Members' newsletter May 2019

The Primary Club

The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted

First inclusive cricket centre; the curse of rule 5(c); and how you help

INSIDE:

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Editor's letter

Alex Johnson

Welcome to the 2019 newsletter with updates and news of where your generous donations have made a difference over the past 12 months (as well over many years). I'm particularly delighted that this issue also features an article about the development of women's VI cricket (and also proud of the role The Primary Club has played in it). Read about it on the back page.

In the virtual world, there are some interesting videos related to VI cricket. Phil O'Brien from the ECB's Wings to Fly 15 project shows how WavertreeCC develops young players at http://bit.ly/wingstofly15

Finally, this is my last issue as editor and Steve's as designer. It's been a real pleasure to put these newsletters together for the last 10 years, and to get to know so many of the fine people working so hard and selflessly for others. I'll be handing the editorial reins to the excellent Abigail Richardson and know she will do a marvellous job.

ps Apologies for the mixup between the BBS and NBTBA tenpin bowling reports in the last issue

www.primaryclub.org

Plans in place for world's first inclusive cricket centre

All new halls of residence are designed with larger than average bedrooms and communal spaces, so that students with disabilities are able to fully socialise rather than be confined to their own room.

The university has also invested heavily in updating older buildings and facilities.

In addition, the university currently has plans in place to create the world's first inclusive indoor cricket centre, which will help Worcestershire to become the national home of disability cricket, as well as a facility for the region's children and cricketers. Universities Minister Chris Skidmore MP has called for more institutions to follow the lead of the University of Worcester in supporting students with disabilities.

Writing in The Guardian, he said: "Universities like Brunel and Worcester have long been leading the way in improving the disabled student experience, by enhancing support services available to them and designing facilities with accessibility in mind. "

News

John Cook has been appointed head coach of the England VI cricket team, succeeding Ross Hunter who has been in post for nearly six years. John has more than a dozen years experience at the Ageas Bowl as community coach, women's first XI coach and leading the schools programmes. He will be in charge until the end of the year, including the team's tour to Dubai later this year.

BBC Radio 4's programme In Touch which looks at news and issues for people who are blind or partially sighted featured VI cricket, including an interview with sociologist Ben Powis who has been researching how VI cricketers use their senses to play the game. It's a fascinating listen and also includes the Lancashire Lions at a practice session in Manchester. You can listen to it online at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bf4c71

Ed Hossell & Steve Cook headlined Somerset's success in BCEW's End of Season Awards as their club scooped four trophies. Hossell was named Partially Sighted Player of the Year for the second time in three years whilst Cook won Total Player of the Year for the first time. Hossell also retained Partially Sighted Fielder of the Year after his 2017 win & Somerset claimed the Spirit of Cricket Award.

On a hot & sunny day at The County Ground Beckenham, 2017 BBS Cup winners Sussex Sharks faced 2018 BCEW National League champions London Metro in the 40th annual final of the BBS Primary Club Heindrich Swanepoel Memorial Cup. An extremely patient 83 run partnership from Dan Field (45 not out) & Andy Dalby-Welsh (29 not out) steered Sharks to their fourth cup win, all of which have come within the last nine years. For Metro Rob Comber bowled an excellent spell conceding just 16 runs from his 6 overs.

Primary Club trustees Mike Brace, Andrew Dixon & Warwick Armstrong all attended the final & helped with the presentations after the match. Everyone involved with blind cricket is incredibly grateful to Primary Club for the funding they provide to our clubs & competitions so it was great to be able to express this to some of the charity's trustees.

The curse of Rule 5(c)

The curse of rule 5(c) has struck again! The rule, under which members are asked to add ***add £2*** to their annual donation for each primary achieved by an England batsman in a home test match, is invoked by (and confirmed officially to The Primary Club by Test Match Special Test match scorer Andrew Samson):

- **J M Bairstow b Bumrah v India at Trent Bridge, August 21**
- **J M Bairstow b Mohammed Shami v India at The Ageas Bowl, September 1**
- **S C J Broad c Pant b Mohammed Shami v India at The Ageas Bowl, September 2**

So please do add £6 (or multiples!) to your annual donation!

