**FINAL**

**Top Turnout at Inaugural Weighlift Challenge in Honour of Dan OSBORNE**

**#PICKITUP**

A weightlifting and conditioning competition held at Isenhurst Country Club in Cross in Hand on Saturday, brought together the community in Heathfield to remember Dan Osborne who tragically lost his life last December in a car accident.

Organised by Dan’s Personal Trainer Louis Chavannes as well as members of Dan’s family, the ‘Pick It Up, Put It Down’ event honoured the 25-year-old Uckfield butcher who trained at the gym and was fanatical about fitness, competing in similar fundraising events.

The inaugural event saw 36 competitors complete two indoor rows totalling 1,750 M, 45 chest-to-floor burpees, deadlifts, bodyweight squats versus farmer holds as well as bench press work. Teams consisted of one male and one female and were split in to two groups – those whose combined ages reached over 85 and those who combined ages reached under 85.

The winners achieving the fastest time in the younger category, were 31-year-old, Heathfield and Waldron Rugby Club’s first team player Tom Pritchard and 27-year-old Psychology student Zoe Hughes. Mark Griffins and Teresa Barford from Heathfield were awarded the winning trophy for the older category with Gina Pursall and Chris Smith being awarded the Dan Osborne cup for achievement.

The event raised just over £1,700 for *Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research*, with Santander Bank on Heathfield High Street matching what was raised taking the grand total to over £3K.

Organiser Louis Chavannes, commented; “The athletes pushed themselves to the max with their performances. The high number of supporters coming down on the day, was a real testament to how much Dan was loved by those who knew him. Dan’s family and I are hoping to make this an annual event in his memory. I have thanks for so many people who helped bring the day together, but a big thank you to Santander Bank on Heathfield High Street who so kindly matched the funds raised on the day to double our fundraising efforts. Dan would have been so proud.”

Leppard Butcher’s Mayfield and Isenhurst County Club donated the hog roast, with Printstation in Blackboys providing branded ‘Pick it Up, Put It Down’ kit sold on the day to help raise cash for the charity. Each competitor received a goody bag from Higher Nature, based in Burwash.

Dan was killed after his 4x4 hit a sheet of ice and crashed into a tree on Furnace Lane, at Lions Green, near Horam, as he was driving to work on December 29 last year. He left behind his wife Kayleigh and his four-week-old daughter Sophie.

ENDS

For more information and high res photos, plus interview requests, please contact Sarah Jones at Wildnerness PR on Sarah@wildernesspr.co.uk/ 07775 582 497.