



## Anyone for tennis?

By Steliōs Pavlides

**Fortis Green Tennis Club, next to 31 Southern Road, is able to offer some free tennis bursaries to local youth for the 2011 season, thanks to a grant from the East London Community Fund given primarily to help refurbish the club's pavilion but also to increase its community involvement.**

To qualify, candidates should be under 18, reside in the wider East Finchley/Muswell Hill area and have some sporting skills. They should be young people who (a) may not have the opportunity or means normally to join a tennis club or (b) are experiencing difficult family circumstances and could benefit from the social aspect of club play or (c) deserve recognition for a worthwhile achievement at school or elsewhere.

Limited free coaching will be available as an introduction but some prior tennis experience would be advantageous. Parents or teachers wishing to put forward a candidate are invited to contact the Membership Secretary.

The club took advantage of the winter closure to refurbish its

clubhouse and a regular groundsman now maintains the four shale courts, resulting in a better-playing surface.

Members have the opportunity to play both social and competitive tennis. As ever, group and individual coaching is available to members and non-members and there are popular drop-in sessions for both juniors and adults. New members of all ages and levels are welcome and, for 2011, the £25 joining fee has been waived. People are encouraged to walk in on Saturday afternoons to look around and have a chat.

For further information visit the club website at [www.fortisgreentennis.co.uk](http://www.fortisgreentennis.co.uk) or contact the Membership Secretary on 020 8883 7723, email: [memberships@fortisgreentennis.co.uk](mailto:memberships@fortisgreentennis.co.uk)

## Who says accountancy is boring?

*Gill Steiner thought being an accountant was a dull job involving poring over endless figures and a mind-numbing amount of cross-checking until she talked to local accountants Katrine Richardson (pictured below), of Metric Accountants, and Leo Abeles (right), now retired. Katrine and Leo both impressed on me that a significant part of the job involves helping clients to understand the financial side of their business and coaxing them to confront financial realities by maintaining management accounts.*



financial information.

Without those accounts clients tend to be unaware what profit or loss they make each month; it is easy to see why people want to shut out this potential pain. Leo pointed out that in the current economic climate "cash is king" so banks making loans or giving overdrafts expect clients to both monitor and control cash flow closely. Good sales are all very well, but if you don't collect your money you will rapidly have a problem.

### People-oriented

In her work, Katrine meets local entrepreneurs and says it is inspiring to see how people earn a living from their skills. Accountants need to have commercial awareness and an interest in small business, as well as being knowledgeable, personable and aware of recent regulatory changes. Leo pointed out that accountants have to issue warnings about transparency as they have to report money laundering.

So it seems accountants do maintain accounting records but the job is far more people-oriented and potentially rewarding than I ever expected.



Katrine finds that clients setting up new businesses need help and advice to make choices between systems, keep simple records to show the flow of funds and plan for deadlines. Accountants have to convince people of the need and benefit of updating records regularly, or at least ensure they fling all receipts in the proverbial shoebox and then pay an accountant or book keeper to update the records.

### 'Cash is king'

Another aspect of the job is advising clients about legitimate costs of the business, which can reduce tax bills and help with VAT, PAYE, national insurance and other taxes. A key task is helping businesses put together management accounts that reflect performance, profitability and key

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## Cari opens her secret diary

When it came to celebrating the publication of her first book *Secret Diary of A New Mum (Aged 43 1/4)*, local author Cari Rosen was determined to find a venue nearby for the launch.

"Where better than the Muswell Hill bookshop?" she says. "It's fantastic to have such a thriving independent shop on our doorstep and it proved to be the perfect place to hold the party."

Friend and TV celebrity Timmy Mallet was one of the guests at the launch.

The book is a humorous memoir, the story of Cari's own 'late' motherhood and, she says, a chance to set the record straight.

"The papers continue to be full of myths and scare stories about older mums, so I wanted to tell it like it *really* is, warts and all. Even in this day and age any woman giving birth over the age of 35 is classified as a geriatric mother, yet in this part of North London it's incredibly common to have a baby in your late 30s or early 40s."

After a long career in television production, Cari has suddenly found herself on the other side of the camera.

Her favourite moment so far? "Definitely this online



Cari Rosen celebrates the launch of her book with Timmy Mallett.

review from a reader: 'I laughed until I almost wet myself. Though I do have a urine infection.'

*Secret Diary of a New Mum (Aged 43 1/4)* is available online and at all good bookshops.

## Volunteer advocates needed

**Advocacy in Barnet is an independent advocacy service supporting people who use community or health services to have their say, communicate their needs and make informed choices obtaining services in the way they want.**

Advance is a new project (through Advocacy) that aims to improve the quality of care for older people. Advance provides advocacy to those in care homes and day centres.

The project recruits volunteers over 50 years of age and trains them to become advocates. Advance aims to place volunteer advocates in the 120 care homes and day centres used by older people in Barnet.

Advance are currently recruiting volunteers to help improve the quality of care that older people receive.

As a volunteer you will:

- visit older people at care homes, day care facilities, luncheon and social clubs
- support and empower older people in speaking up for themselves

- support the decisions and choices of the person you are advocating for.

As a volunteer you will receive:

- free training and development opportunities
- enhanced Criminal Record Bureau check
- ongoing support and supervision
- travel expenses

To apply, contact [www.advocacyinbarnet.org.uk](http://www.advocacyinbarnet.org.uk) or Heena/Janet on 020 8201 3415 or [heena@advocacyinbarnet.org.uk](mailto:heena@advocacyinbarnet.org.uk). The next training round takes place on 5, 12 and 26 April 2011.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Wedding bells ding dong

Just when you thought it wasn't safe to venture out into a world of cutbacks, we get the bread and circuses. Yes, folks, it's time for Britain's most dysfunctional family to do their bit and give us another Royal wedding. This one is the nearly big one. This is where a balding army officer marries a perfectly ordinary millionaire's daughter and we get a day off work.

According to the Morning Mule, Kate is normal, ordinary and once had a job. This means she is like you and me, apart from the money, the private education and the money. Her fiancé is different; he is part of the Weird Windsors and that means she must be mad to marry him for anything except the cash and the castles.

Where to start with the weirdness? William's granddad is part Greek, but mostly German reactionary. His father talks to trees and his mother was so undereducated her academic achievements were an O level in ironing and a best-kept hamster award. Then there are the embarrassing uncles: Andrew, a man who hangs around with despots, and Edward, whose greatest moment was It's a Royal Knockout. And don't forget Auntie Anne who prefers horses as they're generally more intelligent than her husband or brothers.

Then there is their dress sense. William will be getting married in uniform, but not one he has actually earned unless he really is an admiral in the Ruritanian Navy. Andrew will be over-dressed with medals he didn't win and Charles might have reached the dizzy heights of tug boat captain but he will still be dressed as a Lord High Field Marshal. Which explains why Harry has had his Afrika Corps uniform cleaned.

So, as the word united is removed from United Kingdom just like the great was removed from Great Britain the world can turn on, tune in and despair as we do what we do best and remind everyone that behind a modern democracy a feudal heart still beats.

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