Dear Primary Club Members

We are the parents of Sean Harrington, now aged five. Sean is totally blind, having had both eyes removed in October 2003. At twenty months he was diagnosed with childhood retinal cancer.

As well as the heartbreak of his loss, we didn’t know how to encourage him to start moving around. He began wandering around the house, bumping into things.

The Sensory Services Department of Kirklees Council advised us to apply for financial help to buy some equipment to channel Sean’s energy. We were delighted to receive £1,500 from The Primary Club.

With the money we were able to buy a wonderful climbing frame. As well as helping his mobility and strength, it has been an invaluable ‘friend magnet’, drawing in a lot of the neighbouring children who were unsure how to react to him.

We want to say a huge thank you to all the members who enabled us to buy this wonderful piece of equipment which has helped Sean take his first steps on the road to re-adjustment and gaining confidence.

Yours sincerely

Brian and Victoria Harrington
Primary Club Juniors

The Primary Club Juniors have arrived! In response to requests from many members (there must be life before 50), the Club is opening a junior section for those aged eighteen or under.

Middlesex and England opening batsman Andrew Strauss (pictured right) has agreed to be the first President of the Club’s junior section.

The Primary Club Juniors will be a great way for young people to become part of The Primary Club’s work with blind and partially sighted sports men, women and children. We hope that most Juniors will eventually become full members of the Club.

For an annual membership of £15, Primary Club Juniors will receive a certificate and a letter signed by Andrew Strauss, and a ‘goody bag’ including a Gray-Nicolls ball and a mini bat, also signed by Andrew Strauss.

In addition, Junior Members will receive the Club’s quarterly email newsletter and be able to log on to a special website www.primaryclub.org/juniors or visit the main website, www.primaryclub.org, and click ‘Juniors’.

To find out more, check out the website and sign up your sons, daughters, godchildren and everyone else you know who is 18 or under. It’s a really special birthday or Christmas present, which could make a big difference to the lives of other young people who have little or no sight.

Website goes live!

The Club’s new website has been launched! It features everything you could possibly want to know about the Club, including news of current and new projects and back copies of newsletters. Thanks to PA Sport, one page will show every primary in first class or county one day games, almost as soon as it happens.

Donate online!

It is now possible to enrol new members, make donations and buy merchandise online, using a credit or debit card.

www.primaryclub.org

We need more reps!

A big thank you to the nine members who responded to last year’s appeal for Primary Club Area Representatives. They are: Kimball Bailey (Surrey), David Boardman (West Country), Rick Coleman (Warwickshire), Jeremy Challis (Kent), Rowan Laxton (Middlesex), Luke Living (London), Peter Marsden (Essex, inner), Bob Middleton (West Yorkshire) and Bob Southward (Essex/Suffolk).

We still need more volunteers so that we are represented throughout the country – particularly outside the south east.

If you can spare some time to help the Club, find out more by contacting:

Roger Johnson
10 Beresford Hall, St James Park, Long Ditton
Surrey KT6 5RS
Tel: 020 8786 6279
Mobile: 07801 699107
Email: recruitment@primaryclub.org

Don’t be a mug — buy yours now

Following the 2005 celebrations, the Club still has a few jubilee mugs.

These limited edition, fine bone china mugs bear the Club’s jubilee logo in burnished gold.

In a moment of generosity, bordering on insanity, the Hon Sec is slashing the price to an absurd £7.50 each (inc p&p).

Don’t miss this amazing offer!

The Brian Johnston Award

The late Brian Johnston was a great friend of The Primary Club. His frequent references to the Club on Test Match Special played a vital part in its development.

Brian’s wife Pauline wants to keep up the family link with the Club through the Brian Johnston Award, which will go to the winner of an annual six-a-side tournament. This year’s tournament is on Friday, 18 August at Shenley in Hertfordshire.

See www.primaryclub.org for details.

Pauline Johnston will present the winning team with the Brian Johnston Trophy, a silver-plated wicket-keeping glove mounted on a wooden ‘chocolate cake’. As all cricket lovers know, Brian was a wicket-keeper who loved his cake!

The 12 teams will be joined by a guest professional cricketer. There will be lunch, a ‘player of the day’ and, of course, a ‘champagne moment’.

As well as being a special occasion, it will be an excellent way to raise money for the Club.

