MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011 www.primaryclub.org

THE PRIMARY CLUB

The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted

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

INSIDE: we visit the projects your money funds

See pages 4 and 5

INSIDE: The curse of Rule 5(c) – page 3; Primary Club Dinner details – page 3; Your letters – page 6

PHOTO: Useful Vision's weekend trip to Windermere – see page 8

Editor's letter

Welcome to the 2011 Newsletter which goes to print during a particularly exciting Cricket World Cup (not always for the right reasons).

Throughout the year, members write in to tell us of their Primaries and other cricketing experiences on and off the square. These are always very welcome (especially when accompanied by photographs) and please do keep them coming.

But we also receive plenty of emails, letters and even postcards letting us know that members have visited groups in their local area who have been awarded funding by the Club. These are always positive about the way your money has been spent and the very real difference that it is making to hundreds of people, and especially children, across the country. In this issue, Bob Southward recounts his travels over the last 12 months, visiting many of the organisations which rely on your generous donations to survive in these harsh economic times.

I hope as many of you as possible will be attending the Club Dinner in July which features an impressive lineup of speakers and the return of the sparkling Roger Dakin as MC. Details are on the opposite page.

Until then, I wish you a pleasant summer and not too many Primaries...

Alex Johnson

Tony Bentall

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Tony Bentall on 14 July 2010 after a short spell in hospital. Tony was Hon Treasurer of the Primary Club from 1986 until 2006 and continued as a trustee until 2009. Former Club chairman Robert Fleming said: "Tony really was a great servant of the PC, as well as being a stalwart and Past President of Beckenham. During my eight years as Hon Sec, Tony was the ideal Hon Treasurer. Of course he kept the books perfectly, but he did so much more. While I was finding my feet, he was the perfect source of older and wiser advice.

"He knew the Club well and although, at times, he could seem a mite cautious, he almost always turned out to be right. He had a very sharp mind which he retained to the end. He also had a really lovely, and dry, sense of humour. He was a delight to work with and the Club owes him so much. A really remarkable man in so many ways."

Blind Football World Cup

England lost 5-1 to Brazil in the semi final of the Blind World Cup in 2010. The contest, started in 1998, has never been won by a European side. The final between Brazil and Spain was held at the National College for the Blind in Hereford on a pitch paid for by the Primary Club.

Sky Sports help fundraising

Sky Sports not only televise a vast amount of cricket but also work closely with the ECB in developing coaches at all levels of the game. In that capacity they receive a number of tickets for matches played by England and they generously offered a pair of tickets to the Club for the ODI at The Oval on Friday 17th September.

"We are extremely grateful to Sky Sports," said Chris Larlham, Hon Secretary. "The tickets have raised £200 for Club funds."

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR MONEY?

EAST

James Lucy is one of East Anglian Sailing Trust's new volunteer sighted helpers: he has been undergoing practical training at sea and chart work practice ashore to get his skills up to the Royal Yachting Association Certificate standards. Then he will be ready, with further practice at sea, to take part in EAST's 2011 cruising programme for blind and visually impaired sailors.

Twelve other EAST volunteer members, both sighted and VI, have taken similar RYA based training in 2010 thanks to the support of the Primary Club.

The Primary Club Dinner

● *The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH*

The Nursery Pavilion
Lord's Ground
St John's Wood
London NW8 8QN

Tuesday, 12 July, 2011 – 7.00pm for 7.30pm

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

Speakers

THE RT HON SIR JOHN MAJOR KG CH
Prime Minister 1990-1997
President of Surrey County Cricket Club 2000–2002
and MCC Committee Member

DEREK UNDERWOOD MBE
(Kent and England) Primary Club Patron

MIKE BRACE CBE
Former Chairman ParalympicsGB, Primary Club Trustee

Master of ceremonies

ROGER DAKIN

Tickets £70 (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

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 the following victims in 2010:

● **v Pakistan (1st Test, Trent Bridge)**

J M Anderson lbw b Mohammad Asif 0

● **v Australia (4th Test, Lord's)**

K P Pietersen c Kamran Akmal b Mohammad Amir 0

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

These primaries have been certified by Malcolm Ashton from the Test Match Special commentary box who is himself a Primary Club member.

