Members' Newsletter May 2020

The Primary Club

The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted

INSIDE: Blind cricket's best innings – p2 | Where your money goes – p4-5 | Primary Club Ashes – p6 | Quiz – p8

BLIND CRICKET 2019

Fantastic Mr Field

The gongs were shared out but one individual performance from Sussex Sharks' Dan Field stood out above all others

Blind cricket enjoyed its most open year ever in 2019 with 11 different clubs taking the various player and team trophies, including two finals held over from 2018 due to rain.

Whether it was first-time winners like Northants Steelbacks who claimed the Blind Cricket England and Wales (BCEW) National League title by a massive 31 points or London Metro winning the BBS Cup for a record 17th time – but the first time since 2009 – anyone who claimed one trophy didn't manage to get their hands on a second one.

Dan Field played possibly the greatest ever blind cricket innings in this country to lead Sussex Sharks to an extraordinary five-wicket win over London Metro in the final of the 2019 BCEW David Townley Memorial Twenty20 Cup at Wolverhampton CC.

Sussex's day had started with a hard-fought 24-run semi-final win over 2019 National League winners Northants Steelbacks. Field, who was part of the England VI team that played Pakistan in the UAE last November, made a substantial contribution of 87 in that game too.

In the final, Metro were sent in first and racked up a mammoth 260 for 1 with England VI star Matt Dean hammering 156 not out. But Field then took centre stage with an epic 220 not out from only 86 balls with 17 fours and 12 sixes that won the game for Sussex.

Shark attack: Dan Field hits out against Northants (above); the victorious Sussex team (left)

ROLL OF HONOUR

2019 Trophies

BCEW National League
Northants Steelbacks

BBS Primary Club Heindrich Swanepoel Memorial Cup
London Metro

BCEW David Townley Memorial Twenty20 Cup
Sussex Sharks

BCEW Midland Regional League
Worcestershire Elizabethans

BCEW Northern Regional League
Durham Viper Jets

BCEW Southern Regional League
Surrey VICC

BCEW Brian Johnston Memorial Trust Development Festival
Derbyshire Owls

BCEW Southern Regional Twenty20 Cup
Gloucestershire Growlers

BCEW Spirit Of Cricket Award
Yorkshire Vikings

2018 Trophies Held Over Due To Rain

BCEW David Townley Memorial Twenty20 Cup
Somerset VICC

BCEW Southern Regional Twenty20 Cup
Kent Spitfires

BCEW's Most Promising Player of the Year David Howells (right)

Cook's clean sweep

Following their shock BCEW National League triumph **Northants Steelbacks** dominated the end-of-season awards with four wins. Gav Griffiths was named Total Player of the Year, Gerald Porter regained Wicketkeeper of the Year, David Howells took Most Promising Player of the Year whilst Shah Miah and Somerset's Ed Hossell were the first ever joint winners of an award, Partially Sighted Player of the Year.

Hossell and his Somerset teammate Steve Cook both set records: in Hossell's case his two awards this season bring him level with Nathan Foy for the joint most awards received by a single player.

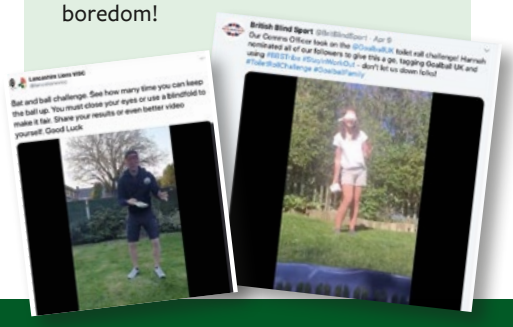
Cook's record is even more impressive as he became the first player to complete a clean sweep of every award he is eligible to receive having won Most Promising Player and Total Fielder in 2016, Total Bowler of the Year in 2017 and Total Batsman of the Year in 2018 and 2019.

Lockdown in Lancs

Social media was awash with weird and wonderful ways for cricket-starved fans and players to pass the time during coronavirus lockdown.

Various members of Lancashire Lions VISC promoted a blindfold bat and ball challenge, posting videos of trying to keep a ball in the air using a cricket bat.

Also pictured is the British Blind Sport communications officer taking on a challenge from Goalball UK to land toilet rolls in a basket while blindfolded. Anything to stave off the boredom!



From the editor
John Stern

Welcome to the 2020 Primary Club newsletter. This is my first as editor, although I have had the privilege of being a trustee for some years.

