

# THE PRIMARY CLUB

*The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted*



INSIDE: Northants' cup double – p2 | Where your money goes – p4-5 | Marathon success – p6 | New chair – p8

**BLIND CRICKET 2021**

# Steelbacks seal Cup double

Northants' BBS Cup win over holders London Metro was a see-sawing drama for the history books

In the space of a dramatic fortnight last September, Northants Steelbacks became only the second team to win both the BBS Primary Club Heindrich Swanepoel Memorial Cup and the BCEW David Townley Memorial Twenty20 Cup in the same season.

At Wolverhampton CC in the T20 final, Northants provided a bowling and fielding masterclass. Gav Griffiths, in the final game of his 35 year career, took 3 for 11 as the Steelbacks dismissed Somerset for just 47. Northants won by ten wickets with 15 overs remaining.

Two weeks later came one of the most dramatic finals in the 42-year history of the BBS Primary Club Cup. At Wantage Road, home of Northamptonshire CCC, first-time finalists Northants faced Cup holders London Metro, who had already lifted the trophy on 17 occasions as well as securing the 2021 BCEW National League title.

Replying to Northants' 187 for 7, Metro slipped to 13 for 3 thanks to an excellent spell by Northants skipper Dave Keeling, who finished with 5 for 22, the second best cup final bowling figures in the competition's history.

**“The reactions were a mixture of cheers and tears”**

Halfway through their innings Metro were 89 for 5 but Damion Corrigan took control and with ten overs left they needed only 40 with four wickets in hand. With six overs left, they were 164 for 9 with Corrigan 90 not out. The tension was palpable as Asif Ali ran in to bowl the first ball of the 25th over, which took the edge of Corrigan's bat before reaching the safe hands of keeper Gerald Porter to seal this unlikely win. The reactions as Porter held the catch were a combination of delight and astonishment from the Northants players, a mixture of cheers and tears, realising they had achieved something that most had never thought possible.

This seals a remarkable rise for Northants who just 15 matches ago had never won a major trophy, now with the 2019 BCEW National League Title and the 2021 Cup double they have become just the third team to lift all three major trophies.

British Blind Sport vice-chair and cricket competitions secretary Dave Gavrilovic said: "Everyone involved would like to thank the Primary Club for their continued support of this competition and of blind cricket in general. We would also like to thank Derek Styman and his team at Northamptonshire CCC for the brilliant job they've done hosting the final in this most challenging of years."



The moment: Metro's Damion Corrigan edges behind to Northants' keeper Gerald Porter



**Lois Turner of Surrey VICC, BCEW Women's Player of the Year**

## BCEW ROLL OF HONOUR

**Partially Sighted Player of the Year**  
(joint winners)

**Asif Ali** (Northants Steelbacks)

**Ed Hossell** (Somerset VICC)

**Total Player of the Year**

**Dave Daniels** (Sussex Sharks)

**Low Partial Player of the Year**

**Rashid Khan** (Lancashire Lions)

**Women's Player of the Year**

**Lois Turner** (Surrey VICC)

**Partially Sighted Batter of the Year**

**Matt Dean** (London Metro)

**Total Batter of the Year**

**Mark Turnham** (Northants Steelbacks)

**Partially Sighted Bowler of the Year**

**Wasim Afridi** (Lancashire Lions)

**Total Bowler of the Year**

**Amjad Khan** (Lancashire Lions)

**Partially Sighted Fielder of the Year**

**David Howells** (Northants Steelbacks)

**Total Fielder of the Year**

**Amin Afshari** (Kent Spitfires)

**Wicketkeeper of the Year**

**Gerald Porter** (Northants Steelbacks)

**Most Promising Player of the Year**

**Phil Daniels** (Sussex Sharks)

**Umpire of the Year**

**Rob Hodgkinson**

**Scorer of the Year**

**Yvette Bailey**

**Spirit of Cricket**

**Wavertree Merseyside CC**

**The Charles Ronayne Award For Outstanding Contribution to VI Cricket**

**Neil Robson**

### Competition Winners

**BCEW National League Division One**  
**London Metro**

**BBS Primary Club Heindrich Swanepoel Memorial Cup**  
**Northants Steelbacks**

**BCEW David Townley Memorial Twenty20 Cup**  
**Northants Steelbacks**

**BCEW National League Division Two**  
**Sussex Sharks**



## From the editor

John Stern

The past year or so has not – Joe Root aside – been one of the great batting vintages for the England men’s Test team.