But this year Malcolm also very kindly put together a list for The Primary Club newsletter of ***all*** the Test Match Primaries worldwide in 2010, from Sydney to Cape Town, from Calcutta to Wellington, and from Hamilton to Adelaide.

In all, there are 36, featuring the likes of Harbhajan Singh, Ricky Ponting and Imrul Kayes (and including the two home England Primaries). So the question is, how many do you think you can name?

Answers by post (although a postcard might pose a few logistical problems) or by email to:

The Primary Club, PO Box 12121, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2ZF
or
secretary@primaryclub.org

We will include a list of the winners in next year's newsletter. And if you are feeling particularly confident, you can also try identifying the grounds on which they took place. Good luck!

How your money

Primary Club Trustee Bob Southward shares his experiences of travelling around the country over the last 12 months to visit projects which have been funded by YOUR generous donations.

In the last few Newsletters we have appealed for members to become Area Representatives for the Primary Club – in 2010, we had two new volunteers who looked after Sussex and North Derbyshire/South Yorkshire and the Club has experienced an upsurge in new members from those areas.

An Area Rep is given details of all recipients of grants within their area and encouraged to visit them. To visit such an organisation makes you aware of how the Club's grants are being used and is a stimulus to recruit new members. As a trustee, I have visited a number of grant recipients where we do not have an active Area Rep and what a rewarding experience it has been.

My year started in June with a visit to a VI County Youth Cricket Tournament held in Wallington in Surrey. Teams of boys and girls representing Surrey, Middlesex, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire and Essex played a round-robin format contest in glorious sunshine watched by parents and carers. The event, sponsored by a grant from the Primary Club, was organised by Cricket for Change *(www.cricketforchange.org.uk)* which uses cricket to change the lives of disadvantaged young people. I was taken aback by the standard of cricket and the attitude of the players, all of whom epitomised the true spirit of the game. Players encouraged not only their own colleagues but also the opposition, helping wherever possible even to the extent of forgoing runs and/or wickets.

My next visit to a grant recipient was in October when I attended the second day of a weekend VI bowls tournament in Bristol. The event is organised by Visually Impaired Tournament Organisers South (VITOS) with the costs of the indoor facilities met by a grant from the Primary Club. Six teams from across the UK descend upon Bristol for the annual tournament which involves singles, pairs, and triples matches on a standard bowls rink with only a string down the middle of each rink providing any assistance to the VI competitors.

As with the VI cricket, the standard of play was astonishingly high. The welcome was most warm and they could not thank the Primary Club enough for the grant which meant that the tournament could take place. Again the standard of sportsmanship was exemplary. It was my privilege to be asked to distribute the cups and medals at the end-of-tournament supper; winners of the Triples were Scotland who also won the Pairs competition. The most prestigious prize is for the Singles B1 (totally blind) which was won by Ada Meikle from Scotland.

Two weeks after the bowls tournament, I was at the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford for the first round of the National Blind Football League which is open only to B1 category people. There are only six B1 football teams in the UK and the Primary Club gave a grant in 2010 to Worcester Blind Football Club; they travel to Hereford for four tournament days during which they play all the other teams on the indoor or outdoor courts.

The games are six-a-side with each team having a sighted goalkeeper and a sighted coach who positions himself behind the opposition's goal and calls to his players to indicate where the goal is in relation to them. The ball is normal sized but contains bells which give the players an audible indication of its position.

Once again, my expectations of the standard of play were well adrift as all teams performed to a high standard, none more so than the Worcester team which contained three current England internationals.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the day was during the lunch break when I was able to talk to the teams and understand the joy that they get from seriously competitive football with fellow B1 players. The players know each other very well and the social side of the day's tournament should not be underestimated.

