Members' newsletter May 2018

The Primary Club

The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted

Inside: Blue Peter tries out blind cricket, the curse of Rule 5 (c), and how you help

INSIDE:
VI cricket in the news – p 2; **Club education award** – p 3; **How you help** – p 4/5; **Blind Ashes dreams at Notts** – p 8

Editor's letter

Alex Johnson

As this is a print magazine, we're sometimes limited to what we can include but after reading this issue (and following up on the curse of Rule 5(c), see right), members should definitely go online to listen to opera singer, judge on the BBC's All Together Now show, and VI cricketer Lizzie Capener talk about her love of the sport on RNIB Radio – you can hear her at bit.ly/lizziecapener

Elsewhere there is our usual mix of news and updates on the good causes which your money supports – sadly we don't have enough room to feature the results of every grant, but hopefully this gives you a flavour of the continuing importance of your support in these increasingly tough financial times.

Thanks too to The Cricketer magazine for our feature on the back page about the vital role blind cricket plays for so many people around the country.

This year's atmospheric cover shot is of the Wavertree VI Cricket Club in the field as the sun sets, with Liverpool City Councillors at the crease. See opposite page for more details.

www.primaryclub.org

News

Blind Cricket England & Wales has created an annual award in memory of former London Metro and Northants Steelbacks player Charles Ronayne, for Outstanding Contribution To Visually Impaired Cricket. BCEW Vice Chairman Dave Gavrilovic said: "This award is very fitting as had it existed a decade ago, Charles would have won it himself. He was someone who went out of his way to help other people."

BBC Children's show Blue Peter recently featured blind cricket. In a segment filmed at Headingley, presenter Lindsey Russell tried out blind cricket with help from BCEW Development Director John Garbett and VI cricketers Amanda Large, Jerri Mather, Kahlil Qasem, Liam Bradley, Martin Wilson and Shah Miah, as well as umpire Chris Parkes. You can watch it online at www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/bp-visually-impaired-cricket

The curse of Rule 5(c)

The curse of rule 5(c) has 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, is invoked by:

- **S J Broad c de Bruyn b Maharaj 0, July 9, Lord's v South Africa**
- **S J Broad lbw b Morris 0, July 15, Trent Bridge v South Africa**
- **M A Wood c Morris b Olivier 0, July 17, Trent Bridge v South Africa**
- **J M Anderson c de Kock b Olivier 0, July 17, Trent Bridge v South Africa**

So please do add £8 (or multiples!) to your annual donation!

Sussex end Warwickshire dominance in BBS final

The second British Blind Sport Primary Club Heindrich Swanepoel Memorial Cup Final to be played at the cradle of cricket, Broadhalfpenny Down, Hampshire, was an excellent day with support from The Primary Club which helps to make this game and the BBS cup competition happen every year.

The weather was excellent for cricket as bright blue skies with just a few friendly white clouds meant plenty of warm sunshine but with just a little breeze.

The cricket started with Justin Hollingsworth of Warwickshire, cup winners in 5 of the past 6 seasons, winning the toss and asking Sussex to bat first. Missing their injured skipper, Sussex started with Joe Harrison and Alex Towers. This pair batted carefully but only managed one boundary before both falling victim to Asif Ali in his first spell. His brother then chipped in with a run out to leave Sussex wobbling on 41 for 3.

Dan Field bossed a stand of nearly 50 with the hard hitting Toby Collins and finished on 121 having struck a six and 14 fours. This places him fourth on the all time list of top scorers in the cup final.

The second innings started in exactly the opposite way to the Sussex innings as the Bears captain, Justin Hollingsworth (pictured right, at bat), looked to score quickly and raced to 28, with a six and three boundaries, before being bowled in Dave Daniels' opening spell. Nathan Foy joined Luke Sugg in the middle and sped to 20 from just eight balls before trying to repeat the shot that had earned him a six over square leg only to be caught by Joe Harrison just inside the rope.

At the half way stage the Bears were on 97/3 well ahead of the 64/3 Sussex had posted at the same stage but soon after the break lost two wickets with the score on 100, Luke caught by Dave Daniels on the full and then Hassan Ali bowled by Dave Daniels. Chris Styles scored a few including two good boundaries and the reliable Mark Turnham also reached double figures but no one else was able to score and the innings finished in less than 21 overs with a 61 difference in scores.

The day ended in front of the excellent pavilion, with Peter Tuke, chairman of Broadhalfpenny Down Preservation Trust, assisted by Pete Sugg from the BCEW handing the cup to the winning captain, trophies to all the players and officials, and man of the match awards to Dan Field (Partially Sighted) & David Daniels (Total).

