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THE PRIMARY CLUB CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

50 years of fundraising for the blind and partially sighted

The Primary Club, the cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted, has now been providing grants for sports and recreational facilities for the blind and partially sighted for fifty years. The Club was started at Beckenham Cricket Club, Kent, in 1955 by four slightly inebriated young bachelors, depressed by their own performance with the bat.

They vowed to support F R Brown's Fund for Blind Cricketers. In nine years, the Club raised £45. In 1973, Brian Johnston and other members of the Test Match Special team started talking about the club and interest grew rapidly. In 2004 the Club made grants totalling £180,000, a figure it hopes to exceed in its Jubilee Year.

"Sport can play such an important role in the life of someone who is blind or partially sighted. There is so much more we could do," said Robert Fleming, Primary Club Chairman.

"I've really enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the Club in the last eight years," said Derek Underwood, Club Patron. "Its work allows those of us in the cricket community to give something back to society at large."

As part of the Jubilee Year celebrations, the club is hosting a dinner at Lord's and playing a cricket match against the Primary Club of Australia at Beckenham Cricket Club.

(217 words)

About The Primary Club (www.primaryclub.org)

The Primary Club is a currently celebrating 50 years of raising money for sporting and recreational activities for blind and partially sighted children.