and we are also hosting a Founders Golf Day at Farnham Golf Club, where the original founders, members and supporters of Spoon will all gather to celebrate at the same course where it all began. Here is a look at what is to come in 2013.

Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Founders Golf Day

Farnham Golf Club, Surrey - 16th September 2013

On 16th September 1983 a game of golf was played at Farnham Golf Club to redeem the honour for Peter Scott MBE and his colleagues after picking up the Wooden Spoon, earlier on in the year from their Irish hosts, at the 5 Nations Championship.

We are not sure if anyone can remember the result of the golf match but what happened later that evening is now legendary.

During an evening of entertainment led by Barry Cryer and Clive Norling, a phenomenal £8,500 was raised for a local school and from this event, the Wooden Spoon Charity was born.

30 years on to the very day and we are mustering as many of the original crew, along with new supporters of Spoon for what will be a unique and special Founders Golf Day. We will be recreating the same atmosphere of fun and bonhomie that was there in abundance on the 16th September 1983.

We are pleased to announce that Barry Cryer OBE and Clive Norling will both be returning to support this event along with Jason Leonard OBE and Rob Henderson.

Sponsoring this event is Investec Asset Finance plc ("IAF"), part of Investec Bank plc, who provide asset and loan finance across a broad spectrum of asset classes to UK corporates and professional firms. IAF offers specialist finance brokers a broad product range that includes fixed and minimum term hire, standard leases, master lease, hire purchase, commercial and practice loans.
Time to tee off 2013

The Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Celebrity Rugby Golf Classic
Le Meridien Penina Golf and Resort, Algarve, Portugal - 25th - 28th April 2013

Spoon is preparing to head off to Portugal in order to raise money at our flagship event ‘The Wooden Spoon Celebrity Rugby Golf Classic’ at the 5 star Le Meridien Penina Golf Resort from 25th to 28th April, sponsored by Arthur J Gallagher International.

The charity is excited to announce a host of rugby celebrities who will be joining the teams, including the likes of Lee Mears, Zinzan Brooks, David Trick, Craig Chalmers and Rob Henderson. The competition will see teams of three playing with a rugby star on each of the two days.

Golfers will be playing 2 rounds of golf over 2 days at the Sir Henry Cotton Championship 18 hole course, while in the evenings being entertained by special guest MC David Trick whilst attending some fantastic and relaxed functions and dinners.

Village Developments Charity Golf Day in aid of Wooden Spoon
Westerham Golf Club, Kent - 20th June 2013

Wooden Spoon and Village Developments are joining together to host a great golf day, all in aid of raising money for Spoon. The golf tournament will be held at the Westerham Golf club located in the heart of Kent with 20 teams set to play. With first class facilities mean this tournament will be a fabulous fundraiser and an enjoyable day for all.

The Wooden Spoon Golf Day, supported by TNT
Stoneleigh Deer Park GC, Coventry, Warwickshire - 26th September 2013

TNT is our principle supporter here at Wooden Spoon, and every year we join forces to host a fantastic golf day that always raises an outstanding amount for the charity.

The 2013 competition will be held once more at the Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club in Coventry. The day will be MC’d by the humorous and talented Aaron James who will have you falling off your buggies.

The Wooden Spoon Golf Tournament , supported by TNT is one of the many successful fundraising initiatives by TNT to raise funds for Wooden Spoon. TNT has established themselves as the biggest single benefactors of Wooden Spoon in 2011, smashed through the £3million fundraising barrier. As the largest cash and in-kind contributor, TNT has forged a unique bond with Spoon since first adopting it as our principal charitable partner in 1997.

Wooden Spoon National Golf Final
The Oxfordshire Golf Club, Oxfordshire - 4th October 2013

This year’s National Golf Final will be held at The Oxfordshire Golf Club on the 4th October 2013, before we move onto another grand venue in 2014. This will be another fantastic celebration in conjunction with our 30th Anniversary Celebrations.
Join us for the **Wooden Spoon 30th Anniversary Celebrity Clay Pigeon Shoot**

Join us for a fantastic day of Clay Pigeon Shooting at the award winning E.J Churchill Shooting Ground ‘The only Shooting Ground to be voted best in the country 4 times by the IPC shooting industry awards’ on Wednesday 19th June 2013.

Set amidst 40 acres of woodland on the stunning West Wycombe Estate the day will offer all participants a fabulous day out and the opportunity to brush shoulders with some of rugby’s greatest, including rugby legend Phil Vickery MBE.

