The Primary Club

The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted

Christopher Martin-Jenkins to speak at Club Dinner in July see page 2

Crackers Meets Charlie

One day last spring Crackers, a giraffe at London Zoo aged 29, met Charlie Strong, aged 10.

Charlie has very little sight and worries about leaving the safety of home. His peripheral vision is so limited he can only read one letter at a time.

With the support of his sister Abbey, Charlie joined a group of blind and partially sighted youngsters, organised by the **Berkshire County Blind Society**, on a trip to London Zoo. The Berkshire group's visit was paid for by a grant from **The Primary Club**.

At first Charlie was nervous approaching the giraffe. With his limited sight he could only see a small part of that enormous head looming towards him.

Then Abbey took Charlie's hand, holding a piece of bread, and guided it towards Crackers's long tongue. Crackers seemed pleased and Charlie was delighted. It was a very special moment, made possible by The Primary Club..

- **Please make your donation to The Primary Club as generous as possible this year.**

INSIDE: New faces at the Primary Club – page 2; **Primary Club Predictions** – page 2; **British Paralympic Stars** – page 3

Primary Club Dinner

The Nursery Pavilion, Lord's Ground, St John's Wood, London NW8 8QN
Wednesday 16th July 2008 – 7.00pm for 7.30pm

This is your opportunity to support your club and have a wonderful evening at the home of cricket.

Christopher Martin-Jenkins

Speakers

DEREK UNDERWOOD MBE
(Kent and England) Primary Club Patron

MIKE BRACE MBE
Chairman ParalympicsGB, Primary Club Trustee

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN-JENKINS
Doyen of English cricket writers and broadcasters

Master of Ceremonies

ROGER DAKIN

Tickets **£60** (For members and their guests)

Dress: **Lounge suits**

Wives, husbands, partners and friends all welcome

To apply for tickets complete the enclosed application form
or
Apply online at:
www.primaryclub.org

NEW FACES

The Club is delighted to announce three new distinguished Trustees:

Peter Baxter, who has recently retired from the BBC after producing *Test Match Special* for 34 years. He is also President of Metro, the sports and social club for the visually impaired.

Peter Baxter

Bob Southward

John Stern

Bob Southward, the Club Area Representative for Essex and Suffolk. He is also the Club's webmaster.

John Stern, Editor of *The Wisden Cricketer* since its launch in 2003.

Newsletter

Alex Johnson, an experienced editor and journalist, becomes editor of the newsletter from 2009. He will replace **Robert Fleming** who also stands down as Chairman.

Alex Johnson

Steve Cowell

Steve Cowell, a very talented, ex BBC, graphic designer has taken over the design of the newsletter. Like everyone else he is working as a volunteer.

Area Representatives

Rowan Laxton now has the daunting and vital job of coordinating the Area Representatives. **The Club urgently needs Area Reps.** If you would like to represent the Club in your part of the country, contact Rowan at ***recruitment@primaryclub.org*** or phone him on ***020 7420 8000***.

A Club Area Rep is a very enjoyable and worthwhile job.
Your Club needs you!

The curse of Rule 5(c)

The curse of rule 5(c) has struck again. The rule, under which members are asked to ***add £2*** to their annual donation for **each** primary achieved by an England batsman in a home test match, claimed two more victims in 2007.

- **9 June v West Indies, 3rd Test, Old Trafford, 2nd Innings – MJ Prior c Ramdin b Sammy**
- **22 July v India, 1st Test, Lord's, 2nd Innings – CT Tremlett b Zaheer**

Members are, therefore, asked to ***add £4*** to their annual donation. If every member observes rule 5(c) our income will grow significantly.

Primary Predictions

Every Primary Club member will have an opinion on how England will perform this summer.

Now, the Club's new competition **Primary Predictions** will give members and their friends the chance to forecast England's results in home Test Matches and One Day Internationals during 2008 – and make money for themselves and the Club!

