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LORD'S TAVERNERS IRELAND TAVERNERS' TALES

"Giving young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance"



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUE TO HELP CHANGE LIVES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Coronavirus pandemic is, of course, dominating all our thoughts and has resulted in a shocking loss of life and huge disruption to all aspects of our lives. The Charity Sector has also been exceptionally badly hit but with your help, Lord's Taverners Ireland will continue our good work and "give young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance".

Just two short weeks ago, we were thrilled to deliver two vans to the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA), and they are already whizzing around the country! These sport vehicles will support a range of sports including all IWA governing sports such as Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby, Para powerlifting and Para Athletics. The IWA transport as many sport wheelchairs as possible to all their sports events as sports wheelchairs are an expensive purchase for families and athletes and many individuals and newcomers to the sports don't have their own. These vans will ensure the IWA team can provide wheelchairs at all games which will ensure inclusion for those who want to join, bringing a relief to families all across Ireland.

Lord's Taverners Ireland have proudly worked alongside the IWA for some time and are thrilled to have worked with them on this project. The sports development team at the IWA is small and having



a nationwide reach, sharing vehicles during busy periods often proved difficult. Having the use of two extra vans for transportation of equipment will massively facilitate this. It will also allow the team to reach a wider audience as they tour the country promoting women and girls in sport, conducting school visits and host sporting events.

The new vans will be put to good use transporting equipment for new club setups where the club may not have any equipment yet; transporting equipment for competition across all sports including athletics, basketball, para powerlifting, weights, and rugby; bringing equipment along to school visits; hosting events; and attending disability awareness training days in primary/secondary/third level education.

We are delighted to have been in a position to part fund these vehicles with the IWA and it's all thanks to our wonderful and loyal supporters. We are thrilled to see our logo on the vans and look forward to seeing them out on the Irish roads as they conduct their brilliant work.

In this current edition of our newsletter you will meet many of the individuals and organisations we have helped

so far and with your help we can continue to help so many more.

Please donate to our Christmas appeal and share the donation link amongst your friends and family!

www.justgiving.com/campaign/LordsTavernersIrelandChristmasAppeal



Leinster Cricket - Table Cricket funding

From a Cricket Leinster perspective, the support we receive from Lord's Taverners Ireland is fundamental to our continued delivery of table cricket programmes to children with special needs throughout the province. The contributions we receive from LTI provide many young people with the opportunity to have a sporting chance which might otherwise be unavailable to them - the funding directly supports the provision of experienced coaches and equipment which is hugely appreciated by the children, their families, teachers and the community at large.



Philip Smith, General Manager - Cricket Leinster (October 2020)

Sean Bosonnet - 2014 recipient

Sean has been getting great use out of his buggy. It is much easier to leave all your worries behind when you are racing down a mountain with the wind and rain in your face, where social distancing is not an issue and where nature and the elements help to remind you that life is great!

Sean's all terrain buggy has opened up a more colourful, interesting and exciting world where endless adventures and interactions with nature await.

*'You're off to Great Places,
Today is your day!*

Your mountain is waiting

So..... .get on your way!' Dr. Seuss

Lord's Taverners have helped Sean reach new heights and made every day, his day.

Best of luck with your fundraising. We are forever grateful that Lord's Taverners have enabled Sean to explore places no wheelchair has ever been!

Nuala, David, Sean, Sienna, Joe, Isaac and Chiara Bosonnet

Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland (SBHI) - 2018 recipient

The donation of the bus from the Lord's Taverners Ireland in 2018 was an act of exceptional generosity and one which the young people we support who live with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus have felt the very real benefit from over the past couple of years. We can't thank everyone enough!

Tom Scott, CEO



Ed Joyce - Lord's Taverners Ireland Ambassador

Lord's Taverners Ireland do outstanding work every year providing specially modified vehicles for deserving causes. As an ambassador, I'm very proud to be associated with such a brilliant charity. This has been the most challenging year anyone can remember in terms of raising funds, so I'd urge you to consider contributing to the LTI this year to enable their work to continue.

Yours in cricket, Ed Joyce.



