



# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

## FOR SOMEONE WHO IS BLIND and elderly, Christmas can be very difficult.

Without sight, reading Christmas cards, putting up the decorations and even buying presents, become real problems. But for a blind person living alone and with their mobility restricted because of age, the biggest problem is isolation and loneliness.

75% of all visually impaired people are aged over 75.

In Derbyshire, there is an extraordinary organisation which makes sure that Christmas is not a time when elderly people with little or no sight are left alone.

### SLAP-UP MEAL

Every year, the Derbyshire Association for the Blind arranges a Christmas lunch for over 100 blind and partially sighted people past the first flush of youth. They get the works – a slap-up meal, lots of booze, entertainment, a singsong, a raffle and dancing.

### WONDERFUL AFTERNOON

For one wonderful afternoon, the difficulties of growing old with a visual impairment are forgotten.

Lucy Turton (top left) is 86, has very limited sight and lives alone. She says "You forget about everything that afternoon. It is just lovely being with people who understand. It's one of the best days of the year."

Gail Ashby (top right), a stripling of 46, is totally blind. "You've got two choices. You can either sit at home doing nothing or you can motivate yourself. You only live once."

The DAB Christmas lunch gives Lucy and Gail the chance to have a really happy Christmas.

**The 2003 Christmas lunch was paid for by a grant from The Primary Club. Members are asked to be as generous as possible with their donation this year.**

*Full details of the 2004 grants are on page 8.*



# Dinner at Headquarters

Three hundred and seventy four members and their guests sat down to the first ever Primary Club dinner in the Banqueting Suite at Lord's on 10 October 2003. Greatly to the relief of the organisers, the evening was a huge success.



Old friends and colleagues – Mike Brearley and Derek Underwood.

Most members and guests took advantage of the generous offer by the MCC to visit the Long Room before dinner. After dinner, three speakers – the patron **Derek Underwood MBE**, **Mike Brace** (Club trustee and Chairman of the British Paralympic Association) and ex-England captain **Mike Brearley OBE** – were all on top form. **Mike Bax** conducted the auction with great skill and **Pauline Johnston**, wife of the late Brian Johnston, drew the raffle.

An entertaining and, at times, very funny evening

produced a profit for the Club of over £17,000.

**There are plans for another dinner in 2005 – the 50th anniversary of the Club.**



The Hon Sec with Pauline Johnston, who drew the raffle, and Alan Guild, one of the team of 6 volunteers who helped the evening run smoothly.



The antiquities department of the British Museum kindly released two of the three living founder members of the Club for the dinner. This picture was taken late in the evening, so if it looks out of focus it is them not you. Left: Keith Patterson, right: Mike Sheeres.

## Resignation

Brian Cooney, representing the Royal London Society for the Blind, has resigned as a trustee.

Until the mid 1980s, the Club donated all its funds to the RLSB, so it was appropriate that they should be represented on the board of trustees.

However, since then there has been a huge increase in the size and number of grants made by the Club. We now work with over 40 clubs and schools for the blind throughout the UK, which reflects our membership.

As The Primary Club hopes to continue the long and happy association with the Kent charity, the RLSB felt that they should resign to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

Brian Cooney and his predecessors have contributed much to the Club. We are grateful to them all.

## Golden Duck Award

A vicar from Bury, Lancashire, has 'triumphed' in the inaugural Golden Duck Award.

The Primary Club has joined forces with *The Wisden Cricketer* and the Professional Cricketers' Association to launch the competition. To enter, clubs nominated a player who had suffered a noteworthy primary during the season.



The Reverend Hugh Bearn (left) achieved his primary on his debut for the Man-

chester Diocesan Cricket Club in the opening match of the season against Chester Diocese.

By winning the Award, The Rev Bearn has won a day at Old Trafford for his team, watching Lancashire play. During the day, the PCA has arranged for the Manchester Diocesan team to have a two-hour coaching session with members of the county side. In return, the Lancashire team should

achieve a good discount on weddings and christenings.

