



News release – for immediate use

UCAN GOLF CHALLENGE RAISES £33,500 FOR ROBOTIC SURGERY CAMPAIGN

Additional donation of £20,000 from Aberdeen Oilman's Golf Association

Golfers who took part in the UCAN Golf Challenge 2014 have raised a 'hole' lot of money to bring robotic surgery to Aberdeen.

The third annual tournament, which was held on Thursday (September 11) at Banchory Golf Club followed by a dinner at the Marcliffe Hotel and Spa, raised a total of £33,519 for the campaign, which UCAN is spear-heading, to bring 'Robotic Surgery to the North of Scotland'.

This was further boosted by an additional donation of £20,000 from the Aberdeen Oilman's Golf Association (AOGA), whose representatives David Bloom and Doug Sedge handed over some of the proceeds from the 36th annual AOGA outing at Gleneagles earlier this year.

A total of 16 teams took part in the UCAN golf challenge.

The winning golf team was Wood Group PSN and the runner-up was Murray Montgomery Partnership.

The individual stableford winner was Calum Riddell from Wood Group PSN and runner up was John Ewen from Harkand Team B.

John Cameron from Langstane Promotional Products won the nearest the pin prize, sponsored by ABZ Developments and the longest drive winner, sponsored by Tyre Services Scotland, was Andy McIntosh from Schlumberger Testing Services.

Guests at the dinner dug deep for auction prizes, including sought-after Billy Connolly tickets, designer watches and a bottle of whisky signed by Paul Lawrie, and were entertained by comedian Craig Hill.

Fiona JD Pearson, fundraising manager at UCAN, said: "We'd like to thank all the teams who took part in the golf day in the sun at Banchory and everyone who attended the dinner and gave generously. Many thanks also to Banchory Golf Club and Elm Catering, all our sponsors and to Stewart Spence at the Marcliffe for his very generous sponsorship of the champagne reception and dinner for the last time before it closes later this year.

"We were also delighted to accept a cheque for £20,000 from the AOGA, which together with the proceeds of the golf challenge will make a significant contribution to the fund to bring robotic surgery to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary."

UCAN is currently spearheading the campaign to bring Robotic Surgery to the North of Scotland on behalf of the general, gynaecological, ENT and urological surgical teams, which recently received a significant boost from the announcement of a £1million pledge by the Scottish Government towards the purchase a robotic surgical system for Aberdeen.

The Scottish Government also committed to delivering robotically-assisted surgery throughout Scotland and continuing to work closely with health boards and cancer charities.

Robotically-assisted surgery is currently widely used across the USA and Europe, with around 40 systems in use in England.

It is particularly beneficial for patients with three of the most common cancers - prostate, bowel and bladder – as well as gynaecological cancers and non-malignant conditions. It will also be used in other specialties such as general surgery, ENT, cardiac and paediatric surgery.

Considered to be the future for surgical procedures, the robotic system is a powerful and highly advanced machine that enables surgeons to perform precision Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS), commonly known as keyhole surgery.

This has a number of benefits for patients over traditional 'open' surgery, including faster recovery resulting in a shorter hospital stay, less pain and discomfort after the operation, less blood loss during surgery and a better cosmetic result due to much smaller incisions.

- For more information on UCAN and the RSNS campaign, please visit www.ucanfundraise.org.uk, call the UCAN office on 01224 559312 or email ucan@abdn.ac.uk

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Issued on behalf of UCAN by The BIG Partnership. For more information, please contact Shona Hendry on 01224 253815 or shona.hendry@bigpartnership.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

UCAN was launched in late 2005 to raise awareness of prostate, testicular, kidney and bladder cancers, reinforce the importance of early diagnosis and self-checking, and support patients and their families.

The first of its kind in Scotland, the **UCAN Care Centre** at Ward 209 in the pink zone at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (formerly Ward 44) is manned by staff who are on hand to give advice to patients on all aspects of dealing with cancer. The facility includes a private clinicians' room which opens out into an area with comfortable chairs, tea and coffee making facilities, fully equipped computers with internet access, an online forum, literature on urological cancers and the treatment on offer and plasma screens showing informative DVDs.