Kevin Gannon - 2019 recipient

I can't describe how extremely grateful I am to Lord's Taverners Ireland and REVUP. Without their help I wouldn't have been able to purchase my Power Soccer chair. Power Soccer is a huge part of my life both competitively and socialably. My New Soccer chair has given me such a huge boost both mentally and physically so thank you so much for helping me live my dream.

Kevin Gannon



Kingdom Wheelblasters - 2015 recipients

Being able to play wheelchair basketball has opened many opportunities for me. I have made really great friends all over Ireland playing this sport and live competing against them.

Dean McCarthy (16yrs)

When we got our sports chairs from Lord's Taverners Ireland we wouldn't wait to get out on the court and do what we love. We really appreciate them, thank you Lord's Taverners Ireland.

Niamh Buckley (15yrs)



Andy Balbirnie **Ireland Cricket Team Captain**

I have always been a huge supporter of Lord's Taverners Ireland and everything they do. Sport is such an important part of my life and the opportunity the Taverners gives to those who may not have easy access to it is an inspiration and in many areas life changing. Sport teaches us so much and everyone should have the opportunity to learn and enjoy themselves through sport.

Andy Balbirnie

Fionn O'Longaigh - 2019 recipient

Fionn was so happy and appreciative to get the funding from REVUP and Lord's Taverners Ireland for his Strikeforce Powerchair. Fionn is a massive football fan so being a player on the M & F United Powerchair Soccer team allows him to participate in the sport he loves.

Míle buíochas - thanks a million!

Padraig O'Longaigh



Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf **2018 recipients**

Hassan & Hussein were beyond happy to receive their amazing hand cycles from Lord's Taverners Ireland. To say it was life changing for them is an understatement. Since the age of 3 years old the twins had asked Santa every year for a bike and every year I watched their sad disappointed faces as we could not find a suitable bike with them having just one leg each. It broke my heart as a mother that I couldn't make their dreams come true of having a bike like all their friends. But in December 2018 Lord's Taverners Ireland did what Santa couldn't!!!

They got two specially made hand cycles for Hassan & Hussein just after their 9th birthday and to watch their happy faces light up with joy, was the best gift of all. They have had endless hours of fun with their hand cycles, taken part in St Patrick's Day parade and also were to take part in



IronMan kids which will now happen in 2021 instead. We are so grateful to Lord's Taverners Ireland for making their dreams come true. Life for the boys has been so tough with over 50 surgeries but things like this give them the chance to feel like other children and to enjoy simple things like owning a bike xx Thank you.

Angie, Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf

Young guns herald a bright future for Irish cricket



Ireland's first Test match against Pakistan two years ago was seen as the end of an era, the culmination of decades of dreams and hard work. But many of those who got to enjoy it were near the end of their own road, seven of them aged over 30.

The contrast could hardly have been greater with the eleven that thumped England in the Rose Bowl, Southampton in August – only Kevin O'Brien and Craig Young had passed that roundy birthday and more than half the side was under 24.

This rack of Spice Boys have been pushing hard to get into the side for a while, but their arrival en bloc only coincided with the changing of the guard and the appointment of Andrew Balbirnie as captain in January. Since then he has led Ireland to victories over the World T20 champions, West Indies, and the World Cup holders, England, on their own grounds.

Coach Brian O'Rourke has known Balbirnie since he was an Under 11. "I remember him smacking the ball all around him to beat the band in a blitz," he says. "He's very much a leader from the front. He has all the key attributes but he has their respect because he is a great player himself."

The first person to recognise Balbirnie's leadership skills at the top level was John Mooney. It was almost five years ago that the North County man retired after a stellar career that included three World Cups. Among Mooney's roles was song leader, the man who decides when the team anthem is to be sung – a show of pride, passion and unity that is only invoked after a victory.

In the *Sunday Independent*, Mooney recalled his last game in the colours:

"We wrapped up the game next morning and got into a huddle and I told the lads. I got a bit emotional and had to cut short what I planned to say but I told them 'Balbo' was going to take the song over.

"Andy Balbirnie is perfect. He shares a lot of the same qualities as me. He's a great leader, a great speaker, he commands respect in the changing room even though he's only a young man. He has that passion too and he's going to be there for a while. So I asked him to take over and he nearly choked on his cornflakes."