**Write to *The Wisden Cricketer* if anyone in your team achieves a noteworthy primary in 2004. They could win their club a coaching session with the nearest county side.**

### LEGACIES

If you are planning to move on to the Great Pavilion In The Sky, before you go please make sure the Club is mentioned in your will.

### BANK STANDING ORDERS

If you make a donation by Bank Standing Order, please think about increasing the amount this year.

## New Post

Peter Matthews, "a Gloucestershire man through and through", has become the Club's first Head of Fund-raising.

Peter, aged 39, who is a partner in the accountancy firm Ernst and Young, lives with his wife Jeannie and their three young daughters near Cirencester.

He broadcasts on BBC local radio on football and cricket and has written two books on football. His next book, on Gloucestershire cricket, is due out next year.



## Primary of the Month

*Six of the leading batsmen in the country achieved the Primary of the Month award in 2003 and became honorary members of the Club. They are:-*

**Jamie Cox (Somerset), Nasser Hussain (Essex), Robert Key (Kent), Craig White (Yorks), Ed Smith (Kent) and Ian Blackwell (Somerset).**

*The 'winners' are chosen by the Professional Cricketers' Association and announced each month during the cricket season in *The Wisden Cricketer*.*

**Stuart Cox at P A Sport supplies the statistics.**

*The Club is grateful to all of them.*

### EMAIL

### ADDRESSES

**On the Donation and Order Form this year there is a space for your email address. Please fill it in, even if you donate by Bank Standing Order.**

# The New Hon Sec

**A** bowler with a taste for claret has become the fifth Honorary Secretary of The Primary Club.

Chris Larlham is a remarkable man. Problems in the family business meant he had to leave Dulwich College at the age of 16. By the age of 40, he was managing partner at Cameron Markby Hewitt (now Cameron McKenna), one of the biggest firms of City solicitors. He retired six years ago at the age of 48.

## ENOUGH

"I had frankly had enough. I had spent 32 years of my life working and I was financially secure. Practising law in the City was great fun when I started. It was anything but when I finished."

Chris and his wife Cecily, who is a lawyer and a garden designer, have one son.

Chris played most of his cricket for the Old Alwynians (Dulwich Old Boys), Bishop's Stortford and Incogniti.

He has now relegated his cricket gear to the attic and plays golf. He feels 'overburdened' with a handicap of 18.



## Changes

2004 is a year of change in The Primary Club.

- ❖ **Robert Fleming** is retiring as Honorary Secretary and becomes Chairman (see facing article).
- ❖ **Chris Larlham** becomes the fifth Honorary Secretary (see above) and a trustee.
- ❖ **Peter Matthews** becomes Head of Fundraising (see page 2).

Chris plays bridge as seriously as he used to play cricket. However, his competitive edge is mitigated by a gently self-mocking humour. "I am captain of the county team but, as one of my friends rather unkindly put it, that's just because I had a big car and a word processor – nothing to do with my bridge skills."

## WINE

Another great love in his life is wine. He has accumulated a substantial cellar, mostly French, with a bias towards Bordeaux. This is one area where he differs from his predecessor as Honorary Secretary, a determined Burgundian.

So why The Primary Club? "It is a very worthwhile job. It is a club which does an awful lot of good and I've got time on my hands. I think I've got the necessary qualifications. Time will tell if I'm any good at it."

In Chris Larlham The Primary Club has found a pair of safe hands to lead it through an important time in its history.

## NEW CLUB CONTACTS

THE PRIMARY CLUB  
PO BOX 12121  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
ESSEX CB10 2ZF  
TEL/FAX: 01799 586507  
EMAIL: [primaryclub@aol.com](mailto:primaryclub@aol.com)  
Website: [www.primaryclub.org](http://www.primaryclub.org)

Enclosed with this newsletter are new Club Rules which have been lodged with the Charity Commission. With the increase in income and grants in recent years, the trustees feel that the Club should have a more formal constitution.

