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for life after spinal cord injury

THE Gunpowder BALL 2024

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER

The Royal National Hotel

Supporting Partner



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Empowering **PEOPLE TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES**

Our experienced and highly-specialised team support those affected by spinal cord injury through expert legal services covering serious injury and medical negligence.



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WELCOME TO THE GUNPOWDER BALL



It's with great pleasure that I welcome each and every one of you to Spinal Injuries Association's Gunpowder Ball at the Royal National Hotel, London, our first to be held in this beautiful venue. As our 50th year draws to a close, we're delighted you can join us at the curtain call event to celebrate what SIA has become, delivering a gold-standard of support and representation to over 20,000 members across the UK. But our incredible recent growth always comes second to that permanent vision - a fulfilled life for every person affected by spinal cord injury - and our underpinning commitment to be the expert, guiding voice for anyone who comes to us. It forms the fabric of our daily work across the Association - from fundraising days like today, to providing specialist clinical care to those in desperate need; from advocating for care packages to training professionals across the wards of general hospitals.



Our Strategy 2030 was launched in direct response to the stories we were hearing from our members about increasing suffering. Revised figures published this year show that 4,400 people in the UK sustain a spinal cord injury every day (that is twelve people paralysed today alone). We pledged to redouble our commitment not just to serve our members, but to tackle the barriers preventing all those in our community from living fulfilled lives of their choosing. The role each one of you plays in supporting this vital work cannot be understated.

And as valued members and supporters of our network and community, you get to play a critical part in SIA's story over its next 50 years.

Tonight, you will hear our member Julie's story and how support from one of our many specialist spinal cord injury nurses helped her feel understood for the first time since her injury. Knowing our support is with them for life, as and when they need it as Julie experienced, is our ambition for every SIA member.



As you support our fundraising efforts tonight, please know that by doing so you are helping us reach thousands more like Julie; through our expanded team of clinical experts, but also our counsellors, peer volunteers, our advocacy team, and a network of support organisations who we have convened to serve our members.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to our sponsors: headline supporter CFG, our supporting partner, Fletchers Solicitors, and our category sponsors, Premium Care Solutions, Active Care Group, Ranger Home Care, SC1 Property and William Martin have all helped make tonight possible.

Enjoy the evening – the food, the company, the entertainment and the sense of a wonderful rapidly expanding community...let's ensure we end our 50th year with a bang!

Thank you so much for being here.

Nik Hartley OBE

CEO, Spinal Injuries Association

 Spinal Injuries Association

 Spinal_Injuries

 Spinal Injuries Association

 SpinalInjuries



fletchers
solicitors

Helping our clients and their families

move > *forward* after a spinal cord injury

As a SIA Trusted Partner, Fletchers Solicitors is proud to be supporting the Gunpowder Ball 2024

Our award-winning serious injury team has over 30 years' experience handling complex cases involving spinal cord injuries and maximising compensation to help our clients and their families move forward and put their lives back on track.

We understand the pain and suffering that can be caused by spinal injury, and will lead and support our clients throughout the rehabilitation and litigation process from instruction through to settlement and beyond.

For more information, please visit:
www.fletcherssolicitors.co.uk

Or follow us on social media:



MEET YOUR HOST

Mark Henderson

Mark sustained a T11 complete spinal cord injury following an accident in 2018. A trustee since 2019, Mark's expertise is in governance and campaigning, and forming links with parliamentarians. He's a barrister with over 25 years' experience, and following his injury battled tirelessly to improve disabled access to courts. He successfully overturned government policy on the Gurkha settlement, and acted for the survivors and bereaved at the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. He recently won the Disability Advocacy Leader of the Year – UK award at the Legal Benchmarking Group's Social Impact EMEA Awards 2024. Mark is a big part of ParaPride which celebrates disabled and LGTQA+ communities. And he features on the This Is Spinal Crap podcast.





Case Management, Therapy & Expert Witness

Active Care Group's case management division is made up of 9 of the UK's top case management companies with over 200 Case Managers across England, Wales, and Scotland as well as a specialist brain and spinal injury rehabilitation and therapy company and a medical report agency. We have vast experience in catastrophic injuries, expert witness work and rehabilitation.



