THE PRIMARY CLUB
The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted

Members' newsletter

April 2001

A PITCH FOR ENGLAND

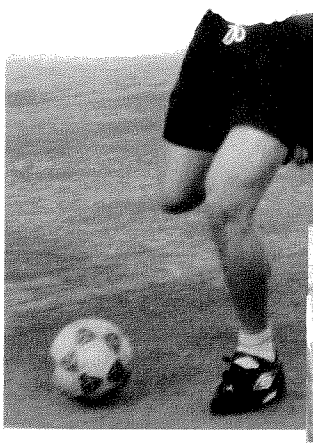
One of The Primary Club's most exciting projects in 2001 is to finance the construction of a football pitch for totally blind players at the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford.

The pitch will be used by RNC and the England B1 (totally blind) team.

Until now, there has not been a pitch of international standard in the UK and performances by the England team have suffered.

England coach Tony Larkin says, "We usually got off to a bad start at international tournaments because our players weren't used to the high standard of pitches in other countries".

The pitch will also be used to introduce new players to the game and to stage league tournaments for blind and partially-sighted players from all around the UK.



Football can play an important role in the life of someone who is blind. Darren Cook (above right), who lost his sight at birth, has played 35 times for his country.

Football has transformed Darren's life. As his game has improved he has gained confidence, greater independence and new friends.

"The most important thing in my life", says Darren "is playing for my country."

The football pitch at RNC Hereford is one of The Primary Club's biggest current enterprises. The cost of £30,000 will be spread over four years. Members are asked to be as generous as possible with donations this year.
For other new projects see pages 6 and 8.

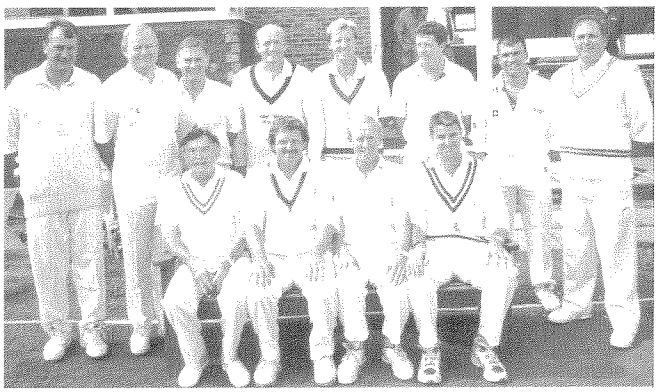
INSIDE: Primary Club wins award (p2) – A day at Headquarters (p3)

Beckenham CC v The Primary Club

On 11 August 2000, The Primary Club returned home to Beckenham Cricket Club where it all began, almost to the day, 45 years earlier.

It was "England Their England" revisited. The sun shone, old friends met for the first time in many years and the beer was in good supply

On the field our Patron, Derek Underwood, led a Primary Club team which included a distinguished mix of ex Kent and England players, many of whom, like



the Patron, began their careers at Beckenham. The team's secret weapon was Bill Frindall of Test Match Special fame – a fearsome sight in full cry.

The result, to noone's great surprise, was a draw. To complete a perfect day, The Primary Club received a cheque for £500 from Beckenham CC.

PRIMARY OF THE MONTH

The lucky 'winners' of the Primary of the Month award during the 2000 season were:- **S C Ganguly** (Lancs); **S K Warne** (Hants); **M E Trescothick** (Somerset);**D G Cork** (Derbyshire); **G P Thorpe** (Surrey) and **R C Russell** (Gloucestershire).

The Club is grateful to *The Cricketer* for publishing the results, *P A Sport* for supplying the statistics without charge and to the Professional Cricketers' Association and the players for joining in the spirit of the award.

Painful Primary

PCA Chief Executive and chairman of the England Selectors, David Graveney, receives his Club tie from Primary Club Patron, Derek Underwood.

David Graveney's qualification for the Club was painful.

"I was playing for Gloucestershire against Surrey. When I came in, Waqar Younis was bowling and the batsman at the other end suggested I shouldn't indulge in an extravagant backlift because I could expect a fast swinging yorker. It was, and I was hit on the left foot plumb in front. I then hobbled around London looking for an x-ray, as my team were being propelled to defeat."

