



THE LORD'S TAVERNERS
Diamond Jubilee
1950-2010

Tuesday 30 November 2010

**DISABLED WARWICK YOUNGSTERS TO BENEFIT FROM A LORD'S
TAVERNERS MINIBUS**

The Lord's Taverners will arrive in Warwick on Thursday 9 December, delivering a new minibus to Round Oak School. The minibus will change the lives of youngsters with disabilities, giving them far better access and allowing them to experience local amenities. Media are welcome to attend the presentation at 2pm for interview, photography or video opportunities.

Round Oak School, which has recently been awarded Sports College status, caters for 148 pupils aged 11-19 with profound learning and physical difficulties and offers a range of sporting opportunities. The new 16-seater Lord's Taverners minibus will give the students far better access to the community and allow them to experience local amenities.

The minibus has been made possible thanks to the fundraising efforts of Dr Andy Wood, Head of Science at Church Stretton School in Shropshire. Dr Wood cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats this summer to raise money for The Lord's Taverners in memory of a cricket-mad former pupil. Dr Wood, who didn't own a bicycle until he started training last September, set off on Tuesday 27 July and completed the gruelling 1,000-mile trip in just nine days.

In 2008, 15-year-old Zeeshan Ahmad, a keen cricketer from Dr Wood's year 10 form group at Church Stretton School in Shropshire, was killed in a car accident. As cricket was so important to Zeeshan, the school organised a sponsored walk in his memory to raise funds for The Lord's Taverners.

Dr Wood said: *"After Zeeshan died we decided to raise money for The Lord's Taverners. He was such a talented cricketer it was an obvious choice to raise money for a charity that offers opportunities within cricket and other sports. We are delighted to have raised enough money to fund a wheelchair-accessible Lord's Taverners minibus for a school in the Midlands in Zeeshan's memory."*

The Lord's Taverners, the official charity of recreational cricket and one of the UK's leading youth sports and disability charities, will donate nearly £3 million this year to help give young

people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance. The Lord's Taverners donates one minibus every 10 days to deserving organisations such as Round Oak School.

Matthew Patten, Chief Executive of **The Lord's Taverners**, said, "*The Lord's Taverners believes that sport and recreation are essential for all young people, particularly those with special needs. This minibus will help the Warwick youngsters get out and enjoy new places and experiences. We are proud to support the staff, parents and young people of Round Oak School and grateful to Dr Andy Wood and Church Stretton School for all their fundraising efforts.*"

School address: Round Oak School, Brittain Lane, off Myton Road, Warwick CV34 6DX.

- ENDS -

For more information about The Lord's Taverners please contact James Gillson
on 020 7821 2828 or james.gillson@lordstaverners.org

The Lord's Taverners - Notes to Editors

The Lord's Taverners is the official Charity for recreational cricket and the UK's leading youth cricket and disability sports Charity whose objective is to **give young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance**. This year The Lord's Taverners will donate nearly £3 million to help young people of all abilities and backgrounds participate in sporting activities by channelling funding into specific schemes:

- Encouraging participation in **youth cricket**, particularly in disadvantaged areas – providing grants towards Non-Turf pitches, funding for youth cricket competitions and donating hundreds of cricket bags to clubs and school teams across the UK.
- Supporting **recreational and sporting activities for youngsters with special needs** – donating specially adapted minibuses and sports wheelchairs giving young people vital transportation and access to sport, and providing grants for play and sports equipment.

Fifty per cent of the funds awarded go to cricket projects - equipment and competitions for those young people playing the game at grass roots level in schools and clubs. The other half is awarded to special needs schools or organisations, supporting their work to encourage youngsters to participate in recreational activities and a wide range of disabled sports. The Lord's Taverners is passionate about providing mobility and supplies specially adapted minibuses at a rate of almost one every week. It is also one of the leading funders of sports wheelchairs.

The Lord's Taverners benefits hugely from the support its highly regarded members, many of them drawn from the world of sport and entertainment. The list includes Mike Gatting, Alastair Cook, Chris Tarrant, Andrew Flintoff, Bill Tidy, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, Rachael Heyhoe Flint, James Haskell and Colin Salmon.

The Lord's Taverners was founded in 1950 (2010 is our Diamond Jubilee) and has raised and distributed over £30m to schools, clubs and special needs organisations in the UK in the last decade.

You can find out more about The Lord's Taverners and future fundraising events at www.lordstaverners.org

The Lord's Taverners – Registered Charity No. 306054