The watch on the bridge may be changing but the ship is still on the same course. We seem, however, to have grown from a minesweeper into a frigate.



## Primary Club Trustees

Left to right clockwise: Mike Brace, Andrew Dixon, Tony Bentall, Warwick Armstrong, Robert Fleming, Tonie Thomas, Chris Larlham, Mike Sheeres, Marion Fleming. Absent: Mike Thomas.

## "From the Desk of the Chairman"

**R**etiring as Honorary Secretary and becoming Chairman of The Primary Club means that I can fulfil a lifetime's ambition – to issue a stream of pompous memos 'From the desk of the Chairman.'

My wife Marion and I have greatly enjoyed running The Primary Club for the past seven years. Without Marion it would not have been possible.

There is so much that we shall miss; Margaret Palmer and 'Pig', a china beast who produces £40 or so whenever his cork is removed; C.L.A.W. (Cricket Lovers At Warwickshire), a group of retired schoolmasters who fine each other, to the benefit of the Club, for the most absurd reasons; Nigel Flower, who shamelessly fines generations of unruly Lower 6th formers at Gresham's School in Norfolk; and many more. The members of The Primary Club are middle Britain at its best.

## REWARD

If the members are the joy of the Hon Sec's job, representing the Club at schools and clubs for the blind is the reward. The expression on the face of a child with multiple disabilities exploring a soft playroom, or the delight of a blind sports man or woman when they have

done well at an event sponsored by the Club, is unforgettable.

In Chris Larlham we have found an ideal Hon Sec. He will, in effect, be the chief executive. As Chairman, I hope to coordinate groups of members working on press and public relations, sponsorship, membership recruitment and fundraising events.

## STRUCTURE

With a proper structure for the Club, we should be able to support blind sports men, women and children better than we are at present. Several members have already offered their services.

The other role that Marion (who is also a trustee) and I will take on, is visiting clubs and schools where we have provided funds for projects. We will be able to see how the Club's money has been spent and work with them on new projects. I will continue to edit the newsletter.

Finally, I want to say thank you to our patron Derek Underwood and our Hon Treasurer Tony Bentall. They are both a huge asset to the Club and a delight to work with. Thank you for all the support you have given Marion and me over seven wonderful years.

*Robert Fleming*

These are some of the projects paid for by Primary Club members.

## Sailing holidays

In partnership with **The Island Trust**, last summer the Club paid for sailing holidays for visually impaired children from two schools.

The picture below shows Lisa Burgess (right) from Joseph Clarke School in east London, experiencing the joys of sailing for the first time.

The children lived on board a converted Mersey ferry in Salcombe Bay and sailed for four hours a day over six days.



Lisa, who was born prematurely, has no useful vision and very limited use of her right arm and leg.

With her disabilities, without needing to move around the boat, Lisa was able to take the tiller and haul down the sails. After the weeks sailing, Lisa's teachers noticed that she had a greater enthusiasm for everything she attempted at school.

And Lisa? "Now that I've done sailing I'll have a go at anything," she says.

## Vibrodome

An unusual project for the Club was to provide

# PRIMARY CLUB P

funding for Fairfield School in West Yorkshire to acquire a Vibrodome, part of our grant to **Kirklees Education Authority**.

The Vibrodome is used by Emily Kelly (pictured right) who has 'severe and profound learning disabilities'. She has no speech and little sight. A range of physical problems and lack of coordination mean that, at the age of 4, she has the development of a child of 9-12 months.

The Vibrodome gives Emily some independence and, through hours of patient work with her teacher, Karen Sawley, it is used to stimulate the senses that Emily can use. Emily is learning that, if she pushes a blue button the dome plays 'Twinkle, twinkle little star'; a red button makes the lights flash on and off; and a yellow button makes the dome vibrate.

Emily loves the Vibrodome. When she pushes a button and something happens she smiles and makes 'little babbling sounds'.

Karen says: "She is such a responsive child, an absolute pleasure to work with, and that lovely smile is well worth waiting for".