Balbirnie had only just bedded into the side after a long apprenticeship, winning just 16 caps in five years, most of them when Ireland were without the county-based players. He joined a side on the wane, and saw what it did to morale as players clung on long past their sell-by date, blocking the path of young prospects.

You can trace the new-look side back to last September and Graham Ford's decision to sign on for another two years. At the time he said: "The last two years have been quite a journey, and we are only just starting to see the emergence of the new generation of players that will push Irish cricket forward over the coming years.

"I still feel we have a way to go, but I am committed to the task and didn't hesitate in signing a new contract.

"As a coach, you want to see progress as a team, and you want to see development of individual players. We've certainly seen that in recent times and the potential is now there to push on further."

Whether it was the hand of Ford gently ushering them towards the exit, or their own realisation that their

time was up, but the departure of William Porterfield and Gary Wilson as captains in November opened the way for Balbirnie taking the helm in all three formats.

None of the six youngsters – opening bat Gareth Delany, No4 Harry Tector, wicketkeeper Lorcan Tucker, all-rounders Mark Adair and Curtis Campher, and seamer Josh Little – had played even ten ODIs before the start of this year, but all are now key elements of the Ford/Balbirnie plan to qualify for the 2023 World Cup.

“Balbo wants to put his own stamp on the team”, says Alan Lewis, the former Ireland captain and previous chairman of selectors. “It’s very heartening to see the possibilities – you have to keep reminding yourself how young they are – Harry and Josh are only 20 – and with David Delany to come back in, the future is very bright. There should be battles for places which is the most exciting thing.

“There’s a very young spine now in the team heading towards the 2023 World Cup and some of the older guys won’t be there. Irish cricket teams have always profited from a gamble on youth.”

The first two games at Southampton didn’t go according to plan – Ireland’s batting crumbled, even when the bowlers were on song. Only for the new cap, Campher, the results would have been embarrassing.

But the captain knows what he has, and is prepared to back them.

He said: “Curtis is a great person to captain, he knows what he wants to do and has the ability to change the game with the ball. He was such an impact player for us over the first two games, I can’t find any faults with him.”

The youngsters took their opportunities, none more than Josh Little who came in for the injured Barry McCarthy and claimed the scalp of Jonny Bairstow.

“You want to see your fast bowlers running in with a bit of aggression and Josh produced a spell to get two other world class batters out, so it was great to see him fired up, but he also kept his cool and stuck to his task”, said his captain.

On the eve of the third game there was plenty of talk about bringing back Porterfield and Boyd Rankin to give Ireland a better chance of those vital World League points. Rankin, Wilson and Porterfield have been fine servants but their captain has clearly signalled that they are no longer in his thinking for white ball formats.

He backed his young guns. “They are facing some of the best players in the world from the off and it’s a sink or swim”, he explained. “We haven’t had a big 50 or 100 from them yet but they have looked at home. But we have to give these guys a chance, they are so talented, much better than I was at that age, and getting the exposure and experience at this level can only help them.”

So Ireland sent out an even younger side and demolished Eoin Morgan’s world champions. Balbirnie showed how he has grown into the role, managing his bowling changes astutely and keeping the pressure on the England batsmen. To bowl that side out on such a good pitch was an enormous achievement.

But the job was only half done, and Ireland’s top order had failed all winter. In 16 innings between them against England, Paul Stirling and Balbirnie had failed to score even one fifty.

With all the optimism and positivity of the new era, they set about the England bowlers with gusto, and each scored a memorable century. And even when they got out, with plenty still to do, it was the youngest and oldest players who came together to finish England off. Working in perfect harmony, O’Brien bludgeoned huge sixes and Tector stroked glorious drives through extra-cover to finally give the Irish team something to sing about.

Ger Siggins



Dead Ducks Motorcycle Club RevUp organisers

RevUp 2020 was set to be our biggest motorcycle charity run to date, with registrations surpassing all previous events. COVID-19 has changed everything, but Team RevUp look forward to continuing the relationship with Lord's Taverners Ireland and helping to give young people, particularly those with special needs a sporting chance. See you on the road!