BBS Primary Club final

The Brightside Ground in Bristol (pictured above), home to Gloucestershire CCC, will host the final of the 2019 BBS Primary Club Heindrich Swanepoel Memorial Cup on August 31. This will be the second time that Gloucestershire's home ground stage the match after a successful event in 2011.

First held in 1979, the BBS Primary Club Cup is the longest running annual disability cricket competition in the world.

"We are delighted that our final is returning to Bristol," said British Blind Sport Vice Chairman and Cricket Competitions Secretary Dave Gavrilovic. "The 2011 final was a terrific event and I'm sure that 2019 will more than equal it. It is a massive privilege for our teams to have the chance to play at such an excellent venue especially in such a busy year of cricket when Bristol is hosting so many international matches.

"I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the team at Gloucestershire CCC for agreeing to host the final."

Peter Hall, Ground Operations Manager at Gloucestershire County Cricket Club added: "We are pleased that the final will be taking place here at The Brightside Ground. It was an opportunity that we really wanted to be a part of again. We are looking forward to meeting the finalists and wish all the teams taking part the best of luck throughout the tournament."

Blind cricket and guide dogs

Guide Dogs have released an excellent video about how blind cricketer Aaron Fowler, who opens the batting for Surrey VI CC as a B2 player, is helped by his dog Banwell.

"Banwell helps me to get around everywhere and I also work as a sports journalist and cover some sports in my spare time and he helps me to get out to those events as well.

You can watch the whole video online at bit.ly/guidedogscricket

Cricket quiz

The Oval played host to a special quiz run by The Nightwatchman magazine, the Wisden Cricket Quarterly,on behalf of The Primary Club.

In the surroundings of the famous Long Room, the Test Match Special team included Peter Baxter, Simon Mann and Daniel Norcross. Other competitors included comedian Aatif Nawaz from BBC Radio 5 Live's The Doosra who is now the owner of the scorecard from Brian Statham's last ever match.

Ticket sales and a raffle helped boost The Primary Club's funds.

What happens to your money?

Staffordshire Wolves

Pictured above is Andy Causton with the Total Player of the 2018 Development Weekend Award. "He was absolutely delighted to pick it up," says Steve Lightfoot, disability officer for Staffordshire Cricket. "Andy is a real inspiration to everyone and cricket is his life."

Left is Shazad Chohan just after scoring his maiden century last season.

Tandeming Together CC

"Each year a group of local VI tandem cyclists go for a weekend break to the Share centre in Lisnakea, County Fermanagh," says organiser Danny McSherry who explained that The Primary Club grant goes towards vital maintenance fees. "They cycle and take in the magnificent scenery and usually stop off at the Slieve Russell Hotel for a bite to eat. We always have a great time regardless of the weather. The craic is mighty!"

All your donations help

SELVIS

Members of South East London Vision (SELVIS) enjoyed guided tours to the Oval and Lords including the Long Room and home dressing rooms (several of the party took advantage of the opportunity to sit in Joe Root's favourite seat!).

Kent Spitfires

"Over the years the Primary Club have been a huge supporter of the Kent Spitfires and we are truly grateful," says Andy Griffiths, director of community cricket at Kent Cricket. "During a thoroughly enjoyable 2018 season we travelled hundreds of miles playing in the national leagues for both LD/PD and VI squads. All squads had positive seasons with a number of new players joining the ranks.

"The VI Performance Squad played its first season in the Blind Cricket England & Wales National League against strong opposition. With a young squad of players (great for the future) led by Tom Barton who is still at University the team performed well throughout, improving in every game we played. We have a good number of volunteers who support the team during match day and training sessions. While it was a jump up from the Regional League, we are looking forward to the new season and aiming to be more competitive on the field. We are also looking forward to taking part in the National BCEW Twenty20 Cup for the first time!

"Winter training went well and we have added to our coaching team with the experienced player/coach Rob Comber leading the indoor sessions alongside Tom Barton and Brian Gasking. We have seen a few new additions to the squad which is pleasing and aim to bolster the squads if we can through our community programmes across the county. Using the fantastic facilities at Beckenham and Canterbury it gives the players every opportunity to learn, have fun and also develop their game.