## Football

Brian Vasey (below) took his two sons Curtis, aged 11, (left) and Taylor, aged 9 (right) to the first ever Football Development Day for visually impaired youngsters in Yorkshire.



The day was one of a series organised by **British Blind Sport** and funded by The Primary Club.

In the morning, 20 children were given basic training in ball skills, passing and shooting practice. In the afternoon, there were two hotly contested games. Half the children had never played football before.

Curtis and Taylor have very limited vision and also suffer from Alström syndrome, a very rare genetic disorder which means that they will have increasing problems with their sight as they grow older.

For the Vasey family, the day was a great success. Brian says: "The day gave Curtis and Taylor the chance to meet other kids with similar problems. They loved it and made lots of friends.

"They didn't want the day to end. There were even a few tears when it was time to leave."

## Drum kit

The Club grant which bought a drum kit for the **Marjorie McClure School** in Kent has made a young girl very happy.

Eleven-year old Lianne Beales is aware of light and dark but otherwise has very little sight. However, children born with Lianne's type of visual impairment are often musically gifted and

music is Lianne's greatest pleasure in life. She always has a tune in her head.

Percussion is her main joy. She does not even need instruments to beat out a rhythm – anything will do, tables, boxes, even drain-pipes.

The drum kit has transformed Lianne's life and she spends hour after hour practising, usually alone. Her music teacher says that, before long, Lianne will be ready to play in concerts with the school band.



## Quad bikes

Freya is 11. At 18 months she contracted meningitis which resulted in damage to her brain, severely affecting her sight, hearing and speech. She has little control of her arms or legs and suffers from epilepsy.

Freya is in the care of a special unit at the **Royal Schools for the Deaf** in Manchester, which looks after children with complex disabilities. The Primary Club has agreed a grant to buy five Quad Bikes for Freya and four other children in the unit.

The bikes are specially adapted for each child. Freya's bike is painted in her favourite pink and has a seat that swivels so that she can

# PROJECTS IN 2003

be moved on to the bike and strapped in.

Although Freya cannot move the bike by herself, it prevents her being totally passive. It is also stretches and strengthens her legs.

Freya seems to enjoy the half an hour a day she spends on the bike. Sometimes she shows her pleasure by lifting her head and smiling.



Freya on her quad bike.

## Easter camp

A Primary Club grant to **The London Sports Forum** paid for a day of sport and games for 22 visually impaired children from south London and Kent.

Madelaine Kirkman (below), aged 11, has had few opportunities for sport. When she was 6 she contracted a rare illness which severely affected her sight. She is left with tunnel vision and what she can see is 'like looking down a toilet roll with bubble wrap full of water at the end'.

Attending a mainstream school, she seldom meets other children with sight problems.

Madelaine's father, Cy, feels that the value of the day was that, after years of illness, she was taking part in activities with other children who have similar problems. "Everyone's bumping into

each other and throwing the javelin the wrong way!"

Madelaine loved the day. She made some new friends and had a go at several sports. Her favourites were cricket, athletics and trampolining although she found the rugby a bit rough.

## Athletics

A grant from the Club to **Metro Sports** funded the 27th National Athletics Championships for the Visually Impaired.

Metro is a London club but these championships were for visually impaired athletes throughout the UK. There were 75 competitors of all ages and abilities.

Pictured top right is Mike Brace, who won the silver medal in the veterans' discus event. Mike, who is 53, lost his sight in an accident on Guy Fawkes' Night at the age of 10.



He has, for many years, been one of the country's leading blind athletes. He is Chairman of the British Paralympic Association and a trustee of The Primary Club.

Mike claims: "I got the silver medal for the discus but I won the gold medal for grunting."

**We need your support for projects like these in 2004. Please give generously.**

## Honorary Secretaries and their Wives

What other club could possibly have been as fortunate as The Primary Club in having three successive duos of 'Mr and Mrs Hon Sec' the likes of Leslie and Joan Harris (1970-85), Mike and Tonie Thomas (1985-96) and Robert and Marion Fleming (1996-2004)?