Their sportsmanship is exemplified by the actions taken when players inevitably collide – the players concerned immediately forget about the ball and help each other, limiting any damage. What a difference to the appalling behaviour of many professional sportsmen that we witness on a routine basis.

really does help

There is a separate national league for other VI players and this takes place at Futsal indoor five-a-side arenas in Birmingham, Cardiff and Swindon *(www.futsaluk.net)*. The first tournament of the season took place in Birmingham in November 2010 where the 12 sides (two leagues of six teams) met for a day's play.

The football in Birmingham is played with the normal Futsal football (a standard size 5 but with a lower bounce) which does not contain any bells. Also, all players have to be registered blind and the team's coach cannot offer positional direction from the touchline.

The standard of play is naturally higher and faster than for the B1 football but encompasses the same standard of sportsmanship. My main interest was in meeting the two teams to whom the Primary Club gave grants in 2010 – the Birmingham and South West Rovers teams. The warmth of the welcome from both teams and the gratitude of the teams to the Primary Club left me in no doubt as to the role the Club plays in helping VI sportspeople and the need for us to grow our fundraising activities.

Another of the Primary Club's grant recipients is Open Country *(www.opencountry.org.uk)*. Based in Harrogate, it provides disabled people with the opportunity to enjoy the countryside. In 2010, the Primary Club bought two tandems for Open Country to provide a cycling experience for VI people and complement the existing fleet of ageing tandems.

When I visited Open Country in November, the season had finished and the tandems were undergoing a full service. I was able to learn first hand how the tandem cycling enables VI people to enjoy activities that would normally be closed to them and how grateful all the members at Open Country are to the Primary Club.

My final event was a visit to New College Worcester for blind and VI children *(www.newcollegeworcester.co.uk)* to whom we gave a grant for the costs of a skiing holiday in early 2010. I was privileged to enjoy a tour of the College conducted by two students – as we bombed along the corridors and the girls chatted to all and sundry, it was difficult to remember that neither girl had any sight. Perhaps the most memorable part of my time was talking to several students who had been on the skiing trip and understanding how much they had benefited from the holiday and how thankful they were to the Primary Club for our grant.

As you can no doubt see from the above, I have been profoundly influenced by visiting some of the many societies, clubs and schools that the Primary Club has helped in 2010 and am now fired up to enrol new members in the 2011 season. How will I achieve that aim as the Area Representative for East Anglia?

The Primary Club has A3 and A4 posters and I ask each cricket league to distribute these to clubs at their pre-season meetings – I have yet to receive a response other than enthusiasm for supporting the Primary Club.

I visit the grant recipients within my area and produce with them a joint press release with photographs which is sent to local media. A copy is also sent to our Club Secretary for the web site. If you are worried about editorial skills, don't worry as within the Primary Club we have some very helpful media people who can hone your output.

I am an umpire within the Essex League and have a ready supply of leaflets and membership forms in my kitbag for distribution.

Do you fancy becoming more involved with the Primary Club, meeting some of the grant recipients and enjoying seeing how your money is being utilised? If so, please do contact me by email at *bob.southward@primaryclub.org* and I'll be delighted to meet you to explain more about what is involved. Believe me, you will not regret getting involved and helping the Primary Club to raise more funds.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR MONEY?

Primary Club English Matchplay

Steve Beevers from Hoylake took part in his first ever Primary Club English Matchplay Championship last May at Patshull Park Golf Club – and won.

Assisted by his Guide, John Porter, Steve beat the tournament's organiser Jay Cookson 3 and 2 in the final, having defeated Derrick Sheridan, Barry Ritchie, Malcolm Elrick and Pieta Le Roux in earlier rounds.

Steve, who himself joined the Primary Club following a first ball dismissal, was delighted with his success and admitted that he did not expect to win any of the matches that got him to the final but intends to take part in many more English Blind Golf Assocation events.