Included in this mailing is an entry form which also explains the rules. Photocopy it as often as you like for your family and friends, or download a form from ***www.primaryclub.org/predictions***. The more entries the better. *Please treat the entry fee as **additional** to your annual donation, not as an alternative.*

Entries close on 14th June 2008. Have fun and good luck!

ALEX JOHNSON PHOTO BY ROBBIE PITMAN

Six to watch in Beijing

ParalympicsGB

The Beijing Paralympic Games, 6-17 September 2008, will feature 30 blind and partially sighted athletes in the British team of over 200 athletes with a disability. Four years ago in Athens, British visually impaired athletes won two gold medals, two silver and five bronze. **This page features six of our brightest hopes for 2008.** Final team selection will be announced on 26 July.

Dave Clarke – Footballer

Beijing 2008 is the first time that Great Britain has entered a visually impaired football team in the Paralympics.

Dave Clarke, 37, is the team's striker and most experienced player. He has scored 92 goals in the 95 games he has played for England.

When not playing football, Dave is a senior partner in the Clydesdale Bank in Knightsbridge.

Aileen McGlynn – Cyclist (1km Time Trial; 3km Pursuit)

Aileen won gold in the 1km Time Trial and silver in the Sprint in Athens four years ago. In 2007 she achieved gold medals in the 1km event and the 3km Pursuit at the World Championships. She is favourite to win gold in the 1km event in Beijing.

Aileen, 35, receives a grant from UK Sport and is a full time athlete.

She was awarded the MBE in 2006 for services to cycling for the disabled.

Ian Rose – Judo (Under 100kg)

Ian Rose took up judo to defend himself at the age of seven when he was teased for wearing glasses – cancer had cost him the sight of his left eye.

By 17 Ian had been awarded his black belt. He went on to become world champion and European champion four times. He won the bronze medal in the Atlanta Paralympics in 1996 and a silver medal in Athens in 2004.

He receives a salary from UK Sport and supplements his income with professional speaking engagements.

Naomi Riches – Rower (Mixed Coxed Four – Legs, Trunk & Arm)

Former swimmer Naomi started rowing four years ago and has already won three world championship gold medals and one silver. Adaptive Rowing is being recognised as a paralympic sport for the first time in Beijing 2008.

Naomi rows professionally and is funded by UK Sport. She is on the river six days a week, training with fully sighted crews at Marlow Rowing Club.

Naomi has very limited sight and, like all adaptive (disabled) rowers, she races in eyeshades ('zero vision goggles'), so no team has an advantage. Only the cox is sighted.

Noel Thatcher MBE – Athlete (10,000m or Marathon)

With a total of 42 gold medals, 5 won in Paralympic Competition and 12 in World Championships, Noel Thatcher is one of the most decorated disabled athletes in Britain – and in 1997 was awarded the MBE for services to disabled sport.

Most of Noel's success has come over 5,000m or 10,000m but in Beijing he may also run the marathon.

He runs ten miles a day, seven days a week, even on holiday.

Noel is a physiotherapist, specialising in sports injuries.

Libby Clegg – Athlete (100m and 200m)

At the age of 18 Libby has achieved extraordinary success. She is the fastest visually impaired female athlete in the UK over 200 metres. She came second in the last world championships in the 200m and would have won silver in the 100m but was disqualified because her guide runner's chest was ahead of her as she crossed the finishing line.

As Libby is new to paralympic competition she doesn't know what she will achieve in Beijing – but hopes for a place in the final.

Libby's problem is finding guides who can keep up with Libby are hard to find. Lincoln Asquith, a sighted athlete who has run for England, has agreed to run with her. They run with a 5cm tie keeping them together.

Libby is a pupil at the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh.

Beijing 2008
Paralympic Games

DAVID CLARKE PHOTO BY RANALD MACHECHNIE

How your money was spent in 2007…

We need your support for projects like this in 2008 – please give generously

Soft play room

A Club grant to **Gwent Visual Impairment Service** has been used to create a soft play room in Cwmbran, near Newport.

