



Brothers in arms: The victorious Finchley Rugby Club celebrate their winning season.

Finchley rugby team make it to the top of the league

By Andy Stone

Finchley Rugby Club concluded a great season by being crowned champions of London NW Division 3. In a tense final game of the season they beat local rivals Hendon 25-18 to seal promotion ahead of Welwyn. On Saturday 2 April in front of a big crowd at Summers Lane, N12, Finchley was leading 13-8 at half time, but thanks to tries from Dom Goring and Ben O'Donohoe and a penalty by Inigo Saxon-Stone, Hendon came back to lead 18-13 with 15 minutes to go.



First XI, plus one: Finchley Cricket Club welcomes players of all abilities.

Girls, come and have a go at cricket

By Dee McLean

Finchley Cricket Club is one of the oldest clubs in London, established in 1832. A Clubmark-accredited cricket club based in East End Road, it was one of the first to offer cricket to women and girls as well as men and boys.

We have an enthusiastic and lively girls' section, with an emphasis on inclusivity and fun. We will be holding a Girls' Open 'Party Night' on Friday 20 May where girls of all abilities, including complete beginners, are welcome to come along to have a go.

All players have access to high quality coaching and we have County players in several age groups. We will be entering teams in the Middlesex

Junior Cricket Association Girls' League and there will be opportunities for the more experienced girls to play in some of the boys' matches.

Outdoor training runs right through the summer so come along for a free taster session. Friday evenings are also for the whole family with food and drinks available and unrivalled sunsets, so turn up any time and join in. For further details visit www.finchleycricket.co.uk

Then came a try from Sam Green and, in the last minute of the game, the winning score from Drew Williams, converted by Fintan Shaw, secured Finchley the bonus-point win leading to raucous celebrations by their players and supporters.

Successful seasons

It capped a great season for a young Finchley side in a highly competitive division that prior to the last weekend saw six clubs vying for the title. The team is built around many players who have developed through Finchley's Mini and Youth teams.

The junior teams have also had a very successful season. The U13s, U14As and U15s boys' teams and the U15s girls' team finished unbeaten. Fittingly, on the same weekend, one of the club's former Minis players, Kelsey Clifford, played for England Women U20 v France.

Finchley involves players from all ages, starting with 'Rugby Tots' (age two to five), Minis from under-six to U12, boys' teams from U13-18, girls' teams at U12, U14, U16 and U18, a women's team, a mixed touch rugby team, a veteran's team and two senior men's sides.

So there is something for everyone! If you want to play or support your local club, come along, everyone is welcome.

Anyone for tennis?

By David Aron

The Fortis Green Tennis Club, located just behind 31 Southern Road, N2, is welcoming potential new members as the summer season gets under way.

With four shale clay courts of a type similar to those at the French Open, the club has been in existence since 1927. The site is semi-rural and as well as the courts has a clubhouse and extensive grassed areas.

The new season started on 1 April and members have been playing at a club session on Saturday afternoons. Doubles games are organised and usually there are three hour-and-a-half sessions on a Saturday afternoon. There is also a drop-in club session on Wednesday evenings at 5pm and plans for another one on Sunday.

An electronic booking system has been introduced and members can now book

courts every day of the week in 30-minute slots for up to two hours for each booking. There is no charge to members for booking the courts available one week in advance. Availability is usually good during the week.

The club has a professional coach who is available on most days of the week for adult teaching. Full annual membership for new members costs £120 for payment by the end of May. Weekday membership is available at £90 per year. Concessions are available for students and unemployed. There is no joining fee. Find details and an application form at www.fortisgreentennis.com.



Country club: Fortis Green players on court in their idyllic location tucked amongst trees.

N2United builds vital connections

By Ruth Anders

The East Finchley Constitutional Club hosted N2United's April meeting where enthusiastic attendees saw further proof of the group's value in enabling productive connections between N2 businesses and community.

Enthusiastic attendees heard about the different treatments available at Serene Wellness on the High Road, the new chef and menus at the Engine Rooms restaurant on the Great North Road, and the developing programmes at the Muswell Hill Club on Fortis Green.

Karen Williamson reported on activities at Age UK Barnet and Alison Roberts and Mike Hughes updated the meeting on plans for the East Finchley Festival.

The concept of innovative High Road related events, was outlined by Kate Brown, chair of the newly formed Town Team.

There is so much to celebrate

in East Finchley, and nothing more than the willingness of the different enterprises to support each other in whatever way possible. Contact details were swapped, and ideas exchanged with a view to mutual assistance and cooperation.

What's On in May

Our May meeting will feature updates from Grange Big Local and Phoenix Cinema.

To find out more about local plans and activities, go to n2united.co.uk and join us at our next meeting on Thursday 12 May at 8pm at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, London, N2 8DE. Meetings are free and open to all.

Finchley Central town centre art trail

A town centre art trail will be in place in Finchley Central on Saturday 7 May with shops, restaurants and businesses all exhibiting works by creative individuals from the community.

Shoppers are invited to walk along Ballards Lane from 10.30am to discover the art works and talk to the artists who made them. Find the trail map online at <https://finchleycentraltowncentre.co.uk>, in Church

End Library and in participating businesses.

The art trail, set up by Finchley Central's town team, aims to support local artists and bring more people back to local shops.

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