But it has been a bumper harvest for the primary, the bitter-sweet blob of failure that is the cornerstone of this wonderful charity and helps raise much-needed funds. England Test batters suffered five first-ballers last summer (see below) including Sam Curran’s king pair at Lord’s against India. In 2021, there were 13 England golden ducks and another in the final Ashes Test in January.

By my reckoning (via ESPNcricinfo’s remarkable Statsguru search engine), the last time England’s Test side suffered more first-ballers in a home season was back in the heatwave summer of 1976 when the West Indies quicks were too hot to handle. There were six primaries in that series and, unfortunately, two of them belonged to our patron Derek Underwood.

After an abbreviated newsletter in 2021, we’re back to our customary eight pages with lots to report on the sort of activities that your donations help to make possible. Thanks, in particular, to Nigel Davies, our excellent designer.

These past two years have been challenging for all of us, in particular for anyone with a vision impairment or indeed other disabilities. Sport and recreation provide vital boosts to physical and mental health as well as cherished opportunities for social activity. Your support is so valuable.

You can contact me by email: [editor@primaryclub.org](mailto:editor@primaryclub.org); follow us on Twitter [@ThePrimaryClub](https://twitter.com/ThePrimaryClub); and visit [www.primaryclub.org](http://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):

- **JR Bracey** c Mitchell b Boult, v New Zealand at Edgbaston, 10 June
- **SCJ Broad** b Bumrah, v India at Trent Bridge, 7 August
- **H Hameed** b Siraj, v India at Lord’s, 13 August
- **SM Curran** c RG Sharma b I Sharma, v India at Lord’s, 14 August
- **SM Curran** c Pant b Siraj, v India at Lord’s, 16 August

# Vital support

Mike Brace CBE DL charts the history of blind cricket and reiterates the importance of the Primary Club’s funding



I was introduced to blind cricket in the 1960s when its presence was limited, almost exclusively, to special schools.

At this time 98% of children and young people with a vision impairment were educated in special schools, so there were enough to play team sports.

Outside the education system there were very few sports or cricket clubs. Metro was formed in 1973 and immediately began to challenge the supremacy of WCOB, the old boys’ team from Worcester College for the Blind.

British Blind Sport (BBS) was established in the 1970s, bringing together the growing number of teams from all over England. Rules, sight classification and play area specifications were established.

Metro flourished, benefiting from the profile of their president, Brian Johnston, the BBC broadcaster and *Test Match Special* commentator. They played exhibition matches

against VI and sighted teams, including an anniversary match at Lord’s against a number of England and Middlesex players.

The profile of VI cricket was highest in the 1990s with Johnston promoting the work of The Primary Club regularly on *TMS*. Johnston spoke at Metro’s 20th anniversary dinner at Lord’s in 1993 shortly before his death in early 1994.

Clothing and equipment has also gone through a major overhaul. In the 1960s everything, including the ball and stumps, was white which created difficulties for those with some sight. We now have coloured balls, stumps and kits.

The process of integrated education of the vision impaired into mainstream schools has grown apace, with clubs now the main provider of sporting opportunities for the vision impaired and others with disabilities. The Primary Club’s funding, which has enabled teams to travel sometimes hundreds of miles to play, is more vital than ever. With roughly 70% of the vision-impaired in England of working age unemployed, many could not afford to play without the Primary Club’s support.

