



Date: Monday 29th January 2007. Release time: immediate

TREE-MENDOUS SUPPORT FOR REGENT'S PARK FROM MCC

Marylebone Cricket Club, the owner of Lord's, is to fund the planting of a new willow tree in nearby Regent's Park - which lost eleven trees in the recent gales.

The Club's actions were prompted by an *Evening Standard* article about the number of trees which were blown down, within the capital's Royal Parks, during the storms.

The gales, on 18th January, also affected Lord's - where part of the Tavern Stand roof was ripped off. The MCC-funded tree will be planted next to the new cricket pitches in Regent's Park; willow was chosen as it is the wood used to make cricket bats.

MCC's Head of Communications, Iain Wilton, said:

"As soon as we saw the *Standard's* article, we wanted to help Regent's Park to recover. We thought that the planting of a new willow tree, next to the Park's cricket pitches, would be a perfect way for MCC to help. We also wanted to give something back to the local community which was inconvenienced for several hours last week, when St John's Wood Road was closed following the storm damage to the Tavern Stand's roof."

The Chief Executive of the Royal Parks Foundation, Sara Lom, said:

"MCC's support has gone down a storm. The new willow tree, next to the cricket pitches, will be a really appropriate addition to Regent's Park.

It's tremendous that MCC responded so positively and promptly to the *Standard* article. It's great to have the Club's support. But we have more work to do, and much more money to raise, if the Royal Parks are to recover fully from last week's storms."

Notes to editors

1. There are many species of Willow but only a few of them are suitable for crafting cricket bats. The finest is The Cricket Bat Willow (*Salix alba coerulea*) which produces wood that is tough, light and resilient and which will quickly grow to 30m high and 4 - 6m in girth.
2. The Royal Parks Foundation (registered charity 1097545) was established in 2003 to help protect, support and enhance London's eight Royal Parks. You can support the Royal Parks Tree Appeal at: www.justgiving.com/parktrees
3. The text of this press release, and other information about MCC, can be seen at: www.lords.org

For more information, please contact:

- | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| – Iain Wilton | Head of Communications & Public Affairs, MCC | 020 7616 8520
0794 1049205 |
| – Sara Lom | Chief Executive, Royal Parks Foundation | 020 7298 2082 |