



NEWS RELEASE

10/08/06

For immediate release

Southampton blind kids take to the lake after Hilton splash out

The Southampton Actionnaires, a sports club for visually impaired children, will be making a splash at Lakeside Country Park when the children learn to kayak on Saturday 2 September, 10am–12noon. The club, run by national charity Action for Blind People, is celebrating after the Hilton in the Community Foundation generously donated £50,000 to three of the charity’s Actionnaires clubs.

***** **Photo Opportunity** *****

WHO: Blind and partially sighted children of the Southampton Actionnaires along with staff from the Hilton Southampton.

WHAT: The children will be learning to kayak (from 10am) and a cheque will be presented to the club by the Hilton in the Community Foundation (at 12noon).

WHEN: Saturday 2 September, 10am – 12noon.

WHERE: Lakeside Country Park, near Eastleigh (the children will be using the lake on the right at the far end of the car park).

Nicky Holloway, Action for Blind People’s Sports Development Officer, comments:

“Over the past few months the kids have tried judo, football and athletics. Without funding for equipment such as footballs with bells inside, or the hiring of specialist coaches, the club simply couldn’t run! I know the children are looking forward to



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kayaking as for most of them, it will be the first time they've tried water sports. We're very grateful to Hilton for helping us provide visually impaired young people with such a variety of sporting opportunities."

Simon Sheehan, Director of the Hilton in the Community Foundation, said:

"This innovative project really enables blind and partially sighted children to feel included in nearly all sporting activities. It is a pleasure for the Foundation to be supporting young people to fulfil their potential in this way."

The Southampton Actionnaires, which is run in partnership with Southampton City Council, meets fortnightly on Saturdays, 10am – 12noon, at Southampton's Chamberlayne Leisure Centre. Membership is free and the club is open to all blind and partially sighted children aged eight to 16, along with their friends and siblings. Please contact Nicky Holloway for further information on mobile: 07793 527031 or email: nicky.holloway@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

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For further information please contact Zoë Patel, Press Officer, Tel: 020 7635 4898, email: zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk



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Notes to editors:

- There are currently 16 Actionnaires clubs across the UK in Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Essex, Sunderland, Blackburn, Coventry, Liverpool (2), Manchester, West London, South London, Hull, Birmingham, Southampton, Nottingham and Peterborough.
- 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
- 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 works to inspire change and create opportunities to enable blind and partially sighted people to have equal voice and equal choice and to live a full and valuable life.
- Action provides visually impaired people with opportunities through employment, housing, leisure and information and support.
- If abbreviating "Action for Blind People", please use "Action" rather than AFBP or ABP.