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## Andrew Strauss takes the blind cricket challenge

England batsman visits Linden Lodge School and steps up to the crease wearing a blindfold

Andrew Strauss, in his new role as President of the Primary Club Juniors, spent the day with students from Linden Lodge, one of London's leading schools for blind and partially sighted children. He also got his first taste of blind cricket watching the team training in preparation for the afternoon's 'show-down' at the Brit Oval.

Headteacher Roger Legate conducted a tour of the school highlighting the equipment funded by The Primary Club including the specially adapted soft play area complete with 'musical' stairs and the hydrotherapy pool that includes special sound and light effects to help develop the children's senses.

Back at the Brit Oval, following the press conference, Strauss donned a blindfold and faced Linden Lodge's star bowlers. He narrowly avoided a golden duck but was caught out on the second ball.

"Blind cricket is certainly not as easy as it looks," said Andrew . "The energy, determination and enthusiasm of these children to succeed despite their disabilities is quite overwhelming and it's a real honour to be involved with a charity that is working so hard to help improve their chances of success."

"There is a strong cricketing history at our school - with two former pupils having become world class blind cricket players," added Roger Legate, Headteacher at Linden Lodge School. "Naturally our aspiring cricket heroes were thrilled at being able to play with one of England's star players. On a more serious note Andrew's involvement will without a doubt really help to raise awareness about the issues that children with sight problems face and help people to understand why sport is so important for their development into confident adults."

(273 words)

About The Primary Club ([www.primaryclub.org](http://www.primaryclub.org))

Founded in 1955, The Primary Club's mission is to raise money to fund sporting and recreational activities for blind and partially sighted children. Now in its fifty-first year the Club has almost 9,600 members having raised a total of £2 million. In 2006 the Club donated £200,000 to a number of UK-based charities including Linden Lodge School, The Royal London Society for the Blind and British Blind Sport.