The a soft play room is in a centre which provides recreational and educational facilities for 300 blind and partially sighted children in South Wales. In the picture above Jessica and Jade, aged seven, are in the ball pool. They both have severe problems with their sight. Apart from being fun, the ball pool helps mobility, balance, confidence and spatial awareness.

Perhaps most importantly it is a good way of making friends with children who have similar problems.

Outdoor Bound project

Blind children riding quad bikes may sound crazy. Staff were apprehensive and one youngster wouldn't attempt it. But it worked.

It was the highlight of an activity weekend at Badaguish Outdoor Centre organised by the **Highland Society** and paid for by a Primary Club grant.

The three young ladies pictured all have very limited sight, but do have colour vision. They could, therefore, follow closely behind a guide in a bright yellow 'day-glo' jacket. Speeds were kept to a minimum.

Playground equipment

The playground equipment bought by The Primary Club's grant to the **Southend on Sea Visually Impaired Department** will be shared by ten schools.

In the picture above eight year old Nathan, whose sight problems mean he can barely distinguish between light and dark, is playing with a 'Garden High Tower'. If the wrong block is taken out, the whole thing comes crashing down.

The Club grant has paid for several giant playground games for children with little or no sight to develop their abilities to touch and hear.

On the right of the picture is Bob Southward, Primary Club Trustee and Area Rep, who presented the Club's cheque to the school. A few years ago batsmen trembled at the sight of Bob coming in off his long run.

Golf

The Scottish Strokeplay Championship in 2007, sponsored by a Primary Club grant to the **Scottish Blind Golf Society**, was won by an ex Royal Marine.

Mike Mayo (white shirt and cap centre) triumphed over a field of 24 players by playing 'straight down the middle' at the tough Glen Golf Club links course in North Berwick.

Mike, who is 45, left the marines because of deteriorating sight. Macular degeneration has left him with no central vision.

He has a handicap of 13. Totally blind players can have a handicap of up to 56.

Football

A grant from the Club to the **Football Association for the Visually Impaired** funded the first UK wide tournament between teams from Wales, England and Northern Ireland. The five-a-side tournament was open to any visually impaired club.

In the final of the Primary Club Cup, Northern Ireland B defeated Northern Ireland A 3-2. The cup was presented by Area Rep Rowan Laxton (on the left in the picture above). Afterwards the teams adjourned to a famous Irish pub nearby!

Cricket

The Primary Club makes annual grants to all the principal blind UK cricket teams.

Pictured are Dan Field and Alan Whetherly, members of the **Sussex Sharks**, a blind cricket team supported by The Primary Club since it began in 2002. (Dan also plays for the England VI team.) The Sharks were giving a demonstration of blind cricket at Lord's during the lunch break of the England v India ODI last summer.

The Sussex Sharks members include 20 adults and 15 juniors, both boys and girls.

As with any blind sports club, the social and sporting aspects are equally important.

Adventure holidays

A narrow plank which is very wobbly – both to left and right and backwards and forwards – would test anyone. If you have very limited sight and muscular problems which affect balance and coordination, the plank is a real challenge.

However, sixteen year old Fiona (above) is very determined and, with some help, she made it.

Fiona was one of six youngsters on an adventure holiday in the Lake District with **St Vincent's School**, Liverpool, funded by a grant from The Primary Club.

A programme of horse riding, archery, rock climbing, abseiling and hiking tested even someone as robust as Fiona.

Famous Primary

This year's Famous Primary has been awarded to David Coulthard who also won the Primary of the year award for the most notable primary during The Wisden Cricketer npower Village Cup competition. David writes:

"***Sparsholt v Michelmersh and Timsbury, npower Village Cup, 20 May 2007*** – Big game? Not really. But important for me, first time playing in 'the Village Cup' for Sparsholt, and I'm opening the batting. It's my second game of the weekend. Saturday was rubbish. Caught behind for 3 flashing at a wide one in the first over. Odd how the voices get louder when you're on a bad run of form. *You're batting rubbish this season. People are starting to notice.* With a baby on the way this could be my last double-game weekend for a while. And it's a lovely day, I should make the most of it. *Shame you can't buy a run!* We field first. Michelmersh and Timsbury haven't got their strongest side out but shocking Sparsholt catching gifts runs and we're chasing 145. *Tea looks nice!* No, I'm a responsible team player – there's batting to be done!

