

## **Shaun – and Malcolm – hob nob with Royalty**

As a volunteer table tennis coach at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre (Salisbury District Hospital), Shaun Newcomb was asked if he'd be willing to carry out a demonstration for an important visitor. Car trouble on the day necessitated asking New Milton teammate Malcolm Floyd for a lift - and the Royal Security staff actually let him in too.

Table Tennis has been used in the rehabilitation of spinally injured patients for many years and was one of the first Paralympic sports in the first "Parallel" Olympics at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1948.

Originally opened by his brother, Prince Charles (Duke of Cornwall), HRH The Earl of Wessex marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spinal Treatment Centre in a special visit to Salisbury District Hospital on Thursday, October 22.

During his visit, Prince Edward toured wards and therapy areas, where he chatted with staff, patients and representatives of spinal injury charities, before unveiling a commemorative plaque in the patients' dining area.

Shaun and Malcolm were having a game of doubles with two patients in wheelchairs when Edward arrived for a chat...and a few quips from Malcolm!

The Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre is a 48-bedded purpose-built unit within Salisbury District Hospital, which specialises in caring for people who have spinal cord injury. We hear that things have now settled back down to normal after Edward's and Malcolm's visit!