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Local News is our Aim

# THE ARCHER




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May 2008 No. 176 **20p**  
ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Sport returns to Stanley Field

By David Melsome

**Football was played once more at Stanley Road Playing Field when scores of people turned out to reclaim the open space as a recreational facility for the community.**

After more than three years of lying unused and neglected, the field once more enjoyed the sight of striped shirts and the sound of cheering from the touchline as the Stanley Road Challenge Cup was played out.

The 2.4-acre site is under threat from development. Barnet Council, owner of the land, wants to use two thirds of the open space for housing and keep the rest for sporting use.

Finchley Community Development Trust (FCDT) says that the remaining land would not be big enough for a single football pitch and wants to retain the whole site to enable provision of a full range of sports pitches and youth facilities.

### Action plan:

#### use it or lose it

The FCDT organised the friendly match on Saturday 12 April and launched a ten step action plan urging supporters of the sports plan to use the field as much as possible, to write to council leader Mike Freer and local press, and to join an action committee. There are plans to make the kick about a regular Saturday event.

Sisters Alice and Tilda Donachie were two of the young people who turned out to watch the football. "We both went to Holy Trinity School and we were never allowed on the field because it was full of broken glass," said Alice. "It's a big space and it's being wasted," said Tilda.

### MP's support

Finchley and Golders Green MP Rudi Vis said at the match: "People complain about the behaviour of young people but make nothing available to address their boredom. It's not good enough to get part of the land and use the rest for housing. We need the whole site."

Councillor Alison Moore said: "I think it's fantastic that so many are here today. It shows the support there is from local people for sports facilities in this part of East Finchley."

If you want to support the Stanley Road Campaign, hear future news about the site or join in a regular football game, contact Rob on 020 8883 4916.

See page 4 for more pictures - and the Soapbox on page 11.



Stanley Fields Football Competition. Picture by John Dearing

## Beware Spanish scam

**Yes, they are back. Police have notified us that Spanish lottery letters are back in Barnet. The warning is that they are ALL scams and should be ignored.**

The letters promise the prospect of prizes in the Spanish lottery in exchange for your personal details. Do not reply in any way, including online, as this will flag up to the scammers that there is a real-life recipient.

The letters are all about identity theft. It is not possible to prevent them arriving on your doormat but it is easy just to resist temptation and throw them away. Interestingly, your address would have been obtained legally through mail order lists which are sold on

the open market. So just bin them.

## Inside this month

Win tickets to see *An Audience with Prunella Scales and Friends* at the artsdepot. See our competition on page 5.

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