Press Release

Olympic gold medallist Helen Richardson-Walsh visits Candover Clinic

STAFF at Candover Clinic got the chance to get up close and personal with an Olympic gold medal when hockey star Helen Richardson-Walsh paid them a visit.

Helen, who scored in the penalty shoot-out as Great Britain won gold at the Rio Olympics, visited the clinic, at Basingstoke hospital, for a precautionary MRI scan.

She said: “It’s a lovely clinic and all of the equipment is pretty much brand new.

“As an athlete, it is really important that my body is in top shape and when you come to a place like this, where everything is clean and new, it really gives you confidence as a patient. The staff are all really nice and have looked after me very well.”

Candover Clinic is a unit for private patients operated by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which also runs Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester and Andover War Memorial Hospital. The money generated by the clinic is invested in the trust’s NHS services, benefitting NHS patients.

Helen added: “I tend to keep the medal with me at all times because people often ask to see it. The staff at Candover Clinic were pleased I’d brought it with me.”

Hampshire Hospitals can also boast another link to the triumphant GB hockey squad as Dr Mike Rossiter, a consultant in sport and exercise medicine at the trust, travelled to Rio as the team doctor.

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If you would like to speak to Dr Rossiter about his experience in Rio, email communications@hhft.nhs.uk to set up an interview

Photo: Helen Richardson-Walsh with radiographers Sophie Armstrong and Brendan Kritter

Notes to Editors

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 600,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 5,500 staff and a turnover of £345.6 million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local
ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

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