"We have created a partnership with the Royal Engineers using their excellent facility at The Barracks, Gillingham. It is used for a number of high profile matches by the Royal Engineers and the Army as well as our county age group girls squads."

The standout highlight achieved by the Visually Impaired squad was making it to the Regional BCEW T20 Final v Surrey, beating Dorset and Gloucester along the way – unfortunately, it was rained off and will be played early in May.

In summary, the grant helps towards the overall costs of indoor venues for training, grounds for our matches, umpires/scorers, coaches to develop players, managers to make it all happen and transport to ferry players to long distance away matches. The Primary Club is of huge importance to us.

National Blind Tenpin Bowling Association

"All our finals competitions are held in the AMF Bowl in Wigan and the twelve teams who have come in the top positions at the end of the season all come to Wigan for a weekend of competition and fun, meeting old friends and making new Friends," says Pauline Greenhalgh, voluntary fundraiser for the assocation.

"The reason we chose to play in Wigan is due to the layout of their bowling lanes. The centre is split into two halves with 14 lanes at each end of the alley. The public play on 14 lanes to the right of the main reception and we play on 14 league lanes to the left of reception.

to fund these projects...

● *Above, a new player in training; below, team skipper Hassan bowling; bottom, behind the stumps at Lord's nets.*

Metro Blind Sport

"The Primary Club donations are greatly appreciated by Metro Blind Sport and are a significant help towards promoting sport and cricket to our members," says Martin Symox from Metro Blind Sport. "As you are able to see from the photos, your support has helped to train new and current players in the game and has helped to support our teams to have a very successful and competitive season by winning the league and reaching the cup final."

This is perfect for us as it means that our visually impaired bowlers are not hindered in any way from the public or children running around us which could cause trouble for either the public or our bowlers falling or getting hurt in some way.

"The winners of our last finals were the Scouse sirs from Liverpool [pictured left] and two of their bowlers were new bowlers who had not been to our finals before.

"We like meeting new bowlers and they always tell us that they thought we had put on a great weekend for them and they would be trying hard in the next league so that they would be able to come again.

"Attending the last finals were teams from Chorley,Lewisham, Lincoln,Liverpool, Newcastle, Portsmouth, Skegness 2 teams, Slough, Stockport, Sunderland and Swindon.

"We know that none of this would be possible without the money which we receive from The Primary Club members and so we would like to show our appreciation by thanking them very much for all that they do for our members."

twitter

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

Lord Blunkett opens new Primary Club fundraiser event

Former Sheffield MP David Blunkett was the special guest and main speaker at The Primary Club's inaugural South Yorkshire lunch, at Abbeydale Sports and Social Club, Sheffield.

Primary Club Pairs Tenpin

A dozen teams from across the country descended on Sheffield for The Primary Club Pairs National Finals for players of all ages and levels of sight loss.

The league consists of 32 teams (four divisions of eight) with the top three from each division qualifying for the main final in Rotherham Bowl.

It was won by Foul-Line from Devon (Jason Aughton and Daniel Russell), and the runners-up were Balls Of Steel from Sheffield (mother and son pairing Sylvia and Kurtis Crossland).

National Tenpin chairman, Tony Clark, said "This isn't just a competition. It brings people together and does a lot for their morale. It stops them being stuck at home and gives them something to look forward to. If it wasn't for The Primary Club, we'd be struggling to host this."

What happens to your money?

"Money from The Primary Club grant was used to support the costs of our cricket club competing in a regional league," explains Claire Buckland from The Royal National College for the Blind. "It paid for things such as new kit and accommodation when fixtures meant that an overnight stay was necessary."

A grant from The Primary Club paid for two new tandems for Open Country which helps people with disabilities to access the countryside. Pictured top are members of the Harrogate Tandem Club enjoying an excursion.

Children enjoyed a six week riding course at Gartmore Riding School in Staffordshire run by the excellent Priestley Smith School in Birmingham.

