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For immediate release

Judo champ guides Manchester's blind kids into 2012 Olympics

The Manchester Actionnaires, Manchester's only sports club for blind and partially sighted children, will get a taste for judo when Paralympic medallist Ian Rose visits the club on Saturday 29 April, 1-3pm. Manchester Actionnaires, run by national charity Action for Blind People, is free to all visually impaired children living in and around Manchester.

This special judo session is being run in partnership with the British Judo Association (BJA) and children from all over the North West will attend. Athens silver medallist, Ian Rose, who is visually impaired himself, along with BJA's Visually Impaired Performance coach Steve Gawthorpe, will lead the session. The kids will be given a suit, belt and temporary judo licence and by the end of the session should know their 'Deashi Barai' from their 'Hon Kesa Gatame'!

Action for Blind People's Ross Ford comments:

"Manchester Actionnaires gives visually impaired children a great opportunity to try out all kinds of sports in a fun and supportive environment. Many kids just come along to our clubs for fun, but we have some real talent emerging. We want to nurture that and we're grateful to Ian Rose for giving up his time to pass on his skills and inspire the next generation of Paralympians."

Mark Beecher, Head of Operations from the BJA, commented: "This is a wonderful



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opportunity for the BJA to work in partnership with Action for Blind People in providing an inspiring experience for the members of Manchester Actionnaires. The aim will be for those participants wanting to continue in judo being linked to their local BJA clubs. It is the intention that similar sessions will be provided to all Actionnaires clubs across England and hopefully some of the participants will go on into the sport and represent Great Britain in the 2012 Paralympics.”

This special Manchester Actionnaires session will take place at George H Carnall Leisure Centre, Kingsway Park, Davyhulme, Manchester M41 7FJ. All blind or partially sighted children along with their friends and family are welcome.

-Ends-

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

Notes to editors:

- In judo a Deashi Barai is a foot sweep. A Hon Kesa Gatame is a basic hold down.
- 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.
- Manchester Actionnaires is supported by Foundation for the Sports and Arts, and BBC Children in Need.

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