

5<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## **Press Release**

### **RUNNING THE EXTRA MILE FOR THE MIN**

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases Charitable Fund is pleased to announce that this year we have our largest ever team of runners entered in the Bath Half Marathon 2012.

Around 80 runners will be pounding the streets of Bath to raise funds for the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases – known locally as the ‘Min’.

Steven Wilkins, a student of The University of Bath, whose mother has received treatment by the specialist neuro rehabilitation team at the hospital, has managed to persuade a team of 48 other students, friends and colleagues to run for the Min from the University.

Steven says “I wanted to raise funds for the Min to help them buy equipment; refurbish key hospital areas, and raise awareness of the excellent work that the hospital does so others, like my mother, could receive the same personal care and expert treatment that she did.

He added “ We are all looking forward to taking part in the marathon and have been training hard; the atmosphere in Bath on this kind of day is amazing and motivates us even more during the run, I’m hoping to beat my time of 1hour 56minutes last year”

Niall Bowen, Chair of the Hospital’s Charitable Fund, says “We are delighted to have received overwhelming support from the local community and the runners who have chosen to support us. Particularly Steven and his fantastic effort in getting 48 others to run with him. We would like to wish everyone running for the Min the best of luck for Sunday 11 March.”

The sponsorship money raised will go towards the hospitals ‘Refresh’ appeal which is introducing an approved programme of refurbishment throughout the hospital. The

first stage of the 'Refresh' appeal is to modernize and redecorate the outpatients department. To improve the facilities and environment for patients, their relatives and carers and staff and visitors.

For further information about the 'Refresh' appeal please contact [fundraising@rnhrd.nhs.uk](mailto:fundraising@rnhrd.nhs.uk). To support the team please go to [www.justgiving.com/BathHockey](http://www.justgiving.com/BathHockey).

**ENDS**

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### Notes for Editors:

- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in Bath. Offering services to adults, children and young people, the trust has expertise in general and complex:
- Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions
- Neurological rehabilitation
- Chronic pain management
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
- [www.rnhrd.nhs.uk](http://www.rnhrd.nhs.uk)