



NEWS RELEASE

16/04/07

For immediate release

Blind kids get a kick out of new Swindon sports club

Blind and partially sighted children from Swindon will have their very own sports club when the **Swindon Actionnaires** launches with a kick boxing session on Saturday 28 April. The club has been set up by national visual impairment charity, **Action for Blind People**, with support from Swindon Borough Council. The launch will be attended by local MP Anne Snelgrove.

*****PHOTO CALL*****

WHO: Blind and partially sighted children of the Swindon Actionnaires and local MP Anne Snelgrove.

WHAT: The children will take part in a kickboxing session.

WHERE: The Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DL.

WHEN: Saturday 28 April, 3pm-5pm.

The Swindon Actionnaires will meet every Saturday 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.



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Rebecca Frost, Sports Development Officer at Action for Blind People, commented: “Swindon Actionnaires offers blind and partially sighted children the chance to try different sports in a fun, safe and encouraging environment. Research has shown that only 29% of visually impaired children at mainstream school feel they are fully involved during PE lessons*, instead they are given tasks such as scoring, helping to organise the activity or simply watching. We hope visually impaired kids from Swindon and the surrounding area will take this opportunity to join the club, whether they’re budding Paralympians or they have never tried sport before”.

Anne Snelgrove MP added:

“I am delighted to support the Swindon Actionnaires Club as it will open new doors for blind and partially sighted children. I hope it will demonstrate to schools and parents as well as the children themselves that there should be no barriers to their activities and ambitions.”

The Swindon Actionnaires is part of Action for Blind People’s network of sports clubs for children and is the 22nd club to open since Actionnaires started in 2001. For more information on Swindon Actionnaires people should call Rebecca Frost on mobile: 078 9439 0288 or email: rebecca.frost@actionforblindpeople.org.uk Alternatively Action for Blind People has a National Freephone Helpline on 0800 915 4666.

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For further media information please contact Zoë Patel, press office on 020 7635 4898/ 07739 819954 or email: zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

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Registered Charity no: 205913



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Notes to editors:

* 'We Want to Play', British Blind Sport, 2005

- There are now 22 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 and Swindon.
- 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.