There will be one team representing The Primary Club. If you would like to represent the Club contact the Hon Sec.
Ian Bell joins The Primary Club. Ian Bell (c Warne b McGrath) becomes the seventh member of England’s victorious Ashes team to join The Primary Club during the Fifth Test Match (see page 4)

The Primary Club’s new website goes live

The Club’s biggest recent project ‘Golden Duck’ is launched by the Duchess of Gloucester

522 members and friends attend the Golden Jubilee Dinner at Lord’s. Top: The three speakers, Mike Brace, Derek Underwood and Richie Benaud. Above: Bill Frindall, Major Peter Horsfall, Sam Loxton and Richie Benaud

The day The Primary Club was formed in 1955 at the Bar of Beckenham Cricket Club after a match against Old Olavians. Three founder members (l to r) the late Mike Sheeres, Keith Patterson, Ralph Lilley, in 1999

The Patron retires. Derek Underwood walks off a cricket field in England for the last time. He had been playing at Shenley for The Primary Club in a six-a-side competition

The Brian Johnston Six-a-side Competition is announced. Pauline Johnston presents the Hon Sec with the trophy for the new award (see page 2)

The Primary Club v The Primary Club of Australia. Top: PCA captain, Rick Glover, with Derek Underwood, holding the Golden Duck Shield. Above: The teams

The Primary Club v The Primary Club of Australia. Top: PCA captain, Rick Glover, with Derek Underwood, holding the Golden Duck Shield. Above: The teams
HOW YOUR MONEY

Pool Hoists

A grant from The Primary Club to Linden Lodge School in Wandsworth, south London paid for hoists to enable physically disabled children to use the hydrotherapy and swimming pools.

In addition to visual impairment, many of the children at Linden Lodge have severe physical disabilities.

Alex Bramley (left) is seven. Because of a genetic problem he was born totally blind and with no use of his legs. Alex is very bright and intelligent. He loves swimming which, because his body is buoyed up by the water, is his only access to independent movement.

The hydrotherapy pool is for relaxing muscles and exercising otherwise unused limbs.

Without the hoist Alex would be unable to enter the pool.

His smiles and cries of pleasure when he is in the water tell their own story.

Athletics

A grant from The Primary Club funded the British Blind Sport Athletics Championships, held in Nuneaton on 23 April 2005. Over 90 athletes took part.

Despite rain, and at times lightning, 15 records were broken during the day.

Competitors ranged from B1-B4 (totally blind to those with less severe visual impairment, all registered blind) and from under 12s to veterans.

Pictured below is Lisa Daley, 20, winning the Senior 400 metres mixed event.

Lisa is a very determined young woman who has a passion for athletics. She is a member of two athletics clubs and trains six nights a week.

Keep an eye on the results from Beijing in 2008.

‘Space Age Curling’

It is not how we would normally think of curling.

The game, played at the West of England School, has been adapted for visually impaired players.

‘Space Age Curling’ is a good way of including blind and partially sighted young people, often with other disabilities, in activities with their peers.

In addition to very poor sight, Chris Granados, 14, (below) has severe cerebral palsy. The Primary Club grant pays for Chris to play ‘Space Age Curling’ with a long-handled pole, as he spends most of his time in a wheelchair.

He loves being part of a team. Children in wheelchairs can be easily isolated.

Special Holidays

In summer 2005, eight children with little or no sight enjoyed a week’s holiday at Honeywood House, a specialist hotel in West Sussex, owned by the Royal Blind Society. Most of the children also have other severe physical disabilities.

The holidays were paid for by a grant from The Primary Club.

The age of the children ranged from 2 to 10. A busy week included trips to...
WAS SPENT IN 2005

Sarah Walker from Bradford is 18. In the picture (top right) she is steering Alba Venturer, a 70-foot sail training vessel, through rough seas off the west coast of Scotland during a five day trip from Largs to Tarbert.

Sarah and seven other visually impaired young people from The Outlook Trust were on a sailing holiday paid for by a grant from The Primary Club.

Sarah’s sight is deteriorating. She steered Alba Venturer with the help of a guide or, on occasions, with an audio compass.

Sarah gained experience at the helm of a boat through sailing Out for a Duck (a 25-foot gig The Primary Club gave to The Outlook Trust in 1999) on Lake Windermere.

At the end of a demanding trip, the skipper of Alba Venturer paid his visually impaired crew a fine compliment. He said that they had sailed the boat as efficiently as any able-bodied crew.

Nautical Challenge

Sarah’s sight is deteriorating. She steered Alba Venturer with the help of a guide or, on occasions, with an audio compass.

Sarah gained experience at the helm of a boat through sailing Out for a Duck (a 25-foot gig The Primary Club gave to The Outlook Trust in 1999) on Lake Windermere.