Don Moore, Alan McCaffrey and John Harte

St Michaels School, Holy Angels - 2018 recipient

St Michael's school community have made great use of their lovely new bus since its arrival to great fanfare in the school car park. It has supported teaching learning and fun in a very real and tangible way. From trips around the country to important sporting fixtures to weekly trips for swimming and once off day trips to theatres, museums and the zoo we've done it all!

It's such a joy to see the bus filled to capacity with happy faces heading off on a new adventure.

A great big thank you once again to all concerned.

Margaret O'Riordan, Deputy Principal



Galway Speeders - 2014 recipient

We are delighted to say that all four wheelchair basketball chairs donated by Lord's Taverners are still in perfect condition and over 20 members of our Club have used them for wheelchair basketball, badminton, wheelchair hurling and continue to do so.

Delia Boyce



St John of Gods, Islandbridge 2016 recipient

I cannot begin to express what joy and utter pleasure this multisensory room has given to all our service users since it was refurbished a few years ago. At the moment due to Covid 19 only those individuals living in our residential unit are able to avail of it but again it never ceases to bring them immense pleasure so thank you again to Lord's Taverners Ireland for their contribution in making this happen. Best regards for the future.

Sandra Dignam, Senior Staff Nurse



Irish Wheelchair Association

As you begin to celebrate another year of giving, I would like to thank you for the continued support you offer IWA and our service users which profoundly impacts their lives. The transport you provide enables our members to socially integrate and engage in the community, our junior sports stars to attend sporting events around the country and our staff to reach all corners of the country. It is a pleasure to be working alongside you.

Rosemary Keogh, CEO



Sadhbh Ní Laoghaire - 2020 recipient

When I saw the trike I thought that it was incredible. I rode one for the first time when we were on a holiday in California. I instantly loved it and every summer we went back there I had loads of fun riding on the roads and learning a little bit about it but I didn't think that I would ever get one of my own because they were so expensive and unique. I was more than overjoyed when I found out that I was getting my very own one after wishing for so long that I could have a bike that I could comfortably ride. Every time we go out for a ride I feel so lucky.

Sadhbh Ní Laoghaire



Scoil Mochua - 2016 recipient

The bus which Lord's Taverners Ireland presented to us has meant that our students can get out and about in the community taking part in sporting events and representing their school and the CRC at all levels. It has made a huge difference to our ability to integrate socially and creating meaningful and memorable experiences. Thank you!

Vivienne Wynne, Principal

Rebel Wheelers - 2015 recipient

The Rebel Wheelers were the lucky beneficiaries of funding for sports equipment and a Lord's Taverners minibus in 2015.

This has been a vital part of our success in providing people with a physical disability the opportunity to partake in sport and compete not just at a local level but at a national level. The ability to provide, comfortable safe transport to our members has been a huge part in the success of our Senior Wheelchair Basketball team been crowned league and double cup champions in 2019 and were on

course to repeat the same in 2020 before COVID intervened. Having the bus meant we could keep the cost involved in players getting to game all round the country to a minimum and from a safety perspective meant they didn't have to drive home after playing a game from places as far away as Belfast and Derry. The Bus has also been an important factor in the growth of our underage section of the club with it been used to provide transport children to Athletics meets and Basketball blitz across the country. We look forward to getting back on the road once COVID is behind us.



Dermot Hurley

Table Cricket

Cricket Leinster's disability programmes would not be where it is today without Lord's Taverners Ireland. We are incredibly grateful for their support with funding ten new table cricket sets in the past year, which have been even more useful in these trying times. We have set up a lending scheme to get Table Cricket sets out to schools with ASD units as well as Special Schools and Community groups across Leinster. This, along with training for staff, allows these kids to access cricket and the staff to learn new sports skills.

We are still aiming to get that Irish team together to play against county squads in England. Cricket Leinster needs the continued support of Lord's Taverners Ireland to grow the game and make our goals a reality.



Naomi Scott-Hayward, Cricket Leinster

Kingdom Wheelblasters - 2019 recipient

Our Club has been the lucky recipient of sports wheelchairs and minibus in 2015 and 2019 respectively. These grants at their heart have promoted inclusion, self-esteem and all the health benefits of sport. It is very important to our club that our members are valued by the community and Lord's Taverners Ireland and RevUp support has helped us to put forward a positive view of disability in this regard.

