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News Release

Golf club praised for flagging-up antibiotic resistance

Lilleshall Golf Club in Telford has been praised by a national charity for being masters of fundraising and helping to beat what could become the world's biggest health problem.

Everything from hosting an oompah band concert to running a Spanish night complete with a menu of tapas and flamenco, helped the club raise £4300 for Antibiotic Research UK (**ANTRUK**). That above-par effort will now help fund new medications to replace increasingly ineffective antibiotics and support families and patients living with potentially deadly conditions such as MRSA.

The club has a personal interest in putting anti-superbug fundraising at the heart of its activity. Because outgoing Captain Nick Collins' daughter Emily is enduring a brave ongoing battle with an infection that stunted her career as a nurse – but has led her to becoming a national ambassador against antibiotic resistance.

Born with scarring on her kidneys and susceptible to urinary tract infections (UTIs), Emily has an incurable condition called ESBL with E.coli. Said Emily: “When I got a UTI, the answer was always in the form of an antibiotic. When one stopped working, I guess they gave me another, it wasn’t a problem.

The antibiotics would be given by district nurses at home, but poor veins meant regular trips to A&E waiting to be re-cannulated time after time and still really with no dramatic impact...and no explanation. Eventually the Urologist said that we all have these bacteria

in our gut and if they stay in there they do good work, but if they get into the rest of your body they cause all sorts of mayhem.” (Read Emily's full story at <https://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/young-patient-antibiotic-resistant-infection-tells-story/>)

This antibiotic resistance put pay to Emily's dream of becoming a nurse. But since then, she has taken on the role of an ambassador for ANTRUK. She has also recently become a mum!

Professor Colin Garner, Chief Executive and Founder of ANTRUK said: “Emily's story illustrates fully the magnitude of antibiotic resistance. Already 700,000 people per year die of superbugs globally and conditions such as UTIs, gonorrhoea and pneumonia are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics. Her determination to beat the condition and raise awareness of superbugs is however truly unique and she is an inspiring young person doing her bit to preserve the health of all of us.”

Nick Collins added: “From Ryder Cup weekends to race nights where we've worn bowler hats, flat caps and jockey helmets, our 650 members have joined in with the spirit of the fundraising and contributed, and all of that kindness has added up. They have also become much more aware of antibiotic resistance.”

Created in 2014, ANTRUK has become a small but emerging charity tackling what Dame Sally Davies, the Chief Medical Officer for England, describes as a, “catastrophic threat. If we don't act now, any one of us could go into hospital in 20 years for minor surgery and die because of an ordinary infection that can't be treated by antibiotics. And routine operations like hip replacements or organ transplants could be deadly because of the risk of infection.” (1)

Professor Garner concluded: “All of us have a duty to help prevent the spread of antibiotic resistance. The pharmaceutical industry needs to invest more in research, decision-makers should make it a priority and medics need to stop handing antibiotics out like sweets. We can do our bit by raising the funds required to develop new medications. If every sports or social club in Britain did what Lilleshall has, we would be able to begin to create the new medicines that would save lives!”

Learn more about ANTRUK at <https://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/>
To donate to the charity, visit <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/2680#/DonationDetails>

- Ends -

For further information

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Learn more about Antibiotic Research UK (ANTRUK) at www.antibioticresearch.org.uk

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Picture one features Nick Collins and Julie Dean (Fundraising Consultant, ANTRUK)

Picture two left to right: Nick Collins, Emily Collins and Julie Dean