Wavertree Cricket Club

Wavertree Cricket Club, in the heart of inner city Liverpool, is home to over 100 juniors, 20 girls and women, and 18 blind and visually impaired players.

The club prides itself on being welcoming and inclusive, and since 2014 its VI section has grown from three members to 18 .

"This growth is the result of lots of partnership building, networking and hard work," says Phil O'Brien, Chair of WCC. " In May 2017 we had over 40 blind and VI players attend VI taster sessions at the club and on the same day we played a game of VI cricket against a team made up of city councillors [pictured above].

"In September we played in a development tournament in Leicester. It was clear that we were ready to take the next step and enter the development league. Blind Cricket England and Wales were gracious in receiving our application and we are now excited about our first ever competitive season.

"The Primary Club funding will make our first season a whole lot less stressful as we will be able to focus on training and playing rather than fundraising. All the members of Wavertree Cricket Club would like to thank The Primary Club for their generosity."

Primary Club Education Award

Do you, or someone you know, work with blind or visually impaired children within mainstream schools? We are here to help!

When The Primary Club was founded in 1955, the majority of blind and visually impaired children were educated in dedicated schools, such as the Royal London School for the Blind.

Now, however, most children with sight impairment are educated within the mainstream state education system. In many ways, this is a welcome development, but The Primary Club trustees have recognised that a consequence of this change is that we may not be reaching some children that the Club was originally established to support. So, we are launching a new Primary Club Mainstream Education Award to provide funding to teachers, Special Needs Co-ordinators or other organisations who would like to provide a sporting or recreational activity to these pupils.

Full details of the award, the criteria for assessment and associated terms are available by contacting us at education@primaryclub.org

What happens to your money?

Derbyshire Owls

Derbyshire Owls play league matches as far north as Sunderland and into Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. Friendly matches are played around the county.

"It was always a nightmare to arrange transport to and from games, and impossible to travel as a team, as we had to rely on family to provide cars," explains Alan Gardner, Coach/Secretary of Derbyshire Owls. "Since being given our very generous grant by The Primary Club we have been able to afford hired transport that will accommodate the entire team, and sometimes family as well, though these pay a donation.

"We have been fortunate enough to win our league for the past two seasons," says Alan, "and have players, male and female, representing England or involved in the England squad."

Merton Sports and Social Club

MSSC is a community-based integrated club for visually impaired and sighted members. Activities include tandem cycling, bowls, darts, swimming, quizzes, and a theatre company. The Primary Club grant helps to fund these including a ramble across Wimbledon common (pictured above, one group takes the direct route to the finish along the road) and a hike across the Surrey hills stopping outside Brockham Church for tea and cake thanks to the local Guide troop.

All your donations help

Metro Blind Sport

The London-based Charity helps all vision impaired people and encourages them to take part in a wide range of activities including cricket, archery, athletics, football and here, on the right, tennis sessions.

Royal National College for the Blind

"The photo shows a very happy group of RNC cricket players after an indoor training session," says Tom Bendall, Outreach and Events Officer at the Royal National College for the Blind. "RNC Bulldogs are so grateful for the funding we receive from The Primary Club as it allows us to get visually impaired youngsters playing VI cricket for the first time. For many of our students this is one of the first team sports they have ever played and it allows them to gain confidence and improve their social skills.

"Due to having a large amount of new players each year we start training in the winter which gives us time to work with our new players so they are ready to play in the development league come April. Being a specialist college for the visually impaired we have students come and go each year and one of the key things we do is to make sure they continue to play VI cricket when they leave us.

"We work to make they sure they find a club in their home area that they can join and continue playing. The grant we receive goes towards new kit, equipment, transport, training facilities, venue hire for home games and classification for our players to be able to be given an opportunity to participate in the North and West development league."

National Blind Tenpin Bowling Association

The 2017 National final of The Primary Club-sponsored competition took place in Sheffield in November.

Thirty two teams entered the countrywide competition and were finally whittled down to the 12 who would contest the final. Two qualifiers – Lucky Strikes and Meteors – were unable to make the journey to the final so two other teams – Amigos A and Balls of Steel – were able to fill their places.

The finals day at Firth Park Bowl Sheffield was a long one for the teams. It started at 10am with the teams playing each other in a handicapped 'round robin' format until around 5pm. The day concluded at the Copthorne Hotel in Sheffield where a first class dinner was enjoyed prior to the long-awaited main event, the announcement of the winners and the awards

to fund these projects...

