



CRICKET

The Umpire strikes back

By Daphne Chamberlain
Give yourselves a test. Are these statements right or wrong.

1) Jack Hobbs, the idolised and record-breaking cricketer of the 1920's and 30's had his bats made in East Finchley.

2) Young people today are not interested in playing cricket.

The first one is right, bats for many famous players came from a factory in what is now Hobbs Green, at the end of Church Lane.

The second statement? Well, fashionable opinion may still assert that the only sport it is cool to care about is football, but don't let that kind of flannel fool you. The willow isn't weeping yet.

Bishop Douglass is one of the local schools making use of the coaching facilities at the Wilf Slack memorial Ground in East End Road.

Older Finchley residents may remember this ground as the long deserted "what used to be called Smith's playing field". Cricket fans will certainly remember Wilf Slack as the Middlesex and England opening batsman one of the first England players of West Indian origin who tragically collapsed and died from a heat condition during a match.

Reverse sweep

The Wilf Slack Young Cricketers Development Trust has taken over and renovated the ground in East End Road. Trustee Victor Cook, Chairman of the M.C.C. Development Association, raised about £560,000 from events like golf days and dinners at Lords. Other money has come from the National Lottery, the Foundation for Sport and Arts and various businesses Pentland is the major sponsor, hence the name of the new pavilion.

Extra cover

The main aim of the Trust is

"to coach kids and provide cricket facilities for schools", lack of these facilities is one of the reasons often given for their neglect of the game. So how are the schools reacting? Apparently, Bishop Douglass is by no means alone in bringing along its pupils for sessions in the nets.

However, this is just a start. The classic advice given to interested youngsters is still to join a club. But isn't this expensive and exclusive? Not necessarily.

Stump up

For example, Mill Hill Village Club, based in Burton hole Lane, offers weekly training for 12 weeks at the very reasonable cost of £10 for the whole season. The youngest children are 7. There are girls as well as boys, and there are a total of 150 young members (3 years ago there were only 40). Good news for mothers is that "whites" are not necessary tracksuit bottoms and trainers are fine.

This relaxed approach is typical of the clubs I contacted all of whom reported a mushrooming interest among young people. They all participate in leagues and knockout games across the age groups. All these clubs include girls as well as boys.

Girls on top

After all, England's Women have actually won the World Cup, which is more than can be said for the Men!

Finchley Cricket Club offers courses for youngsters for £30 per season. Chief Coach is Tim Selwood a former Middlesex player.

Off break

Alternately, try the courses run by Barnet Sports Development Council at Cophall. Summer holiday courses work out at about £25 for 10 hours. Coaches are fully trained (and think of

the cost of a football supporter's strip!).

Remember that winter practise sessions and special events are there to be enjoyed. Remember, too, that the late Denis Compton, a Hendon boy, was spotted as a 13 year old and 19 year old Ben Holiroake hit the Australians for six the other day!

Date for the diary

Wilf Slack Memorial Ground, 19, East End Road N.3. Sunday June 15th Mike Brealey's XI v King Alfred School. Saturday July 12th Under 10's Colts Festival (knock-out event).

Clubs to contact:- Mill Hill Village tel. 1081 959 3586

Finchley:- tel. 0181 346 4025 (Meets in East End Road) Hornsey:- tel. 0181 340 5546 (Tivoli Road Crouch End N8). N.B. This club charges £2 per session, and does expect "whites".

Southgate:- tel. 0181 886 8381 Waterfall Road N14 (Very large membership, so trials are necessary, prefers "whites".

Totteridge:- tel. 0181 348 0392

Barnet Sports Development:- tel. 0181 457 9909.

Gardener Wanted

East Finchley Charity requires a Part-time Gardener for seasonal work. Own transport preferred £6.00 per hour plus expenses Phone 0181 444 1162.

Hospice Support

New members are needed by the North London Hospice for their Support Group to assist with plans for fund-raising events. Members meet every six to eight weeks. For information call 0181 346 6818.

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LOCAL SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

Archivist needed

by Noel Lynch

One of the area's most influential organisations, 'The Finchley Society', is looking for a volunteer archivist to collate, organise and make accessible the records and information held by the society.

The society was formed to protect, conserve and enhance the environment of Finchley and Friern Barnet, and waken public interest in the history and topography of the area.

An ugly new building or an ill planned road, even an advertising hoarding or badly sited traffic sign can irrevocably damage a well loved view or the character of a street.

Space Savers

This society exercises vigilance to benefit the community in Finchley and Friern Barnet; it tries to influence the pattern of change and to preserve the many open spaces and buildings of real interest and quality. Because of the expertise it has built up, the views of the society are often sought on the issues of local importance, by Barnet Council and others.

The society is not against all change, but it is opposed to the creeping conformity that is characteristic of much new building and fights for the survival of the interesting and unique. It takes a close and critical but constructive interest in transport matters, including traffic management schemes, and defends the natural flora and fauna, in particular the ever threatened stock of trees.

Farm Hand

A section of the society is "The Friends of College Farm" who work with the tenant farmer to ensure a future for the farm in Regents Park Road, as a place where farm animals can be seen in a unique suburban environment.

In 1993 the society opened "The Stephen's Collection" in Avenue House. This consists

of displays on the development of writing instruments through the ages.

The latest section of the Finchley Society to be set up is known as "The Friends of Avenue House Grounds". The society has monthly meetings, Christmas Socials, nine newsletters annually, and at least 2 day outings annually. Membership is only £7 (£12 Family). The Honorary Secretary is a local man Robert Winton of Creighton Avenue, tel. 0181 883 2633.

Church News

On Sunday May 25th a party of walkers from Churches Together in Finchley, took part in a walk of six miles visiting sixteen churches in the Finchley area finishing at the Ballards Lane Methodist Church.

The walk was to commemorate the 1400th anniversary of the arrival in 597 AD of St Augustine who was reputed to have bought Christianity these isles.

Cafe Style

The new minister of the Elim Pentecostal Church in Hertford Road, rev. Jim Patterson, is holding what is described as a 'Church Café Style' service on one Sunday a month at 6.30pm.

The aim is to provide light refreshments while enabling people to meet and enjoy a program of music and singing and a brief epilogue.

Contact the Elim Pentecostal Church Hertford Road for details of dates.

PURE BALANCE MIND & BODY CENTRE
Invites you to come and experience
The REIKI Method of Natural Healing
to be held on 29th June
and the last Sunday of each month
FREE
(All donations to The North London Hospice)
1a Leicester Mews, Leicester Road, East Finchley N29DJ.
Tel: 0181 883 4316. Opening times: 1 pm - 6 pm.

CONTACT CONTACT, the East Finchley Neighbourhood Group, who support the elderly and housebound in the area, are appealing for **VOLUNTEERS** with an hour or two to spare to help with shopping and odd jobs. Expenses will be paid.
If you are willing to help a neighbour, please telephone co-ordinator Christine George on 0181 444 1162.
CONTACT


42 CHURCH LANE N2 8DT - TEL 0181 444 6265
**EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE
NEED VOLUNTEER ADVISORS**
Do you enjoy helping others?
Could you give advice?
Are you a sympathetic listener?
Can you spare two and a half hours a week?
Training given
If you are interested contact the co-ordinator on
0181 444 6265.