I have been ably assisted in the newsletter's production by Nigel Davies, a terrific designer and a former colleague from our days together on *The Cricketer* magazine. I am grateful also to my predecessor Alex Johnson for his help and guidance, and to Dave Gavrilovic for providing so much vital information and imagery from all the competitions run by Blind Cricket England & Wales (see page 2).

It is impossible to do justice to all the amazing, selfless and inspirational work that could not happen without your support but hopefully we've given you a flavour of what took place in 2019.

There are one or two innovations: test your cricketing knowledge with our quiz about the primaries of 2019. That's on the back page which also includes an exclusive Primary Club members' offer to receive discounted subscriptions to *Wisden Cricket Monthly* magazine (which includes regular articles by me but otherwise represents terrific value for money) and the quarterly from the Wisden stable, *The Nightwatchman*.

These have been especially testing times for the most vulnerable in society, and for anyone involved in sport and recreation. The Primary Club needs your support more than ever.

You can contact me by email: **editor@primaryclub.org**; please follow us on Twitter **@ThePrimaryClub**; and visit the website **www.primaryclub.org**

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 player in a home Test, is invoked by (and confirmed officially to the Primary Club by *Test Match Special* scorer Andrew Samson):

- **S C J Broad** c Smith b Lyon, 2nd innings v Australia, Edgbaston, 5 August
- **J E Root** c Paine b Cummins, 2nd innings v Australia, Lord's, 17 August
- **J E Root** b Cummins, 2nd innings v Australia, Old Trafford, 7 September

A primary need

Mike Brace CBE, Primary Club trustee and former Paralympian, explains why the Club's role is more important than ever

The need for the Primary Club, and the support it offers for sport and physical recreation for the blind and partially sighted, has never been greater.

I have been a trustee for nearly 40 years and have seen the range of sports undertaken by the visually impaired grow, but so too have the costs of providing specialist facilities and equipment. With 70% of working-age vision-impaired people unemployed, the affordability of participation is a key factor.

The Primary Club grants have been a lifeline to many budding sports men and women which have enabled clubs and organisations to provide the opportunities to participate in many sports initially with cricket but subsequently in sound-tennis, goalball, athletics, swimming, winter sports, shooting, archery and many more. As someone who is totally blind I have experienced first-hand just how much the Primary Club have contributed to the active lives of many VI people.

Forty years ago, 95% of children and young people with a VI were educated in special schools. This is where many learned to play sport without sight. Nowadays, less than 5% of VI children and young people are educated in special schools and their opportunities to undertake sport of any kind largely comes from local charity groups and sports clubs many of which have been supported by the Primary Club.

Some have gone on to represent their country at the highest level, and others have just revelled in the freedom of movement that sport can provide. One of the most memorable grants that I have had the privilege to make as a trustee, was to a school to provide a specialist auditory/soft play area for the severely physically and visually disabled children.

> "I have experienced first-hand how much the Primary Club contributes to the active lives of VI people"

Levels of obesity in the VI population are estimated to be at least double that of the non-disabled and once the current crisis is over, the need to re-establish a wide range of sporting and physical activity will be greater than ever, and that is where you come in.

All your donations help

WAVERTREE CRICKET CLUB

Everyone's a winner

Wavertree CC have shown how a community club can grow cricket for the visually impaired with benefits for all

"Our performance indicators are not trophies, they're smiling members," says Phill O'Brien, chairman of Wavertree Cricket Club in Liverpool. "Members are members, there are no divisions and the VI section is integral to the club."

Eamon Preston, 42, has been blind since birth and towards the end of the 2015 summer went with a friend to the club to attend a charity game of blind cricket. "We met Phill and asked if we could come and play," recalls Eamon. "The upshot of that was four weeks of taster sessions."

Four years on Wavertree has a thriving VI section with, in 2019, 20 members which is a significant boost for a club that has 35 adult sighted members. For the past two seasons they have had a team, Wavertree Merseyside, in the BCEW Northern Regional League, finishing third last season behind Durham Viper Jets and Yorkshire Vikings but ahead of Lancashire Lions.

> "Having a VI section has enhanced the culture of the whole club"

"Our membership ranges from teenagers to people in their 70s," says Eamon. "We have men and women of all ages and all abilities. We have a very diverse membership and a very strong offer in my mind.

"Another real positive is that it's part of an existing community club. It's not come about from board level needing to tick a box, it's grown out of the local community and that's really special.

"I was in specialist education and played a lot of sport through school and college but stopped when I went to university. I didn't realise how much of a gap it had left in my life. Getting back involved at Wavertree has shown me the benefit of sport and that it's not too late for me or anyone else – if I can get back into it anyone can."

