The Primary Club

The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted

Inside: Women's VI cricket, Hassan Khan, and your Club's new website

INSIDE: VI cricket in the news – p 2; recordbreaking lunch – p 3; how you help – p 4/5; A season of VI cricket – p 8

Editor's letter

The generosity of members of The Primary Club never ceases to amaze me. Whenever I speak to people about the projects that you ensure will survive for another year, it is clear that your money is having a significant impact on lives around the country.

For example, the Club has been helping to fund the Royal National College for the Blind's visually impaired cricket team known as the 'Bulldogs' since 2012. Your support has enable them to buy a cricket mat, trolley and team kit, and has allowed the players to compete in matches season after season. Without this money, taking part in the Development League would simply not have been possible.

Since last year's newsletter, our website has had a significant wash and brush up, and now looks as smart as a Ted Dexter suit (see opposite page for details). Please do take a look and return for regular updates and news throughout the year.

This year's atmospheric cover image shows the Tri-County VI tournament, held at The Oval, which was run as part of Surrey Cricket Board's disability day.

Alex Johnson

News

The Club sends its congratulations to Luke Sugg from the England Visually Impaired team who was named England Disability Cricketer of the Year at the ECB Awards.

Thanks to Liam Cromar for his excellent article - 'Golden ducks for a cause' - about The Primary Club and its activities for ESPNcricinfo. You can read it online at bit.ly/liamcromar

The Bournemouth Echo ran an excellent interview with Jean Sparrowhawk, who at 83 is a member of the Dorset Dolphins and is thought to be the oldest player in the VI national league. "I got to know the Dorset Dolphins, crossed their threshold in a 'poor me' mindset but left with a zest for life," she told reporter Will Frampton. "And now I have met these amazing people, and I am going sky diving and water skiing."

The curse of Rule 5(c)

Despite the near miss best efforts of Messrs Ballance and Stokes, the curse of rule 5(c) has NOT struck again. The rule, under which members are asked to ***add £2*** to their annual donation for **each** primary achieved by an England batsman in a home test match, claimed no victims in 2015. This has happened only once before (in 2004) since we limited it to home Tests in 1998.

However, please do feel free to add £2 (or multiples!) to your annual donation!

All UK Women's Team

The Blind Cricket England and Wales women's programme produced its first match in September 2015. A squad of 13 players from all over the country played an international game against Price & Myers, a team of structural engineers, at Brentham CC in West London.

Price & Myers, wearing simulation spectacles, started well and the score moved on steadily. At the 10 over drinks break the visitors were 73 for 2 but the women's team got into their stride from then on, took regular wickets and fielded exceptionally well to restrict their opponents to 118 for 8.

After an excellent tea provided by Brentham CC the ladies set about chasing down the Price & Myers total requiring six runs per over to do so. Despite a nervy maiden over just before the end, they reached the target after 19 overs to claim victory in their first ever match as a team.

This occasion was the completion of phase one of the women's programme, which was funded by the Primary Club. The ongoing goal is to grow the women's game in this country and eventually play against international opposition.

All UK Women's Squad:
Lois Turner (Surrey VICC, Captain)
Susannah Barnett (Worcestershire Elizabethans)
Elyse Bezuidenhout (Gloucestershire Growlers)
Linda Boulding (Kent Spitfires)
Storme Dunford (Surrey VICC)
Emma Gilfoyle (Durham VICC)
Leanne Harvey (Surrey VICC)
Kathryn Jelfs-White (Somerset VICC)
Camile Kamera (Berkshire Stags)
Becky King (Berkshire Stags)
Evie Klamar (Dorset Dolphins)
Amanda Large (Lancashire Lions)
Heidi Linegar (Somerset VICC)
Georgie Ridgeway (Derbyshire Owls)
Helen Robinson (Durham VICC)
Ruth Stacey (Berkshire Stags)
Hannah Young (Berkshire Stags)

Annual Northants fundraiser breaks records

Michael Savage hosted his fifth highly successful Primary Club Lunch in Northamptonshire and raised a record sum in the process. This event is now firmly established in The Primary Club calendar as the premier annual fund raiser.

The prospect of competing with the previous year's successful function - which featured Andrew Strauss as guest speaker – did not daunt Michael for a minute as he secured the services of another former England and Middlesex batsman to address the guests this year.