For more information, please contact us:

- www.activecaregroup.co.uk/casemanagement/
- janette.wynn@activecaregroup.co.uk
- 07944 766799

OUR APPEAL

“My name’s Julie.

I was doing a yoga class over Zoom when suddenly, I couldn’t move my legs. I was paralysed. I haven’t been able to walk since that moment. In hospital, during Covid, my mental health was deteriorating rapidly. My bowel and bladder care weren’t being addressed. I was desperate – it felt like I was in prison. I’d never felt so alone, so cut off. SIA were there again for me when I needed them. They helped me to work out what to put in place, from bladder care to wheelchair skills and Access to Work funding. Without their help, advice and support I don’t know where I’d be.



Please help make sure that more people like me get the very best, specialist support they need to adapt to life with a spinal cord injury.”



DONATE

CHARITY POLO DAY

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Join us for our Polo Day at one of the country's most prestigious clubs and raise vital funds and awareness for people with spinal cord injury.

June 2025 **DATE TBC*

Cirencester Park Polo Club, Gloucester



Ticket includes: Champagne upon arrival, three-course meal with wine, an introduction to polo and match and an evening cocktail with music.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

WHAT MATTERS? 2024

Our annual What Matters? survey asked our members about the main obstacles for people living with spinal cord injury (SCI) in the UK. These are the key findings:

Physical health concerns

- 51% of people are worried about their bowel management needs going unmet in general healthcare settings
- More than a third of people who said they'd had a pressure ulcer in the past year felt it wasn't diagnosed correctly



Mental health concerns

- Nearly 70% of respondents shared that they had experienced mental health challenges
- 39% of people said they had suicidal thoughts

Barriers to leading a fulfilled everyday life

- 83% felt media representation of SCI was either negative, insufficient or completely absent
- 91% had difficulties accessing public transport



[**READ MORE**](#)



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OUR IMPACT 2024

"With the support of the SIA advocacy team we now have the possibility of help for a new life."



We reached
20,000
Members

Our clinical
specialists supported

1,200

people with spinal
cord injury



Our support
coordinators
delivered

1,420

support sessions



We ran

140

community
group meetings

"The support SIA provides is essential to rebuilding your life after SCI."



"The SIA support coordinator helped me to see that my life wasn't over after my SCI."



Premium Care Solutions Ltd

Premium Care Solutions is recognised nationally for our expertise in planning and providing the very best person centred complex care for individuals living independently in the community with Spinal Cord Injury. PCS support children/young people and adults across the UK, with tailored packages of care.

Our specialism is the provision of care packages for clients with complex care needs and includes expertise in the following:

- **Ventilator dependency**
- **Tracheostomy support**
- **Catheter support**
- **Competency based training, clinical oversight**
- **Bespoke recruitment**

For further information regarding our service, please contact:

Premium Care Solutions Ltd

63 Headlands, Kettering,
Northamptonshire NN15 7EU

Tel: 01536 213680 **Fax:** 01536 482716

Email: SIA@premium-care.co.uk

www.pcs.uk.com

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for life after spinal cord injury

**PERSONAL SPECIALIST CARE
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50 YEARS OF SIA

Spinal Injuries Association turned 50 this year! Click on the page to see our full timeline, from 1972 - 2024

the following year.

into the regional model it is today.

research into

DECADE 3 1994-2003

1998

▶ **'Think before you dive'** campaign
Launched with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, over 500,000 leaflets are distributed to swimming pools, leisure centres, schools and beach fronts. The awareness campaign received a large amount of press coverage.



2005

▶ SIA House opened
SIA House opened in Keynes by The Prince and Captain of the Chair, Tim

DECADE 4 2004-2013

2019

▶ SIA, Aspire, and Back Up join forces
SIA released the More Than a Number manifesto for change regarding NHS Continuing Healthcare. The three charities signed this joint commitment to build a powerful and unified voice that will deliver better outcomes for people living with SCI across the UK.



2017

▶ SIA reaches 10,000 members
Eight years on, in 2024, we now have more than 18,500 members who access and shape our services, receive our publications, and help raise the voice of the SCI community.