**“Many vision-impaired people could not afford to play without the Club’s support”**



Winners: London Metro, founded in 1973, with the 2021 league trophy

# All your donations help

## Bringing pages to life



The senses of hearing and touch are used to allow blind and visually impaired children to read, thanks to Living Paintings

Living Paintings' unique multimedia Touch to See books reveal the visual world to children who cannot see. Using audio descriptions and tactile images blind children can go on journeys of exploration, discovery and learning too.

The Primary Club first supported Living Paintings in 2012, helping the publication of three sport-related books: *Wonder Goal*; *The Olympics: Flaming Torches and Glittering Prizes*; and *The Olympic and Paralympic Games: Small Beginnings*.

A decade on from the memorable events of London 2012, we are helping Living Paintings produce a new Touch to See book based on sporting heroes, as recommended by Living Paintings' beneficiaries.

The Touch to See books are distributed across the country via post from the charity's library service free of charge, and help children learn to read and support students in school. Currently 1,800 blind and partially sighted children and teenagers benefit from the service with the pandemic increasing demand for the Touch to See books by 25%.

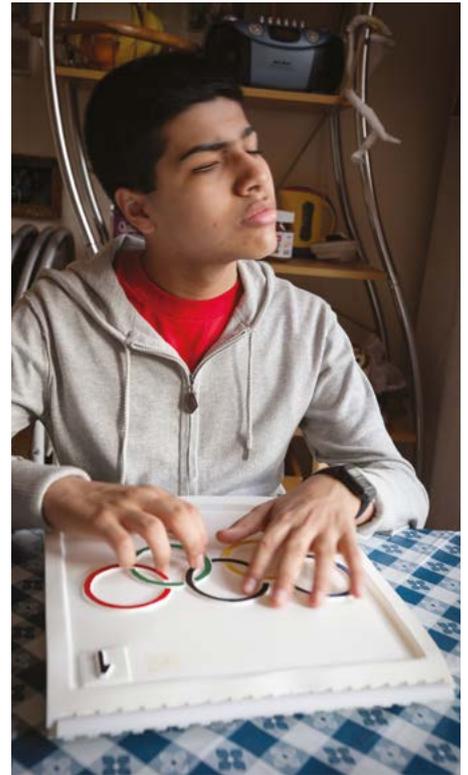
Every day the parents of four children will hear that their precious child is, or

**“I have a long history with Living Paintings and they have had a massive impact on my life”**

will become blind. It is a devastating diagnosis, leaving them uncertain as to how their child can ever join in with story time at nursery, follow school work with their sighted peers or make friends. As well as the educational impact, blind children face real social exclusion, as they struggle to join in conversations about the visually informed subjects that form the basis for so much social interaction including sport.

Louis is 19 and has been completely blind since he was 18 months old as a result of neuroblastoma, a type of children's cancer. "My parents didn't really know where to turn for children's books," says Louis, "but then they discovered Living Paintings when I was about two and I am still involved at 19! I have a long history with Living Paintings and they have had a massive impact on my life.

"To sum up Living Paintings, I would ask a sighted person to close your eyes and imagine you can't open them again. This is how it is and now you want to read a book, but how are you going to do that? How important is reading a book to you? Then you discover Living Paintings and the books are full of characters you've heard about and imagined all the time. They have been on the TV, you've listened to the audio books, you may have had the books read to you and you never quite understood what they looked like and now, because of Living Paintings you can."



Touch and see: Luca reading the Olympic Rings (top) and a page from Wonder Goals (above)

## Increase in VI coaches

Early this year, 11 people from the VI game, including nine players, completed the Level 2 coaching course, run by the ECB in conjunction with BCEW.

The qualification allows these coaches to run sessions anywhere, but specifically within VI cricket, to help develop players at their local VI clubs.

This was the fourth Level 2 course of its kind but the first to be organised mainly through

online tuition, with the final assessment being in person over a full weekend in Sheffield, which also incorporated the first aid course.

There were participants from VI clubs in Birmingham, Derbyshire, Kent, Somerset, Staffordshire and Wavertree Merseyside, plus the UK women's and girls' programme.

