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Who threw that tennis ball?

By Daphne Chamberlain

When we published a photo of a tennis ball lodged in an East Finchley building, little did we know what would bounce back.



The offending tennis ball. Photos by John Dearing

Ex-pat and *ARCHER* contributor Brian Timms, now living in Australia, claimed it was the ball that 55 years ago he or one of his mates slammed into the air vent of what was once Holy Trinity Church Hall, on Church Lane, and is now a Hindu centre.

But Connie Ferguson from Hamilton Road had a bone to pick over that. "My brother George Austin threw that ball up there in 1919," she told us. "Why are you letting that Australian get away with saying he did it?"

From his home down under, Brian Timms replied in typical tongue-in-cheek style. "I'm shocked and stunned at such an outrageous claim," he said. "I've no doubt that we put it there."

"Tell him not to go stealing other people's thunder," Connie Ferguson retorted. "My brother threw that ball up there in 1919, the year I was born. One throw, and that did it. My family have always looked up at it, and when my niece read your article, she said, 'Look at this Australian saying he threw up Uncle George's ball.'"



Age test demanded

Could there be two balls? Brian Timms agreed he was "pretty sure there were several balls lodged in the slots at one stage", conceding that his ball throwing contest could have been about putting more alongside the one thrown there by Mrs Ferguson's brother.

"How do we resolve the fracas over whether the ball is around 55 years old, or, in fact, 88?" asks Brian. "To get things settled, I want an autopsy. I think we should ask the Hall's current custodians if they will allow a forensic scientist to scale a ladder and take a slice of tennis ball DNA to assess its real age. But one thing is certain: the ball should never, ever, be removed. Mrs Ferguson and I want it Heritage Listed."



(L-R) Gary Zimmerman, David English, Frank Moshgim, Cllr. Mike Freer, Mike Milton (Chairman), Steve Selwood (Coach), Wes Morruck (Coach), Richard Johns (club Manager), Grahame Potter, Jake Milton (Captain), Sydney Livesey

Cricket club secures long-term future

One of Barnet's leading cricket clubs has struck a deal that will see the sport safeguarded in the borough for the foreseeable future.

Finchley Cricket Club is set to agree a 150-year lease on the ground at East End Road, regarded as among the best club grounds in southern England.

This means the club, established since 1832, will have a secure long-term future for

its three senior teams and five junior sides.

Barnet Council Leader Mike Freer said: "Barnet Council's policy is to give long leases to well-established organisations offering significant benefit to the community and Finchley Cricket Club fits the bill perfectly."

Club Chairman Mike Milton said: "We are delighted to have secured our long-term tenure at Arden Field. The new lease will

provide a substantial boost to our plans for the development of our young cricketers and allow us to maintain our position as one of the leading cricket clubs in London."

Finchley Cricket Club has produced a number of cricketers in the past who have gone on to play county cricket, most recently Ben Scott now at Middlesex, Josh Knappett at Worcester and Steve Selwood, who played for Derbyshire.

A new view of the wood

By Dawn Powell

Unusual and beautiful views of Cherry Tree Wood will be on show at Chorak café in the High Road during January.

The photographs have been taken by walkers taking part in a series of workshop walks organised by the Art & Artisan's Forum.

The aim was to encourage people to keep fit during winter. Denise Wyllie, one of the organisers, says: "We want to show people that you don't have to spend a great deal of money to be healthy."

During the walks, experts gave talks on various topics including workshops on photography, healthy eating, relaxation, and learning about the local wildlife. Their photos were taken with professional equipment as well as mobile phones.



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