



PRESS RELEASE

23rd March 2017

HARPENDEN RUGBY CLUB LAUNCHES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY OF RUGBY

Harpenden Rugby Club proudly welcomes Wooden Spoon, the children's charity of Rugby, as an official charity partner. Harpenden join a large and committed family of rugby clubs across the UK and Ireland who are members of the charity's Partner Club Programme; Since 1983 this collaboration between rugby clubs and Wooden Spoon has funded projects supporting disabled and disadvantaged children.

Harpenden sees this partnership as an opportunity to provide a joined-up structure to its fundraising and charitable efforts. The club are very much part of the local Harpenden community and the club Committee felt that the partnership with Wooden Spoon would provide them with clarity and continuity about future fundraising, and were pleased that local projects would be funded. They also felt that the charity's focus on young people would resonate with club members, particularly with a thriving minis and junior section numbering 800+ players.

Darren Francey, Club Chairman, says "We run two major events every year: the November fireworks display, attended by 2,500+ local people, and; the National Pub Sevens on the August bank holiday, with 60+ teams and many more supporters. To target charitable fundraising at these events makes sense. This Sunday (26th March) we are hosting the Hertfordshire RFU under 11 & 12 County tournament. We have 'Spoony' attending and are selling wristbands, bobble hats and socks to raise money."

Contact:

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WOODEN SPOON

Wooden Spoon is the children's charity of rugby.

We fund life-changing projects across the UK and Ireland to support disadvantaged and disabled children.

Our rugby heritage has given us our core values of passion, integrity, teamwork and fun. Working closely with the international rugby community, these values drive the ethos and spirit in everything we do.

We fund a range of projects, which are not just rugby focused. We fund approximately 70 projects a year including respite and medical treatment centres, sensory rooms, specialist playgrounds, sports activity areas and community based programmes in the UK and Ireland.

We have over 400 committed volunteers raising money in local communities across the country and we are extremely proud to say that the money they raise funds projects in their local area.

Due the phenomenal support we have received from the rugby community and the public, we have been able to help over a million children and young people through our life-changing projects since we were founded in 1983.

But this still isn't enough. With numbers of UK disadvantaged children anticipated to reach an all time high in future years, we continue to need the public's help more than ever.

Please get involved and together we can change children's lives through the power of rugby. #wearerugby
woodenspoon.org.uk