



S Club Seniors challenge the S Club Juniors Photo by Toni Morgan

Battle of the S Clubs

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley's very own S Club Seniors met the nation's S Club Juniors at the Green Man Centre last month. The following Sunday their meeting was on television, but *The Archer* watched the filming.

Lilly, Lou, Mary and Violet, all from East Finchley Contact's Lunch Club, were already veterans of Channel 4's Popworld. (Remember them in our June issue?) What Popworld had in mind this time, though, was a competition between them and S Club Juniors. So, to make the numbers more equal, three new members took their chance of fame.

Lily Bolding was recruited from Green Man Bingo sessions after talking with her S Club namesake. Gerald Compton-Bassett-Bolton, sometime scriptwriter, is a Strawberry Vale resident, while George Slawski used to drive Contact minicabs to Tesco and is now a councillor at the East Finchley Advice Centre.

Mutual admiration

In the tradition of volunteers, none of them had the slightest idea what they were letting themselves in for. Knitting, dancing, staring and a pop quiz - that's what. Four rounds against the Juniors - and may the best side win. Except that television competitions don't seem to be planned like that.

"We've fixed it", said the director cheerfully, beforehand. "Seniors will win this

round and Juniors this one, etc." Granted it wasn't too hard to guess who would mop up on the knitting and the pop quiz, but nobody had predicted that the Seniors' old-tyme dancing would transmute into a riotous rock'n'roll session.

It's the things you can't orchestrate that set the tone. After watching the carefully directed filming, when it sometimes seemed that every movement - even every expression - was pre-arranged for all the competitors, a bit of spontaneity is refreshing. We

saw how easy it could be to manufacture personalities, and how performers could be made to appear very different from what they are.

That didn't happen here. What was nice about this occasion was the respect and generosity between Seniors and Juniors - all great performers, and all appreciating the other side.

It seems this won't be the last appearance for the S Club Seniors. If *The Archer* knows in time, we'll give you details of future programmes in advance.

Mayor Launches Young at Heart Campaign

The over-fifties in the borough are set to benefit from a whole range of community activities designed to keep them fighting fit for as long as possible.

Young at Heart is a major new year-round campaign that recognises that the needs and interests of older

people are just as important and varied as those of the younger generation.

Sporty

Young at Heart is a partnership initiative between Barnet Council's Accident Prevention Centre and Barnet NHS Primary Care Trust that encourages older people to take advantage of numerous sporting activities intended to promote a healthy mind and body.

Activities range from health walks and golf to swimming and judo classes.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Young at Heart programme of activities can pick up a booklet at any local library or contact Barnet Council's Accident Prevention Centre on 020 8906 8028.

Festival joins the Development Trust

At the AGM of the East Finchley Community Festival, held at the Green Man Centre, thanks were offered to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make the 2002 festival such a success. About 8,000 people attended the event on a lovely Sunday in June. Holding the football competition and the workshops at Strawberry Vale the day before had proved beneficial, as had the involvement of local children and schools in the procession along the High Road to Cherry Tree Wood.

Chairman Charles O'Toole along with Councillor Colin Rogers told the meeting about their position regarding public liability for the festival prior to Martin O'Donnell, secretary of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, proposing the following motion:

"The festival has proved a credit to the volunteering spirit of the people of East Finchley. It has grown in size and strength over many years.

The continued success of the festival is hampered by the unlimited liability of committee members and the inability to apply for certain types of funding due to the festival's unconstituted nature and lack of audited accounts.

To encourage the sustainability and continued growth of the festival we propose:

- (1) That the Festival Committee votes to dissolve itself in its current form, and, that it be reconstituted as a division (sub-committee) of the East Finchley Community Development Trust (EFCDT)
- (2) The EFCDT assumes full responsibility for fund raising, administration and organisation of the festival."

After further discussion the meeting unanimously agreed.

The Trust was set up by a coalition of organisations and works to promote community development in East Finchley. It will be able to apply for lottery support on behalf of our festival and should help to ensure that it remains the longest standing free festival in Barnet.

Sew and Throw

The world of arts and crafts takes centre stage at Hendon Church Farmhouse Museum's annual autumn exhibition. The two-part display focuses on the work of young Hendon freelance embroiderer Milagros Martin and the output of Cornwall's Troika Pottery.

Milagros Martin trained at the London College of Fashion and the Royal School of Needlework. Her recent work has been as diverse as making costumes for the pop band B*witched and the restoration of vestments at Brompton Oratory.

As well as displaying over 20 pieces of her work, Milagros will be demonstrating her skills at the Museum on Sunday afternoons.

The Troika Pottery was based in Cornwall, first at St Ives, then at Newlyn, from 1963 to 1980. Some pieces are now sold for very high prices.

Troika was an innovative firm which, although it produced work for big outlets, functioned very much as a rural craft pottery. The retrospective displays over 90 pieces, covering the whole range of Troika's styles.

No Thanks

By Diana Cormack

If you receive a thank you note through the post saying that you have won a gift for taking part in a survey, throw it in the bin!

It all looks very professional, but there are statements which should put you on your guard. For instance, it tells you that you do not need to have responded to the survey to claim a gift (I hadn't); your gift reference number expires within 48 hours (from when was not stated); some gifts require activation not exceeding £3 per week (expensive for a gift you were not expecting!)

These gifts are supposed

to have been donated by local business to a total value of over £32,000. There is a number to call, which is supposed to be at "normal telephone rates" and you can visit their website. This I did, only to discover that it told me no more about the survey company and that the next move was to key in my number to claim my gift. You cannot exchange the gift and you must be over eighteen. My reply to their gift offer is, "You must be joking!"

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Finchley Christian Fellowship

The Place to be - Every Sunday 11:00am

Your local Multi-National Community Church

A great welcome and time awaits you

The Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road East Finchley
Enquiries - 020 8805 2867

East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome