



Awards mark Spinal Injuries Awareness Day

Wednesday 26th May - To mark Spinal Injuries Awareness Day (21st May), the national voluntary organisation concerned with new and long term spinal cord injured people, Spinal Injuries Scotland announced the winners of its annual awards at a lunch in the Radisson BLU, Glasgow.

The awards recognise those who have made a major contribution to the charity throughout the previous year. The Volunteer of the Year award was presented by David Allan, consultant at Queen Elizabeth Spinal Injuries Unit, Southern General Hospital to Jim Marnell for his inexhaustible support of those patients at the Unit despite the limitations of his own injury.

The Volunteers of the Year award was presented Robert Swanney, senior partner at Digby Brown Solicitors to a group from Santander represented by Sarah Clark for their unwavering commitment to fundraising at various events throughout the year.

The Supporters of the Year Award was presented by Spinal Injuries Scotland chairman, Adrian O'Donnell to Ann Thomson, Jim Mair and Iris Mair, who for many years now have organised of the annual Montrose Coffee Morning.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the charity a special award was made by retiring Spinal Injuries Scotland vice chairman, Trevor Eakin to the Queen Elizabeth Spinal Injuries Unit, Southern General Hospital which was accepted by Margaret McKillop clinical services manager at the hospital.

Charity chairman Adrian O'Donnell said: "Each year we like to give special thanks to those exceptional people who deserve our gratitude for their efforts in helping those who have suffered spinal cord injury. In this 50th anniversary year it seems only fitting for us to make a special award to the Queen Elizabeth Spinal Injuries Unit for the remarkable partnership the

charity has developed with the Unit to the benefit of so many patients, their families, friends and carers over the years.”

He continued: “I would also like to wish wheelchair athletes Alan Cook and Kenny Herriot well as they undertake a 500 mile hand cycle to raise money and awareness for the charity. They plan to cycle from Glasgow to Belfast to Dublin and back again in seven days. Not only that, but they will be visiting the national spinal unit in each city to inspire staff and patients along the way.”

Robert Swanney, senior partner with Digby Brown Solicitors, sponsors of the lunch commented: “During my longstanding relationship with Spinal Injuries Scotland I have witnessed the charity grow and develop through the often unseen work carried out by volunteers who help so many people come to terms with this life changing injury. Digby Brown sponsor these awards to ensure those volunteers who are involved with the charity appreciate how much they are valued.”

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Notes to editors

Colour photography of both the individual Award winners is available from Wilma Littlejohn at Lacuna Communications on 0131 440 9010 or email wilma@lacunacoms.co.uk.