Tadhg Buckley, Chairman

We want to say how grateful everyone involved in the club is for the support given to us by Lord's Taverners Ireland and RevUp. It has played a huge part in enabling us to successfully grow the club and has helped us to compete in our sport nationwide.

Deirdre Bambury, Secretary



Daniel Tighe - 2018 and 2019 recipient

In 2018 Lord's Taverners Ireland provided us with a running chair. Daniel has run many races in this chair and has done two more marathons and will be doing his 4th virtually around his hometown Tallaght this year.

In 2019 we started the adaption on our home Lord's Taverners Ireland got in touch again and kindly provided Daniel with a hoist. The hoist will help with washing Daniel or if he becomes unwell. It will also help me as he is growing in size and will take huge pressure off my back. This year has been a hard year with Covid. We were very lucky that we have the running chair as it meant we could get out running with Daniel. We had no services or respite so being able to run with him was a lifeline. The overall difference that it has made to his life is that Daniel is now part of the running community he has made loads of friends. He is so used to it now and people understand him better and both are very comfortable with one another. Everyone loves to see his big smile when we are running.

Both the chair and the running chair have made a huge difference to Daniels quality life and his development. Thank you!



Sinead Tighe



LORD'S TAVERNERS IRELAND

"Giving young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance"

Please support our Christmas Appeal by donating on the link below:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/LordsTavernersIrelandChristmasAppeal



Minibus Recipients

2006 - The Blue Dolphins, **2007** - The Daughters of Charity,
2008 - Rehabcare, **2009** - Enable, **2010** - Belvedere Youth Club,
2011 - Camphill Communities of Ireland, **2012** - Grosvenor House,
2013 - The LauraLynn Foundation, **2014** - The Irish Wheelchair Association,
2015 - Rebel Wheelers, **2016** - Scoil Mochua, **2017** - Cheeverstown,
2018 - St Michaels School Holy Angels (in partnership with RevUp) and
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland, **2019** - Kingdom Wheelblasters (in
partnership with RevUp) and Portmarnock Arch Club,
2020 - Two vans to IWA-Sport.

Sports Wheelchair, Specialised Equipment & Funding Recipients

*The Mid West Spina Bifida Association, The Harry Birrell Trust,
The Irish Wheelchair Association Sports Kilkenny, The Galway Speeders,
The IRFU Charity Trust, The Rebel Wheelers, Kingdom Wheelblasters,
Clonashee Wheelchair Basketball Club, St. John of Gods Islandbridge,
specialised handcycles and buggies for ten individuals with disabilities,
a chair hoist and continuous funding towards Table Cricket.*

Visit our website and download our membership form

www.lordstavernersireland.ie

For more details contact

Paula Cross 087-995 3397 or Email lordstaverners@live.ie

A Message of Thanks

The Lord's Taverners Ireland would like to take this opportunity to extend their appreciation for the support received from:

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

SuperValu

Irish Wheelchair Association

Ray Tilson

InterContinental Hotel,

Castle Golf Club

David McKernan of Java Republic Coffee Company

Cricket Ireland

Dublin Grass Machinery

Leopardstown Racecourse

Butlers Chocolate

Luttrellstown Golf Club

Martin Bates at Aylesbury Pharmacy Tallaght

Dead Ducks Motorcycle Club

Fujifilm

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

The Forster Court Hotel, Galway

Richard Evans - Isaacs Hotel & Greenes restaurant Cork

The River Lee Hotel, Cork

The Sign Lab Limited

Ballymore Properties Ireland Limited

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Irish Rail

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AVIS Rent a Car

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Tayto Park

.... and we ask you in turn to support them

MERCHANDISE

We have a selection of merchandise on offer for the Lord's Taverners Ireland and orders can be made by emailing lordstaverners@live.ie or alternatively you can contact Paula Cross on 087 9953397.



The Lord's Taverners Ireland

Tie Pin

Cost: €10.00 plus €2.00 p&p



The Lord's Taverners Ireland

Official Tie

Cost: €25.00 plus €3.00 p&p