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Club dinner at Lords raises £24,000 for the blind and visually impaired

On July 16 over 300 Club members and their guests attended the most successful fundraising event in the history of the Club.

The dinner, held in The Nursery Pavilion at Lords, which included an auction, a raffle and a Higher & Lower game, raised over £24,000. Club Patron Derek Underwood and Trustee Mike Brace entertained diners with tales from their sporting experiences while Christopher Martin-Jenkins made an excellent after dinner speech. Club Hon Sec Chris Larlham presented outgoing Chairman Robert Fleming with a commemorative bottle of burgundy in recognition of his enormous contribution to the Club during his twelve year tenure. , Notable guests included former TMS producer, Peter Baxter, former Kent & England cricket captain Mike Denness and Pauline Johnston, widow of Brian Johnston, who drew the raffle.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the amount the dinner has raised and very grateful to the generosity of our members and their friends," said Derek Underwood, Club Patron. "Every year requests for help far exceed our resources and we have to turn down very deserving grant applications. This additional income will enable us to support more projects for blind and visually impaired people, helping them to gain valuable life skills through sport and recreation."

(183 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-fifth year the Club has almost 8,600 members having raised a total of well over £2 million. In 2009 the Club donated £187,000 to a number of UK-based charities including Joseph Clarke School, The Royal London Society for the Blind and British Blind Sport.