In 1970 the Club was donating £700 a year to the RLSB (Dorton House). Leslie's cricket contacts took the Club into the Brian Johnston/Test Match Special era, on which first Mike, and then Robert have built with great success. As a result, this year the Club will be donating £180,000, not only to RLSB but to almost 40 other schools and clubs for the blind and partially sighted.

Now we faced the need to find the next Hon Sec, a job Robert has met with his customary aplomb.

Only the two undersigned can even start to appreciate the time, thought and enthusiasm Robert (with his fair maid Marion) has given to the job over the years.

He has masterminded the sale of a wide range of clothing and drinkables, a series of events such as golf days and cricket tournaments, approaches through members to several charitable-minded organisations and, as a final fling, a splendid dinner at Lord's.

What we believe has impressed itself most on the generous minds of members has been the style and quality of the annual newsletter. Who will forget many of the photographs



Marion and Robert Fleming.

and stories that have touched our hearts?

We could not let Robert and Marion disappear altogether, so we are keeping them on the board in the new roles of Chairman and his Lady.

**Mike Sheeres**  
(founder member since 1955)

**Tony Bentall**  
(Hon Treasurer)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

The Primary Club is growing fast and we need part time volunteers throughout the UK to help with • recruitment of new members • press and public relations • attracting sponsorship.

Contact Robert Fleming

☎ 020 7267 3316 or [primaryclub@aol.com](mailto:primaryclub@aol.com)



## 2004 Grants – Net Widens

Due to the generosity of members, the amount of money available for grants in 2004 is bigger than ever –£180,000.

As our income grows, so do the requests for our financial help. This year we have agreed grants to 11 charities new to The Primary Club. The good news is that they are spread all over the UK, reflecting our wide membership.

**WEST COUNTRY** – The Island Trust; RNIB Bristol.

**SOUTH** – Mind's Eye (Hants); Marjory McClure School (Kent); Blatchington

Court Trust (Sussex); London Goalball Club.

**MIDLANDS** – RNIB, Loughborough

**NORTH** – Tyneside Recreation Club for the Blind; Royal Schools for the Deaf (Manchester); Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind.

**NORTHERN IRELAND** – The Blind Centre for Northern Ireland.

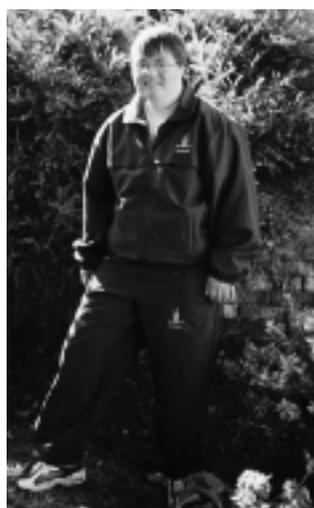
The Club now regularly works with over 40 clubs and schools for the blind and partially sighted.

*For details of the Club's 2004 grants see page 8.*

## Keeping in Contact

Many people first became aware of The Primary Club by hearing the late Brian Johnston talk about the Club on Test Match Special, a tradition that has continued since his death.

The Club has remained in contact with his family. His wife, Pauline, came to the Lord's dinner (page 2) and recently, the Club gave a track suit to their much-loved daughter, Joanna.



Joanna Johnston sports the Club tracksuit. The picture was taken by Pauline.

## “Golden Duck” on Schedule

The largest current Club project, the canal boat for the Royal London Society for the Blind, is well on schedule for a June launch.

A wide variety of names were suggested, but the easy winner was ‘Golden Duck’, the preferred name of so many members that Mrs Hon Sec has withdrawn her offer of a kiss to the winner. She feels that she would be all puckered out.

We refrain from naming the member who suggested



The Golden Duck under construction.

that the boat should have ‘The Barmaid from Sale’

## Aggers at Clarkers



Peter Baxter and Jonathan Agnew meet pupils from Joseph Clarke School.