The weather was wonderful for all three days and Patshull Park provided the perfect venue as always. "I would like to thank the Primary Club for their continuing help in funding this event," said Jay, "and all the people that helped me during the three days to keep things running smoothly."

your letters

Rank loosener

Truthfully, I can't remember if it was actually a primary or not, although it was certainly off the first ball I bowled. I played for a works team that participated in what we loosely referred to as a 20 over thrash on midweek evenings. We were playing an old adversary, whose ground was so small that we operated a local rule of no sixes. They also at the time had a bit of a problem with the square, in that it was slightly sunken from the outfield.

On this occasion, we were playing on the edge strip on the square, and I ran in to bowl – an absolute rank loosener that was headed directly for about third slip's position. The batsman shouldered arms, but the ball then hit the slight slope between the wicket and the outfield, and jagged back to take out middle stump! I think I can honestly say I have never taken a wicket with a worse ball. And as you can imagine, the batsman gave voice to a few choice comments as he departed.

Regards,
Trevor Alexander
By email

Naming your Primary

Your correspondent Robin Bolsover asks in last year's newsletter about the bizarre "value" of ducks. Having been the proud 'Primary of the Year' some years ago for admitting to three first-ball-of-the-match ducks on three consecutive days over a Bank Holiday, plus a further two 'golden ducks' in the same week, my team seemed to place little value on my loss of form and the words "tennis" and "knitting" were muttered. What I called them cannot be printed. After such a bleak patch, the cheer given to a first run was like champagne.

In a different season, I suffered the galling experience of a first-ball-of-the-match deflection off the bowler's fingers to be the non-striker, run out without facing a ball. I did give a name to that, but that bowler of many years ago might consider it libellous!

Best wishes,
John Turner

Out first go, hit, time...

I was recently explaining the rules of cricket to a business client of mine in New York. He had no problem in picking up the basic principles but stopped me when I started to mention ducks and, naturally, primaries and explained that there is a similar term in baseball - a "golden sombrero" is the term when an unlucky player strikes out four times in one game. This is not quite the same as a 'golden duck' but it got me thinking: what other sports have an equivalent to being out first ball?

Mr P Markham
Cornwall

The Editor writes: Can any readers help?

twitter

Who should I follow?

Following the announcement that the Primary Club is now on Twitter, I felt compelled to sign up too. But I'm not sure who to 'Follow'. I've just about got the hang of how it works, I just need a few tips about who is worth keeping up with.

James Rothery
Yorkshire

The Editor writes: We can suggest Jonathan Agnew (@aggerscricket), Graeme Swann (@Swannyg66), Malcolm Ashton (@TMSscorer), Kevin Pietersen (@kevinpp24) who famously tweeted rather angrily about being dropped by England, and Charl Willoughby from Somerset (@charlwilloughby) as intriguing people to keep tabs on. If you have a favourite player try simply typing their surname and 'Twitter' into a search engine. Or see who other cricketers are following for more suggestions.

Write to us at:
The Primary Club, PO Box 12121, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2ZF

Email us at:
secretary@primaryclub.org

From the Hon Sec…

Dear Member

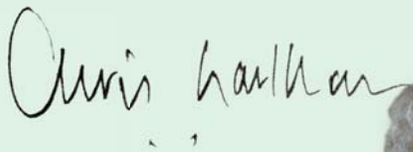
The year just ending has not been an easy one for charities. At The Primary Club, we have managed a very similar result to last year (itself boosted after last year's newsletter went to print by a legacy of almost £20,000 from the estate of the late Gary James, a member who lived in South London) – and that because of receipts of £20,500 from Andrew Strauss's benefit and, thanks to our Patron, Derek Underwood, about £10,000 from a bat autographed by both teams when England beat Australia at Lord's for the first time in 75 years and sold in conjunction with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

One cannot of course plan for such "exceptional items" but we have planned a fourth Primary Club dinner in 2011 which will take place at Lord's on Tuesday 12th July. Full details may be found elsewhere in the newsletter. We are honoured and delighted to have Sir John Major as our guest speaker. Sir John, who served as Prime Minister between 1990 and 1997, has been an honorary member of The Primary Club for 20 years. When leaving Office in May 1997, Sir John showed a great sense of perspective when he went direct from Number 10 and Buckingham Palace to spend the rest of the day at The Oval. He has always been a staunch supporter of Surrey (something he has in common with the Hon Sec) and was their President from 2000 to 2002. He is currently on the MCC Committee, involved not least with the momentous plans to develop Lord's. In 2007 he published "More Than a Game", a story of cricket's early years.