Nearly 90 people packed the dining room at the Northamptonshire Golf Club to enjoy an excellent lunch prior to the address by Clive Radley MBE who recounted many cricketing stories. Many notable cricketers and ex-cricketers were in attendance including Alex Wakely, the Northants Captain.

During the meal, professional auctioneer John 'Bomber' Harris harangued the guests into making purchases, and afterwards conducted a very successful auction of cricketing memorabilia.

Area Reps John Spalton and David Bentley attended on behalf of The Primary Club. David gave a brief address on the background of The Primary Club, while John spoke about a forthcoming British Blind Sport dinner.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and raised £5,700 for the Club. Michael is already planning for next year's bash on November 9 at the same venue.

Tickets and details from michaelsavage@btinternet.com or 01604 755260.

New Club website

Since the last newsletter, The Primary Club's website has had a major overhaul and is now well worth regular visits to keep up with all that's happening at the Club and in the wider VI sporting world.

The new and improved site is the work of volunteer Paul Doyle (though he very modestly describes it as a 'team effort').

"I love the newsletter," he says, "and I really want the website and our Twitter account to continue telling the story of The Primary Club the rest of the year round, to the audience of people who are yet to join as well as to current members."

The site includes news, back issues of the newsletter in pdf format, the Club shop, and the opportunity to donate online, as well as details about getting involved with The Primary Club Casuals and recent projects funded by The Primary Club

Please do go to www.primaryclub.org and have a look around!

Lancashire Lions

"I wanted to explain how vital your grant of £3,000 has been to our cricket club," writes Sheraz Chohan, Club Secretary of Lancashire Lions VICC.

"This money allowed us to work on our two cricket teams, training sessions, coaches, travel and equipment/facilities. Thanks to all of this and the members of the club we had our most successful season to date and created many landmarks for the club and a handful of its players.

"Our development squad was successful in winning the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust development festival in Leicester and also finishing second in the BCEW development league. Our national side also had a very successful season – they finished second in the national league, their highest ever position.

"They also reached the finals of the Twenty20 cup and the semifinals of the BBS Cup. We hope to build on these successes next season.

"The club has also started to offer goalball and this is proving a very popular sport with over 15 regular participants. The goalball squad attended their first ever novice tournament in December with the A team finishing third getting a bronze medal and the B team finishing second earning silver medals. We have engaged a further 10 participants this year of which half are women.

"All of our development targets have been reached for 2015."

All your donations help

National Blind Tenpin Bowling Association

The National Tenpin Summer Doubles Finals was once again held at Wigan Bowling Centre and all the teams stayed at The Britannia Hotel.

A dozen teams had been competing in their various groups all season and won their places to the finals. They played six games against each other on the Saturday and in the evening there was a presentation meal and prizegiving. Up to the time they get their

award no one but the scorers knew who had won the coveted first prize so you can imagine the joy on the faces of the winners as they realised that their team had won.

The teams are scattered throughout Britain and this is the only time they ever get to meet teams from other clubs.
At these finals there were teams from Swindon, Sunderland, Stockport, Liverpool, Cleethorpes, and Glasgow. It was unusual to have two teams from various clubs as this has never happened before.

"I am assured from our members that they all had a good weekend and really enjoyed the bowling and making new friends," says Pauline Greenhalgh, Voluntary Fundraiser at the National Blind Tenpin Bowling Association.

"We do thank all of your members at The Primary Club for making it possible for us to do this for our members as without the money that you so generously donate towards these finals we could not afford to carry on doing it. We also couldn't do it without the help of all our voluntary committee and helpers who all give their time for no other reward than to see the happiness on the faces of our bowlers as they wend their long way home on the Sunday morning."

Useful Vision

Some of the children and families from the Useful Vision weekend at the Windermere Manor Hotel. "Thank you for funding this trip," says Eilish Thompson, Charity Administrator, "all of the families had an amazing time."

Torch Fellowship

"We had a great holiday last year, funded in part by the The Primary Club," says Sue Richards of the Milton Keynes Torch Fellowship, "staying at the Torch Holiday and Retreat Centre in Sussex. There were 13 of us in total, six with a visual impairment and several with mobility difficulties. We all enjoyed bowling, an audio described theatre trip, playing indoor giant Jenga, visiting gardens and experiencing a variety of unusual small animals up close and personal!