The PCA adopts The Primary Club

The Primary Club has become an official charity of the Professional Cricketers' Association. The PCA has already supported the Club in a variety of ways, including a substantial donation. The Chief Executive, David Graveney, said: "Being a professional cricketer can give you a status that is sometimes slightly unreal.
I think it is important that young cricketers are encouraged to think about people less fortunate than themselves."

Special Merit Award
At the PCA Awards Dinner at the Albert Hall on September 19, 2000, The Primary Club received the Jardine Lloyd Thompson Special Merit Award, presented to 'an individual or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to the game of cricket'

Invitation
Members of The Primary Club have been invited to the Professional Cricketers' Association awards dinner at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday, September 18, 2001. Tickets start at £30. To apply ring the RAH box office on 020 7589 8212. Mention you are a Club member and The Primary Club benefits by £5 for each ticket sold.

THE GREAT ROYAL MAIL SHAMBLES

Some members may have been bemused, last October and November, when letters address to **The Primary Club, PO Box 12121, London NW1 9WS** were returned marked 'addressee has gone away'.

The Royal Mail seems to have suffered some sort of collective seizure. For no logical reason, they closed our PO Box and took four weeks to re-open it. As a result, the Club lost donations worth several thousand pounds. We have asked for substantial compensation.

We can only ask any members who had letters returned not to give up. The box is now open again and running properly.

New Club merchandise for 2001

- A very high quality **Microlight tracksuit 100% polyester** available in black or navy; Sizes: M, L, XL,XXL;
Price: Top - £34.99+£1.90 p&p; Bottom - £24.99+£1.90 p&p.
Club logo appears on top and bottom.
- **Leisure shirts** – We are adding two new colours to the range, **Royal Blue** and **Jade**, in a desperate attempt to make them more appealing to women.
- **Ladies' brooches** – Don't forget brooches are not as illustrated in the merchandising leaflet. They are now an irresistible oval shape, in green and gold, with the ball picked out in red.

NB – For the third (and probably the final) year, prices remain unchanged.

A day at Headquarters

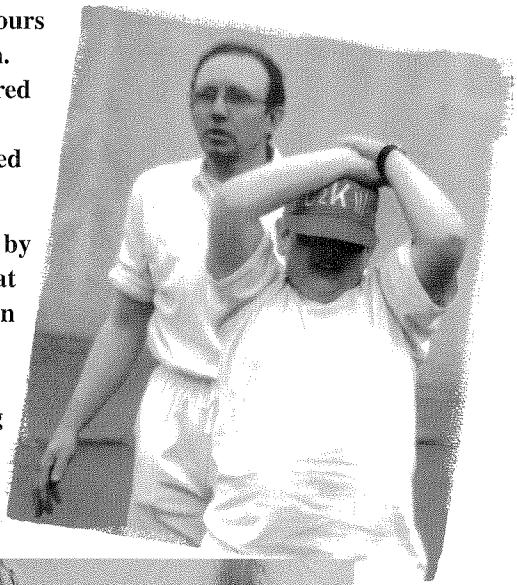
Above: The opening batsmen

On 26 May 2000 The Primary Club sponsored 'Challenge 2000', the first ever cricket competition for visually impaired children, at the Indoor School at Lord's.

Some children were totally blind and some partially sighted. Several had other disabilities. It was the first time that any of the youngsters, who were aged 11 to 14, had played cricket. Sporting opportunities for visually impaired children are very limited.

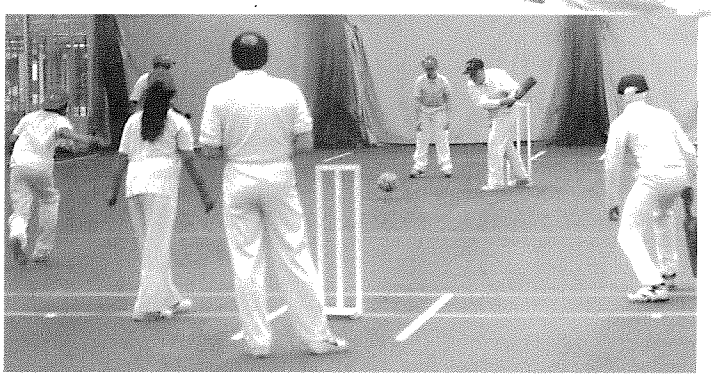
The MCC donated the use of the Indoor School and arranged tours of the ground and the Pavilion. The Primary Club grant covered transport, equipment, cricket whites and some smart coloured caps.