The opening bowler marks out his run, he's a left-armer. *You're rubbish facing left armers.* Don't listen, I know I can do this. Take guard, try to clear mind. *Make sure you get forward. Whatever you do, don't get a first-baller.* Here it comes, nice slow medium just outside off. *Even* ***you*** *can't get out to this – just get forward!* Swinging in a bit. A lot in fact. *You're too far forward! Your leg's in the way.* Massive appeal. *You're plumb. That's* ***so*** *out!* He might not give it, maybe it's missing leg? *You know it isn't!* Up goes the finger. *Off you go!* 0 for 1. "Cheers Dave" grins our number 3 as he passes me licking his lips. Well at least someone's grateful! Passing a gaggle of supporters and team-mates staring studiously at the ground and trying not to wet themselves, I gather my last shreds of dignity and storm off to the nets."

In the picture (right), Club Patron Derek Underwood presents David with his Primary of the Year award at Lord's. In the foreground the doctor demonstrates the shot that David was trying to play.

The presentation was made in front of one of two splendid new display stands donated to The Primary Club by a member, John Runacres. We are very grateful to John for his extraordinary generosity.

●●● *Stop Press! The Primary Club has been re-appointed as the official charity for The Wisden Cricketer npower Village Cup for 2008.* ●●●

Primary Club costs

The Trustees are proud to tell members that, for every £1 of the Primary Club's income, only 6p is spent on administration, with the balance being passed directly to schools and clubs for the visually impaired. This compares very favourably with most charities.

Everyone who works for the Club is an unpaid volunteer. Expenditure is limited to essential administrative and fundraising costs, and is kept to an absolute minimum. Inevitably, printing and postage costs have risen this year. In 2007-8 the Club made grants totalling £180,252. Administrative costs were £10,000 (See accounts on next page)

Another kind of box

Why hasn't the Club placed collecting boxes in clubs, pubs and other places where cricketers gather?

This strange omission has been corrected by one of our members, David Bentley (see item below), who has very kindly had 2,000 printed at his own expense.

David's generosity has given members the chance to raise significant sums of money for the Club.

● *If you can place one or more collecting boxes in venues where they would raise money for the Primary Club, write to the Hon Sec, telling him how many boxes you would like, at:* ***The Primary Club, PO Box 12121, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2ZF***

Metro triumph

David Bentley (r), Club Area Representative for South Yorkshire and Derbyshire, presenting the Primary Club Cup to Dave Townley, captain of Metro, the team which won the 2007 British Blind Sport Cricket Knockout Final, at Lord's.

The final was a great game of cricket. South Wales Dragons, the 2006 winners, achieved a massive 217-7 in their 30 overs. Metro won with six wickets and 1.4 overs to spare.

The Primary Club sponsors the BBS final.

What are you doing for the Primary Club?

Over the years members have found many weird and wonderful ways of raising money for The Primary Club – from climbing Mont Blanc and running marathons, to selling horse manure at 50p a bag.

Have you got a good idea to raise money for the Primary Club?

LEGACIES

It's never too late to donate. As you ring the bell at the Golden Gate remember to tell St Peter (and your solicitor) that you want to remember The Primary Club in your Will.

GENEROUS DONATION

A particularly generous donation came from the mother of one of our members, William Huelsman. William came to England with the US army, met his wife and settled here.

He joined the Club in 2004 and was a member until his death in 2007 as a result of a cycling accident. His mother has sent the Club £5,000 in his memory.