"We are always so grateful for your members' support," says Heidi Linegar from Somerset VICC. "We had a fantastic 2018 season and attained second place in the National League, our best finish ever. And two of our players, Ed Hossell and Steve Cook, received national recognition in the BCEW's End of Season Awards as Partially Sighted Player of the Year and Total Player of the Year respectively."

Warren Wilson, chairman of the Cambridge Dons Goalball Club (pictured above) told us: "I wanted to take this opportunity on behalf of the whole club to thank The Primary Club for your continued support of our goalball club. At our last training session we began to introduce some juniors in our club to playing with the adults and the adult-sized ball. These are players who joined our club at around the age of 7 and are now 11. I still think it will be a little while before they are playing in national competitions, but I don't think it will be too long. It means the world to me to see juniors go through the club like this and it would not be possible without your continued support, so thank you very much.

"Our grant awarded last year not only funded our facility hire to ensure our multisports programme of visually impaired sports could continue for a further year," says Matt Cliff of Merseyside-based SAVI Northwest (SAVI). "This funding allowed us to purchase knee/elbow pads and competition standard eyeshades. The Primary Club is invaluable to us."

THE PRIMARY CLUB FORECAST RESULT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	2018/19 £ (forecast)	2017/18 £(actual)
Joining subscriptions and donations	133,000	129,864
Profit on sale of merchandise	(1,000)	855
Tax claim under Gift Aid	21,500	21,802
Interest receivable	250	231
Total income	**153,750**	**152,752**
Publicity and administration costs	(10,969)	(11,975)
Surplus for the year	142,781	140,777
Surplus from earlier years	38,463	49,344
	181,244	**190,121**
Grants (details below)	154,517	151,658
Surplus to carry forward	**26,727**	**38,463**

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

2019 GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Berkshire Stags VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Birmingham Sports Club	Futsal & goalball		6,000
Blind Cricket England & Wales	Equipment and development programme and women's VI team		12,000
Bradford & District VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
British Blind Sport	Cricket – KO Cup	4,000	
	Tenpin bowling	5,930	9,930
Cambridge Dons	Goalball expenses		2,000
Cheshire Cobras VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Derbyshire Association for the Blind	Swimming and tenpin bowling		5,000
Derbyshire Owls VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Devon Bowling Club	2019 season expenses		2,500
Devon Devils Bowling	Start-up and 2019 season expenses		5,000
Dorset Dolphins VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
English Blind Golf Association	2019 Matchplay Championship		3,000
Gloucestershire VICC	2019 season expenses		1,700
Hampshire VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Kent Spitfires VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Lancashire Lions VICC	2019 season expenses & goalball		4,300
London Futsal Club	2019 season expenses		2,562
London Sports Club	Swimming		1,000
Merton Sports Club	Hall hire & insurance		1,850
Metro	Cricket		6,000
National Blind Tenpin Bowling Assn	Winter Trios League 2018		2,500
Northants Association for the Blind	2019 radio cricket commentary		1,000
Northants Steelbacks VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
North West Scorpions FC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Nottingham Knights VICC	2019 season expenses		2,500
Open Country	Helmets, rear lights and tabards		2,000
Outlook Trust	Activity weekends		3,000
Partially Sighted Football League	Tournament expenses		3,500
Priestley Smith School	Riding lessons		3,360
Royal National College, Hereford	Cricket expenses		2,415
SAVI Northwest Merseyside	Venue hire and uniforms		3,000
Somerset VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
South East London Vision	ActiveEyes Project		6,000
Staffs Wolves VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Surrey VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Sussex Sharks VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Tandeming Together	Tandem maintenance & transport		2,800
Taunton Deane VI Bowls	2019 season expenses & equipment		2,000
VIB Somerset	Bowling club 2019 season expenses		2,000
Vision4Growth	2019 tennis tournament		1,300
Vision of Adventure	Rock-climbing weekend		1,300
Warwickshire VICC	2018 season expenses		3,000
Wavertree CC	2019 season expenses		3,000
West Glamorgan Bowls Club	2018 season expenses		2,000
Worcestershire Elizabethans VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
Yorkshire VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
			£154,517

