



PRESS RELEASE: 29.11.10

**Santas brave the cold for Fun Run at Longleat
*Over 300 participants in second SSIT event: 28.11.10***

On a bitterly cold morning with the snow still crisp on the ground, around 300 hardy Santas gathered at Longleat for a festive Santa Fun Run in aid of the Southern Spinal Injuries Trust (SSIT). The event, which was led by heptathlete and Gladiator Lucy Boggis, has already raised over £3000 for the charity which supports the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre in Salisbury and spinal cord people living in the South and South West of England. Last year's event raised over £6000 and the charity hopes for a similar total this year.

Festive music, provided by local entertainment company Orangements, filled the air and soon the well-layered Santas were joining in with a much-needed warm up - stretching and doing star jumps outside Longleat House - under the skilful direction of Lucy Boggis.

On the starter's orders, the race began and off they ran, some racing, others jogging and many more walking the route up High Wood, through Horninghsam and back down Lodge Drive towards Longleat House. 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment provided the route marshals, and also the winner, by a significant margin. Lt Nick Ross, who had run to Longleat from Warminster, was the first to finish. He then ran home! The first child through was 11 year old Will Hall from Sutton Veny and the first wheelchair participant was Helen Bull from Mere. There were medals for all on completion including for the first dog home – Wellington – and his owner Ben Turner. Afterwards, hot drinks and crepes were available to warm the Santas by Le Café Crème.

SSIT Trustee Jeremy Major, who also took part in the event, commented: "This really was the perfect start to the festive season! It was great to see so many people turn up on such a cold morning and we are really grateful for their support. Above all we are grateful to Lord Bath for choosing SSIT as Charity of the Year 2010 and thereby enabling us to hold the event, to Lucy Boggis, to Orangements and to 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment."

SSIT's current appeal is to fund the building of a specially designed rehabilitation garden at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre. This 'Jubilee Garden' will provide patients with an important accessible outside social area as well as enabling them to use gardening as part of the rehabilitation programme.

Further information from:

Sue Hall

e: sue.hall914@btinternet.com

t: 01985 841194