Special thanks go to Kevin Gresham and Dale Kerruish from the Yorkshire Cricket Board, who ran the course.



On course: a totally blind player batting during the 2021 coaching course

# to fund these projects...

## ARCHERY

# Target practice

Carol Davies reports on the highly anticipated return of competitive VI archery after a two-year break because of the pandemic

The excitement and happiness of the archers to be back shooting was palpable. Last September, supported by the Primary Club, members of the British Blind Sport Archery Section came from all corners of the UK to Lilleshall to compete in 'The Worshipful Company of Fletchers Disability Championship', hosted by Archery GB. This was the first competitive shoot for nearly two years.

The following day, visually impaired archers competed in the World Archery 30-metre competition, shooting six dozen arrows on an 80cm face to decide the ranking order for the head to head rounds. This means that the lowest ranked archer will compete against the highest, and so on. It can be quite a challenge for the lower ranking archers but anything can happen if you can hold your nerve.

There were some very close head to heads and the results did not reflect how close and nail-biting some of them were. To add to the pressure there were a large number of spectators watching and supporting their favourite in the shoot off.

**Roger Rees Evans and Stuart Rodgers** competed for a place in the final. In a head to head each archer shoots three arrows: the highest score is awarded two points, for a draw they get one point each. The first to reach six points wins. Stuart

won the first two rounds giving him a four-point lead before Roger fought back to draw level. It was all on the final round of arrows to decide the winner or, if they both had the same score after shooting their final three arrows each, it would go to a one arrow a piece shootout. Roger held his nerve winning the last round and a place in the final.

**Clive Jones and Roger Rees Evans:** after shooting a personal best in the World Archery 30-metre competition Clive went on to win his head to head 6-0 against Trish Greysmith to take him through to the final against Roger Rees Evans. The first two rounds were taken by Roger gaining him a valuable four-point lead. Clive was now playing catch up but was not going to let this put him off and managed to pull back the next two rounds levelling up the points to 4-4. After the next round, the score was 5-5 and it was now down to a one arrow shoot off. Clive prevailed, taking the gold medal and his place in the GB team for the World Para Archery Championships in Dubai in February.

By the end of the weekend archers and spotters alike were all feeling pretty tired – two competitions in two days after a near two year forced break will do that! But everyone did tremendously well to rise to the challenge.



Podium finish: (left to right) Peter Price with guide dog Kirby; Steve Prowse with wife and spotter Lesley; and Phil Tranter

## TENPIN BOWLING



Top bowlers: the Misfits

# Misfits fit the bill

It was an all south-western affair at Rotherham Superbowl

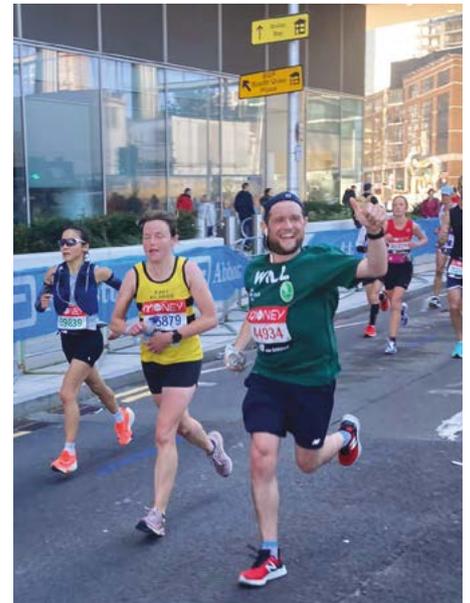
Fourteen teams from all over the country descended on Rotherham last November for the first staging of the Primary Club Trios ten-pin bowling competition, run by British Blind Sport.

The bowling competition, held at Rotherham Superbowl, was a very close affair with the top three places all taken up from teams from the south west of England. The Misfits, from Taunton, won ahead of the Somerset Rebels, with Up Against It, also from Taunton, coming third.