The day, which was organised by British Blind Sport, was a great success and the children had an experience they will never forget at'Headquarters'. Another day at Lord's is being planned for 2001.



Right: A gesture copied from Darren Gough!

Above: This was the first time any of the youngsters had played cricket



The Indoor School at Lord's

Your donations have made these projects possible – thank you.

HOW YOUR MONEY

Sports coaches

"At first, the children are scared and panic in the swimming pool. But as they gain confidence and start to swim, that really puts a smile on your face."

Helen Warner is one of two young Sports Coaches in Residence, funded by The Primary Club. She works at Dorton House in Kent, run by the Royal London Society for the Blind.

"We needed the exuberance of young people and their ability to be role models for the children," says Sue Walker, Sports Manager at Dorton.

"You have to put on a show – to expand yourself – because the children can't see body movements, they can't see eyes, winks, nods," she continues.

"You have to be able to do that through your voice and the language you use. It takes a special sort of person and Helen has fitted in very well at Dorton."

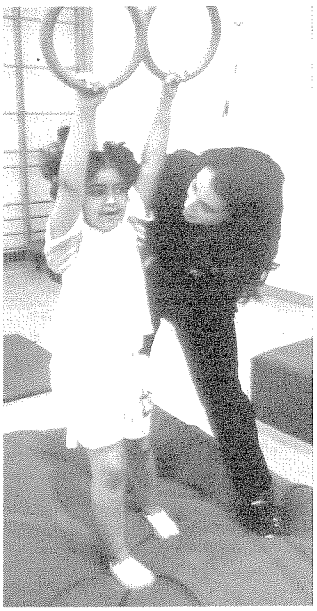
DIARY DATES IN 2001

Friday 27 July – Brondesbury CC six-a-side competition. The Patron, Derek Underwood, and other celebrated cricketers will be playing.

Friday 3 August – Blackheath CC six-a-side competition. Once again, The Primary Club is the chosen charity to benefit from a marvellous days cricket.

Saturday 18 August – British Blind Sport Cricket Knockout Final at Lord's. Starts at 2pm.

Members will be very welcome at all of these events. Ties or brooches should be worn, or a fine paid – plus a pint to the Hon Sec.



Helen Warner, working in the gym with Shaniqua, aged 6, who contracted meningitis as a baby. In addition to problems with her sight, she suffers from memory loss and poor co-ordination.

Judo

"I played hockey and badminton at school, but my sight has deteriorated a lot since then so I can't play ball games. Visually impaired men have got cricket and football but there's very little for women."

Dawn Anderson (*below left*), who works for English Heritage, and her friend Debbie Downton, a probation officer, are both registered blind but have some sight.

They took up judo three months ago when they went along to a 'Have a Go Day', organised by British Blind Sport with a grant from The Primary Club.

They tried archery, rifle shooting, tandeming and scuba diving but, most of all, they enjoyed judo.

"It not only keeps us fit," says Debbie, "but, as a woman, it makes you feel more confident walking on your own at night.

"I don't mind being thrown around a bit but I do come home after a judo session and count the bruises!"

Music

"It's really taken off," said Jane Cole, Principal of Henshaw's College in Harrogate.

She was referring to the new music group, made possible by a grant from The Primary Club, which funded equipment and a special tutor for four hours a week.

In the picture below, Cath Golding, the music tutor, is working with Neil who has recently arrived at the College.

Initially Neil, who in addition to severe sight problems has cerebral palsy and epilepsy, found it difficult to fit into a group.

However, music was one of the few activities in which Neil wanted to become involved. Singing with other residents has meant he has had to interact with the group.

The result has been that Neil is much more involved with the life of the College. There has been a noticeable benefit to other aspects of his work as well.

"There is," said Jane Cole "a hidden curriculum. Even more important than the music itself, is the confidence and self esteem the music group has brought to many of our residents."

Chess

Bill Armstrong is an aggressive chess player – "more of a Gooch than a Boycott".

The Primary Club sponsored Bill to represent Great Britain in the 11th Chess Olympiad for Blind Players in Poland.

Bill won three of his seven matches and halved

VAS SPENT IN 2000

another. The British team – finishing 13th out of 30 teams – did well enough to qualify for the next World Cup.