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Mike Thomas

The former Hon Sec of The Primary Club, Mike Thomas, died on 29 August in the Princess Royal Hospital, Bromley, after a short illness. He was 81.

Mike played for many years for the Beckenham 1st XI. He was captain of Beckenham when the 15 year old Derek Underwood, now Primary Club Patron, played his first game for the club. He became President of both Beckenham cricket and rugby clubs.

In 1985 Mike became Honorary Secretary of The Primary Club. With his wife Tonie, he ran the cricketers’ charity for the blind until 1996. During those eleven years The Primary Club went from strength to strength. Grants for sporting facilities, to schools and clubs for the blind, grew significantly.

The care that Mike took to develop personal relationships with the Club’s members created the idiosyncratic style that is so important to The Primary Club.

Mike Thomas was a man of total integrity, great charm and inexhaustible energy. He contributed hugely to every club or organisation with which he was involved. Primary Club members will miss him, as will visually impaired sportsmen, women and children throughout the UK.

The Club’s thoughts are with Tonie and his daughter Jackie and son Adrian.

Wine offer

In addition to our usual Club wines (see merchandise leaflet), we can now offer members two exceptional wines, produced by one of Australia’s great wine makers, Jim Barry.

Silly Mid On 2005

A delicious blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. It has three different labels, illustrating the hazards of fielding in the most dangerous position on the field. Best drunk after batting.

The Cover Drive 2004

An exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon, it is named appropriately after the most graceful shot in the game. Think Tom Graveney in his pomp.

Both wines are ready for drinking and come in cases or half cases, mixed if required.

12 bottles (mixed or unmixed) cost £108;
6 bottles (mixed or unmixed) cost £60. Both prices include delivery.

Please use the enclosed Donation and Order Form

Cricket Covers

Many members will be pleased that the Club has, once again, decided to offer Cricket Covers for sale – the enclosed leaflet gives more details.

If you are ordering Cricket Covers use the special form. Remember to use the usual Club Donation and Order Form for any other purchases and, above all, your donation.
The North Atlantic Beat

Andy Clark, a detective with the Metropolitan Police, is embarking on one of the most daunting tasks ever taken on by a member to raise money for the Club.

On 6 June 2006, he and three others from Sevenoaks Rugby Club will set off from New York to row the Atlantic. They expect to arrive in Falmouth some 55 days and 3,100 nautical miles later.

There will be 15 identical four-man boats braving the Atlantic in the Shepherd Ocean Fours Rowing Race. The Primary Club, which has been named by Andy as his chosen charity, stands to gain substantially from this formidable challenge.

Members can learn more about the race and follow Andy’s progress on www.sevenoaksatlanticrow.com.

Famous Primaries

From Dave Lewis...

“Our pub, The Reform Inn, Barnstaple, plays once a year, whether we want to or not, under the name of Lord Basil’s Invitation XI. This time we took on an older enemy than Australia, namely the Cornish, and a team from The Oddfellows’ Arms, Falmouth.

“Maybe it was the sun, probably it was the beer, but on my way out to bat at number 10 I was able to say quite confidently to number 11, ‘Pad up Alan I’ll be back in a minute’.

“And I was, middle stump knocked out of the ground by Simon Bush.

“I will have revenge. In June The Oddfellows’ Arms hosts Cakefest: the regulars all bake a cake and I’m brought in as impartial observer to pick the best one. Let’s just say Mr Bush will have about as many points for his cake as I had runs on the score sheet. I am far more suited to eating cakes than playing cricket.”

Mr Lewis was accepted as a member with alacrity.

Dave Lewis...revenge will be sweet – literally!

Generous...Ronald Lockwood

The generous fiddler

The Club has received the most generous bequest in its history from a musician who loved cricket and, in his later years, had problems with his sight.

When Ronald Lockwood died in April 2005, at the age of 83, he bequeathed The Primary Club £113,000 in his will.

Music was Ronald Lockwood’s life. He trained at the Guildhall School of Music and had a successful career as a freelance violinist, playing in several of the country’s major orchestras.

As he grew older his sight failed, but fortunately he was able to watch his great loves, cricket and rugby, on television. His biggest pleasure was to turn down the television sound and listen to Test Match Special, in particular the late Brian Johnston.

Mr Lockwood’s extraordinary generosity will make a very significant difference to what the Club can achieve in its work with visually impaired sportsmen, women and children.

Changing the guard

After 20 years devoted service to the Club, Tony Bentall has retired as Hon Treasurer.

Tony has been a really outstanding Treasurer and has worked closely with the last three Hon Secs. He will remain as a Trustee.

