P R E S S R E L E A S E

FROM: Room to Reward

DATE: 10/09/2018

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

HARBOUR HOTELS’ EMPLOYEES TAKE ON FIRST EVER CHARITY CROSS-SOLENT TRIATHLON

*Leading hotel group staff take on major bike, swim and run challenge, to raise money for Room to Reward and Aspire.*

Employees of Harbour Hotels are set to take on the first ever cross-Solent triathlon as part of a major fundraising venture for Room to Reward and Aspire on the 22nd September.

The triathlon comprises of an 18-mile cycle, a 2.5-3mile swim across the Solent to the Isle of Wight and a 7.5mile run to finish. A total of 14 people are taking part in the challenge, the majority of which are connected with Harbour Hotels.

Six staff will be taking on the whole challenge, with others teaming up to do a leg each. Nicolas Roach, Chairman of the Group, is also taking part in the swim.

The event is the brainchild of Simon Maguire, General Manager of the Southampton Harbour Hotel & Spa, were the event will begin. The money raised from the triathlon will be split between two charities, Room to Reward and Aspire.

Aspire is a national charity that provides practical support to people who have been paralysed by spinal cord injury.

Room to Reward is a unique charity created to give back and say ‘thank you’ to those who do so much for others. It works on a simple premise. Hotel partners donate their anticipated unsold rooms to the scheme who then invite registered charities to nominate their ‘Hidden Heroes’ – volunteers and staff who go above and beyond – for a break.

Adam Terpening, Charity Director of Room to Reward, said: *“We are hugely grateful to all the participants for agreeing to take on this amazing challenge.*

*The money raised will make a real difference to what we are able to offer a Hidden Hero, allowing us to cover travel costs or provide an additional room where necessary. It will also enable us to spread awareness of Room to Reward around the U.K., get more hotels on board and give back to more inspirational people.*

*“We are delighted to be working with Aspire on this venture. Not only do they have a great amount of experience in Solent swims, they are a fantastic charity making a real difference to those who need it.*

*We’d also like to thank Harbour Hotels, Red Funnel Ferries, Kitworld. Pinner Photography and Elite Cinematics for supporting the event.”*

The fundraising efforts include a dinner at Guildford Harbour Hotel on the 16th September, whose General Manager, Steve Lewis, is also participating in the event.

The Room to Reward and Aspire Cross-Solent Triathlon takes place on the 22nd September. For more information visit: <http://www.roomtoreward.org/room-to-reward-aspire-cross-solent-triathlon>.

**Notes for Editors**

‘Room to Reward’ is unique charity created to give back to those who do so much for others. Room to Reward works on a simple premise. Hotel partners donate their anticipated unsold rooms to the scheme, charities nominate their ‘Hidden Heroes’ for a break, Room to Reward bring it all together. Since its launch in 2015, over 200 hotels have joined the scheme. Over 280 Hidden Heroes have been nominated from various charities and in excess of £126,000 worth of hotel breaks have been donated.

<http://www.roomtoreward.org/>

Registered Charity 1160675

Every eight hours someone is paralysed by a spinal cord injury. Aspire is a national charity that provides practical help to people who have been paralysed by Spinal Cord Injury. A spinal injury can happen to anyone at any time, and no one is prepared for how it will change their life. Aspire exists because there is currently no cure. Through its projects and programmes, Aspire offers practical support to the 40,000 people living with a spinal cord injury in the UK. This support allows people with spinal injury to lead fulfilled and independent lives in their homes, with their families, in their workplace and in leisure time.

<https://www.aspire.org.uk>

Registered Charity Number 1075317

**Photo Captions:** Room to Reward Logo, Aspire Charity Logo, Joe Langtree (R2R Marketing Manager) and Simon Maguire (GM of Southampton Harbour Hotel) at the Solent Swim start point at Stokes Bay

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