



SPORTING CHANCE

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:



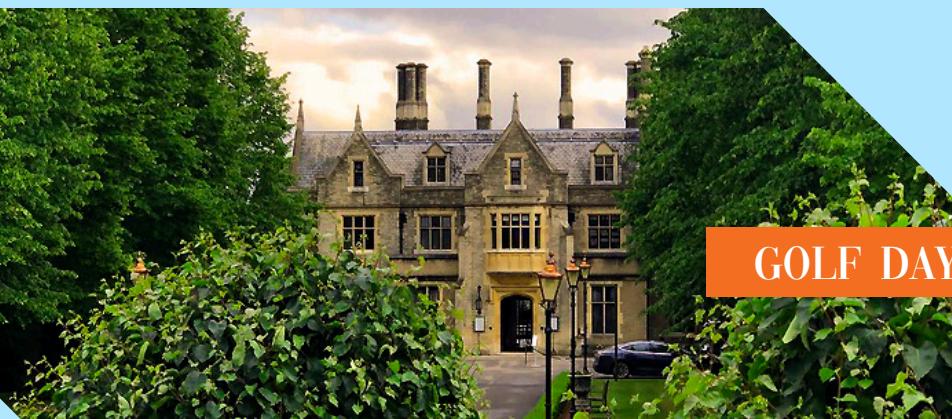
OUR ANNUAL GOLF DAY



SPORTING CHANCE ABROAD



NATALIE'S MARATHON



GOLF DAY,

FOXHILLS, SURREY



Following the unqualified success of previous years, Sporting Chance hosted its annual golf day on Tuesday 4th June at the Foxhills Club in Surrey. As usual, the turnout was high, with teams representing a number of our stakeholders across sport in the UK as well as friends of our founder Tony Adams and their associated businesses, many of whom have supported us through their regular attendance at this event since the inception of the charity almost 20 years ago.

From football we were delighted to welcome a team from our major stakeholders the PFA





(which included amongst its talented ranks former Sporting Chance Head of Education Jeff Whitley) alongside two teams from the Premier League, fourballs flying the flag for EFL sides Reading and MK Dons and a group entered by former LFE chief and close friend of Sporting Chance Mr Alan Sykes, who was also a huge help to us in organising the day itself – thank you Alan. Lee Dixon, Tony's former team mate and a long-time patron of our charity, formed part of our very own Sporting Chance team.

We were also thrilled to have Super League side London Broncos and their CEO Jason Loubser with us as ambassadors for Rugby League, another sport with which Sporting Chance has a significant long-term relationship and whose governing body, the RFL, have recently appointed Tony as President.

Sporting Chance has been working with the Professional Darts Players' Association since 2016 and it was a great pleasure to have them here at this event for the first time. Their team, consisting of Keith Deller, Colin Lloyd, Bob Anderson and Paul Nicholson performed admirably on the day to secure a top-three finish, in no small part due to the motivational influence of their team manager and Chairman of the PDPA, Peter Manley, who ventured out in his buggy on more than one occasion to offer valued instruction to his charges.



In addition to the stakeholders who make our very existence possible, we are equally indebted to the individual teams that enter the event, all of whom make the atmosphere on the day refreshing and fun and whose financial contributions go towards our charitable funds. This money which is used to offer services to sportsmen and women who are not supported by our stakeholders and to develop education programmes in the ever-changing landscape of sportspeople and athletes. We also use these funds to assist with the costs of the day to day running of the charity.

A big thank you from Tony and all of the team at Sporting Chance to the Edwards' family, Pierce Riseley-Prichard's fourball, Jewsons, our accountants Ward Williams, and last but by no means least to birthday boy Graeme Hilditch and his GH training team who were the worthy winners of the overall team event on the day. We are also extremely grateful to Champneys Resorts, the RFL and to another of our valued stakeholders, the Professional Cricketers' Association for the brilliant prizes donated to us.





NATALIE'S MARATHON MADNESS

Natalie completed the course in 5 hours 1 minute and 42 seconds and raised a total of £2055.81 (including Gift Aid).

Natalie was invited to dinner Champneys Forest Mere with Tony Adams and some of the Sporting Chance team as a gesture of thanks for her fundraising efforts – that's where the photo was taken.

20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

To celebrate 20 years of Sporting Chance, we will be having an evening of celebrations at Mottram Hall in Cheshire on January 30th, 2020.

We are thrilled that a number of tables are already taken and we look forward to sharing an evening of festivities with our patrons, trustees, supporters, friends and clients old and new.

If you would like to join us, please contact Steve Shotton, steve@sportingchanceclinic.com to secure your booking.



SPORTING CHANCE



MEET THE STAFF...

CRAIG DEXTER

How did you come to work for Sporting Chance?

Back in August 2016 I was approached by Sporting Chance to be part of their network of therapists. At the time I was working in a residential treatment centre, where I had worked for many years and the opportunity to do something different very much appealed to me. My full-time employment was based in Hull and Sporting Chance had asked if I would deliver therapy sessions to sport professionals who were positioned where I was located. I really enjoyed this, so it was terrific that it continued over the course of 2 years.



My position on the therapist network kept me in contact with Sporting Chance staff on a reasonably regular basis, and I gradually became more and more aware of work they delivered and the positive impact that Sporting Chance had on others. I became attracted to this and would occasionally share my hopes to one day work for Sporting Chance full time. So, towards the end of 2018, I had recently started a new job which did not appeal to me a great deal, and what felt like perfect timing, I received an invite to join the Sporting Chance team.

Can you describe your role with Sporting Chance for us?

My job title is clinical support. To best describe my role would be to explain that I mainly practice the role of a therapist and I work a great deal on a one to one basis with Sporting Chance clients, although the clinical support aspect also involves sharing clinical knowledge and experience with Sporting Chance staff, as and when required. There are many areas of my role which are exciting, and I share this because there's regularly new and different duties which I will carry out daily.