Played with specially adapted pieces and boards, chess is one of few games where a blind person can compete on almost equal terms with a sighted player.

Born with restricted sight, Bill Armstrong was a school teacher for 34 years. As his sight deteriorated, he was registered blind in 1975 and, in 1997, had to retire as head of English at Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College. He won the British Blind Chess Championship in 1983.

There are over 200 members of the Braille Chess Association in the UK.

Drum lessons

Members will remember Eldin Isovic from last year's newsletter. Eldin, a pupil at St Benedict's School, Derby, lost both his eyes and his hands in Sarajevo when, at the age of 13, a grenade exploded in his hand. Last year, with a grant from the Club, the school bought Eldin a pair of rollerblades.

Now, this extraordinary young man has taken up drumming. With drumsticks strapped to his arms and

using an electronic drum pad, he has become a very useful drummer.

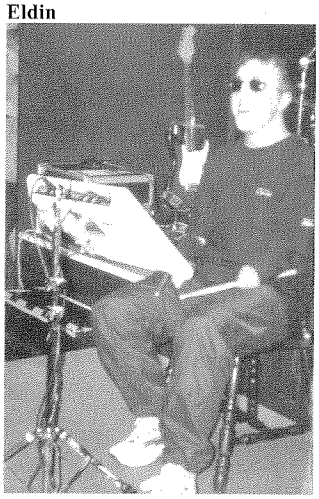
Playing the drums is important to Eldin as a release from the trauma he went through following his accident.

Primary Club funds paid for Eldin's drum lessons.

The picture shows Eldin playing in a concert in Derby. The rest of the band were fully sighted.

Eldin is now planning a career in music or radio when he leaves school.

Eldin



Archery

The Club funded four squad-training sessions for blind archers in 2000.

Norman Perry, at 81, the doyen of British blind archers, says: "When you're shooting, you are totally concentrating on it and nothing else exists. Once the arrow's gone, then everything around you suddenly comes to life."

Norman, who is totally blind, lost his sight while serving with the Royal Artillery in North Africa in 1941. He was the British national champion in 1997 and a member of the British team until 1998, when he was a stripling of 79.

Blind archers are allowed a 'spotter' to direct them on to the target. The hand holding the bow touches a stand with a small pointer on it and, like any archer, they use foot markers.

Norman has led teams of blind archers who, using a handicap system, competed successfully against sighted teams from the RAF in Germany and the Army in Cyprus.

Cricket

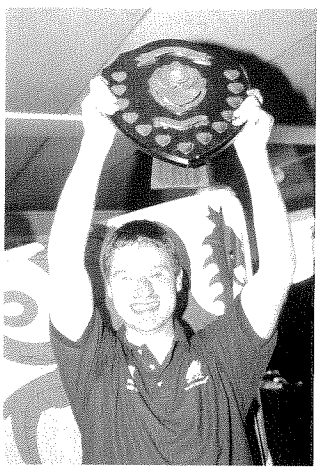
Neil Prior, captain of the South Wales Dragons (*below*), triumphantly holds aloft the winner's trophy after his team won the British Blind Sport National Cricket Knockout Final at Lord's last August, which is sponsored by The Primary Club.

It was an extraordinary achievement by the Welsh side. Formed in 1997, last season was only the second time they had entered the competition.

Most remarkable of all, however, was that their opponents in the final were the mighty Metro. For many years, the London team has dominated visually-impaired cricket.

On the day, the South Wales Dragons carried all before them. Metro, depleted by calls from the British Paralympic team training for Sydney, were beaten by 8 wickets.

When the boyos returned home there was a real 'welcome in the hillsides'.



Your continuing generosity will ensure that there will be more projects like these in 2001.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you have not already signed the *Gift Aid Declaration* on the Donation and Order Form or when initiating a bank standing order, **please, please** do so when you are sending in this year's donation. It will benefit the Club and cost you nothing.

Club donations in 2001

The generosity of members has ensured that donations to schools and clubs for the visually impaired in 2001 total £115,500, the second highest in the history of The Primary Club.

Sassenachs will be pleased that two grants are for projects at The Royal Blind School, Edinburgh and The Highland Society for the Blind, Inverness.

The range of sports and recreations the Club is supporting includes, for the first time, grants for **martial arts** and **self defence** to British Blind Sport and **chess** to the Braille Chess Association.

