



Bertie's dream to meet star golfer Luke Donald!

Nineteen year old Bertie Chambers from Horsham in West Sussex recently had his dearest wish to meet Luke Donald granted by Starlight Children's Foundation, the UK's leading wish granting charity for children and young people with serious and terminal illnesses.

At a very young age, Bertie was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis, which is a severe life-shortening illness that affects the major organs of the body and particularly the lungs. To fight the disease, Bertie has to take 70 tablets each day and undergoes physiotherapy twice daily. However, he never allows his medical condition to disrupt his greatest passion in life, which is golf!

Bertie's mum Kate says, "Bertie's golf is an added incentive to stay fit and healthy. Bertie's illness certainly does not define him; instead what is more outstanding in our son is his zest for life, humor and his unwavering passion for the sport of golf."

Having always dreamt of playing golf professionally, Bertie really looks up to some of the sport's champions. When he has referred to Starlight for a wish, he asked to meet one of his heroes, Luke Donald! Luke is an English professional golfer who has been the World Number One and Bertie has always found him very inspirational.

Starlight contacted Luke Donald about Bertie's wish and the golfer said he would be delighted to meet him. In May, Luke was due to compete in the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth Golf Course and he suggested that Bertie meet him on Tuesday 21 May, when he would be practicing for the competition.

Bertie decided to take his friend Kieran along and, so that they could arrive in style, Starlight arranged for a limo to take them to Wentworth. They got to see lots of professional golfers during the visit, which was really exciting, and to soak up the atmosphere as they walked around the course.

The highlight of the day was getting to meet Luke Donald himself! Luke was really friendly and spent lots of time chatting to Bertie. Having offered Bertie lots of advice, he even gave him his own private putting lesson. It was amazing for Bertie to have the opportunity to play with Luke and he even got some tips from his golfing hero!

After the wish, Bertie said, "I had a wonderful time. Starlight did a fantastic job and made loads of effort and I am truly grateful for my meeting with Luke."

Information

To refer a child for a wish or to make a donation, please go online at www.starlight.org.uk. For every £1 you donate, 93p goes towards helping Starlight's very ill children.

For more information, please contact Henny Vere Nicoll at henny@starlight.org.uk / 020 7262 2881 # 231.

Starlight grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children, restoring the magic and fun of childhood and giving the whole family happy memories to share, whatever the future holds.

Starlight also creates entertainment in every hospital and hospice throughout the UK. Sick children go to Starlight parties, laugh their way through pantomimes, go out on Starlight Escapes, play games and watch films on the Starlight Fun Centre, and enjoy the toys and puzzles of the Starlight Distraction Box. Happy children respond better to treatment and Starlight helps children to forget about their illness and simply have a bit of fun.