



# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## **Action for blind children in Sheffield**

Action for Blind People's 24<sup>th</sup> Actionnaires sports club for visually impaired children opened in Sheffield on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Over 500 blind and partially sighted children from Sheffield have now been given the chance to try sports that they may never have tried before, by having their very own sports club. The new club is called 'Sheffield Actionnaires' and visually impaired children from the area will be able to take part in sports ranging from karate to skittles.

Neil Warnock, Sheffield United FC Team Manager, gave a message of support, saying: "Sheffield United players, staff and management are delighted to hear of the launch of the Sheffield Actionnaires, and congratulate Action for Blind People on its splendid initiative. Unfortunately, owing to own commitments we are unable to be with you in person but wish you all every success and hope that many young people enjoy the benefits the scheme has to offer."

The club will take place every Sunday from 10am to 1pm at the Westfield School Sports Centre, Eckington Road, Beighton, Sheffield. 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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Ross Ford, Sports Development Officer at Action for Blind People, comments:

“Sheffield Actionnaires offers blind and partially sighted children the chance to try different sports in a fun, safe and supportive environment. We hope kids from all over Sheffield will join the club, whether they’re budding Paralympians or have never tried sport before. We’re very grateful to our supporters, The Primary Club, Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind and Local Sensory Visual Impairment Education Services for their great contribution. Without their help the club would never be able to run.”

Sheffield Actionnaires is part of Action for Blind People’s network of sports clubs for children and is the 24<sup>th</sup> club to open since Actionnaires started in 2001. For more information on Sheffield Actionnaires please call Ross Ford on 0800 915 4666 or email: [ross.ford@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:ross.ford@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

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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:

- There are now 24 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, Scarborough and Sheffield.
- Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation, ensuring blind and

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

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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.