

18/05/2006

Andrew Strauss bats for Primary Club Juniors

England batsman Andrew Strauss today became President of the Primary Club Juniors, a new section of the charity.

The Primary Club, the cricketer's charity for the visually impaired, is launching a new section of the charity for under-18s with Andrew Strauss as its president. As part of today's launch at the Brit Oval, Strauss joined blind and partially sighted youngsters at Linden Lodge School in Wandsworth and later played cricket with them wearing a blindfold.

"I'm delighted to take on the role of president and I'm hoping that any youngsters who love cricket as much as I do will want to get involved in helping other children who are less fortunate than themselves," said Andrew Strauss.

"We have lots of children with little or no sight and many have additional special educational needs. Andrew's visit was fantastic and really made their day. To talk with and play alongside an England cricketer was a once in a lifetime experience. Our children love sport and the opportunity to meet a sporting hero is a dream come true for them," said Roger Legate, head teacher at Linden Lodge School.

"Having celebrated our Jubilee last year, we're really excited to be entering a new era for The Primary Club," said Derek Underwood, Patron of the Club. "There's no better way to mark this milestone than to launch a special branch of the Club for under 18s. While we've had young members before, it's great that they now have their own club merchandise and website and are also able to involve their classmates by learning about the role sport can play in helping people with disabilities."

(257 words)

About The Primary Club (www.primaryclub.org)

Founded in 1955, The Primary Club's mission is to raise money to fund sporting and recreational activities for blind and partially sighted children. Now in its fifty-first year the Club has almost 9,600 members having raised a total of £2 million. In 2006 the Club donated £200,000 to a number of UK-based charities including Linden Lodge School, The Royal London Society for the Blind and British Blind Sport.