2016

▶ SIA's SCI specialist service
SIA recruits its nurse specialist who employs six clinicians with expertise in bladder, skin, therapy, and r

2021

▶ SIA merges with Equina Syndrome UK
CES UK's support line and support everyone living with injury and CES. In 2022 involved in creating a new cauda equina syndrome.

2022

▶ Martin's Mountain
SIA's vice president Martin Hibbert climbs Mt Kilimanjaro in a specially adapted wheelchair. He raised over £900,000 for SIA and the profile of SCI through media appearances on the BBC, Sky and ITV.





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SHARK DIVE



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for life after spinal cord injury

Dare to dive and support people with spinal cord injury to live a fulfilled life



7/8 February 2025

Blue Planet Aquarium, Cheshire

Cost:

£75 + £675 fundraising

£250 + £500 fundraising



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

FUNDRAISING TONIGHT



Grand Prize Draw kindly sponsored by Premium Care Solutions. £30 to enter for your chance to win a Boodles Love Letter Pendant worth £950.

Appeal kindly sponsored by SC1 Property & William Martin. A QR code linking to the donation page can be found on your menu card on the table, or alternatively click here.

[**DONATE**](#)



Silent & Live auction kindly sponsored by Ranger Home Care. The silent auction closes at 22.15. Live auction prizes are listed, the auction will begin at approx. 21.35.

[**CLICK TO BID**](#)

Magnetic Badges - get your hands on one of our 50th badges. Click below or put money into the designated envelope on your table. £5 per badge suggested donation.

[**GET A BADGE**](#)

Your donations are hugely important to ensuring we raise vital funds for SIA. **Thank you for your support!**



SIA

**REBUILDING LIVES
CONFERENCE**

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injuries
association
for life after spinal cord injury

SAVE

THE

DATE

Lived experience at the heart of change:

working together towards a national spinal cord injury strategy

Join us for 2 days
at Stadium MK



**Thurs 2 &
Fri 3 Oct
2025**

For more information about sponsorship
or exhibiting email: events@spinal.co.uk

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO/ TO BOOK](#)

Further
details
coming
soon

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Appeal sponsors



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➤ **WORKING WITH YOU** THROUGH THE PROCESS



TABLE HOSTS

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the table hosts for their incredible support tonight.

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JSP
Leigh Day

Lester Aldridge
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No.5 Chambers
Old Square Chambers
PLG
Premex
Premium Care Solutions
Proclaim Care
Ranger Home Care
Rathbones
Rehab Without Walls
RTW Plus
RWK Goodman
SC1 Property
Shek Architects
Slater & Gordon
Speed Medical
TMW Associates
Trethowans
William Martin



**Christmas
Challenge**

BigGive

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for life after spinal cord injury

The gold standard for spinal cord injury

**Double your
donation**

from 3 Dec - 10 Dec

spinal.co.uk/BIGgive

COMING SOON



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
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2025 EVENTS

Take part in one of our fantastic fundraising events or organise your own to help raise vital funds for SIA.



SHARK DIVE

7/8 February



CORNFLOWER BALL

20 March



OVERSEAS CYCLE

7 - 11 May



POLO DAY

TBC June



SUPERHERO TRIATHLON

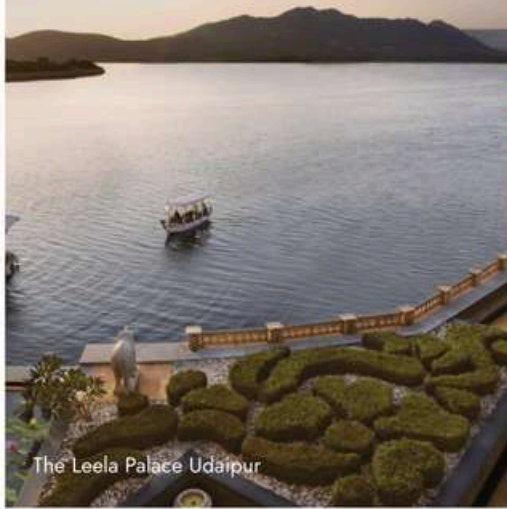
16 August

Organise your own challenge event

Think about what you're good at and use that as a starting point. Contact us at fundraising@spinal.co.uk