Berkshire Stags VI

Berkshire Stags VI play in the BCEW South and West Regional League and also a number of friendlies against teams wearing simspecs. This often educates people about the difficulties facing visually impaired people. Above are the Stags and a team from Help4Heroes – this has been a regular fixture for the last three years.

Pictured left is the club's annual Family and Friends game where everyone gets to play. Both teams are made up of Stags and their families (all ages) as well as friends. A number of people in the photo are from other VI teams that The Primary Club support and the Stags play against throughout the year.

presentation. Teams travelling from as far away as Devon and Somerset hoped that this year would be their year – the handicap system employed for this competition, similar to the one used in golf, gives equal chances to all participants and makes second-guessing the winning team impossible.

Helping to present the awards on the evening were The Primary Club's John Spalton and David Bentley and they were delighted to hand over the trophies to the eventual winners, first time qualifiers The Queens from VIP Lounge (pictured).

Chair of British Blind Sport Tenpin division Tony Clark stresses that without funding from The Primary Club they would not be able to hold the competition and the teams would not be able to enjoy the weekend.

"The Tenpin community does not just treat the weekend as a competition, but as an irreplaceable opportunity to meet up with friends they haven't seen for a long time, and probably wouldn't be able to due to costs and distances involved. Many of the participants in Blind Tenpin depend upon this competition as it is their only opportunity for take part in any sporting activities, and some have additional impairments other than their sight."

Nottinghamshire Knights

"Having the support of The Primary Club makes a huge difference to the Nottinghamshire Knights Cricket Team and we are truly grateful for your support," says Lydia Bishop, Fundraising Manager at My Sight Nottinghamshire.

"Nottinghamshire Knights Visually Impaired Cricket Club aims to give blind and partially sighted people the opportunity to play cricket, helping to develop them as individuals and as a team as well as improving confidence and independence, developing team work, social interaction, cricketing skills. We want to ensure that children, young people and adults can participate in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment, and the club is committed to continuing to offer all of the above next season and beyond."

Here's what one NKVICC Member told us about her experience:

"When I was diagnosed with an incurable, degenerative sight loss condition, my world changed forever. I quickly went from the outgoing, sporty person that I had been to a shy, un-confident, unfit recluse. I was soon at one of the lowest points of my life.

"I knew I had to do something. So eventually I got in touch with My Sight Nottinghamshire who introduced me to some of the blind cricket players. The enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication of everyone involved, both staff and players, was infectious, and just what I needed to get myself out of the house and back into a healthy lifestyle both mentally and physically."

Twitter

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

Matthew Fleming helps out at Primary Club fundraiser

In November 2017 Michael Savage once more arranged a special luncheon on behalf of The Primary Club and achieved a very successful result, raising just under £4,000.

The gathering was again held at Northamptonshire County Golf Club. Welcoming around 60 members of The Primary Club and friends, Michael introduced guest speaker Matthew Fleming, past President of the MCC.

Before the speaker's presentation several fundraising activities took place with renowned auctioneer John 'Bomber' Harris touring the tables to auction copies of the hot-off-the press autobiography by Henry Blofeld 'Over and Out', and then presiding over a general auction of nine items.

During the meal, The Primary Club Area Representative David Bentley gave a brief welcome on behalf of the Club and related inspiring experiences visiting blind tenpin finals over a number of years. He then presented greetings and apologies for absence from long serving Primary Club Hon Sec Chris Larlham who had been bowled out for one run by the guest speaker during an old boys cricket match in 1984. Tribute was then paid to Michael and the value of his contributions.

Speaker Matthew Fleming gave a polished presentation and regaled his audience with anecdotes and stories. He then stated that he would support an application for the blind cricket knockout finals to be played at Lord's on the Nursery Ground.

A number of professional cricketers were in attendance including Laurie Johnson Northants CCC, Robin Matthews Leicestershire CCC, and Clive Radley Middlesex and England.

The total raised over the years by Michael's luncheons now exceeds £26,000.

The 2018 luncheon is planned for Wednesday October 31st when it is hoped Sir Tim Rice will be guest of honour.

What happens to your money?

"The club has gone from strength to strength this year," says Ben Tanner, Treasurer of Lancashire Lions VISC. "We have been able to field two cricket teams as well as three goalball teams (pictured above) which has been unprecedented.

"With the introduction of Goalball adding to cricket we have been able to give more to our members as well as increasing our membership. The club looks to expand year on year and we also offer social activities to members."

