



TreeHouse®

*The national charity for autism
education*

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Lombard and the Lashings World XI help raise funds for TreeHouse

Lombard Asset Finance has donated £5,000 to TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education, at a Family Day in association with the Lashings World XI. TreeHouse, which is also Lombard's charity partner for the Lombard Rally 2007, was delighted to accept the donation, which will help fund the charity's new National Centre for Autism Education in North London.

The Lashings team of international players, which includes stars such as Henry Olunga, is currently on a national tour of the UK. During the event on Friday, the team ran coaching clinics for the children who attended, giving them the opportunity to practice with the world famous players. The Lashings team then played a match against Lombard, a team made up of staff and customers.

Steve McGuinness, who has autism himself and whose son Taylor also has Aspergers, joined TreeHouse along with his family. According to his dad, Taylor, 9, hasn't stopped talking about meeting the Lashings players. Steve said, "The Lashings players were excellent with Taylor and Chris Harris was great, taking Taylor to meet the team and collect their autographs....he enjoyed the day so much."

TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education, aims to transform through education, the lives of children with autism and the lives of their families. Today, one in 100 school-aged children is affected by some form of autism and half a million families are affected in the UK. Yet many do not have access to the right learning opportunities and only a fifth of teachers currently working with children with autism have had any autism training.

TreeHouse educates children with autism at its school in North London, educates professionals and policymakers and supports parents of children with autism in their efforts to obtain appropriate education.

Susan Beck, Director of Fundraising and Marketing at TreeHouse said:

“We are delighted to accept this donation from Lombard as it supports TreeHouse’s new National Centre for Autism Education in North London. The new building allows us to expand on the existing school and supports our goal to promote best practice in autism education across the UK”.

Marketing Director Neil Edwards from Lombard added:

“Lombard is proud to support causes that have a positive impact on the community and our choices of the NDCS and TreeHouse reflect this commitment. The children thoroughly enjoyed the coaching session with the Lashings team this morning; in fact the whole day was a great success”.

West Indies legend Richie Richardson said: “It was a real pleasure to support TreeHouse and the NDCS. We had a wonderful day on Friday, it was well organised and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was wonderful to see lots of families with their children.”

For further information on TreeHouse visit www.treehouse.org.uk or call 020 8815 5444.

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**Notes to Editor:
Facts about TreeHouse**

- TreeHouse is the national charity for autism education. Our vision is to transform through education the lives of children with autism and the lives of their families. Established in 1997 by a group of parents, TreeHouse runs a school for children and young people with autism and campaigns for better autism education nationally. We undertake policy and parliamentary work and research to ensure

autism is a national priority, support parents to campaign locally and offer training and consultancy on autism education.

- TreeHouse plans to build a permanent National Centre for Autism Education, which will be based in Muswell Hill, London. Planning permission was awarded by Haringey Council in December 2005.

Facts about Autism

- Autism, or ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), is a lifelong neurological condition which affects communication, social understanding and behaviour.
- One in 100 school age children have autism and 27% of them have been excluded from school, the majority more than once (Office of National Statistics, 2005).
- There are only 7,500 specialist places for 90,000 children with ASD. Only 22% of teachers working with children with autism have had autism specific training. Typically this training only lasts one – four hours