Celebrating Twenty Years

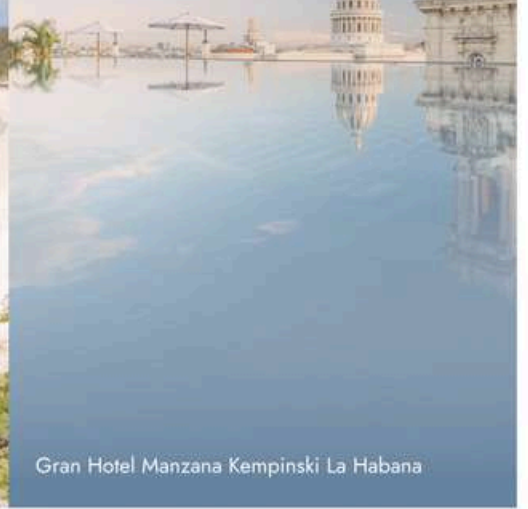
of the world's largest alliance



The Leela Palace Udaipur



Anantara Iko Mauritius Resort & Villas



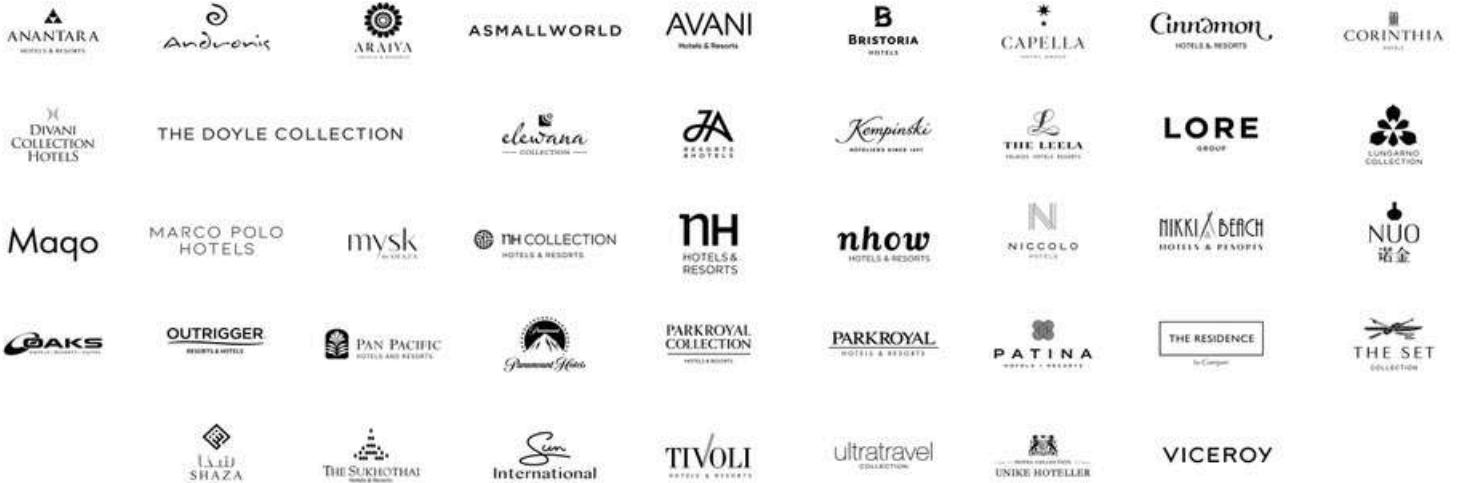
Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana



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Today, we stand on the shoulders of two decades of success.
Tomorrow, a world of possibilities unfolds before us.

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REWARDING LIFE'S JOURNEYS



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A huge thank you to:

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Auction prize donors

Carol Adcock

Julie Francis

Mark Henderson

Simon Pinnell

Table hosts

Gunpowder committee

Tim Beasley

Neelam Kaur-Gupta

Steve Maloret

Nicola Stanwix

William Theaker

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