This tournament, which is completely funded by The Primary Club, was "a great success", according to BBS Tenpin chair Tony Clark.



Runners-up: Somerset Rebels (top) and Up Against It (above)



# It's a marathon AND a sprint

Journalist Will Macpherson ran the London Marathon for the Primary Club last October and completed it in an eye-wateringly quick time – here are his recollections

When the pandemic arrived and my faintly interesting professional and social lives ground to a halt, I turned to running to cure the boredom.

You may remember that the early weeks of the lockdown in Spring 2020 were stunning – much better than this year! – so I took to the streets of south London on my legally permitted daily dose of exercise.

Soon, I found I couldn't stop (I had nothing else to do). I had run a bit here and there since university as organised sport drifted out of my life, but never as regularly as I was now. Word got around that I was pounding the capital's deserted streets and, through my job (I am cricket correspondent of the *Evening Standard*), I was lucky enough to be offered the Primary Club's place in the London Marathon for 2021 by trustee Paul Doyle and the team. It would be my first.

The Marathon was initially meant to

take place in April, as it had for 40 years. But the pandemic put paid to that and, fortunately for me, it was moved to October. This allowed me to train in the warmer summer months and take in the routes of Nottingham, Leeds, Manchester and other cities as I travelled the country watching England's men. By the time race day arrived, I felt ready(ish), but still had no idea what to expect.

I had been told, often, that adrenaline would kick in as I ran, and that I would be carried along by the crowd. Having never played any sport in front of a crowd of more than a few dozen, I thought this unlikely.

I was very wrong. The crowds were immense, from the early trot through Greenwich and south east London to the desperate final few miles along the river.

**“The atmosphere from the crowd was electric, and really did help”**

I have no doubt people came out in greater numbers because the weather was beautiful, but it probably also helped that, this being October 2021, it was now two and a half years since the London Marathon had been held properly (there was a virtual event in October 2020, with runners plotting their own routes all over the country to prevent people gathering together). The atmosphere they created was electric, and really did help.

I had felt that if were I to have the perfect day, I could get inside three hours 20 minutes. The weather (15° and blue skies all the way round) was just about perfect for running, and the crowd made a huge difference. With that help, I surpassed even my wildest expectations, and finished in three hours, eight minutes.

This was a hugely rewarding experience, and hopefully the Club felt it worthwhile too, with plenty of funds raised (£4,983). But please don't ask again – my legs won't forgive me!

## What's coming up in blind and VI cricket

There's plenty to look forward to in the coming year with the planned Blind Ashes trip to Australia this summer and the possible UK women's team international series in August.

It was decided at the 23rd Annual General Meeting of World Blind Cricket, held virtually in January, the Cricket Association for the Blind in India will host the Third T20 World

Cup for the blind in several cities across India in November 2022.

Many nations are also preparing for the IBSA World Games, where cricket is included in the games for the

first time with both a men's and a women's tournament. Hosted by British Blind Sport, the World Games will take place in Birmingham from 19-27 August 2023.



# From the Hon Sec...

Dear Member,

As I write, the county of which I have been a member since 1965 (the year of the first twin tours, when New Zealand and South Africa were our visitors, as they are this year) lead the Championship. I am not confident either that my county can keep it up or that England will reverse their recent trend of results (which at least has been good for the revenue-raising provisions of Rule 5 (c)), but one lives in hope.

The financial results for the year just ended are £25,000 better than those of the previous year, mostly due to a single legacy from the estate of a non-member who lived in Sussex. This newsletter will be received by 4,200 members, all those whose last donation was ten or more years ago having been excluded, thus saving almost £1,000 on production and distribution. We have distributed almost all of the current year's surplus in grants, as the clubs we support return to more or less normal levels of activity.

At our annual trustees' meeting in February, Warwick Armstrong (no relation to the former Australian captain) retired as a trustee after more than 20 years. He was part of the Club's strong connection with Beckenham CC, playing most of his club cricket there after leaving school. He was, as a trustee, particularly responsible for looking after the Club's relationship with the Royal London Society for the Blind, and their specialist school at Dorton House near Sevenoaks. We wish him well in retirement.

