



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Action taken for blind children in Scarborough

The only sports club in Scarborough for blind and partially sighted children has been under threat to close, due to lack of funding. Action for Blind People has been working with club founders Sue and Brian Vasey to help save the club and are delighted to announce that it will now become Action's 23rd 'Actionnaires' sports club. 'Scarborough Actionnaires' will launch on Saturday 5th May from 1pm to 3pm at The Yorkshire Coast College, Lady Erith's Drive, Scarborough.

Sue and Brian's children, Curtis (14) and Taylor (13) were born with a very rare condition called Alstrom Syndrome and were registered blind at birth. The Vasey's have always made every effort to give them the same chances in life than their sighted peers. However, when it came to sporting opportunities within Scarborough, they simply did not exist. With support from Henshaws Society for the Blind, the Federation for Disability Sports and the local blind society, Brian and Sue set-up the sports club, which opened in September 2006.

Curtis Vasey, said: "I had never played cricket before going to the club and never thought I would be able to, but I can and I love it! My brother and I have learnt so many new sports, that we had never had the chance to do before and have made lots of new friends."

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Patron HRH Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, GCVO

Registered Charity no: 205913



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Scarborough Actionnaires will meet every 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month and will offer a range of sports, from football to trampolining. The club is open to all visually impaired children and young people aged eight to 16 – although younger children may attend with a parent or guardian. Sighted siblings and friends are also welcome.

Sue Vasey, said: “We want to give our children the same opportunities in life as any other child and we don’t want their visual impairment to stand in their way. Having to close the club would have been devastating, not only for my family, but for all the other children who have already benefited from attending. We would like to say a big thank you to Action for Blind People for helping us to keep the club going.”

Lesley Inganni, Sports Development Officer at Action for Blind People, comments: “We are delighted to be working with Brian and Sue in continuing to give many of the children in the area a sporting chance. We hope that more visually impaired children from Scarborough and the surrounding area will join the club, whether they’re budding Paralympians or have never tried sport before”

For more information on Scarborough Actionnaires please call Lesley Inganni on mobile: 077 0309 9354 or email: lesley.inganni@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

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Journalists and photographers are invited to come along to the launch on 5th May. For further information please contact Debbie Flatley, press office on 020 7635 4921/ 07739 819954 or email: debbie.flatley@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- For more information on Alstrom Syndrome, please visit <http://www.healthline.com/adamcontent/alstrm-syndrome>
- There are now 23 Actionnaires sports clubs run by Action for Blind People across the UK in Ashford, Birmingham, Blackburn, Carlisle, Coventry, Essex, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool (2), Manchester, Middlesbrough, Nottingham, Peterborough, Portsmouth, South London, Southampton, Sunderland, West London, Swindon and Scarborough.
- Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation, ensuring blind and partially sighted people get practical support in all aspects of their lives. Contact Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline on 0800 915 4666 or www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk
- Action for Blind People is breaking down barriers that prevent visually impaired people from achieving the same opportunities as sighted people.
- 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.