**PRESS RELEASE: 2 AUGUST 2019**

**HAWKS SWOOP ON SECURING NEW COMMUNITY CHAMPION**

**- DIABETES ‘SIGNING’ MARKS SOCCER DEBUT FOR HAMPSHIRE BASED CHARITY**

**- DRWF kicks off new season partnership with Havant & Waterlooville Football Club**

**- Hawks fans heralded as ‘fantastic’ fundraisers by new Official Community Champion**

**Leading Hampshire based charity Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation (DRWF) has been signed by Havant & Waterlooville Football Club, known as The Hawks, to kick-off the new soccer season in an energetic health awareness and fundraising campaign as the Official Community Champion Partner.**

Jeremy Ramsden, Commercial Manager at Havant & Waterlooville Football Club says the new partnership has huge potential: “The pre-season friendly with Portsmouth in July was a great warm-up game for our new partnership and a huge success for us and DRWF, who made a collection in the ground, with fans displaying their generosity to the charity which demonstrates what we can achieve in the coming season.

“This is not only about fundraising but also in engaging with fans and the Hawks Business Club in developing a close partnership to generate greater awareness of Diabetes and DRWF which does great work in both supporting local people as well as funding vital national research.”

DRWF has welcomed the new partnership with the Hawks. Tim Green, DRWF’s Head of Community Fundraising said: “We are really pleased to have been selected as Havant & Waterlooville’s Official Community Champion Partner. It’s important for us to be able to connect with people in this way and sport is a great platform for raising awareness as well as business support and fundraising.

“There are many types of diabetes and it’s good to raise better understanding of the condition. The onsite of Type 1 for example can come out of the blue and affect people who appear to be otherwise very fit and healthy, so it’s important to know the symptoms. For Type 2 which is more related to weight and fitness we’re keen to encourage healthy lifestyles and this is a great environment to do so through our literature, membership network, social media and the club’s web site.

“The Hawks fans are fantastic and have already made generous donations during our collection at the pre-season friendly with Portsmouth FC. I’m also looking forward to networking at the Hawks Business Club, to spread the word of how we can help them provide information and raise awareness with members and their employees.”

The partnership with Havant & Waterlooville Football Club launches fully in the new football season in a campaign raising awareness of Diabetes and the work of DRWF with local health professionals in keeping people living with diabetes well until a cure is found.

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***Photo Caption:*** *Tim Green, Head of Community Fundraising at Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation (DRWF), takes to the Hawks’ hallowed turf to launch the charity’s new Official Community Champion partnership with Havant & Waterlooville Football Club.*

**Notes to Editors**

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**About DRWF:**

DRWF is a registered charity (No. 1070607) and company limited by guarantee (3496304) set up in 1998 to raise awareness of all types of diabetes and associated complications; provide information and support to promote good self-management and to enhance quality of life.

Whilst funding vital diabetes research to establish the causes, prevention and treatment of type 1 and type 2 diabetes; develop improved management and treatment options; and ultimately find a cure, we aim to ensure that people have access to the right information and support to develop a proactive self-care approach to successful self-management, to ensure that they are "staying well until a cure is found..."

DRWF has three key aims:

To support people with diabetes, through the provision of information and guidance, while the researchers we fund continue to work towards finding a cure.

To undertake national awareness campaigns to ensure the public are aware of all types of diabetes, risk factors, symptoms and potential complications.

To provide resources to diabetes and related healthcare professionals in support of their patients through the provision of educational events and advisory literature.

This is achieved through the following primary activities:

* The funding of scientific and clinical research studies
* The promotion of screening, wellness and other health related programmes
* The operation of a membership Diabetes Wellness Network encouraging the sharing of knowledge and the provision of professional advice
* The organisation of events focused on the provision of practical advice and information
* The dissemination of information on diabetes for the purpose of informing the general public on the symptoms, causes and effects of diabetes
* The provision of advisory literature to diabetes clinics for distribution to patients
* The establishment of community out-reach programmes

**About Havant & Waterlooville Football Club:**

Local football can be traced as far back as 1883 in the Borough of Havant, when Havant FC was formed, playing in the Portsmouth Football League. Havant & Waterlooville FC was created back in 1988. Perhaps the most famous moments in the history of Havant and Waterlooville Football Club came in the 2007/08 season when the Hawks made it to the Fourth Round of the FA Cup.

Manager Lee Bradbury took the Hawks on a rollercoaster journey with both highs and lows culminating in promotion to The National League in 2018. But they were ultimately relegated back into The National League South and Paul Doswell took over as manager in April.