



# NEWS RELEASE

29/03/07

For immediate release

## **Giving Blind Children across the West Midlands a sporting chance**

55 blind and partially sighted children from across the West Midlands let off some steam yesterday by trying out lots of different sports and activities that they may never have participated in before. Action for Blind People, in partnership with RNIB, organised a 'Have a go' day to give visually impaired children in the area a taste of some sporting action and simply have a go!

The event took place at Birmingham Sports Centre in Balsall Heath and the children participated in football, cricket, gymnastics, aerobics and trampolining.

Former visually impaired England Football player, Steve Turbitt, shared his skills on the day by leading on the football session. He comments: "It was always my dream to play for England and it's wonderful to have been able to achieve this. The 'Have a go' day has been a great way of raising awareness of the recreational and sporting opportunities for blind and partially sighted children and young people. It is important for these children to realise their full potential and gain the confidence they need to help make their dreams come true."

Many children within the area have benefited from attending one of the two 'Actionnaires' sports clubs, run by Action for Blind People, based in Coventry and

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Website [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

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Birmingham.

John Ellery, Sports Development Officer at Action for Blind People said: “It was a great day for those children who don’t always get the chance to be involved in much sport. I hope that the children who came along on the day will come along to one of our existing clubs, so they can continue to take part in sports and make new friends.”

**-Ends-**

For further media information please contact Debbie Flatley, press office on 020 7635 4921/ 07739 819954 or email: [debbie.flatley@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:debbie.flatley@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

## Notes to editors:

- 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](http://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.
- There are now 21 Actionnaires sports clubs run by Action for Blind People across the UK in Ashford, Birmingham, Blackburn, Carlisle, Coventry, Essex,

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