However, this year we have received more applications for financial help from schools and clubs for the blind than ever before. It is only by spreading the larger grants over several years that we have avoided too many disappointments. We are therefore in hock before our financial year has even started.

Please be generous with your donation.

For full details of this year's grants see page 8.

John Long and Jock, The Highland Society for the Blind. Jock is the one not wearing a skirt.

ENGLAND PRIMARIES

The oracle, Bill Frindall, has spoken. Only one England primary in home Test Matches in 2000. Good news for England, bad news for The Primary Club.

England v West Indies
3rd Test, Old Trafford
G P Thorpe lbw Walsh 0

"Thorpe was lbw first ball, ducking, when he misread Walsh's fiendish slower ball (64mph) as a beamer."

Club Rule 6(c), whereby members are asked to pay £2 for each England home primary, means that this year we are asking members to **add** £2 to their annual donation. Please feel free to add more.

The Club might do better next year if the selectors could be persuaded to bring back Mullally and Tufnell to open the batting.

The Primary Club Down Under

The Vice President and President of The Primary Club of Australia, Ian Craig and Peter Philpott, were presented with Primary Club ties by the Hon Sec, when he was on holiday down under.

Ian Craig, a former Australian captain was, at 17, the youngest Australian to play for his country. His career was sadly cut short by hepatitis.

Peter Philpott, a fine all-rounder, became one of the most respected coaches in the game when he retired from Test cricket. He was asked to advise the England batsmen on playing leg break bowling on the 98/99 tour to Oz.

In Australia, a primary is referred to as a 'golden duck'.

Ian Craig (L) with Peter Philpott and the Hon Sec, Robert Fleming (R).

Primary Club goes online

We now have our own website at:

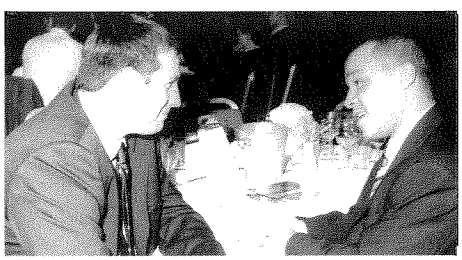
www.primaryclub.org

Do have a look – it is the Picasso of the internet.

The Primary Club has been made an official charity of *play-cricket.com*, the first website for recreational cricket, endorsed by the ECB and the MCC. *Play-cricket* is the future for the administration of cricket clubs and leagues.

Contacts: website – **www.play-cricket.com**
e-mail – **enquiries@psnm.com**
telephone – **020 7808 7174**

The Piper calls the tune



Keith Piper has pledged 10 percent of the proceeds of his benefit year to The Primary Club. This magnanimous gesture is possibly the most generous donation made to a charity by a professional cricketer in their benefit year. Keith, who was capped by Warwickshire in 1992, is considered by many professional cricketers to be the best wicket-keeper in the country. He is pictured on the right, with Tim Munton, (Warwickshire, Derbyshire and England), a member of his benefit committee.

From the Hon Sec

Dear Member

As we went to press, news came through that our Consultant, Mike Brace, has been elected Chairman of the British Paralympic Association. Mike, who is totally blind, is the first disabled Chairman of BPA. It is a well-deserved recognition of a lifetime's work for disabled sport. We are also delighted that Mike has agreed to become a trustee of The Primary Club.

Other highlights of the year have been:

- *The Professional Cricketers' Association has made us one of their two official charities.*
- *Our splendid website (www.primaryclub.org) opened. Many thanks to our old friend Sam Wells, who has designed all our graphics, and three depressingly bright young men in Exeter, called Optix-Solutions, who produced our website without charge.*
- *NatWest have kindly agreed to donate £1,000 for every primary during the NatWest One-Day Triangular series this summer. So, pray for lots of first-ball dismissals – preferably not England's.*
- *The Chancellor's gift of 28p in the pound on all donations from individuals, annouced in the 2000 Budget, will mean at least £15,000 to The Primary Club – a real windfall. If has also meant a huge amount of extra work for our Treasurer, Tony Bentall, and my wife, Marion, playing the Club's ancient computer like Paderewski on speed.*

Included with the newsletter this year is a questionnaire. In the 46 year history of The Primary Club, the identity of the members has remained a mystery, apart from names and addresses. If you are minded to fill it in (in complete confidence of course) and return it with your donation, it will be an invaluable source of information, which we could use to think about the future - we might even have an occasional Club lunch or dinner.

