

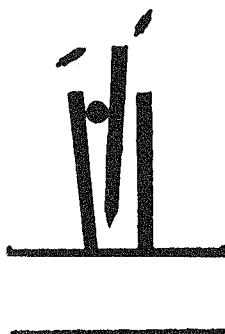
# THE PRIMARY CLUB

Registered Charity No. 285285

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Hon. Secretary:

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April 1987.

Dear Member,

First and foremost, a very sincere thank-you to all of you who contributed so generously over the last year.

It has been a revelation to me just how generous people are when it comes to donating to charity, and also how varied and ingenious are the methods employed to extract money from the unsuspecting - and the suspecting. We have John Hope's band of lighthearted gamblers in Cheshire, whose stake money, whether loser's or winner's finds its way into the Primary Club's coffers to the tune of several hundred pounds a year; the NEEB cricketers from Newcastle-on-Tyne who sold around a thousand second-hand books at some 10p a time; the Tate & Lyle team in Bromley which fines its cricketers for incompetence and competence alike. If anyone would like a copy of their amusing rules, let me know; Winterbourne Bassett C.C. who raised £141 during a match on Boxing Day; East Grinstead C.C. who, in their annual charity match, raised £125; Bacchanalian C.C. which gave £500 out of their fund-raising activities; Brackley C.C. which raffled a bat for £115 to add to the £700 it raised in a one day game; Morgan, Brown & Haynes who raised £366 in an inter-company game; Tony Thresher kindly presented an autographed bat which raised £300 at the Limelight Ball; Sam Whitbread sponsored his team, led by Jim Parks, at the rate of £1 per run over a possible twelve matches. Only the weather restricted the amount to £1622 in the season with a further £120 from a raffle; Geoffrey Last whose valiant effort in the London Marathon brought in over £400; and a special mention for two 15 year-old schoolboys from Marlborough, Simon Gilderson and Nick Williams, who walked 125 sponsored miles to produce the superb sum of £1000..

All this adds up to a highly successful twelve months in that our donations this year to help the blind will total £34,000. The Royal London Society for the Blind, who are our main beneficiaries, are receiving £28,500 for projects at Dorton House School. The next big project here is to lay a first class 400-metre running track within the school playing fields.

To the British Association for Sporting and Recreational Activities of the Blind (BASRAB) we have given £500 to stage their cricket knock-out competition for the Primary Cup, £1,000 for their Judo club and £1,000 to purchase video equipment to help coaches to learn techniques involved in training the visually handicapped in a range of sports.

To the Metropolitan Sports and Social Club for the VH (METRO) we have given £500 to re-equip their cricket section.

You will see that we are deviating slightly from the original purpose of the Primary Club, which was and still is to help blind children at Dorton House School. Your trustees feel that, with more money becoming available, others could share in the benefits and Rule 2 has been amended accordingly.

Consequently we are funding a project at Conover Hall School for Blind Children near Shrewsbury to turn part of the grounds into a Nature Trail. The school buildings are surrounded by a large private park containing a brook and woodland. The proposal is to construct a Nature Trail to afford the children enjoyment and exercise and to be used for both leisure and learning. We are starting off with a contribution of £2500 and aim to continue until the project is finished.

Many members have taken advantage of the Deed of Covenant facility as described in the accompanying form, of which I am again enclosing two copies, one for you to use to make a further donation and one to enable you to enrol a new member.

Finally, Joan Harris, who continues to do sterling work in keeping the record cards up to date, Tony Bentall and myself thank you for all your support, kind wishes and encouragement. We look forward to another successful year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Thomas'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

E.C.M. Thomas  
Honorary Secretary

P.S. Available again through the Primary Club is the game "Armchair Cricket", widely acclaimed as the most authentic and skilful card game ever devised for cricket fans of all ages. Apply to me for details.