"Many thanks again for the wonderful contributions we have received from The Primary Club over the years, enabling our visually impaired members to have some memorable holidays."

Durham VICC recent indoor training session. The venue is Fynedoune Community Coolege in Sacriston.

to fund these projects...

Stags vs Heroes

As part of Binfield CC's 150th anniversary celebration week, the Berkshire Stags VI cricket team took on a Tedworth House (Help for Heroes) XI.

With 15 overs a side, the match was played in a friendly spirit and enabled the Tedworth House team to experience VI cricket for the first time. Batting first and wearing simpecs (glasses that simulate visual impairment), Tedworth House scored a commendable 135 runs from their 15 overs with batsmen retiring after two or three overs at the crease and the Stags using 11 different bowlers.

In reply the Stags, using a reversed batting order, reached 133, resulting in a two run win for Tedworth House.

The match was followed by an excellent BBQ lunch provided by Binfield CC. Thanks go to Ian Foster and Andrew Stacey for umpiring the game with flexibility of the rules for both sides.

Scottish Blind Golf Society

A Strokeplay event at Drumoig with The Primary Club banner looking lovely in the sunshine!

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind

A sneak peak at some of the tandems that have been serviced using funds from a Club grant.

Hassan Khan

In a fascinating interview in the Guardian newspaper, Andy Bull interviewed VI cricketer Hassan Khan from the moment when he woke up blind as a three-year-old in the small village in Pakistan, where he lived with his family, right up to the present day and his experience as a major part of England's VI cricket team.

Hassan, known as a particularly impressive short square leg specialist, is now a project co-ordinator for the Thomas Pocklington Trust after he and his family moved to London 20 years ago.

The feature shows how cricket completely changed Hassan's life. As a pupil at Linden Lodge School for the visually impaired in Wimbledon, he used Test Match Special as a way of improving his English and it was a teacher at the school who first suggested that he go along to a session at the Metro VI club. Hassan was amazed at what the club was doing and immediately hooked. In 2006 he made his England debut against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

"It is thanks to cricket that I am in this position," he told Andy Bull. "It was only because I saw people who were able to live on their own, who were able to hold down good jobs, that I felt able to do it myself."

You can read ' How blind cricket made an England star of Hassan Khan' by Andy Bull online at bit.ly/hassankhan

Twitter

Please do follow us at @ThePrimaryClub (and you can also follow the Primary Club Casuals at @PCCasuals)
Also well worth following is @UKBlindCricket

Projects roundup

Wormsley to host BBS cup final

The 2016 British Blind Sport Primary Club Heindrich Swanepoel Memorial Cup Final will take place at Wormsley the Getty family's Estate in Buckinghamshire on August 20.

The tournament is the world's longest running annual disability cricket competition and was first held in 1979. Previous final hosts include The Nursery Ground at Lords, Edgbaston, The Ageas Bowl in Southampton and the County grounds in Northampton & Bristol.

Wormsley is regarded as one of the most picturesque grounds in England. As well as hosting the BBS Cup Final the weekend will include a celebration of the lives of two of blind cricket's most high profile supporters, cricket commentator Brian Johnston and Test Match Special scorer Bill Frindall, both a major part of cricket at Wormsley.

The 2015 BBS Cup final, played at BroadHalfPenny Down, saw Warwickshire Bears edge out London Metro by just two runs in the highest scoring final in the competition's 37 year history.

Dave Gavrilovic, Vice Chairman of British Blind Sport & Competitions Secretary of the charities cricket section said: "It is a great privilege to get the chance to stage our knockout cup final at such a beautiful ground where so many famous faces have enjoyed playing and watching cricket over the past 25 years."

Tim Munton, Managing Director of Wormsley Cricket Ground added, "We are delighted to have the opportunity to host the final at Wormsley. It's a great addition to our cricket calendar during August which includes hosting an England under 19's ODI against Sri Lanka and the finals of the Minor Counties Championship four-day competition and one-day knockout Trophy."

For more Information about the ground go to

www.wormsleycricket.co.uk

"These are some of the shirts with Club Badges along with three sets of walkie talkie radios bought with the funding your club so generously gave us," explains Sheila Fisher from Bristol Blind Bowls Club. "In case you were wondering what the radios were for, it's to let visually impaired players know what position their woods have on the green during a match. Hope all your Members have a great summer."

