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N2 runners keep their hands on the trophy

Runners from East Finchley triumphed over their Muswell Hill counterparts when the second Race the Neighbours event took place on Sunday 10 July.

Starting and finishing in Cherry Tree Wood, the 10k race took 350 runners on a circuitous route to Alexandra Palace and back. The fastest racers returned in around 50 minutes.

Organisers took the aggregate times for the fastest 25 runners from each of N2 and N10 to work out that East Finchley could retain their trophy from

last year. But there were only seconds in it.

The fastest female runner overall was Rebecca Bunting and the fastest male was David Andrade. Then the fastest N2 runners were Ilana Swimer and Alister McDonough, and the fastest from N10 were Jane Nodder and Thomas Wocial.

Avi Freeman, one of the



And they're off! - racing the neighbours. Photo Mike Coles



Fantastic four: Race the Neighbours runners Jane Nodder, Rebecca Bunting, Martin Bright holding the Cherry Tree Cup on behalf of N2, and David Andrade

organising team, thanked all the runners, suppliers, sponsors and volunteer marshals. The race

Actor training aid

A drama school is offering scholarships that will cover half the cost of their actor training courses.

The Bridge Theatre Training Company runs a two-year professional acting course and a one-year postgraduate acting course from its base in Kingsway, North Finchley. The next audition day is Saturday 20 August. More details can be found at www.thebridge-ttc.org.

was run this year in support of the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy in East End Road.

Avi said: "Everyone involved did brilliantly. We had lots of

runners commenting on how helpful, happy and encouraging the marshals were as they went round the course. Being encouraged on the way can make a real difference to a tired runner."

Institute on the brink again

By Neil McNaughton

Following months of rescue attempts, including requests for donations from past and current students, it looks as though the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute is now facing the final curtain.

Despite a history of more than 100 years offering a wide variety of adult education courses, at first in the Suburb and more recently in East Finchley and finally in Kingsbury, the latest news is extremely pessimistic.

In a news release the Institute informed students and friends: "We are not confident that we will be able to remain open. We are therefore seeking further advice regarding our future... We would like to thank all students for their support and loyalty over the past years."

It was not a final notice of closure but there was no mistaking the finality of this statement. A recent attempt to raise money by asking past and present students to donate £100 or more seems not to have been successful enough to stave off closure.

End of an era

The Institute has battled its way through several years of financial difficulty. Once based at Henrietta Barnett School in the Suburb, its recent history includes a spell in the McDonalds headquarters building next to East Finchley Station and a move last year out to Kingsbury.

If this is the end, it will

be the sad passing of an era for this part of north London. Many thousands of students, young and old, have attended courses ranging from fine arts and pottery to languages and computing. Its disappearance will leave a considerable gap in adult education provision in East Finchley and surrounding districts.



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