Nicola Stokes, Service Development & Delivery Manager at East London Vision (ELVis), says: "The money we received from The Primary Club has been used to run a series of classes in four different activities, yoga (pictured, above right), kayaking (pictured below), dance and self-defence. Not only have our members gained skills and improved their levels of fitness through these sessions, but many of them have discovered a new interest in activities that they'd never tried before.

"Funding from The Primary Club enables us to provide swimming and bowling groups for local people who are blind or partially sighted.

"As well as enabling visually impaired people to take part in physical activity with all the associated health benefits, these groups also provide a vital opportunity for social contact and mutual support, helping to combat the loneliness and isolation which can so often be associated with sight loss.

Here are a few quotes from some of the people who attend:

"Joining the swimming group has enabled me to meet new people who I now consider good friends."

"Swimming on a weekly basis helps keep me fit. My Doctor has been really pleased with my increased mobility."

"Before joining the bowls group I didn't have any visually impaired friends to talk to about losing my sight, now I have lots of friends to support me."

"I used to bowl years ago. When I lost my sight I never thought I'd have the opportunity to bowl again, it's been great!"

THE PRIMARY CLUB FORECAST RESULT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	2017/18 £ (forecast)	2016/17 £(actual)
Joining subscriptions and donations	122,250	118,219
Profit on sale of merchandise	1,000	386
Tax claim under Gift Aid	21,000	21,573
Interest receivable	250	504
Total income	**144,500**	**140,682**
Publicity and administration costs	(11,599)	(11,197)
Surplus for the year	132,901	129,485
Surplus from earlier years	49,344	79,594
	182,245	**209,079**
Grants (details below)	151,658	159,735
Surplus to carry forward	**30,587**	**49,344**

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

2018 GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Berkshire County Blind Society	Monthly sports club & cricket club		3,000
Berkshire Stags VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Birmingham Sports Club	Futsal & goalball		6,000
Blind Cricket England & Wales	Equipment and development programme and women's VI team		13,000
Bradford & District VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
British Blind Sport	Cricket – KO Cup	5,800	
	Tenpin bowling	5,500	11,300
Cambridge Dons	Goalball expenses		2,000
Cheshire Cobras VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Derbyshire Assoc for the Blind	Swimming and tenpin bowling		5,000
Derbyshire Owls VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Devon Bowling Club	2018 season expenses		2,500
Dorset Dolphins VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Durham VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
East London Vision	'Limitless' Project		3,870
English Blind Golf Association	2018 Matchplay Championship		3,000
Gloucestershire VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Kent Spitfires VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Lancashire Lions VICC	2018 season expenses & goalball		4,300
London Futsall Club	2018 season expenses		2,430
Merton Sports Club	Hall hire & insurance		1,850
Metro	Cricket		6,000
National Blind Tenpin Bowling Association, Belfast	Winter Trios League 2017		2,500
Northants Steelbacks VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
North West Scorpions F C	2018 season expenses		3,000
Nottingham Knights VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Open Country	Two tandems		3,233
Outlook Trust	Keel boat		2,000
Priestley Smith School	Riding lessons		3,360
Royal National College, Hereford	Cricket expenses		1,665
SAVI Northwest, Merseyside	Venue hire and uniforms		3,000
Scottish Blind Golf Society	2018 Strokeplay Championship		1,850
Somerset VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
South East London Vision	'Sports4Fun' project		3,500
South West Rovers	2017-18 football expenses		2,000
Staffs Wolves VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Sussex Sharks VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Tandeming Together	Tandem maintenance & transport		2,800
Taunton Deane VI Bowls	2018 season expenses & equipment		2,000
Toynbee School	Cycles and cycle accessories		4,000
VIB Somerset	Bowling club 2018 season expenses		2,000
Wavertree CC	2018 season expenses		3,000
West Glamorgan Bowls Club	2017 season expenses		2,500
Worcs Elizabethans VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Yorkshire VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
			£151,658

From the Hon Sec…

Dear Member

Many of you will no doubt recall that press conference on the Saturday of the 1989 Lord's Test v Australia (when things had not gone well for England) and David Gower, in his second stint as captain, was asked a number of questions about his captaincy and eventually had had enough, suggesting that they refer back to the same questions they had asked at the previous Test at Headingley and to his answers to those questions before concluding by saying that he had tickets for the theatre and was off there in a taxi.