*It was an extraordinary afternoon when Jonathan Agnew, BBC cricket correspondent, and Peter Baxter, doyen of BBC sports producers, visited Joseph Clarke School in east London.*

*The reason for the visit was the opening of the Sensory Garden and Nature Trail, funded by The Primary Club. In addition to being blind, many of the children at the school have other disabilities.*

*The formalities were brief but Jonathan and Peter were then shown around the school. That was fascinating. The way the children responded to their two intelligent and sympathetic visitors was very moving.*

*We are very fortunate that, for many years, the Test Match Special team have been such good friends to The Primary Club.*

## Grandmother of Invention

If necessity is the mother of invention, then fundraising must be the grandmother and a lot of our members can call themselves ‘grandma’.

**Hugh Cave** fined his golf opponent £1 for an airshot, whilst **Steve Kane** chipped

in £1 for every birdie he achieved. There were 50.

**T M Daber** sent his colleagues an e-card for Christmas and donated the £15 he saved to the Club while **Richard Griffiths** was ‘fed up with wasting money sending business colleagues Christmas cards’ and sent us £100 instead.

**Ian Vardon** raised £23.54 from a quiz at his cricket club and **Ian Royle**, who was elected president of his club when he missed the committee meeting, stipulated that the club should contribute £5 for every primary – total £30.

**Alistair Grant** raised £40 from a fantasy league cricket competition. He writes, ‘It is with profound sadness that I must report that my auntie was first and my mum second. Goodness only knows why we let them enter in the first place.’

Thank you all.

## Cometh the Hour..

A Primary Club member is just the sort of person you need in a crisis, so picture the scene:-

**Headingley, 23 August 2002, England v India**

The Indian captain, Saurav Ganguly, lifts Ashley Giles over mid on; way over mid on and into the crowd.

There, eagle-eyed and alert, is our member, John Bunton, waiting for his moment of glory. As the ball descended the eyes of the cricket world were on him.

*The next thing John remembers is being led away by the police (see right) covered in tomato ketchup, presumably for crimes against fielding.*

*"I saw Ganguly hit it but lost the ball in flight. When I saw the ball again, everyone was standing up around me and it was too late."*

*John's excuse? Apart from having poor eyesight, it was just after lunch – something with which all members will sympathise.*



Getty Images

**THANK YOU!**  
**Once again, the Club is greatly indebted to Nicci Westgarth and Sam Wells and also Sue Webb and Debbie Enright of Network Typing Services, for giving their time in helping produce this newsletter.**

### Our Man in the North

One of our members, Nick Brown, who is Cricket Development Officer for Durham County, came up with a novel idea for raising money for the Club.

He arranged to play one game in each of the nine leagues in the county and a tenth against a team of touring Aussies.

At every game, Nick persuaded the teams to donate generously to The Primary Club. The county side also dug deep into their pockets.

The result was a splendid donation to the Club of **£606.**



Nick Brown at the crease. First slip bears a strange resemblance to Alistair Campbell. A spin bowler presumably.

### Why the Willow Wept



This picture shows the sad moment when a favourite bat was consigned to the great refuse heap in the sky.

Playing for Matfield CC, in Kent, Christopher Knott (right) was caught at mid on, first ball, using *the* bat.

Two wickets later, his brother Simon (centre) was bowled first ball using the *same* bat.

Ten minutes after that, the team's in-form batsman, Peter Danby (left), broke his bat and called for a replacement.

Without thinking, Simon took out *the* bat. Inevitably, the wretched Danby was out next ball.

The pride of Gray-Nicolls had thus caused the downfall of three of Kent's finest. None of their own doing, of course.

Through an oversight, the flag of St George in the background was not lowered to half mast for the ceremony.

## Famous Primaries

From  
 Andy Woodward

In 1979, I managed to captain the smallest department in Burnley Borough Council Environmental Health Department to the final of the Interdepartmental Cricket Competition. We were due to play the holders, the Chief Executive's Department.

