

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

EX-NOTTINGHAM FOREST CAPTAIN GIVES NOTTINGHAM BLIND KIDS A SPORTING CHANCE

John McGovern, the only Nottingham Forest captain to have ever lifted the European Cup, will soon be sharing his football skills with blind children from Nottingham.

Action for Blind People is launching the first Nottingham multi-sports club for blind and partially sighted kids from across the area on May 13th 2006. The club, known as Actionnaires will be run in partnership with Nottinghamshire Royal Society for the Blind, who will provide non-sporting activities, and RNIB, who will be supporting a parents' focus group. Hilton in the Community Foundation has generously donated £50,000 to Action and part of this will fund the sporting activities at this new club.

Commonwealth Champion boxer Carl Froch, also known as 'The Cobra' from Nottingham will also be attending the launch to give the children a taste of boxing. The new club will be based at Southglade Leisure Centre and will enable visually impaired children and young people, aged eight to 16 years, enjoy a wide range of activities in a fun, safe and supportive environment.

John McGovern, Former Nottingham Forest Captain, said: "I think it's fantastic to see blind and partially sighted children being given the same sporting opportunities as their sighted friends. It is so important to enable these children to build self-

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confidence and realise their own potential. There should be nothing stopping Actionnaires kids potentially becoming sports heroes of our future. I'm glad to be a part of helping Action for Blind People achieve this."

On the day of the launch the children will have the chance to take part in football and boxing sessions run by experienced and qualified coaches. Nottinghamshire Royal Society for the Blind will be leading dance, school holiday programmes and crafts activities and as part of the club RNIB will be running a monthly focus group for parents to meet and share their concerns and ideas.

John Ellery, Sports Development Officer at Action for Blind People, said: "Helping children develop their confidence and skills at a young age will have a positive long term impact on every aspect of their future lives. Action would like to thank Hilton, the Nottinghamshire Royal Society for the Blind and RNIB for their support and contribution in making this happen."

Ian Keetley, Operations Manager at Nottinghamshire Royal Society for the Blind, said: "NRSB have been working with youngsters in the county for a few years now, by working with Action for Blind People and RNIB in this way it will expand the resources and support available to children and their families massively. By providing both sporting and non-sporting activities the group will appeal to all vision impaired children."

For more information about the Nottingham Actionnaires club, please contact John Ellery, Sports Development Officer on 0121 665 4208

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For further media information please contact Debbie Flatley, Press Office, Action for Blind People on 020 7635 4921 or debbie.flatley@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- Journalists/photographers are invited to the launch, which takes place from 1:30-3:30pm at Southglade Leisure Centre, Southglade Road, Bestwood Nottingham, NG5 5GU.
- There are currently 15 Actionnaires clubs across the UK in Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Essex, Sunderland, Blackburn, Coventry, Manchester, Liverpool, West London, South London, Hull, Birmingham, Southampton and Peterborough
- Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year. Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline is 0800 915 4666.
- Action provides visually impaired people with opportunities through employment, housing, leisure and information and support.
- Hilton in the Community Foundation was registered in millennium year as the charitable trust for Hilton International and LivingWell. Hilton in the Community Foundation is committed to supporting those most in need to have a brighter future. For further information visit www.hilton-foundation.org.uk