Someone else with a strong Beckenham CC connection is Rob Key, the new England managing director of cricket; Warwick and I represented the Primary Club at Canterbury in 2011, when a stand was re-named after Alan Knott and our Patron, Derek Underwood. Rob was presented with his Primary Club tie for his first-ball duck for Kent v Middlesex, which might have slipped under the radar but for the presence at Lord's of a number of Beckenham-based members of the Club.

I wish all of you, whether playing, watching or just following the game, a happy and enjoyable season.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Larlham



## THE PRIMARY CLUB FORECAST RESULT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2021/22 £ (forecast)	2020/21 £ (actual)
Joining subscriptions and donations	113,704	107,216
Legacies	20,478	
Profit on sale of merchandise	530	943
Tax claim under Gift Aid	21,571	22,756
Interest receivable	28	64
<b>Total income</b>	<b>156,311</b>	<b>130,979</b>
Publicity and administration costs	(10,510)	(10,247)
Surplus for the year	145,801	120,732
Surplus from earlier years	102,556	18,521
	<b>248,357</b>	<b>139,253</b>
Grants (details below)	141,350	36,697
Surplus to carry forward	<b>107,007</b>	<b>102,556</b>

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

### 2022 GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Berkshire Vision	Monthly sports clubs	3,000
Berkshire Stags VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Birmingham Goalball Club	Goalball	2,000
Birmingham Sports Club	Futsal	3,000
Birmingham Stars VICC	Start-up costs and 2022 season expenses	2,500
Blind Cricket England & Wales	Equipment and development programme KO Cup and women's VI team	17,300
Bradford & District VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
British Blind Sport	Archery & Tenpin bowling	9,250
Cambridge Dons	Goalball expenses	2,000
Cheshire Cobras VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Derbyshire Owls VICC	2022 season expenses	1,500
Devon Bowling Club	2022 season expenses	2,500
Dorset Dolphins VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Durham VICC	2021 season expenses	3,000
English Blind Golf Assoc	2022 Matchplay Championship	3,500
Gloucestershire VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Kent Spitfires VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Kingston-u-Thames Assn	Tenpin bowling, cycling & swimming	3,000
Lancashire Lions VICC	2022 season expenses & goalball	4,300
Living Paintings	"Touch to See" book - sports stars	6,000
London Futsal Club	2022 season expenses	3,000
London Sports Club	Swimming	1,000
Merton Sports Club	Hall hire	1,000
Metro	Cricket - two teams	6,000
Northants Steelbacks VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Open Country	New tandem club	3,000
Royal National College, Hereford	2022 season expenses	2,800
SAVI Northwest Merseyside	Venue hire and equipment	5,000
Sheffield RSB	Equipment for shooting	4,000
Somerset VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Staffs Wolves VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Surrey VICC	2022 season expenses	2,750
Sussex Sharks VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Tandeming Together	Tandem purchase, maintenance & transport	4,000
Taunton Deane VI Bowls	2022 season expenses & equipment	2,000
VIB Somerset	Bowling club 2022 season expenses	2,000
Vision of Adventure	Rock-climbing weekend	1,400
Wavertree CC	2022 season expenses	2,700
West Glamorgan Bowls Club	2021 season expenses	1,850
Worcs Elizabethans VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000
Yorkshire VICC	2022 season expenses	3,000

**£141,350**

# Primary Club seeks new Chair

The Primary Club is run by a small group of voluntary Trustees, consisting of Chris Larlham, our Honorary Secretary, Ross Midgley, our Honorary Treasurer, and a number of others drawn from various backgrounds including broadcasting, professional cricket, finance, media and beyond. All of us are united by a commitment to supporting sport and recreation for the blind and visually impaired.

Over recent years, we have discussed the future direction of the Primary Club. The conclusion of these

discussions is that the Club plays a key role that is not fulfilled by other organisations, which we must continue; that we wish to remain an organisation run by volunteers; but that we would like to develop the Club so that it attracts and retains more members, and therefore can do even more to deliver on our aims.