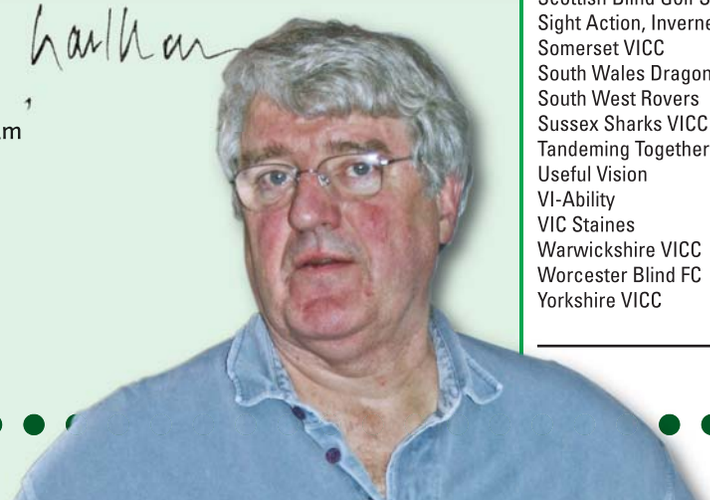
When the basic rate of tax was reduced from 22% to 20% three years ago, there were special arrangements which enabled charities to reclaim tax under the Gift Aid scheme as if the rate had not been reduced. Those arrangements come to an end on 31st March; in the current economic climate it is, I fear, more likely that they will be continued only via a return to a basic rate of 22% than a continuation of the transitional arrangements. The effect will be a reduction of about £4,000 in the Club's annual income. Please give as generously as you can to plug the gap.

We have managed to increase grants by £10,000 from £172,000 to £182,000. New recipients include four new blind cricket teams in Durham, Kent, Nottinghamshire and Somerset, whose development has been helped by the marvellous work being done at Blind Cricket England & Wales.

Yours sincerely



Chris Larlham



THE PRIMARY CLUB FORECAST RESULT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

	2010/11 £ (forecast)	2009/10 £(actual)
Joining subscriptions and donations	121,112	132,256
Exceptional items	30,375	19,838
Profit on sales of merchandise	1,576	2,080
Primary Predictions profit		567
Tax claim under Gift Aid	26,450	28,400
Interest receivable	784	724
Total income	**180,297**	**183,865**
Publicity and administration costs	(11,532)	(12,432)
Surplus for the year	168,765	171,433
Surplus from earlier years	57,096	53,364
Adjustment for grants refunded		4,500
	225,861	**229,297**
Grants (details below)	182,574	172,201
Surplus to carry forward	**43,287**	**57,096**

