

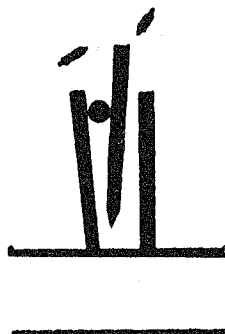
THE PRIMARY CLUB

Registered Charity No. 285285

Hon. Treasurer:

J. A. C Bentall
24, Stanley Avenue,
Beckenham, Kent
BR3 2PX

Telephone: 01-658-0827



Hon. Secretary:

E. C. M. Thomas
99, Plaistow Lane,
Bromley, Kent
BR1 3AR

Telephone: 01-460-6128

April 1986

Dear Member,

Leslie J. Harris 1915 - 1985

All members will be saddened to learn of the death on October 28th last of Leslie Harris, Honorary Secretary for some fifteen years and the person mainly responsible for raising the status of the Primary Club to where it stands in the world of charity to-day. Leslie's last public appearance will have been seen by many on television last August on the occasion of the match between the respective Primary Clubs of Great Britain and Australia at Beckenham. He, in fact, introduced the idea to those of similar disposition "Down Under", where the "Golden Duck" has raised large sums of money to purchase sporting and recreational facilities for the disabled. Leslie's enthusiasm for cricket was boundless, which he transmitted to his fellow men, be they friend or foe.

As an illustration, he was guest at a luncheon given in honour of the Indian Tourists in 1974 and was sitting next to Abid Ali who was not considered at the time to be much more than a medium-pace trundler and unlikely to make the test side. Leslie utilised every bread roll on the table to demonstrate his art of "inswing" to such good effect that, not only did Abid Ali play in the first test but he quickly disposed of Boycott and Edrich.

In his help to young cricketers his enthusiasm was just as great. Sheer delight would spread across his face when he discovered a budding Maurice Tate during his annual Eastertime coaching. On the cricket field facts speak for themselves - a Glamorgan player in 1947, a taker of 3500 wickets in club cricket and to quote from "The Environment and Transport World" which encompassed his business life, "he was a captain of authority, zest and humour". He not so much took the field as breasted it, eager for the fray. He would state his requirements to the captain of the day and, as often as not, finish with "and four short legs".

But none of Leslie's exploits on the field can rival his devoted work for the Primary Club, his fulltime occupation in retirement with the constant help of his wife, Joan.

In last year's newsletter, Leslie expressed his disappointment that the total of contributions from the Primary Club had not quite reached the £100,000. By last summer he knew that this landmark would be comfortably overtaken. This has indeed happened with a cheque for £20,000 having just been forwarded to the Royal London Society for the Blind.

This is Leslie's True Memorial. As was said at his funeral "He was special".

Can we therefore make this a "Special" year and contribute more for the help of blind children than ever before. This, I am sure, would have been Leslie's wish and would be a practical and fitting tribute to him. I enclose two copies of the membership form, one for you as an existing member to use to make a further donation and one to enable you to enrol a new member. Let the money roll in! Any donation however small will be more than welcome and, as was Leslie's custom, be personally acknowledged.

Edna Hanneman has retired from the position of Hon. Treasurer after seven years of devoted work with the help of her husband Doug. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude for all the hours spent in the service of the Primary Club and the meticulous way in which the books have been kept. We wish them happy times in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Thomas".

E.C.M. Thomas
Honorary Secretary