In order to do this, we are launching a search for a new Honorary Chair. This is a role that used to exist, with the last holder being the late Robert Fleming, after which the duties were folded into the role of



the Honorary Secretary. In this new guise, the primary role of the Chair will be to increase awareness of and support for the Primary Club, developing our external profile, engaging with members and grant recipients, and leading organisation of events for members, while the Honorary Secretary continues to manage the day-to-day running of the club. As well as chairing Trustee meetings, this would likely involve acting as our public voice, developing relationships with other organisations and engaging

volunteers to deliver events or other fundraising activities.

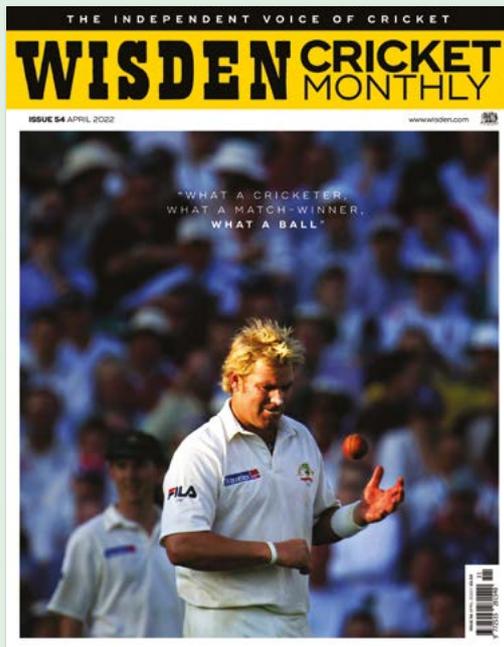
We believe this role would suit someone who believes in the aims of The Primary Club, has an interest in cricket, is able to communicate and engage effectively with others, and has the ability and desire to commit the limited but necessary amount of time to take the Club forward. We are also open to suggestions on the details of the role.

If you think this could be you, or someone you know, please contact us on [trustees@primaryclub.org](mailto:trustees@primaryclub.org) for an informal discussion with one of the current Trustees.

## MEMBERS' OFFER

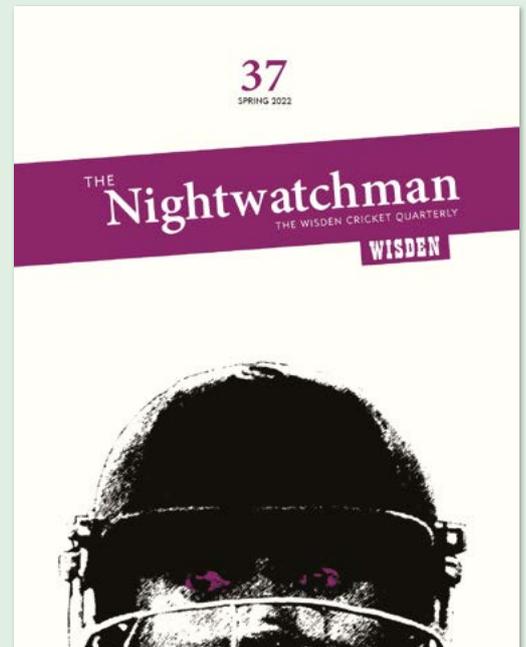
# Try for a fiver!

Wisden are offering Primary Club members the chance to try **Wisden Cricket Monthly** and **The Nightwatchman**, Wisden's quarterly, for just £5 each.



**Wisden Cricket Monthly** is the independent voice of cricket. Every issue includes exclusive interviews, hard-hitting columns, in-depth analysis, coverage of all 18 counties and a club cricket section.

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**The Nightwatchman** is a quarterly collection of long-form cricket writing including contributions from an array of renowned journalists and authors, as well as ex-players, academics, musicians, and even the occasional knight of the realm!

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