The package includes gun hire, all cartridges and clays, ear defenders an E.J baseball cap and safety glasses. We will be serving breakfast and a delicious lunch as well as providing prizes.

**Itinerary:**

- 09.30 Arrival and breakfast
- 10.15 Welcome
- 10.30 Shooting starts
- 13.30 Lunch
- 15.00 Departure

**Price:**

- £250 per person
- £900 for a team of 4

**Venue:**

E.J Churchill Shooting Ground
Park Land
Lane End
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 3NS

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

**Sponsorship Opportunities Available**

[www.woodenspoon.com](http://www.woodenspoon.com)
Wooden Spoon Rugby 2013 Preview

So the cold winter’s chill is finally at an end and at Wooden Spoon that means that our rugby 7s specialists can come out of hibernation, strap on their boots, don the hoops and venture forth for another action packed summer sevens season that is sure to bring Wooden Spoon success both on and off the field.

Shops, Strips and Sponsors

Still, that is not to say that just because Jack Frost has played merry heck with our beloved Isles that work has not been going on feverishly behind the scenes – far from it. With new sponsors, new kit, an online shop and plenty of tournament partnerships set up, Spoon Rugby has already built a firm foundation upon which we can build a profitable and rewarding 7s campaign.

With a new season so we welcome a new sponsor in the shape of Game On. The more observant and knowledgeable of readers will note that this new sponsorship package is an in-house affair, with Game On being a principal Wooden Spoon community project.

The deal with Spoon Rugby and Game On will build upon the synergy between the two collectives and ensure that Game On’s ideal of taking disadvantaged youngsters and through the power of rugby, guiding them back into education, training or employment, is pushed to a wider and younger audience. Meanwhile Spoon Rugby will reap the rewards of having a rugby based community project to support with all profits raised from Spoon Rugby going directly to help Game On’s NEET youngsters.

Aside from a new sponsorship deal, the new Wooden Spoon rugby kit has been launched with a nod to Wooden Spoon’s 30th anniversary celebration. The kit, provided by our official suppliers Kukri really does look fantastic and if you would like to purchase your very own Wooden Spoon Rugby merchandise you can do so by going to www.woodenspoon.com/kukri or contacting Wooden Spoon HQ.
Representing the Home Nations

Spoon Rugby this year will be visiting all four of the home nations in a bid to reach as wide an audience as possible and to ensure that all of the Home Unions are represented in the Spoon Rugby calendar. As ever we welcome the support of all our members across the British Isles and details about the dates and locations of all the tournaments near you where Wooden Spoon will be playing can be found at www.woodenspoon.com/rugby, so come down to your local 7s tournament and support the team.

England

England’s flagship tournament, the Bournemouth 7s will once again be graced with a little bit of Wooden Spoon flair. Our Women’s team were narrowly beaten in the final last year during what was our inaugural Bournemouth 7s appearance and so we’ll be hoping to go one better in 2013 and add to our already impressive collection of silverware. Bournemouth 7s is simply the biggest rugby 7s and music festival in the UK and with several thousand spectators expected to descend upon the seaside town we’re hoping there will be plenty of Spoon supporters there over the weekend to cheer our teams to victory.

Scotland

Heading north of the border Wooden Spoon will be playing in Scotland at Edinburgh Rugby Rocks in June. The tournament will play part of a hat-trick of Rugby Rocks tournaments which will feature Wooden Spoon with further tournaments being held in Richmond and Yorkshire throughout the summer.

Edinburgh Rugby Rocks will see Spoon Rugby playing in Scotland for the first time and based on the success of the tournament it is hoped that Edinburgh Rocks will fast become a traditional highlight of the Spoon Rugby calendar. So if you’re in Edinburgh on the 22nd June please do come down and support the teams.

Wales

Our team’s inaugural appearance at the North Wales 7s in early June will ensure that Spoon is represented in the Land of our Fathers and again we encourage any of our members in Wales who would like to support our teams to cheer us on during the day. North Wales 7s is one of the fastest growing tournaments in the UK and is the perfect location to spot some of the rugby stars of tomorrow.

Ireland

As is tradition, Spoon Rugby will return to Ireland to take part in the Kinsale 7s, one of the biggest tournaments in Europe. Kinsale 7s have been long supporters of Wooden Spoon and this is illustrated by the fact that they have continued to choose Wooden Spoon as a tournament partner. 2012 saw, like Bournemouth our nascent Womens team lose in the final to the Irish International side and Spoon will be desperate to ensure victory this year and in so doing bring back the championship trophy for the second time in three years.
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