

YourSport

4-PAGE ROUND-UP OF LOCAL SPORT

TEEN TULLY'S SET TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH



SWIMMING By Gregg Evans

GOLDEN girl Tully Kearney has set her sights on the 2012 Olympic Games and emulating school pal Ellie Simmonds after making a big splash on her international debut.

The 14-year-old, who has the developmental co-ordination disorder dyspraxia, is battling to compete in London but concedes she may have to wait until the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games to live her dream.

Her first appearance on the international stage couldn't have gone much better as she won one gold, three silver and three bronze medals in her age group at the 25th German Open Meet in Berlin.

In the open age S10 events she took gold in the 200m individual medley and silver in the 200m and 400m freestyle.

Just five years ago, Tully was merely a spectator watching her mum, Amanda, swimming for fun.

At the time she was a pupil at Cooper and Jordan Primary School along with double Paralympic champion Ellie.

Now she is hoping to emulate the Olympic star by making a name for herself.

"I remember I used to watch my mum and my brother when they used to go swimming and the coach asked me if I wanted to give it a try," said Tully, who represents Boldmere Swimming Club.

"I really enjoyed it and I've carried on swimming ever since.

"I've seen Ellie on the TV and I'd like to do the same and win medals. I'm just trying to improve all the time now by training six times a week.

"There is a chance that I could make London 2012 but Rio is a more realistic target for me, I think."

For the past 18 months Tully has

trained under the guidance of Ashley Cox at her home club.

Her recent success has not gone unnoticed as international selectors have been so impressed that they have promoted her on to a World Class Development Programme.

GB coach Rob Aubry provides the tuition for the talented teenager when she is on international duty.

He says the Aldridge-born youngster's rapid progression has made her one of the hottest properties around.

"Tully has been on the programme for just under a year now and she is improving all the time," he said.

"The official rankings are constantly being updated but at the moment she is ranked between seventh and eighth in the world.

"Everything is coming at her very quickly but she is taking it in her stride very well.

"Her main aim is Brazil but there is an outside chance that she could make it to London 2012.

"What I like most about her is that she never moans and never finds anything a problem.

"At times she gets tired because there is a lot of moving around but she always copes with it.

"Having such great support from her mother helps."

Mum, Amanda, says she is delighted to see her daughter doing so well in the sport but admits she wouldn't be able to do it without help from Boldmere Swimming Club.

She is also desperate for sponsorship so she can buy Tully a wheelchair to use at major tournaments.

"The club really have been fantastic to Tully and we are so grateful," said Amanda.

"Without the input from Ashley Cox she wouldn't be half the swimmer she is.

"She really needs a wheelchair now though. At Berlin, the facility is so big so she gets tired very quickly.

"We can't get one from the NHS but Tully can't manage big events without one."

If you can help, contact gregg_evans@mrn.co.uk.

Darts

DIARY

Dramatic draw keeps Warwicks in the top flight

WARWICKSHIRE held on to their Premier Division status, but only just!

They entertained Kent at the Foleshill Club in a game they knew was vital to their survival.

It was looking grim when they trailed 10-8 – the ladies having lost 5-1 and the men winning 7-5 with match awards going to Wendy Adams (17.06) and Martin Bowley (29.47).

But there was a complete turnaround with the hosts gaining a 10-8 win to secure a crucial 18-18 draw.

Trina Gulliver (23.86) registered her eighth match award in nine games for the ladies and in the men's 8-4 victory Bob Nixon was their top player with a 29.36 average.

Warwickshire finished the campaign with 144 points, level with second-from-bottom Cornwall but with the better average, and seven more than Surrey, who ended the season at the foot of the table.

In Division One West Midlands lost their game in Derbyshire 22-14, their sixth defeat in nine games, but with 158 points finished fourth from bottom and safe for another season.

Both men's sides lost 7-5 with Ian Jones chalking up a fantastic 31.98 average for the A team and Greg Parkes taking the B award with a 25.47 average.

Claire Hobbs (12.76) was the sole winner for the ladies A, while the B team finished all square at 3-3 with Tammy Chance the best on the day with a 17.69 average.

■ **FOREST of Arden Winter League Division One** leaders Riley's Red Arrows made it 18 straight wins when they signed off with a 7-2 victory at Harvester.

Red Arrows are on a perfect 36 points, eight more than second-placed Old Bill and Bull, who have one result outstanding.

■ **THE Camp Hill League** leaders Lady Westminster secured a 4-3 win at nearest rivals Clements Arms – giving them a four-point advantage over their rivals.

■ **COVENTRY Pilot** scooped the Warwickshire Ladies Super League title without losing a game.

The Pilot's Tracey Edgecombe had the most ton-plus scores in the league, hitting 65 in total and also achieving a 15-dart leg.

Dawn Barbier, of Greenlands, and Nicki Thompson, of Cubbington A, also had 15-dart legs.

The highest checkout of 160 was shared between Ann Rodgers, of Kenilworth, and Linda Farrell, of Nuneaton Town.

ALAN TOWE

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