

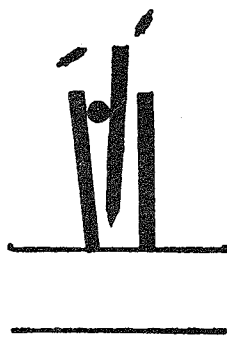
# THE PRIMARY CLUB

## *Recognised Charity*

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Dear Member,

Last year's Newsletter reported the depressing fact that there had been a drop in the level of our annual donation to the Dorton House School for Blind Children. It is most gratifying therefore to be able to tell you that this year we have reached the splendid figure of £2,000, and a cheque for this amount has been passed to The Royal London Society for the Blind.

Apart from the slight increases in subscriptions introduced in June, there are several other reasons for this much improved position, the most notable of which was the excellent publicity given to the Primary Club by Brian Johnston, Peter West, and their B.B.C. colleagues during the Test series against the West Indies. The Cricket commentary team took the opportunity of mentioning the Primary Club and its aims during the Lords Test, and the avalanche of mail which followed had to be seen to be believed. It is no exaggeration to say that this, and a later mention at Leeds, produced something of the order of £400, and through the medium of this Newsletter, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all concerned. I would also like to single out for special mention Mr. Ernest Yates of Guernsey whose total enrolment of new Life Members has now exceeded one hundred; and Mr. David Mould who, although only becoming a Life Member himself in August last, has since enrolled most of the male residents of March in Cambridgeshire. Two splendid achievements. At this point too, may I thank the respective Trustees of the Joe Peirce Trust, the Smugglers Trust and the Executors of the W. Surridge Peat estate for their continued generosity.

Since the Primary Club was first established, our annual donations have enabled Dorton House School to improve and widen the scope of its recreational facilities. For example, the floor of the gymnasium has been renewed; old and obsolete equipment has been replaced; the condition of the sports-field has been much improved; and pupils are now enjoying the excellent facilities at the Crystal Palace Recreational Centre.

However, it has long been recognised that in order to cater more adequately for the requirements of the blind children, the School itself needs to be re-built. The Royal London Society has therefore set up a special fund to meet the estimated cost of some three quarters of a million pounds. In brief, the Society intends building new Class Rooms within the grounds, including a new Assembly and Concert Hall and a new Gymnasium.

I am sure Members would wish to be associated with the sporting aspect of this project, and to this end it has been agreed that the Primary Club's aim will be to finance the provision of the gymnasium, its furnishing and equipment. At a later stage, the Society will ascertain the likely cost and this, hopefully, could be our target for the next year or two. I have accordingly asked that the current donation of £2,000 be allocated to the Gymnasium Fund. On completion of the project, recognition will be given to the Primary Club by the mounting of a suitable plaque within the gymnasium itself. I sincerely hope Members will approve of this action, and give it their full support.

During 1976, the annual match against Lloyd's Shipping Register resulted in a win for our hosts. The Primary Club was also accorded the honour of opening the Linden Park Club (Tunbridge Wells) Cricket Week in their centenary year. A magnificent afternoon's cricket was enjoyed by all who took part, and the game ended in a Primary win with one over left. My thanks to both these fine Clubs for their hospitality, and the work they do on our behalf. Unfortunately, the match with Catford Wanderers when we were to have been represented by the De La Salle Boys Cricket Club of Sheffield, had to be cancelled because of rain. Matches with Lloyd's Shipping Register, Brackley C.C., and Catford Wanderers are being arranged, and Members wishing to take part should contact me as soon as possible.

Finally, it is with much regret that I have to inform you that due to her removal from the Beckenham area, Mrs. Barbara Langford no longer finds it possible to continue as Honorary Treasurer. Since the death of her husband in 1972, Mrs. Langford has devoted a tremendous amount of time to the work of the Primary Club, and the continued success of the Club has in no small measure been due to her devotion. May I therefore take this opportunity of saying how grateful we all are for her untiring work.

Yours sincerely,

*Leslie Harris.*

L.J.HARRIS  
Honorary Secretary