

PRESS RELEASE APRIL
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His Royal Highness Prince Harry visited Hobbs Rehabilitation this week in his role as Patron of the **RFU Injured Players Foundation (IPF)**, the official charity of England Rugby.



During the day he was able to see first-hand what the charity, in partnership with Hobbs Rehabilitation, provides for seriously injured rugby players. He took the time to meet some of them and their families and view the latest technology available in the field of neurological rehabilitation.

Hobbs Rehabilitation hosted the exciting day attended by Prince Harry, 9 injured players, their families and the IPF trustees.



A wide range of treatments were demonstrated and everyone was able to view the latest in neuro-technology such as the [Ekso Bionics exoskeleton](#), the Mygait walking aid, the [Litegait](#) and the Saebo glove.



Helen Hobbs and Nicky Ellis, co-founders of Hobbs Rehabilitation, with Caroline Searight, OT & IPF Client Services Manager, were delighted to greet Prince Harry and introduce him to all the injured players and their families.

He showed a great interest in the players' rehabilitation stories and their lives now -

there was one player injured last December while others had sustained their injury over 20 years ago.



During the day there was ample opportunity for the families and patients to share stories, experiences and support others who were at different stages of their rehabilitation journey.

Hobbs Rehabilitation, in partnership with the Injured Players Foundation, provides specialist neurological rehabilitation to individuals who have been injured while playing rugby under the RFU's jurisdiction.

A team of over 60 specialist clinicians, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy, provide intensive inpatient and out-patient rehabilitation from the Hobbs centres in the south of England.

Mike England, IPF Director said: "We support players with catastrophic spinal cord and brain injuries that result in significant permanent disability, to empower them to live a full and independent life. Our collaboration with Hobbs Rehabilitation is a great success and we are delighted to be here today to share information on new advances in technology. Their leadership in this area is a real asset for our injured players and ensures they have access to the very best neurological rehabilitation available"



Helen Hobbs and Nicky Ellis add, "We are extremely proud of the service we provide to the injured players here at Hobbs Rehabilitation and to have Prince Harry join us here today was such an honour.

Our commitment to the research and development of new therapies is paramount and we hope to include some of the players in our current research study for the latest model of Ekso Bionics Exoskeleton which we demonstrated at our recent Spinal Cord Injury Conference."

For more information, please contact Kirsti Batchelor at

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Images: Leo Wilkinson Photography
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"Hobbs Rehabilitation's partnership with the Rugby Football Union's Injured Players Foundation saw me referred to Helen Hobbs and her team after five months in hospital after my spinal cord injury. I count myself extremely lucky to be able to work with Helen and her fantastic team of neurological physiotherapists who are all professional, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend them to anybody. Simply fantastic!"

KF, injured rugby player