We are very fortunate that he is succeeded by Ross Midgley (right).

Educated at St Paul’s School and Oxford, he is a qualified chartered accountant and has worked in major City accounting firms. He was Finance and IT Director and Global Policy Director of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants from 1991 until his retirement in 2004.

Describing himself as a modest village cricketer, Ross is serious about his bridge and his wine – a natural soul mate for the Hon Sec. Ross becomes a Trustee of the Club.
From the Hon Sec....

Dear Member

Among cricket followers, 2005 will always be remembered as the year in which England, after a marvellous summer of Test cricket, finally regained The Ashes. It will also be remembered, and not just by the 9,500 of you reading this newsletter, as the year in which your Club celebrated its Golden Jubilee – and very successfully too, with a record income, a near 50% increase in new members and grants to 45 schools and clubs for the blind and partially sighted (including 14 new applicants) exceeding £200,000 for the first time.

The Club has always been fortunate in the volunteers who help to run it. This year has seen the retirement of Tony Bentall after nearly twenty years keeping a watchful eye on the Club’s finances and exercising a gentle restraining influence on successive Hon Secs who wanted to pay out every penny in grants. Sadly, one of those Hon Secs, Mike Thomas, died during the year. This newsletter is only possible because of the design skills of Sam Wells and Nicci Westgarth and reaches you via Derek & Maureen Rowlands and their team who pack all those envelopes.

I must also mention Helen Cleave, Paul Doyle, Allan Guild and Luke Living. These four young graduates from Warwick University first became involved with the Club at the time of the 2003 dinner; since then, they have been largely responsible for our excellent new website (in conjunction with Bob Southward, our “Webmaster”) and database, the fund-raising activities of the Primary Club Casuals, the Primary Club Juniors and many other things. With a number of their friends they put in a huge amount of work to help the Jubilee Dinner run smoothly.

Our increased revenue has also brought unavoidable increases in expenditure; having taken our turnover above £250,000 we are now obliged to have our accounts fully audited. Postage costs increased last April and will have increased again by the time you read these words. Every step is taken to minimise the amount of your donations that is spent on anything other than grants. It has always been the Club’s policy to acknowledge every donation unless we are asked not to; if you are content merely to see your cheque pass through your bank account, please write “No acknowledgement necessary” on the donation form.

Yours sincerely

Chris Larlham

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**The Primary Club**

**FORECAST RESULT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<td>Proceeds of sales of merchandise</td>
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**Surplus for the year**

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<th>Description</th>
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**2006 Grants to Schools and clubs for the Blind and Partially Sighted**

**Primary Club News April 2006**

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Dorton Radio revisited

On 7 December 1999 Dorton Radio went on air, funded by grants from The Primary Club totalling £51,000.

Dorton House School and College, run by the Royal London Society for the Blind, is in north Kent.

Six years after the opening, we revisited Dorton to see how things were going at one of the country’s smallest radio stations.

The BBC it is not. Lord Reith would be astonished at the chaotic informality of Dorton Radio. The young disc jockeys and producers who run the station have a unique approach to broadcasting.

Fysal Abdullahi, 18, in the control room. The grant paid for state-of-the-art equipment adapted for the visually impaired. Most students, even those with the poorest sight, quickly become expert with the controls.

The station is ‘on air’, Monday-Wednesday 4.30-7.30pm; Thursday 12.40-1.40pm; Friday 2-4pm & Saturday 4-8pm (except holidays).

The Thursday lunchtime programme, run by and for the younger students, is a masterclass in how to break every rule in the book of ‘how to broadcast’ and get away with it. Brilliantly.

Everyone, broadcasters and listeners, has a lot of fun. For older students it is valuable training and work experience.

You can tune into Dorton Radio on medium wave kHz 1350 or through the internet. Go to www.rlsb.org.uk and click on ‘Listen Live to Dorton Radio’

Dorton Radio broadcasts mainly music but there is also a sports programme, and interviews with visiting celebrities.

Declan Dexter, 12, is one of a group of younger students with real broadcasting flair.

Media Tutor Michael Whiting shows Terry Kelly, 18, how to use a portable digital recorder. For older students, who are planning a career in broadcasting, the radio station is not just fun — the level 2 Media Course is an introduction to radio production.

Dorton Radio broadcasts to students and staff. Broadcasts can be received within a 10 mile radius of Dorton. Through the internet, Dorton Radio even has listeners in Brazil!

Terry out and about interviewing the unsuspecting citizens of Sevenoaks. Work with the radio station develops the students’ confidence.