



PRESS RELEASE

****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

BATH RUGBY PLAYERS SUPPORT MINERAL HOSPITAL

Bath Rugby players Matt Banahan and Ryan Caldwell, will be visiting the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation trust, also known as the 'Mineral Hospital' on Thursday 8th March to visit patients and staff, as well as giving support to Dr Lee who is fundraising for the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS).

Bath Rugby enjoy an on going relationship with the Mineral Hospital and have visited them on previous occasions. The players will be answering questions and having photos taken with the inpatients and there will also be an opportunity for them to visit the wards.

Matt, who has not been to the hospital before said: "I am looking forward to the visit. Danny Grewcock and Olly Barkley have visited in the past and were very interested in the rehabilitation work carried out at the hospital. I expect it to be a mix of emotions seeing people with serious injuries but also uplifting to see how well they are doing."

They are looking forward to visiting Dr Lee, who is a Consultant Rheumatologist at the hospital and who is undertaking an incredible 2,600 mile kayak challenge to raise £100,000 for the NRAS. Dr Martin Lee is planning to paddle around the UK mainland covering a distance equivalent to 100 marathons in just 100 days.

"I wanted to raise a significant amount of money for the NRAS, it's a wonderful charity that provides help and support for people living with Rheumatoid Arthritis and their carers."

As well as taking unpaid leave from his role as a consultant at the Bath based hospital, Dr Lee will be covering all kayaking and living expenses himself: "I want to ensure that every penny raised will go straight to the charity."

Please notify caroline.kenny@rnhrd.nhs.uk or pam.burke@bathrugby.com if you are interested in taking up this opportunity, in order that the hospital can organise your attendance.

To sponsor Dr Lee or for more information about the challenge please visit:
www.martinkayaking.co.uk

Photo opportunity: Thursday 8th March at 1.30 pm at The Mineral Hospital, Upper Borough Walls, Bath BA1 1RL