From the Hon Sec…

Dear Member,

The figures alongside show another "middling" year for the club with income stuck at around £150,000. Of the sum of £133,000 received in donations, some £50,000 arrived by cheque (930 of them) and a further £43,000 by standing orders from 1,276 members. Legacies accounted for £21,700 and charity cheques for £7,500. The internet, via our website, accounted for just £9,600 of which about a quarter represented almost all our new members: only 94 in 2018-19, which must be, if not an all-time low, then the lowest for over forty years. Our bank has recently started charging us for paying in your money: 65p for every cheque we pay in. "Electronic" payments cost us much less – under £10 pa for all those standing orders and 35p for each daily batch of receipts via our website. We are very happy to receive your donations in whatever form it suits you to make them but standing orders (including increased standing orders) are the cheapest to collect.

Should you get round to making that new will you have been meaning to make for some time, please don't forget us.

In the last eight years, one man has done more than any other member to raise funds for the club and recruit new members: Michael Savage, who single-handedly organised a lunch in Northampton every year from 2011-2018, attracting a number of distinguished guest speakers and raising in that time in excess of £32,000. Sadly, Michael died in December 2018, shortly after last year's lunch.

Just over a month ago, Michael's example was followed by David Bentley, our Area Representative for the East Midlands who, assisted by John Spalton, raised some £6,800 at a lunch held in Sheffield at which Lord (David) Blunkett was the guest speaker. This will be the last annual newsletter to be edited by Alex Johnson and designed by Steve Cowell; the club is enormously grateful to them for all their help in the last ten years.

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

Yours sincerely

Chris Larlham

Chris Larlham

Women's VI cricket update

Four years ago The Primary Club awarded a grant to develop VI women's cricket in the UK. *John Garbett*, Head of Development at BCEW, reports on how the sport has taken off.

The BCEW Women & girls programme started in 2015, as more were starting to play VI cricket domestically and they were calling for their own international team.

It has now developed into regional centres wherever a group of players require coaching around the country, with a national get together every six weeks or so at our main centre at the wonderful Lambrook School near Ascot in Berkshire.

Three years hard training culminated in a tour to Barbados in July 2018, to take on the West Indies female VI team. It was a very interesting & illuminating trip and both squads learnt a lot from the series.

We played three development matches to prepare for the two games which were the first women's matches to be played under full international VI cricket rules, therefore cricket history was made in Barbados.

One of these games was played under lights, which was again a first for women's VI cricket and a big challenge as players slowly adapted to the new conditions, so much so that the first evening match took longer than expected and actually went past midnight into the next day, an experience that everyone present will remember for a long time to come.

We were very well prepared for the tour but still learnt much along the way and credit must also go to the West Indies squad, who came together from various islands, had limited time to practise with each other but still put up a tremendous effort throughout the series.

The UK squad returned to regional training in the autumn and we are regularly introducing new players to the programme in all three centres.

We are now in a position to hold matches with VI women & girls playing solely against each other and will play less sighted opposition this year, as this will benefit the players much more.

Although those sighted matches are still important, as they promote our game around the country and increase awareness of VI cricket.

However, for BCEW it's about much more than just the cricket. It has given the players greater fitness, improved their health & well being and generally made people feel much better about themselves.

The programme is also improving the social side of life for everyone involved, as they meet new people and become firm friends outside cricket.

They might also meet people with the same conditions and be able to discuss obstacles they might encounter on a daily basis and how they overcome these, as well as comparing things like new technology and how to get the best out of this with their particular sight condition.

At present, all of the coaches are VI as well and the programme has been a positive experience for everyone, including the sighted helpers who have been invaluable for us.

We are now planning for the next series, which we are hoping will be a home one in the summer of 2020.

There are now new female teams in India & Pakistan to go with the already established Nepal, West Indies & UK squads, therefore the women & girls game is developing well around the world.

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

SAVI Northwest

SAVI is based in Merseyside and develops inclusive sports opportunities for blind and partially sighted people.

"Here are some of our members competing in a goalball competition," writes coach Matt Cliff. "Our grant awarded last year funded our facility hire to ensure our multisports programme of visually impaired sports could continue for a further year.

"But this funding also allowed us to purchase knee/elbow pads and competition standard eyeshades. The Primary Club is invaluable to us."