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

2011 GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Action for Blind People	Actionnaires Plus Clubs – sports coaches & away days		14,000
Berkshire Co Blind Soc	Monthly sports club & cricket club		11,710
Birmingham Sports Club	Futsal		3,000
Birmingham Tenpin Bowling	Tenpin bowling		300
Blatchington Court Trust, Sussex	Residential camp		4,900
Blind Cricket England & Wales	Equipment & development programme		7,340
Braille Chess Association	Chess for children		4,000
British Blind Sport	Cricket – KO Final	7,530	
	Football	2,150	
	Tenpin bowling	4,800	14,480
Bromley London Borough	Children's picnic		500
Joseph Clarke School, East London	Eden Project Trip	2,100	
	Music tuition	5,200	7,300
Cornwall County Council	Swimming lessons		180
County Bowls Association	West Country bowls tournament 2010		3,600
Cricket for Change	Development programme		8,384
Derbyshire Assoc for the Blind	Swimming and tenpin bowling		5,504
Durham VICC	2011 Season expenses		2,500
English Blind Golf Assoc	2011 Matchplay Championship		3,000
Hampshire VICC	2011 season expenses		2,500
Island Trust, Exeter	Sailing holidays		3,000
Kent VICAG	Training & development		1,800
Kirklees Education Service, Yorks	Sport and Recreation aids		5,118
London Sports Club	2011 season expenses		1,000
Metro	Cricket	5,000	
	Lawn bowls	2,000	
	Youth programme	2,000	9,000
Milton Keynes Torch Fellowship	Holidays for members		2,000
National Blind Tenpin Bowling Association, Belfast	Winter Trios League 2010		2,500
New College Worcester	Tents		845
Northants Steelbacks VICC	2011 season expenses		2,500
North Regional VIC Board	2011 season expenses		2,200
Nottinghamshire VICC	2011 season expenses		2,000
Open Country	Tandem equipment		3,350
Outlook Trust, Argyll	Engine for rigid inflatable boat		7,771
Pennine Bowling Club	Winter bowling sessions 2010/11		3,500
Priestley Smith School	After school clubs & holiday		9,652
Scottish Blind Golf Soc	2011 Strokeplay Championship		1,750
Sight Action, Inverness	Residential Outdoor Bound project		2,780
Somerset VICC	Start-up grant and 2011 season expenses		3,500
South Wales Dragons CC	2011 season expenses		2,500
South West Rovers	2010-11 football expenses		2,000
Sussex Sharks VICC	2011 season expenses and juniors		3,000
Tandeming Together	Tandem maintenance		1,700
Useful Vision	Residential break		4,785
VI-Ability	Summer camp 2010		3,000
VIC Staines	Dry ski day		625
Warwickshire VICC	2011 season expenses		2,500
Worcester Blind FC	Equipment and season expenses		2,500
Yorkshire VICC	2011 season expenses		2,500
			£182,574

Primary Club Knockout Cup

SUSSEX Sharks won the 2010 Primary Club Knockout Cup with a six wicket win over Metro in the August 21 final at The Rose Bowl, *writes David Bennett.*

The morning rain resulted in the match being reduced to 25 overs each. For much of the match Sharks' skipper Andy Dalby-Welsh must have regretted giving Metro first use of the wicket as the holders totalled 173-5.

That target looked even bigger when Sharks were 54-2 after 12 overs. But Daniel Field put bat to ball effectively with a rapid unbeaten 40 from 28 balls and with Declan Dexter (35) gave Sharks the much needed momentum with a third wicket stand of 41 in five overs.

Earlier Dexter had held two catches in the Metro innings in which skipper Rory Field (54) and Matt Dean (23) shared an opening partnership of 81. Field led from the front and hit a six and eight boundaries scoring at just under a run a ball. Heindrich Swanepoel's rapid unbeaten 32 – from 25 deliveries – was Metro's other main contributor. Dave Allen, 1-16 in five overs, was the pick of the Sharks' attack.

Sharks' openers Simon Ledwith and Miles Northwood were unable to make much headway against Field (0-11 in four overs), Dave Townley (1-11 in five) and Amit Amin (1-22 in five) until Dexter was joined by Field.

After Dexter's departure Field and Joe Harrison (29) continued Sharks' aggression by adding a further 72 from seven overs and what had seemed an unlikely victory was achieved with eight balls to spare.

Dexter and Amin won the man of the match awards.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR MONEY?

Lakes vacation

Useful Vision supports children with visual impairment in the north east. On a weekend trip to Windermere last summer 19 families – including 20 VI children, 11 siblings and 35 parents/carers (including two vision impaired parents) spent their Saturday kayaking on Lake Windermere, visiting the Beatrix Potter experience and enjoying a BBQ and disco at the hotel. On Sunday the families enjoyed swimming in the hotel followed by a Sunday lunch before travelling home.

"Thank you so much for your kind generosity which helped to make this event such a huge success," says Georgie Kenny, Charity Co-ordinator at Useful Vision.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

The editor welcomes contributions from members. Any personal cricketing oddity, ideally involving a primary, would be welcome. Photos would be a bonus!

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