

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

BLIND BIRMINGHAM KIDS GET READY FOR 2012 OLYMPICS

Action for Blind People, in partnership with Birmingham Focus on Blindness and Hamstead Hall Sport & Community Club, has launched a new sports club in Birmingham for blind kids. The club opened on Saturday 19th November at Hamstead Hall Secondary School. Visually impaired children and young people from Birmingham will now have 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

John Ellery, Sports Development Officer at Action for Blind People, said: 'The club, which will be known as 'Birmingham Actionnaires', for 8-16 year olds, has been developed with the aim to build each child's self confidence, social interaction and their ability to develop a range of physical skills. It has been fantastic working closely with Birmingham Focus and Hamstead Hall Sport & Community Club, this would not have happened without their help.'

Elizabeth Percy, Community Services Manager at Birmingham Focus, said: 'The new multi-sports club is an excellent way to raise awareness of the recreational and sporting opportunities for blind and partially sighted children and young people. It is great for Birmingham Focus to be able to support Action for Blind People and be part of helping these kids fulfil their sporting potential.'

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The club has been funded through support from Lords' Taverners, Aga Food Services Group and The Primary Club, the cricketer's charity that raises money to provide sports and recreational facilities for the visually impaired.

For more information about the Birmingham Actionnaires club, please contact John Ellery, Sports Development Officer on 0121 422 1709.

Ends

For further media information please contact Debbie Flatley, Press Office, Action for Blind People on 020 7635 4921 or debbie_f@afbp.org

Notes to Editors

- Journalists are invited to attend the launch at Hamstead Hall Secondary School, Hamstead, on 19th November from 11-1pm.
- There are currently 12 Actionnaires clubs running in Huddersfield, Hull, Gravesend, Portsmouth, Essex, Liverpool, South London, Southampton, Sunderland, Blackburn, Coventry and Manchester.
- Action for Blind People enables blind and partially sighted people to transform their lives through work, housing, leisure and support. Action for Blind People's freephone national helpline is 0800 9154666