From the Hon Sec…

Dear Member,

The year to March 2008 has seen a fall in our income – exclusively as a result of a fall in the 'one off' donations and other larger sources of income which make all the difference to the grants we can make. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend our 2008 dinner, from which we hope to raise a significant sum for the Club. At least (unlike those of you who drink wine or drive large cars) the Chancellor had some good news for us in the Budget, with the reduction in our Gift Aid recovery put on hold for three years.

Not the least of the many enjoyable aspects of my job is my 'post bag' which last year included this from the Revd Brian Vidamour in Guernsey:

"Dear Hon Sec, I write to ascertain whether a deliberate act of discrimination or, as I suspect, a careless omission has been perpetrated in Primary Club rules. I refer to rule 5(c) in regard to primaries achieved by England batsmen in home test matches. I searched in vain for English bowlers to be given the same proud privilege of contributing to the Club's revenue. Alas I found none.

"Is this discrimination? Are bowlers second class cricket citizens? Are they considered unable to match the glory of the primary? Does our Patron of great bowling fame know about this? Where is rule 5(d)? As a proud "Primarian" myself and a not too profitable bowler, I imagine it to go something like this:

"5(d) Members are expected to add £2 to their annual donation for any of the first order of five opposing batsmen achieving a primary against English bowlers. An additional £1 for any of the subsequent five wickets to fall in the same way. Night watchmen will be promoted to first line Batsmen and £3 collected if they are awarded the honour of a Primary.

"This I feel would add incentive to polish off the tail and on a good day add at least a fiver to the funds. It would also serve as a welcome reversal of any rejection felt by the bowlers."

I replied: "You are the second 'man of the cloth' to try me out in the last few days with the equivalent of a reverse-swinging yorker on the Rules (or lack of them). As a former bowler myself, I can only agree that bowlers are second-class citizens. When was the last change to the Laws of Cricket that helped bowlers rather than attempted to deprive them of some imagined advantage over batsman?

"The answer to your question is in similar vein. Until recently, most of the cricket-playing Trustees of the Primary Club were current (or former) batsmen – and Messrs Armstrong & Dixon, present Trustees, opened the batting for Beckenham. What humble bowlers like the Hon Sec and the Chairman, never mind our distinguished Patron, might think is irrelevant. Our job is to bowl to them when they feel like having a net. They don't even pay up the usual golden sovereign when one knocks all three out."

May you all, batsmen, bowlers & spectators alike, enjoy the 2008 cricketing summer; some summer weather would be a bonus.

Yours sincerely

Chris Lartham

THE PRIMARY CLUB FORECAST RESULT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

	2007/08 £ (forecast)	2006/07 £ (actual)
Joining subscriptions and donations	127,000	161,130
Lockwood bequest		4,200
Profit on sales of merchandise	4,860	4,098
Tax claim under Gift Aid	25,000	27,460
Interest receivable	6,700	8,085
Total income	**163,560**	**204,973**
Publicity and administration costs	(10,000)	(11,824)
Surplus for the year	153,560	193,149
Surplus from earlier years	72,876	103,810
Adjustment thereto	5,000	1,001
	231,436	**297,960**
Grants (details below)	**180,252**	**225,084**
Surplus to carry forward	**51,184**	**72,876**

