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Martin Primary School Athletics show off the winning trophy!

We are the champions!

By Euan Cormack and Freddie Girling (both aged 11)
On 2 July the best athletes from Martin Primary School went to Cophall for the Barnet Schools Athletics tournament.

In the morning the field events took place. There were four events in this section. Gideon Wallace won the Year 6 boys' high jump. Arfeen Dar came first in the Year 6 boys' shot put and Freddie Girling won the Year 6 boys' long jump.

After lunch the rest of the day was spent on the track events. We won too many races to count but we seemed to do better at the sprinting than the long distance.

All the way through every-

one was cheering on their team mates. Most people lost their voice, except Kir, who found herself a very loud horn.

All this work paid off as Martin Primary finished the king of the track, 3rd in the field and the overall Champions!!

John Jackson, PE Co-ordinator, said: "It was a great team performance where everyone was supportive of each other. I felt very proud of all the children and I'm already looking forward to defending the trophy next year."

New nursery places at children's centre

By Lisa Omar

Newstead Children's Centre in Fallows Close recently celebrated the opening of its new nursery provision. The June celebrations started off in a wonderful atmosphere with music, a bouncy castle, children's face painting, games and lots of fun activities for all children and parents.

Newstead will now be providing nursery places for 13 two-to-three year olds and 13 places for three-to-five year olds. Children can attend the nursery all year round or term times only. Parents can choose as many or as few sessions as they wish for their child. Fees are set at an affordable rate in line with the childcare element of Working Tax Credit.

Newstead Children's Centre is managed by Barnet Council and is registered with Ofsted. Other services that it provides include a childminding network, parent and toddler drop-in sessions, adult education courses and access to midwives and health visitors.

Newstead is open from 8am to 6pm giving parents the opportunity to return to work

or further education. For further information, contact Mrs Sharma on 020 8359 3460.

Slot car racing gives a real buzz

By John Lawrence

When I received an invitation to join the Finchley Manor Scalextric Club at their weekly meeting, I imagined enthusiasts would turn up with their 'figure of 8' box sets and spend hours setting up their tracks and getting them to work properly like I used to do when I were a lad.

Not so. I walked into the club and was confronted with a mini-Silverstone. Six lanes and 50m of high-adrenaline computerised racing track stretched out in front of me, complete with starting lights, crash barriers, model vehicles and a spectators' stand.

These slot car fanatics are a friendly bunch but they take their hobby very seriously. Many of the racers are European standard and have taken part in six, 12 and even 24-hour endurance races, most recently in Paris where they got a podium finish third place.

The size and complexity of the permanent track is incredible. It took six months to construct and contains 760 pieces of track, with umpteen metres of wire hidden underneath.

Getting back your childhood

Club member Ian Newstead explained the appeal: "A lot of the members grew up with Scalextric. Then they met a girl and went off it. When they had kids, they came back to Scalextric again and found they still love it.

"I love the competition and the racing. It's a relatively cheap hobby and you get so much of a buzz out of it."

The club's track fills a building at the garden centre on East End Road. Racers can monitor their lap times via computer and, for special races, they even have a Murray Walker style commentary.

New members of all ages are welcome to join. The club meets on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 10.30pm. For more details, contact Ian on 07861 688521 or visit the website www.fmssc.org.uk.



Club members compete for the best times on the massive Scalextric track. Photo by John Lawrence

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