The organic growth of a VI section out of an existing community club has enriched the lives of both the VI and sighted players at Wavertree. "The VI section has enhanced the culture of the club," says Phill, "we're incredibly grateful for the support of the Primary Club."

Recognition: Martin Wilson receives his award from former England selector David Graveney

Inspiring others

When **MARTIN WILSON** was named Volunteer Coach of Year at the ECB's prestigious ECB Coach Awards last November, he reflected on quite a personal journey.

"To think 30 years ago I was in a psychiatric ward, having had a breakdown," he says. "But this is what I've fought for – I always believed that I would achieve something in my life."

Martin, 57, is a player and coach with Yorkshire VICC, a regular recipient of Primary Club grants. He is an ECB-qualified Level 2 coach, has been playing for Yorkshire for around seven years and has a low level of partial sight. Despite this Martin has taken on responsibility for coaching Yorkshire's new and developing players especially around their Regional League team.

Martin has coached in schools across Yorkshire as part of Yorkshire VICC's Children In Need schools project, coaching both visually impaired children and fully sighted ones including giving those with full sight the chance to play VI cricket with sim specs to experience what it is like for their visually impaired classmates.

Wilson has also been a member of the coaching team supporting the UK Women's VI cricket team in their first series against West Indies and remains with the squad as they build towards a potential first home series in 2020.

"I'm a very independent guy," says Martin. "I use this as my wellbeing, my growth in life. I get real joy when children love their cricket and say they can't wait to come again. It inspires people that even with severe sight loss you can achieve something in life."

to fund these projects...

PARTIALLY SIGHTED FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Growing the game

The PSFL welcomed new clubs – and returning international heroes – in 2019

The Partially Sighted Football League (PSFL) were excited to welcome back the Royal National College for the Blind (RNC) for the 2019-20 season.

Pleasingly, RNC included two female players in their squad, Meme Robertson and fully-sighted goalkeeper Katie Christopher, which the PSFL hope will inspire more women to get involved.

RNC were not the only new additions with Cambridge United, Merseyside and Nantwich Wolves also joining.

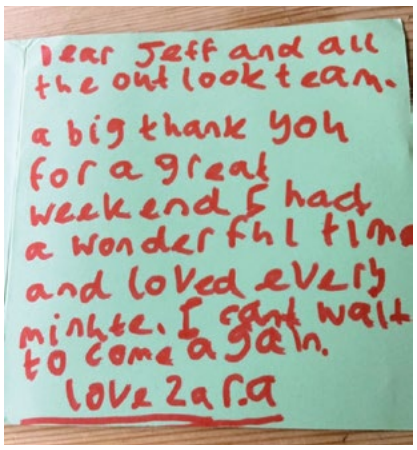
In February, the fourth instalment of the league season took place in Manchester where members of the England B2/B3 squad were welcomed having recently returned with the silver medal from the IBSA Partially-Sighted World Championships in Turkey. The players each brought along their medals and shirts.

PSFL chair George Ferguson says: "The Primary Club funding helped immensely

for the 2019-20 season, allowing us to focus more on delivery without the usual stress of fundraising. We are so grateful for the wonderful generosity of the Primary Club and all the people who donate and fundraise. Without this support, the PSFL would struggle to deliver its annual national programme, which for many, is their primary or only sporting engagement."

> "Without the Primary Club, the PSFL would struggle to deliver its national programme"

The PSFL is based on futsal, the globally popular condensed version of football. The League season is contested over six monthly tournaments between October and March. Two Cup competitions bookend the season. Sight classifications are based on visual acuity and visual field and in order to play players must be classified as B2-B5. Goalkeepers may be fully-sighted.



"I loved every minute"

The Outlook Trust provides fun activity breaks for blind and visually-impaired children

The Outlook Trust was more in demand than ever in 2019 with all of their weekends full or over-subscribed. In all 68 places were provided on their residential weekends for blind and VI kids.

Beyond having fun and adventures, the aims of the OT are to build self-confidence, develop independent living skills and make new friends.

"It is the smiles on our youngsters' faces, the achievements and their development which continues to motivate all of our team of dedicated volunteers – they are seeing the value of what we do," says OT trustee Jeff Davies, who adds how much they appreciate the support of the Primary Club. Indeed the Club donated one of the boats – Out for a Duck – used for the regular trips on Lake Windermere (see below).