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

2008 GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Action for Blind People	New 'Actionnaires' Clubs in Yorkshire		20,318
Birmingham Sports Club	2007 season expenses		2,000
Blatchington Court Trust,Sussex	Residential camp		3,718
British Blind Sport	Archery	2,000	
	Cricket – KO Final at Lord's	6,000	
	Goalball	3,750	
	Shooting	1,250	
	Tenpin bowling	2,500	15,500
Bromley London Borough	Children's picnic		350
Joseph Clarke School, East London	Skiing	2,100	
	Music tuition	5,200	7,300
Clevedon V H Bowling	2008 season expenses		1,000
County Bowls Association	West Country bowls tournament 2007		2,000
Cycling Ulster Disability Commission	Racing tandems		3,000
Derbyshire Assoc for the Blind	Summer holiday 2007		2,500
Eastern Vipers CC	2008 season expenses		2,500
English Blind Golf Assoc	Matchplay Championship		3,000
Football Association for The V I	'Have A Go' Days		4,500
Grampian Society for the Blind	Treadmill		1,000
Gwent Visual Impairment Service	Soft play room		9,344
Highland Society, Inverness	Residential Outdoor Bound project		2,780
Independent Tenpin Bowling League, Belfast	Winter Trios League		2,000
The Island Trust, Southend	Sailing holidays 2007		6,232
Kirklees Education Service, Yorks	Sport and Recreation aids		7,115
Leeds Reg Goalball Club	Start up expenses		750
Linden Lodge School, London	Multi-sensory environment		6,000
London Community Cricket Association	Development programme		7,806
London Sports Club	2008 season expenses		3,100
Metro	Cricket	2,500	
	Lawn bowls	2,000	4,500
New College Worcester	Skiing holiday		4,200
Northants Vixins VICC	2008 season expenses		2,500
Northern Galloway's VICC	2008 season expenses		2,500
The Outlook Trust, Yorks	Ocean sailing and activity weekends		7,700
Pennine Bowling Club	Winter bowling sessions 2007/08		3,000
Priory School Bury St Edmunds	Playground equipment		275
RLSB (Dorton House)	Equipment for 'The Golden Duck		14,904
St Benedict School Derby	Goalball expenses		1,000
St Vincent School Liverpool	Outdoor & adventure holidays		2,200
Scottish Blind Golf Soc	2008 Strokeplay Championship		3,460
Sheffield Royal Society For the Blind	Archery targets		300
South Wales Dragons CC	2008 season expenses		2,500
Stockton Blind People's Voice	Various sports		5,000
Sussex Sharks VICC	2008 season expenses and juniors		3,200
Tandeming Together	Tandem		3,300
Tyneside Recreation Club	Summer camp 2007		2,200
Visibility, Glasgow	'Go Teens' Residential weekend		1,700
Warwickshire VICC	2008 season expenses		2,000
			£180,252

KIRKLEES REVISITED

Saarrah Akudi is on a tricycle, which was a gift from The Primary Club.

Saarrah, who is ten, is totally blind and also has severe learning difficulties.

By learning to steer and pedal at the same time, Saarrah's coordination improves. She also gains a sense of independence and confidence.

Lilly Walsh and Kamar James, aged seven, who were both born with serious sight problems, are in the visual impairment unit of a mainstream primary school in Kirklees.

The feet encourage movement and risk taking, at an age when children can be nervous and cautious.

They provide an opportunity for visually impaired children to play on equal terms with their sighted peers.

Lewis West, who is nine, has almost no sight, is totally deaf and a cerebral condition which confines him to a wheelchair.

Lewis loves playing with the tambourine because he feels a response in its vibrations.

The Primary Club has made annual grants to Kirklees Sensory Services since 2003.

The grants have been allocated to ten schools responsible for youngsters who are blind or partially sighted, many with additional severe disabilities. The money has been used for a variety of toys, musical, sporting and recreational teaching aids as well as leisure and sporting activities.

One of the Club's most successful projects with Kirklees is the soft play room.

The play room gives them freedom of movement and opportunities to play together. There is a sound system, special lighting and carefully chosen bright colours.

The Wendy House is a 'private place' where children with or without sight problems can play together in safety.

In the doorway Toby Heath aged four, who is totally blind, is being guided by Kamar, age seven who has a little sight. This is a good example of how play in the Wendy House transcends age and disability.

The crocodile glove puppet held by Dominic Blackburn is a toy being used as a teaching aid.

Dominic was born with severe brain damage and very limited sight. At the age of five he can make sounds which, with endless patience, his teachers are trying to turn into coherent speech.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

This is a members newsletter. The editor urgently needs contributions from members. Any personal cricketing oddity, involving a primary or not, would be welcome. Photos would be a bonus!

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