I contrived to turn up late and I missed the toss. We were put in to bat with two men short, yours truly being one. A rat catcher was also unavoidably detained.

I turned up just as we had lost our first wicket for one run. This was doubly bad news as it was Derek the Dog Warden who, although getting on in years, was the only other player in the team who knew which way up to hold the bat.

I threw on some pads and breathlessly marched out to rescue the situation.

The first ball was going miles (honestly) down the leg side and I tried to clip it off my legs and missed the ball. It hit my pads but I was not too concerned at the subsequent appeal until I

heard the cheer, as the umpire raised his finger. The umpire, by the way, was a Lancashire league umpire but was also the father of the bowler (I kid you not).

I am convinced to this day that the appeal went something on the lines of "How's that, Dad?" with the reply of "That's out, son."

One for 2 and things did not get any better. We were lucky to get to 24 for 9.

As our innings reached its ignominious close, I put my pads on as I was also the wicket keeper and wanted to get this all over with.

The opposing skipper was the Chief Executive himself and, being a generous and sporting sort, he suggested as we only had 10 men that we send another man in to try and make a game of it.

I was padded up and the obvious choice. Once more, I marched out to the middle dreaming of a rapid-fire 20 or so to set some sort of target.

But ... you've guessed it. I got another first baller. This time caught at mid wicket with absolutely no excuse. My embarrassment was almost complete, but it

gets worse. I then proceeded to drop the Chief Exec in the first over (good for my job prospects) and he remained as they completed an eight wicket win in double quick time.



Andy was so disturbed by the day's events that he got the hump and rode off. In the picture above Andy is the one in the middle.

## From the Hon Sec...

Dear Member

About a year ago I was enjoying a breakfast bacon sandwich and browsing through the latest MCC members' newsletter when I spotted a small paragraph about the Primary Club and its search for a new Honorary Secretary. I knew of the Primary Club, of course – I was made a member over 30 years ago when Leslie Harris, the second Hon Sec, cleaned me up first ball in a match between Beckenham & the Old Alleynians (not my first "primary" I'm sure and certainly not my last). It turned out I knew very little of the scale of the Club's current activities. I emailed Robert Fleming with a copy of my cv and brief details of my cricketing credentials and we met up at Lord's (where else) for a preliminary chat.

By now, having read the article in "The Cricketer" and Robert kindly supplied me with a copy of last year's newsletter, I was aware of the scale of the operation which I had rashly volunteered to assist: an annual income of almost £200,000 represented a lot of fines for those not wearing the club tie on the first Saturday of the cricket months or the Saturdays of home tests; things had clearly moved on from those early

years when I was a (not very good) member. It's a good job I retired (more or less) 6 years ago and have a bit of spare time on my hands.

Having only just got my feet under the table, I cannot write about last year's many projects with any degree of first hand knowledge; by the time you read this the "Golden Duck" will have been officially launched. The trustees are to be congratulated on their impeccable timing last year when they made a grant to the Sussex Sharks Visually Impaired Cricket Club for an audio system at Hove, which I am sure was in great demand as the first ever Sussex Championship drew ever closer.

I am looking forward to getting my hands on the membership list as I am sure there will be a lot of old cricketing friends on there; it is even possible that, in my bowling days, I may have rendered one or more of you eligible for membership. Don't hold it against me – just keep sending those donations.

Yours sincerely

Chris Larlham

## Rule 5 (c)

England batsmen, thoughtfully, performed well enough in the 2003 season to spare the pockets of Primary Club members.

Club Rule 5(c) asks members to add £2 to their annual donation for each primary achieved by an England batsman in a home Test Match.

The Bearded Wonder himself, Bill Frindall, has confirmed that, in 2003, there were just two such primaries, both in the second innings of the third Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge.

**M E Trescothick c Adams b Pollock**

*(Caught off his thigh at short leg)*

**E T Smith lbw Hall**

*(Sadly he could not repeat his stylish 64 in the 1<sup>st</sup> innings)*

Members are, therefore, asked to add £4 to their donations. It really makes a difference to our income if every member follows this rule.