As I sit down to write these words with the sun at last shining after two blank weekends for my local club, I can begin to understand what must have driven Gower to do that – and I don't even have the theatre tickets. Our regular annual income remains stubbornly around the £140,000 mark, though the year just ended was marginally better than 2017. Meanwhile the grant applications are, if anything, getting greater by the year and, despite another £20,000 raid on the reserves, we had to turn many away and scale down others. I am grateful to the many of you who made bigger donations than usual last year and hope that will continue. Tell all your friends that we are one of the most deserving of charities, run entirely by volunteers, and that they should donate too. May I remind you that, as well as sending me a cheque, you can donate online via the website – where, by the time you are reading this, you should find a statement regarding our compliance with the imminent General Data Protection Regulations.

Last November, Bob Southward retired as a trustee after a number of years looking after our Area Representatives, keeping in touch with a number of our beneficiaries and generally being a great help to me. At our February meeting we appointed Lydia Greenway (pictured above), who played 225 times for England before her retirement a couple of years ago, as a new trustee – not quite the same accolade as being on the front cover of Wisden but very important for the future of the Club. This coming weekend another of our younger trustees, Paul Doyle, is running in the London Marathon for the benefit of the Club.

My best wishes to you all for a happy and successful season.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Larlham

Blind Ashes dreams in Notts

Carly Odell reports on how Nottinghamshire's visually impaired cricket team has changed lives

"Being blind is frightening and lonely but being a part of this team gives me the chance to meet people, have fun and be competitive," says David Newsham, 70-year-old player and chairman of Nottinghamshire Knights Visually Impaired CC.

Newsham has been involved with the club for five years, having played rugby before he lost his sight. He said: "It was just great to be competitive again."

Angela Phillips, 41, the safeguarding officer for the Knights team and service manager for My Sight Nottinghamshire, said: "When the Ashes are taking place visually impaired players believe that they can't do it themselves, but we want to make them more aware that they can. It's not just a dream!"

Notts Knights, set up by the charity My Sight, have been helping blind and partially sighted men and women get involved since 2010.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for people to develop and grow in their individual lives, which they really do after joining the club," said Phillips.

The team competed in the Blind Cricket England & Wales national and regional leagues last season and finished runners-up in their region.Although the club promotes competitive sport, the main focus is on the attributes that players gain from being involved in a team.

Angela siad: "We wanted to create a nice safe environment to improve teamwork and confidence which then improves independence and social interaction."

Newsham said how playing for the Knights team"gets rid of all the weight on my shoulders. I go home tired and happy."

Kirsty Allen, a 23-year-old sports development officer, added: "It's a real joy to watch the players develop into fine people all through their involvement with the club.

"Especially the 21-year-old captain Ryan Wilcock who has taken a real step up and has even started doing his coaching course which will be a real help and asset to the team"

Newsham said: "We all help each other in one form or another. We are a really close team and the team spirit is magic!"

Gerald Porter chips to leg at the Twenty 20 Finals day

It also gives visually impaired people another way to extend their social lives. The team arrange ten-pin bowling days out and other social activities. The team also fundraise for My Sight, including an indoor skydive a few years ago. The team will be getting involved in more fundraising this season as they will have more free weekends after deciding not to play in the national league

My Sight hope to widen the awareness of visually impaired cricket to help more people like Newsham become part of a team environment.

"It would be incredible to get the knowledge of the sport to the same level as that of Goalball which is well known due to its Paralympic status," said Allen.

Newsham said that there are no restrictions on who can be involved. "There is no age limit. I am 70 and we have 12-year-olds who train with us. Anyone who is visually impaired can play. Anyone who comes along will always be welcomed warmly."

Thanks to The Cricketer magazine where this article first appeared. You can subscribe to The Cricketer by visiting www.thecricketer.com/subscribe

Editor: Alex Johnson, email: thealexjohnson@btinternet.com Design: Steve Cowell, email: stevecowell@me.com

Primary Club Matchplay

The Primary Club has, for many years, sponsored the England & Wales Blind Golf (EWBG) annual matchplay tournament which is played for the Lew Vizzard Knockout Trophy. This year's competition was held at the Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Droitwich, who have been great supporters of EWBG for nearly 20 years.

The event started with the Sunday night draw ahead of Monday's first and second rounds, in which the competitors had to contend with difficult wet conditions. Tuesday morning was the quarter final and the Stableford Plate for those knocked out on Monday, followed by the semi-final for which the weather was even worse than Monday with rain and howling wind.

For the final on Wednesday however the weather broke and Steve Beevers, guided by Ian Tyrer, took on Jason Heathfield, guided by Magda Buckley in blue skies and sunshine. It was a very tense final with both players playing well and finished on the 17th with Steve winning 2 up and 1 to play.