

NEWS RELEASE

25/09/06

For immediate release

Birthday celebrations for blind children in Hull

Hull Actionnaires, a sports club for visually impaired children, celebrated its first anniversary on Saturday, September 23rd. The club, run by national charity, Action for Blind People, marked the occasion with a bowling party.

Over the course of their opening year, Hull Actionnaires have enjoyed various sports, including:

- Boccia, an internationally recognised game played at the Paralympics
- Goalball, a game developed specifically for blind and partially sighted participants
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Trampolining
- Swimming

The Hull Actionnaires plan to take up dance, football, rugby and new age kurling in the coming months.

Lesley Inganni, North East Sports Development Officer for Action for Blind People, said, "Many of the children go to mainstream schools where access to sport can be very limited for them. Actionnaires gives the children a chance to improve their confidence and social skills. The atmosphere at the club this year has been great; all the children have fantastic attitudes and they all support each other, which is very important."

- Action for Blind People would like to thank all its partners for their generosity and continued support that have made Hull Actionnaires possible this year. The group meets every Saturday at 12pm at the Woodford Leisure Centre in Hull, where new members are welcome to come along, as are their siblings and friends. Membership is free of charge. If you would like to join, please contact Lesley Inganni on 07703 099354.

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For further information please contact Victoria Moffett, PR Officer, Tel: 020 7635 4921, email: victoria.moffett@actionforblindpeople.org.uk or call 07739 819954 for out of hours enquiries.

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.
- The Actionnaires clubs provide blind and partially sighted children, aged 8 to 16 years, the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of sports in a safe, fun and structured environment, which they may not get the chance to do elsewhere.
- Actionnaires Hull's partners are HERIB (Hull and East Riding Institute for the Blind); Hull City Council; Woodford Leisure Centre; Federation of Disability Sports and the Local Education Authority Support Services.
- 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.