**Contributions please!**  
**This is your newsletter.**  
**The editor needs members' stories, no matter how bizarre or tragic, of triumph or failure on the cricket field.**

### The Primary Club Forecast Result for the year ended 31 March 2004

	2004 (Forecast)	2003 (Actual)
	£	£
Joining subscriptions, donations and sale of goods	166,000	176,000
Tax claimed under Gift Aid	21,000	23,000
Legacies received	-	1,000
Dinner receipts	28,000	-
Interest receivable	1,000	2,000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>202,000</b>
Cost of ties and brooches	(2,000)	(2,000)
Cost of goods sold	(17,000)	(17,000)
Dinner costs	(14,000)	-
Administration expenses	(9,000)	(8,000)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>174,000</b>	<b>175,000</b>
Surplus from the earlier years	8,000	8,000
	182,000	183,000
Donations (details below)	180,000	175,000
Surplus to carry forward	2,000	8,000

Note: Copies of the Club's full accounts can be obtained from the Honorary Treasurer.

#### 2004 DONATIONS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Royal London Society for the Blind, Kent	Canal boat (2 of 2)		45,000
The Island Trust, Devon	Sailing holidays 03	3,938	
	Sailing holidays 04	5,775	9,713
Kirklees Sporting and Education Service, Yorks	Sport and recreation aids		4,714
London Sports Forum	Summer camps		11,580
St Vincent School, Liverpool	PE equipment		3,440
London Goalball Club	Equipment and venues		1,250
British Blind Sport	Archery	2,667	
	Athletics	7,250	
	Bowls	3,000	
	Goalball	5,980	
	Riding	2,175	21,072
Derbyshire Assoc. for the Blind	Turkey and Tinsel holiday	2,000	
	Spring holiday	2,000	
	Swimming/sailing club costs	1,300	5,300
Action for Blind People	2 new Actionnaires Clubs		8,720
Tyneside Recreation Club for the Blind	2 tandem bikes		3,100
Royal National College, Hereford	Football pitch (4 of 4)		6,357
Linden Lodge School, London	Hoists and tracks for pool (1 of 3)		8,500
RNIB, Loughborough	Goalball equipment and clothing		2,000
Minds Eyes, Hants	10-pin bowling sponsorship		1,000
Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind	Archery equipment		340
Kent Assoc for the Blind	Transport costs		500
Pennine Bowling Club	Winter bowling sessions		2,288
Blind Centre for Northern Ireland	Introductory sessions to VI sport		2,360
Marjory McClure School, Kent	Drum kit		475
Eastern Vipers CC	04 season expenses		2,000
Royal Schools for the Deaf, Manchester (deaf/blind unit)	5 quad bikes		6,791
St Benedict School, Derby	Transport to goalball		600
East Anglian Sailing Trust	Tall ship sailing		500
RNIB, Bristol	Children's sport club		3,750
Metro Sports & Social Club, London	Cricket	2,000	
	Bowls	2,413	4,413
Sussex Sharks VICC	04 season expenses		2,000
Joseph Clarke School, east London	Skiing	2,000	
	Goalball	1,000	3,000
West of England School	Athletics equipment		3,100
The Outlook Trust, Yorks	Sailing holidays		3,037
Blatchington Court Trust, Sussex	Residential camp		3,600
London Community Cricket Assoc	Coaches, equipment and facilities		3,000
South Wales Dragons CC	04 season expenses		2,000
English Blind Golf Assoc	Sponsorship of 2004 Matchplay Championship		2,500
London Sports Club for the Blind	04 season expenses		2,000
			<u>180,000</u>

The Primary Club, PO Box 12121, London NW1 9WS

Tel: 020 7267 3316 Fax: 020 7485 6808 E-mail: primaryclub@aol.com Website: www.primaryclub.org Registered charity no: 285285