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Communications Department
Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230/1299

communication@ruh.nhs.uk
www.ruh.nhs.uk

Media Release

Bath Rugby kind donation to RUH

The Bath Rugby Past Players Association has chosen the Intensive Therapy Unit at RUH Bath to receive a generous £500 donation in memory of former player Robbie Lye.

Robbie, who sadly passed away in April 2008 after receiving life support in the ITU ward, played rugby for the Bath club for 15 years and was a much loved player.

Neil Boyland, Matron in ITU, said "We'd like to thank the Bath Past Players for this kind donation; it's an honour to be highlighted in this way and the donation will go towards our vital critical care services at the RUH."

Robbie tragically choked whilst eating dinner on the 18th April 2008. He was rushed to the RUH and placed on life support but a lack of oxygen had caused irreparable damage.

Brian Jenkins, President of Bath Past Players said "Robbie was a well respected man within the game of Rugby, not just locally but nationally. He will always be remembered and be spoken about for many years; he was a special man who had time for all on and off the field, as well as a great rapport with supporters of the club.

"We have an annual collection at one game during the season at the Recreation Ground. The proceeds go into a benevolent fund which is then used to help any members when sick, to remember past players' widows with a small gift at Christmas and to donate to two charities a year.

"This year, after consultation with Teresa Lye, the Intensive Therapy Unit at the Royal United Hospital was chosen in memory of dear Robbie."

Robbie was educated at what was Westhill Boys School, one of the many outstanding sportsmen that the school produced. After choosing to play rugby after he left school, Robbie first joined Walcot Rugby Club, before being invited to join the Bath Club where he carried on an outstanding career, playing over 400 games for the first team. Robbie also played for the county of Somerset and represented the South Western Counties, a great honour during this era.

When his first team days were over he carried on playing and coaching the Bath Spartans team, a team for developing youngsters for the future of the club.

Robbie also became a member of the Bath old players, now known as Bath Past Players Association, who organise functions such as golf matches with other past player clubs, yearly reunions and a quarterly magazine for members.

Brian adds "Robbie could not do anymore for Rugby than he did, he was a legend of the game."

***** ENDS *****

Photo attached:

From R to L Geoff Pillinger, Gaynor Bush-Alsop (Junior Sister ITU), Brian Jenkins (President), Neil Boyland (Matron ITU), Morris Bailey, Carol Peden (ITU Consultant), David Peters.