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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Kris the Castle, limbers up for the Mascot Gold Cup

Fundraising at Sue Ryder Care Manorlands Hospice is set to break into a gallop on 26 April with the fourth running of the world's largest Mascot Race, the Mascot Gold Cup at Wetherby Races. Keighley is as ever the best represented town in the country at the event with a record 10 participants including Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins making his debut as 'Cliff the Castle.'

Councillor Hopkins was challenged to participate by Manorlands Fundraiser Andrew Wood and though slightly daunted by the 6 fences he must hurdle during the race, he explained that he is looking forward to the event. "Although this is not going to be my usual Sunday afternoon exercise, I'm delighted to be taking part in this bizarre fundraising event. I'm trying to raise as much as I possibly can for Manorlands and if anyone would like to sponsor me I'd be grateful if they would do it on line at www.justgiving.co.uk/krishopkins

Manorlands will also be benefiting from organizations which run in who will run in them and raise funds for the hospice such as Anna Leach of Yorkshire Clinic (Sonny the Sunflower).

Other mascots running from the Keighley area who are taking on the likes of Lucas the Kop Cat from Leeds United include Sergeant Suzanne Smith of Keighley Police running as 'Sherlock' the Neighbourhood Watch Hound, Gemma Binns of William Hill, and Harry the Heart from Fitness First. Greg Moulson will also make his fourth consecutive appearance as the Worth Valley Railway Rabbit and 'Jeff the Spud' from Whitaker's Animal Feeds will try and improve on his third place finish last year.

Local young farmers who conceived the idea for this race which has raised over £50,000 for good causes are also well represented with Worth Valley YFC entering the 'Unnamed Panda' and a 'Market stall mascot as part of this year's race theme of be keen, be green and support your local market.

Mascots pay an entry fee and then raise money for their chosen charity through sponsorship which allows all good causes to benefit from an entry to the race and Manorlands fundraiser Andrew Wood is putting out a final call to any mascots that may not yet have entered. "It's a great day out at the races and mascots are treated like heroes by the crowds of up to 10,000. The race is also a good opportunity to raise money for a range of good causes so I'd urge any mascot that has not signed up yet to act quickly. We also have a few costumes which we have been leant which as yet have no body to run in them so any willing volunteers who can represent the hospice and raise some sponsorship should contact us."

For further information about the event contact Andrew Wood at the Manorlands Fundraising office on 01535 640432 or email andrew.wood@suerydercare.org .

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs

- YFC is a nationwide youth organisation for people aged 10-26 years
 - There are 49 clubs in Yorkshire with over 1700 members
 - Clubs arrange a weekly programme of events for their members including talks, visits and social activities.
 - As well as weekly meetings members can also participate in sports, drama, quizzes, public speaking, community & conservation projects
- Membership is open to everyone, whether they have an agricultural background or not.

SUE RYDER CARE

- Sue Ryder Care has 11 neurological care centres and 6 Hospices around the UK;
- The charity needs to raise £13m each year to cover its running costs;
- Sue Ryder Care – Manorlands Hospice is based at Oxenhope, Keighley. The hospice provides specialist palliative care for patients with cancer and other life limiting illnesses from Airedale, Craven Bradford and Wharfedale;
- Last year Manorlands Hospice cared for 650 patients and supported hundreds more relatives, carers and friends of patients;
- Manorlands Hospice relies on voluntary contributions for the majority of its income and never charges patients for any of the care they receive.