

PRESS RELEASE

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The October Club raises £850,000 to transform the lives of 3,000 spinal cord injured people.

- City-based philanthropy group – The October Club – announce they have raised £850,000 to support Spinal Injuries Association
- Charity to use the money to provide expert care and support to 3,000 spinal cord injured people, train 3,000 healthcare professionals and drive policy change.
- “A unique moment to change forever the lives of spinal cord injured people” says charity Chief Executive Nik Hartley OBE.

Wednesday night saw The October Club’s annual fundraising efforts culminate at London’s iconic Savoy Hotel and raise £850,000 for Spinal Injuries Association, the leading national charity for spinal cord injured people, their families and friends and carers.

Spinal Injuries Association was selected by The October Club – a group of city-based business people to be their charity partner for 2019. Over 400 guests attended the dinner and the evening included speeches by Henry Knapman, Chairman of The October Club, Martin Hibbert, who survived the Manchester Arena bomb that left him paralysed and Spinal Cord Injury Nurse Specialist Carol Adcock. The Spinal Injuries Association’s Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, sent a special message to The October Club to thank them for their support.

The monies raised will help the charity take its successful Nurse Specialist pilot programme to scale. Each year, approx 2,500 sustain a spinal cord injury but just one in three get the expert care and support essential to rebuilding their lives and living independently once again. The programme will directly support 3,000 newly injured people over three years, train a further

3,000 healthcare professionals to provide care and support and finally develop the evidence to influence policy and practice at a national level.

Funds were raised on the night via a live and silent auction. Lots included a David Yarrow original image, a Monaco Grand Prix experience as the personal guest of ROKiT Williams Racing Deputy Team Principal Claire Williams OBE, and a unique behind the scenes experience at the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden. Additionally, guests were able to make pledges to support Spinal Injuries Association's Nurse Specialist programme.

Spinal Injuries Association, Chief Executive Nik Hartley OBE said: "Our heartfelt thanks to The October Club. Their fantastic support, through both their Race Day in July and this remarkable event, will truly transform forever the lives of spinal cord injured people. It is terrible to think that people in the UK, paralysed by an accident or medical condition, are then at risk of poor care to the point of risking their lives. Scaling up our Nurse Specialist service will not just be life-saving but give us the chance to train a new generation of care-givers so that we can ultimately support the whole community of 50,000 people with a spinal cord injury in this country."

Chairman of The October Club, Henry Knapman, said: "In 1987, a group of City professionals created The October Club to and held a fundraising dinner in aid of Leukaemia sufferers. Since then, the Club's annual dinners have raised over £11 million for transformational charity projects. This year we are delighted to support Spinal Injuries Association. Their work is so important in helping people rebuild their lives after a devastating spinal cord injury and it is great to know that our efforts will help transform many more lives."

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

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Pictures available on request

Notes to Editors:

About the October Club

The October Club is a philanthropy organisation based in the City of London. Originally set up in response to the needs of people with leukaemia, the club has held annual dinners ever since, raising over £11 million for charities. This has helped fund groundbreaking research, raising awareness and enabling challenging expansion plans.

About Spinal Injuries Association

Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) represents the interests of the 50,000 people living with a spinal cord injury in the UK, as well as the many hundreds of thousands of people who are their families, friends and health professionals.

We provide spinal cord injured people with the hope, confidence and practical skills to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of injury, during their rehabilitation and at any time afterwards. SIA supports spinal cord injured people and their families with practical and emotional support, advice and information, empowering them to lead full and independent lives. We campaign for change, ensuring that each person can lead a full and active life.

- Offer support and assistance from the time of injury and for the rest of a paralysed person's life
- Provide services to increase an individual's quality of life
- Support the families of newly injured people
- Increase knowledge and awareness of the causes and consequences of spinal cord injury
- Campaign for the best medical and social care for spinal cord injured people

To access our services, please call 01908 604191, email SIA@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

For further information:

T: 01908 604191

W: www.spinal.co.uk

Twitter: @spinal injuries

Facebook: Spinal Injuries Association

Registered Charity Number: 1054097