● *Action from the Womens VI Cricket Programme, partly funded by The Primary Club*

● *T20 Final: Sussex fielding while Lancashire bat*

● *An East London Vision Bowls event run with the use of money from The Primary Club*

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

The editor welcomes contributions. Any personal cricketing oddity, especially involving a primary, would be welcome. Photos would be a bonus!

From the Hon Sec…

Dear Member,

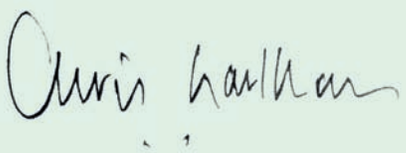
Shortly before this year's annual trustees' meeting, at the end of February, I thought I would be reporting financial results not dissimilar to last year's, with our regular annual donation income apparently stuck at about £150,000, including Gift Aid. This would have meant depleting our reserves to almost nothing, or cutting back on grants. And then I took a call from the executor of someone who had been a member for over 20 years and who had died in January leaving the Club £50,000. We have been fortunate in the last few years to have received a number of substantial legacies, which have enabled us to continue to make grants in the region of £180,000 a year. If you are considering making or amending a will, I do hope you will bear us in mind.

It is however difficult to plan on the basis of legacies which we might, or might not, receive. Our "core" income of £125,000 shown on this page, very similar to last year's, includes about £3,000 from new members (up by 24% on the previous year) and £43,000 donated by standing order. The rest comes in via cheques or other donations, mostly sent to us within a few weeks of the receipt of the annual newsletter.

Membership of The Primary Club is for life – but we do ask members to make a donation, however small, at least once every three years if they wish to remain on the mailing list. About 6,700 of you are receiving this newsletter; if the "three-year rule" were to be strictly enforced, half of you wouldn't be getting it. I hope as many of you as possible will respond this year with a donation, either online or by cheque. If you would like a standing order form, just e-mail me on secretary@primaryclub.org or drop me a line and I will send you one.

Tomorrow marks the beginning of my club's new season, and the temperature has, predictably, fallen after a week of sunshine. My best wishes to you all; I hope those of you playing or watching, at whatever level, have a good season.

Yours sincerely



Chris Larlham

THE PRIMARY CLUB FORECAST RESULT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

	2015/16 £(forecast)	2014/15 £(actual)
Joining subscriptions and donations	125,000	121,347
Exceptional items	59,555	10,000
Profit on sale of merchandise	250	584
Tax claim under Gift Aid	22,000	22,484
Interest receivable	1,050	1,178
Total income	**207,855**	**155,593**
Publicity and administration costs	(11,293)	(12,895)
Surplus for the year	**196,562**	**142,698**
Surplus from earlier years	60,697	79,567
	257,259	**222,265**
Grants (details below)	174,883	161,568
Surplus to carry forward	**82,376**	**60,697**

Note: Copies of the Club's full accounts are available from the Honorary Treasurer.

2015 GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Berkshire Co Blind Soc	Monthly sports club & cricket club		8,000
Birmingham Sports Club	Futsal & goalball		6,000
Blind Cricket England & Wales	Equipment and development programme and women's VI team		13,000
British Blind Sport	Cricket - KO Final	6,760	
	Tenpin bowling	4,500	11,260
Bromley London Borough	Children's picnic		650
Cambridge Dons	Goalball expenses		2,000
Cheshire Cobras VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
Cricket for Change	Development programme		10,368
Derbyshire Assoc for the Blind	Swimming and tenpin bowling		6,160
Derbyshire Owls VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
Devon Bowling Club	2016 season expenses		3,300
Dorset Dolphins VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
Durham VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
East London Vision	"Young & Intrepid" Project		4,000
English Blind Golf Assoc	2016 Matchplay Championship		3,000
Gloucestershire VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
Hampshire VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
Island Trust	Sailing holiday for QAC pupils		600
Kent Spitfires VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
Kirklees Education Service	Tandems & helmets		935
Lancashire Lions VICC	2016 season expenses & goalball		3,700
London Futsall Club	2016 season expenses		2,450
London Sports Club	Swimming		1,000
Loughborough Lions FC	2016 season expenses		2,500
Merton Sports Club	Hall hire & insurance		1,850
Metro	Cricket		6,000
Milton Keynes Torch Fellowship	Leisure activities		1,000
National Blind Tenpin Bowling Assn, Belfast	Winter Trios League 2015		2,500
Northants Steelbacks VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
North West Scorpions FC	2016 season expenses		3,000
Nottingham Knights VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
Open Country	Tandems		3,200
Outlook Trust	Accommodation for sailing		2,000
Royal National College, Hereford	Cricket expenses		1,790
Scottish Blind Golf Soc	2016 Strokeplay Championship		1,450
Seashell Trust	Tembos		4,470
Somerset VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
South East London Vision	"Activities4You" project		4,000
South West Rovers	2015-16 football expenses		3,000
Staffs Wolves VICC	2016 season expenses and kit		3,750
Surrey VICC	2015 season expenses		1,950
Sussex Sharks VICC	2016 season expenses and juniors		3,500
Tandeming Together	Tandem, tandem maintenance & transport		5,000
Taunton Deane VI Bowls	2016 season expenses & equipment		2,500
VIB Somerset	Bowling club 2016 season expenses		2,500
Warwickshire VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
West Glamorgan Bowls Club	2015 season expenses		3,000
Worcs Elizabethans VICC	2016 season expenses and kit		3,500
Yorkshire VICC	2016 season expenses		3,000
			£174,883

