



NEWS RELEASE

09/01/07

For immediate release

Sport in Action for blind children in Middlesbrough

Visually impaired children from Teesside are getting their very own sports club run by national charity, Action for Blind People. The club, called Actionnaires, will launch on Saturday 13 January and will allow blind and partially sighted children from eight to 16 to take part in such sports as climbing, archery and swimming on a weekly basis. The Actionnaires will enjoy a special treat this week, as Durham County Cricket star Mark Davies, will be on hand to offer sporting tips, together with local MP Dr Ashok Kumar.

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

WHO: Blind and partially sighted children of the Middlesbrough Actionnaires, with attendance from Durham County Cricket player, Mark Davies, and local MP Dr Ashok Kumar.

WHAT: The children will be playing various sports using specialist equipment.

WHEN: Saturday 13 January 2007, 9am – 11am.

WHERE: Rainbow Leisure Centre, Parkway Centre, Coulby Newham, TS8 0TJ.

Manager of Middlesbrough FC, Gareth Southgate, voiced his support of the club, saying, "The launch of the Middlesbrough Actionnaires is a great boost for blind and



NEWS RELEASE

partially sighted children on Teesside. I'm a firm believer in sport being available to all and this is a great example of giving children an opportunity to get involved in activities they might normally miss out on. I wish the Actionnaires the very best of luck.”

Lesley Inganni, Action for Blind People’s Sports Development Officer, comments: “Middlesbrough Actionnaires offers blind and partially sighted children the chance to try different sports in a fun, safe and encouraging environment. We hope kids from all over Teesside will join the club, whether they’re budding Paralympians or have never tried sport before. We’re very grateful to our funders for their generous support. Without funding for equipment such as footballs with beads inside, or the hiring of specialist coaches, the club simply couldn’t run!”

Middlesbrough Actionnaires is supported by Middlesbrough Council’s Sports Development and Disability teams. The club will meet every Saturday at Rainbow Leisure Centre, Parkway Centre, Coulby Newham, TS8 0TJ, from 9am – 12pm, and membership is free.

For more information about the Middlesbrough Actionnaires or volunteering for the group, please contact Lesley Inganni, Sports Development Officer on 07703 099354 or email lesley.inganni@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

-Ends-



NEWS RELEASE

For further media information please contact Victoria Moffett, press office on 020 7635 4921 / 07739 819954 or email: victoria.moffett@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year. Contact Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline on 0800 915 4666 or www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk
- 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.
- 2007 marks Action's 150 years of transforming the lives of blind and partially sighted people.
- If abbreviating "Action for Blind People", please use "Action" rather than AFBP or ABP.
- There are now 20 Actionnaires clubs across the UK in Birmingham, Blackburn, Carlisle, Coventry, Essex, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool (2), Manchester, Middlesbrough, Nottingham, Peterborough, Portsmouth, South London, Southampton, Sunderland and West London.