My role is about to also include managing the RFL account, this will involve the oversight of our work with RFL. I will be working closely with the RFL staff (player welfare managers) with a purpose of being available for advice and general clinical support, also to manage the triage process for when clients require the support of a therapist.





What does the job involve?

A section of my job involves delivering therapy to several clients that I work with on a weekly basis. This is like the work I would do when engaged with the therapist network, although greater in number and on a wider geographical scale. A typical description of this would be that I may receive a client referral, either directly from a stakeholder or from one of our staff team and following an assessment of needs, I will make available and deliver the required number of therapy interventions. It is never 'one hat fits all', so the type of interventions may differ and at times there is a requirement to involve other agencies/services, this may include GP's, mental health services or a referral to our residential unit.

In addition, my job is to be on hand to offer support in various aspects of the service, these may include education, involvement with additional courses/interventions within our residential, delivering staff support/supervision for stakeholders and carrying out assessment type duties, again for stakeholders or for the purpose of identifying effective therapeutic approaches.

Your role has obviously expanded along with the charity, can you describe how?

I feel that this is a difficult question to answer at this stage of my time with the charity. I stepped into this role in January 2019 and my role was only just introduced by Sporting Chance, so I feel that it is still in the process of development. However, the plans which are in place for me to work closely with the RFL, I do see as a product of the expansion, due to Alex managing the education side and myself stepping into his previous RFL position.

Can you describe a typical day or is there no such thing?

There are some typical days, I say this because I tend to work with clients on a particular day of the week and I will travel to a certain location, although only on an average of twice a week. I am pleased though, that when I consider the rest of my work/duties, I feel that I can say that there is no such thing of a typical day.

How do you see the future for yourself and the charity?

I am aware that the charity is making huge progress and expanding at quite a rate, and I believe that this is going to continue. I hope that in the future, I can play a role in the growth aspect of the work that we do in the north of England, and once I become bedded in, I aim to help nurture and expand the work which we do with the RFL. My hope is that in time I can become a key fixture within the charity and hopefully contribute to its continued success.



COLIN BLAND'S

SPORTING CHANCE ABROAD



As we approach the celebration of twenty years providing services to professional sport in the UK, I could not be prouder of what has been achieved. I know how hard it can be to ask for help and can be amplified for the group we aim to serve – the sports professional. In the UK we are now able to offer twenty-four-hour access to mental health and emotional wellbeing services every day of the year. We provide a national, confidential and professional service that can be accessed within a short journey from the players' home or place of work. Alongside this we still run the only residential clinic in the world for addictive disorders that is exclusively for the sports professional. We continue to develop our UK services to meet the needs of the player and the sports that we are here to serve.

The playing population of UK sport welcomes, and I believe, is bettered by the contribution of an international cast. Sporting Chance offers services to many players, playing their sport here in the UK whose homes are abroad, often their first language is not English. We aim to provide access to therapists and specialists in the individual's first language to help their journey. We also support British players who are playing for teams who are based abroad.

Sport is a global business and Sporting Chance is a global brand, our work is known and respected across the world. Our mission is to help as many sports professionals as we can. These two sentences capture our future vision to expand the net of support and services across the globe. Our approach will be two fold: we will work with partners and stakeholders in global sport to establish structures and services where needed and we will expand capacity of UK services and create pathways for foreign players and clubs to access them in the UK. We are currently in dialogue with partners in Australia, the USA and Europe.

We hope to run our first two residential treatment programmes abroad in 2020 and to establish the world's only residential gambling clinic for the professional players within the next five years. Players will travel the world for the best surgeon for a physical repair, in the future, when a player anywhere in the world wants treatment for a gambling problem, they will come to the UK.

I look forward to celebrating twenty years of Sporting Chance with you and it a pleasure to share some of our vision for the future now. However, and most importantly, I know that if our phone rings today that whoever has had the courage to ask for help will get the best service we can provide straight away.

Thank you for your ongoing support.





RUGBY LEAGUE CARES

CARES

The Rugby League Cares magazine Summer edition has an excellent article on player welfare, featuring Sporting Chance.



SPORTING CHANCE

IMAGINE GOING TO WORK TOMORROW GETTING PAID TO DO THE ONE THING YOU'VE DREAMED OF SINCE CHILDHOOD.

Then imagine not knowing whether you'll be physically able to get in the car and drive home at the end of your shift because of the pain your job causes.

Then think what it's like being the most popular person in the supermarket as other shoppers ask for selfies and autographs with their new 'best friend' when you pop in for a box of cereal.

Then think what it must be like needing a pain-killing injection at breaktime just to get to your desk.

Imagine how the 25-year-old you would feel knowing you're earning four times as much as your best mates from school.

Then imagine how the 35-year-old you would feel having to go to the same best mates asking for a job after your last employer made you redundant because you're deemed to be too old.

Welcome to the world of the professional Rugby League player.

The stars of Super League and the

One of the services utilised by RL Cares is Sporting Chance, a charity that has delivered counselling and other support to more than 400 Rugby League players since it linked with the sport in 2011.

Sporting Chance was founded in 2000 by Tony Adams, the former Arsenal and England footballer who later this year will become President of the Rugby Football League.

The organisation's set-up costs were funded by the proceeds of Tony's book, *Addicted*, which told of his long battle against alcohol dependency and the struggle he faced as a high-profile sportsman to tame his demons.

Over the last 19 years, Sporting Chance has gone on to make a dramatic difference to the lives of thousands of players from across a wide range of sports by recognising the unique pressures they face and shaping treatment strategies accordingly.

Sporting Chance runs the only

