



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Issued: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018

- Wasps Legends donate £2,500 to Restart Rugby.
- Donation will support Dragons' back-rower and former Wasps player Ed Jackson in his recovery from a career ending neck injury.

Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation, the past players network of Wasps, men and women, amateur and professional announced today that they have issued a small grant award of £2,500 to Restart Rugby.

Restart Rugby is the official charity of the Rugby Players' Association, supporting current and former professional players suffering from serious injury, illness or hardship. The charity provides financial support for players forced to retire and unable to work due to serious illness or career changing injury, helping with medical costs, rehabilitation and home improvement for disabled access, while supporting players through the transition out of rugby into retirement, providing career path opportunities and helping players retrain or attain qualifications. Restart Rugby also provides emotional support for players and their families struggling with depression and mental health issues through our confidential counselling service.

The £2,500 donation will fund intensive rehabilitation and physiotherapy support for Ed Jackson, who suffered a career ending neck injury in April 2017. Ed was just 28 when a horrific accident left him virtually paralysed from the neck down. Ed fractured and dislocated two vertebrae, shattering the disk in between and compressing his spinal cord. He was left with no feeling below the neck and was told he may never walk again, let alone play rugby. Restart Rugby have been by Ed's side following his operation and intensive rehabilitation and physiotherapy. Although initially confined to a wheelchair, Ed has been making a remarkable recovery. Within six months of his accident Ed was back home with friends and family and walking – usually with the support of a stick.

*"After my accident, the support I received from Restart Rugby from day one has been incredible. It took all the stress out of everything I was worried about. I thought I would be stuck in hospital for six months or a year, but thanks to the direct support I've received from the charity, I've been able to come home, attack my rehab and learn to walk again."* Ed Jackson

Susie Baxter of Restart Rugby said of the donation: "On behalf of Ed and everyone at Restart Rugby we can't thank Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation enough for this donation. Ed has worked extremely hard since his injury, committing to his rehabilitation with an amazingly positive attitude. This generous donation will help Restart Rugby ensure we can continue to support Ed on his long journey of recovery."

Genevieve Glover, Chair of Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation said of the announcement: "We are very pleased to be supporting Restart Rugby and Ed at this difficult time. Yet again, it shows the power of the rugby family that we look after each other, regardless of the shirt we played in. We are so pleased that Ed is making progress with his recovery and we hope that our donation will support Ed with his continued rehabilitation as well as providing him support to look ahead to what the future will bring."

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### **Notes to editor**

#### **Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation**

Wasps Legends was founded in 2005 with the aim of bringing pack past players; men and women, amateur and professional to raise funds for their chosen charities. In 2012, the Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation was established with the aim to raise funds to support a specific project each year that is close to the hearts of the Wasps Legends family.

For more information on the Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation, please call Louise Latter on 07703 438 935 or email [loulatter@hotmail.com](mailto:loulatter@hotmail.com).