A huge thank you to Nicci Westgarth, who not only designed this newsletter, but has given birth to a future opening bowler for Durham. She performed both functions without charging. Similarly, Sue Webb and Debbie Enright, of Network Typing, have given us a lot of time and transcribed all the interviews gratis. Our Patron, Derek Underwood has, once again, worked very hard for the Club. We do not often get to meet our heroes and working with Derek has been one of the high spots of my life. We are very fortunate that he is our Patron.

Finally, we urgently need funds to meet the many requests for our help from schools and clubs for the blind so:-

1. Please, please be as generous as possible with your donation.
2. Please use the green leaflet to recruit a new member – we urgently need more.
3. Please remember The Primary Club in your Will. Do not feel that you have to make the supreme sacrifice immediately to solve the Club's financial problems, but eventually we will be very grateful.

Following England's winter triumphs, I firmly believe that, when I sit down to write next year's newsletter, the Ashes will, as of right, be ensconced in the Long Room. But then there is a streak of insanity in every family.

Yours sincerely

Robert Fleming
Honorary Secretary

THE PRIMARY CLUB
FORECAST RESULT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2001

	2001 (forecast) £	2000 (actual) £
Joining subscriptions, donations and sale of goods	113,000	134,000
Tax reclaimable	19,000	4,250
Legacies received	4,000	1,000
Interest receivable	2,250	3,000
Total income	138,250	142,250
Cost of ties and brooches	(2,000)	(1,500)
Cost of goods for sale	(15,750)	(17,500)
Fundraising and administration	(9,500)	(5,500)
Surplus for the year	111,000	117,750
Surplus from earlier years	7,500	13,750
	118,500	131,500
Donations (details below)	115,500	124,000
Surplus to carry forward	3,000	7,500

Note: The Royal London Society for the Blind meets the cost of printing and posting the newsletter. Copies of the Club's full accounts can be obtained from the Honorary Treasurer.

2001 DONATIONS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Dorton House School, Sevenoaks	Summer Schools 2 x 1 week	30,000	
	All-weather sports pitch (1 of 2)	12,000	
	Sports coach in residence (2 of 2)	3,500	45,000
British Blind Sport	Archery - 4 training weekends	1,000	
	Athletics - all ages event, Nuneaton	1,250	
	Cricket - Junior Schools' Challenge, Lords	1,688	
	National Knockout Cup,Lords	4,375	
	Football - 4 development days	1,375	
	Goalball - British Goalball Cup, Derbys	500	
	Martial Arts/Self Defence w/e, West Mids	1,250	
	Swimming - 4 training w/e, Worcs	2,625	14,063
Henshaw's Society for the Blind, Harrogate	Camping equipment		2,523
Queen Alexandra College, Birmingham	Football pitch refurbishment (1 of 2)		4,000
Leed & District Sports and Social Club	Cricket, watersports, rock climbing and goalball		2,250
English Blind Golf Assoc	Sponsorship of Matchplay Championship		2,500
The Outlook Trust, Bradford	Adventure weekends		
	Sailing equipment and road trailer		3,769
Metropolitan Sports & Social Club	Cricket and athletics equipment		1,500
Birmingham Sports & Social Club	Cricket team expenses		1,500
Pennine Bowling Club	Hire of bowling facilities		850
Kent Association for the Blind	Transport costs		550
Royal National College, Hereford	All-weather football pitch (1 of 4)		7,500
Linden Lodge School, Wimbledon	Soft playroom (1 of 3)		5,000
Braille Chess Assoc	Sponsoring player to Blind Chess Olympiad, Poland	1,500	
	Sponsoring player to Six Nations Tournament, York	1,500	3,000
Royal Blind School, Endinburgh	Soft playroom (1 of 3)		5,000
Action for Blind People, Kent	After School Clubs		2,895
Eastern Vipers CC, Cambridgeshire	Coaching and accommodation		2,500
Highland Society for the Blind, Inverness	Cycling equipment		
	Walking weekends	2,700	
		2,400	5,100
Joseph Clarke School, east London	Sensory garden (1 of 2)		5,000
W Sussex Association for the Blind	Walkie talkies and woods for bowls		500
			115,500

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