Ashes spirit: the two teams (above) and captains Nathan Reay (left), from the Primary Club of Australia, and Euan Spence before the game

Rain saves Australia

The Primary Club Ashes was a soggy stalemate in the end with the Poms on top

While the 'real' Ashes kicked off last August barely noticed in Birmingham, the attention of two nations was focused on Beckenham where the Primary Club Ashes was taking place.

"The Primary Club Ashes has a long history," wrote Rob Stevenson of the Primary Club of Australia, whose president is the much-loved commentator Jim Maxwell. "It would be one of the highlights of our tour to play this declaration Ashes game at Beckenham Sports Club." Indeed, the Australian team contained one man, Rick Glover, who had played in the first Primary Club Ashes back in 1982.

Sadly, rain curtailed the match with the Poms very much on top. The Australian tourists were reeling at 73 for 6 with Charlie Le Bosquet taking 2 for 19.

Earlier, having won the toss, our own Primary Club side – described by Stevenson as a "strong and young team" – made a very presentable 255 for 7 declared with Beckenham's Ross Piller making a magnificent 109. Skipper Euan Spence, also a Primary Club trustee, made 62 before being stumped.

The Aussies slipped to 18 for 3 but recovered somewhat before the weather intervened. "After some shocking luck on tour, being saved by the rain was some welcome good fortune," Stevenson added. "A great day which will hopefully help to further the relationship of the Primary Club in both countries and advance the interests of the charity."

> "It was a great privilege to play our Australian counterparts and the spirit of camaraderie was clear throughout"

Spence said: "It was a great privilege to play our Australian counterparts, and the spirit of camaraderie was clear throughout. The weather may have brought an early end to proceedings on the field, but in the best traditions of the Primary Club of both the UK and Australia, merely allowed an earlier start to the post-match libations."

Those libations all helped towards almost £500 being raised from various sources on the day for the Primary Club.

The world at their wheels

In 2019, the tandem clubs of Open Country collectively cycled more than the circumference of the globe and enjoyed a wonderful cycling weekend riding right across Wales.

"Our disabled riders achieve great things and none of this would be permissible without the support of organisations like the Primary Club," says project officer David Shaftoe.

Open Country was established 30 years ago to help people with disabilities to access the beautiful Yorkshire countryside. One of the charity's most popular activities is the Tandem Club that operates in Harrogate, Ripon, Wakefield, Wetherby and York.

One evening a week a group of volunteers give their time to be the front rider on a tandem, with a disabled person at the rear. Many of the Club's members have a visual impairment, which would make it impossible to ride a solo cycle even a short distance and some have other disabilities at high risk of loneliness and social isolation. The camaraderie that the club offers to members old and new can often be the only meaningful social interaction that some members enjoy.

THE PRIMARY CLUB
FORECAST RESULT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	2019/20 £ (forecast)	2018/19 £ (actual)
Joining subscriptions and donations	107,659	141,385
Profit on sale of merchandise	(100)	(232)
Tax claim under Gift Aid	21,700	21,052
Interest receivable	179	196
Total income	**129,438**	**162,401**
Publicity and administration costs	(11,718)	(11,029)
Surplus for the year	117,720	151,372
Surplus from earlier years	35,318	38,463
	153,038	**189,835**
Grants (details below)	136,962	154,517
Surplus to carry forward	**16,076**	**35,318**

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

2020 GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Berkshire Stags VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Birmingham Sports Club	Futsal & goalball		6,000
Blind Cricket England & Wales	Equipment and development programme and women's VI team		10,500
Bradford & District VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
British Blind Sport	Cricket - KO Cup	3,000	
	Tenpin bowling	5,980	8,980
Cambridge Dons	Goalball expenses		2,000
Cheshire Cobras VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Derbyshire Assoc for the Blind	Swimming and tenpin bowling		5,000
Derbyshire Owls VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Devon Bowling Club	2020 season expenses		2,500
Devon Devils Bowling	2020 season expenses		2,500
Dorset Dolphins VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Durham VICC	2019 season expenses		3,000
English Blind Golf Assoc	2020 Matchplay Championship		3,000
Gloucestershire VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Hampshire VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Kent Spitfires VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Lancashire Lions VICC	2020 season expenses & goalball		4,300
London Futsal Club	2020 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 2019		2,500
Northants Steelbacks VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
North West Scorpions FC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Open Country	Tandem		1,700
Partially Sighted Football Lge	Tournament expenses		3,500
Royal National College, Hereford	2020 season expenses		2,670
SAVI Northwest Merseyside	Venue hire and uniforms		3,000
Scottish Blind Golf	2019 strokeplay tournament		2,000
Somerset VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Staffs Wolves VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Surrey VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Sussex Sharks VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Tandeming Together	Tandem maintenance & transport		2,800
Taunton Deane VI Bowls	2020 season expenses & equipment		2,000
VIB Somerset	Bowling club 2020 season expenses		2,000
Vision4Growth	2020 tennis tournament		1,300
Vision of Adventure	Rock-climbing weekend		1,300
Wavertree CC	2020 season expenses		3,000
West Glamorgan Bowls Club	2019 season expenses		2,000
Worcs Elizabethans VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
Yorkshire VICC	2020 season expenses		3,000
			£136,962

From the Hon Sec...

