

NEWS RELEASE

26 October 2005

For immediate release

Blind Southampton kids learn to bend it like Beckham

Blind and partially sighted children from Southampton will be taking part in a variety of sporting activities at a new Actionnaires club launched by Action for Blind People on Saturday 29 October, 9am - 12pm.

The Southampton Actionnaires Club, which will be based at Chamberlayne Leisure centre, Southampton, is a multi sports club for visually impaired children and young people aged between eight and 16 years. They will have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of sports in a safe, fun and structured environment, receiving excellent instruction from both specialist and mainstream sports coaches.

Nicky Holloway, Sports Development Officer at Action for Blind People said, "We recognise a demand for the provision of sports activities for visually impaired children in the Southampton area. This is our way of addressing that need. One of the main objectives of the club is to aid the development of each child's self confidence, social interaction and their ability to develop a range of physical skills'.

On Saturday 29 October 2005, participants will enjoy Judo and football taught by qualified instructors. The club will run on the second and last Saturday of every month and will offer a variety of sports.

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The formation of the Actionnaires club is a result of partnership working with the Southampton City Council Sport Development Team and Chamberlayne Leisure Centre.

Ends

For further information please contact Zoë Mendies, PR Officer, Action for Blind People on 020 7635 4898 or zoe_m@afbp.org

For more information about the Southampton Actionnaires club, please contact Nicky Holloway, Sports Development Officer on 020 7635 4905

Notes to Editors

- Journalists are invited to attend the launch on Saturday 29 October from 10am-12noon.
- There are currently 11 Actionnaires clubs across the UK in Huddersfield, Gravesend, Portsmouth, Essex, Liverpool, Sunderland, Blackburn, Coventry, Manchester, West London, Hull and Southampton.
- Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year.
- 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.