A year in the life of a VI cricket club

An insider's look at the ups and downs of 12 months at Hampshire VI cricket club

Hampshire Visually Impaired Cricket Club (HVICC) was formed in 2008 with the main aim of providing training and competitive matches for anyone interested in playing cricket in the Hampshire area, regardless of age, gender or ability. We also provide local coaches with experience of the game of blind cricket and operate an open training session policy, whereby anyone wishing to try the sport is welcome to do so.

HVICC's 2015 season was one of mixed fortunes. We started by winning the Surrey Invitational Tournament played at the Kia Oval, which was a great experience for the players, who never thought they would play cricket on such hallowed turf and change in the away dressing room, surrounded by the signatures of cricket legends.

League games were a struggle – early lifeless pitches lead to draws in games we would have hoped to win and when the pitches livened up, we were not able to capitalise. However the last league game was a real thriller for all involved – playing Dorset for the Peter Marshall Cup, we posted a challenging 193 to win and Dorset took it down to the wire; a run out and three dot balls in the final over saw us win by just one run!

Our T20 Cup campaign started by easing past Kent and then skittling Berkshire for just 46; we took just six overs to book our place in the final. Tight bowling held Metro Devils to 146 for 6 but we fell short by 12 runs and collected the runners-up medals.

So we start the new season ready for the challenge, with new players in the team and benefitting from excellent winter training delivered by Head Coach, Ieuan Wathen. If you would like to see what we get up to in training, visit us at www.blindcricket.hampshire.org.uk and click on the link to a That's Solent TV video; you will also be able to see a link for some Lord Taverners' videos featuring HVICC,which show how blind cricket is played.

All of this would not be possible without the dedication of our band of volunteers who run the club, make the cricket teas, drive the minibus and 'friends' of the club who raise, donate or grant money to the club. Without The Primary Club and their continued support, for which we are immensely grateful, we would not be able to facilitate the wonderful game of cricket for our blind and partially sighted players.

Jacki Killeen, Treasurer

Outlook Trust

"We have had plenty of adventures with visually impaired children taking part in water actives such as sailing, canoeing, raft building, kayaking, having fun leaping off rocks into the lake, capsizing boats, and generally having lots of fun!" says Jeff Davies, a Trustee at Outlook Trust.

"In addition we have tandem cycled and climbed in the Lake District as well. Children have blossomed, gained confidence, made new friends with children with similar disabilities as well as learning a range of new skills.

"2015 was a really successful year for the Outlook Trust for the visually impaired. All six Windermere weekends and the sailing week on the Solent were full. Some weekends were oversubscribed. We provided activity opportunities for 75 people last year.

"We have painted our bus and started to refurbish yachts and two Wayfarer dinghies to increase and improve the equipment and resources for our youngsters.

"Providing these opportunities and maintaining and improving assets is an expensive endeavour but worth every penny. On behalf of The Outlook Trust and particularly our very special participants may I extend our sincere thanks to The Primary Club for their generous support. Without this support we would not be able to continue."

A Club grant to the Sensory Support Service in Bromley, London, has helped provide a range of sporting activities including swimming sessions and trampolining, as well as funding a children's picnic

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