Dear Member,

I am writing these words just after Easter, when no one knows when, or indeed if, there will be any cricket played, at any level, in the English 2020 season. Admittedly, there are rather more pressing concerns, and different people have found different ways to while away all the time they have on their hands now that they cannot play or watch (live) cricket.

One thing that is not uncertain is the fact that the Club's net income in the year just ended fell by over 20% to £117,720, necessitating an 11% reduction in the grants we were able to make – and that only by dint of halving our ever-dwindling reserves.

I am well aware that now is not the best time to be asking for money, but the clubs in receipt of our grants will be needed even more once people can get out and about. As always, apart from returning the donation form enclosed with this newsletter with a cheque, you can pay online via our website; or you could set up a standing order. You can download a form from our website (click on 'Donate' and then on the link to the standing order form). You can then either complete the form in the old-fashioned way and return it to me in the envelope included with this mailing or use our bank details contained within it to set up a standing order online (in which case an email confirming the date and amount would be much appreciated).

On a lighter note, I much enjoyed this letter published in *The Times* on 14 April: "Your contributors' reflections on what they will (or won't) miss about cricket matches this April reminded me of the quote by the comedy writer Denis Norden: "It's a funny kind of month, October. For the really keen cricket fan, it's when you discover that your wife left you in May."

This is the first issue of our newsletter to be edited by John Stern who, apart from being one of our trustees, has been a cricket writer for many years and is a former editor of *The Cricketer*. I hope you like it.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Larlham

Chris Larlham

QUIZ

Super Over: Six fiendish deliveries about primaries from 2019

There are 14 runs to be scored here in this high-intensity finish (answers at bottom of page)

1 Which England batsman achieved the first of his two primaries in last summer's ICC Men's World Cup when he was caught behind off the second ball of the whole tournament? ***1 run***

2 Which South Africa bowler got him out before himself being dismissed first ball later in the match? ***1 run***

3 Which England bowler removed Australian Aaron Finch for a primary in the semi-final but was then out first ball in the final? ***1 run***

4 How many batsmen were dismissed for first-ball ducks in the 2019 World Cup? ***1 run for getting within three either way or a sweetly-struck 4 for getting it spot on***

5 In England's first Test against Australia at Edgbaston, Stuart Broad was dismissed for his third Ashes primary – but how many he has had overall in his Test career? ***2 runs***

6 Which Sri Lankan bowler was responsible for a remarkable FOUR primaries in a single T20 international innings last September? ***1 run. But there are overthrows here – for additional runs can you name any of the four hapless New Zealand batsmen who secured their Primary Club membership?***

MEMBERS' OFFER

Discounts on *Wisden Cricket Monthly* and *The Nightwatchman*

We've secured exclusive discounts on these two popular titles to ensure you're well stocked with first-class cricket writing whatever the time of year.

Wisden Cricket Monthly
Pay just £35.99 (Direct Debit) / £39.99 (card or cheque) when you take out a 12-month subscription with the offer code **PC20**. Order at **wisdensubs.com** or by calling 01293 312094.

The Nightwatchman
Pay just £22.95 + p&p (that's £29.95 for UK delivery) when you take out a rolling subscription with the offer code **PC20**. Order at **thenightwatchman.net** or by calling 0203 696 5730.

The *Pinch Hitter* tees off

TriNorth Communications, the company behind the *Nightwatchman* and *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, also recently launched the Pinch Hitter, a new fortnightly digital publication created to support and fund freelancers – writers, editors, photographers, illustrators or podcasters – at this time when their usual income streams have potentially dried up. You can read the magazine and donate at **www.thenightwatchman.net**

Answers: *1 Jonny Bairstow; 2 Imran Tahir; 3 Jofra Archer; 4 28; 5 Nine; 6 Lasith Malinga. NZ batsmen: Hamish Rutherford; Colin de Grandhomme; Ross Taylor; Scott Kuggeleijn.*