



## WIN TICKETS TO SEE BELL AND CO IN A WARWICKSHIRE T20

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# Observer Sport

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**Tully Kearney – Boldmere Swimming Club's latest star of the disability swimming world – continued her relentless pursuit of club colleague and World S6 Paralympian star Ellie Simmonds with another stunning performance at Stechford last Sunday. Swimming against able-bodied athletes from 23 clubs from as far afield as Middlesbrough and Havering in her own club's highly popular Water Carnival, she produced a fantastic performance in the demanding 200m fly event which will be a British Disability Swimming Female Short Course Record in the S10 Classification on ratification by British Swimming. With a previous best of 2.55.97mins, 14-year-old Tully – who suffers from Spastic Diplegia, a type of Cerebral Palsy – sliced three seconds off the existing British record, set back in February 2009, to take the title with a time of 2.45.91mins. The performance fully justified her inclusion on the new Diamond Programme – a fast-track scheme for young disabled swimmers identified as having potential for the 2012 and 2016 Paralympic Games.**



### County coach to hold sessions for children

**CRICKET:** Former Warwickshire player and coach Steve Perryman will be holding three junior cricket coaching weeks at Sutton Coldfield CC in Rectory Park during July and August. The sessions will run from 10am-3.30pm each day with a supervised lunch break. Working parents can drop their child off early from 8.30am and will need to provide a packed lunch. For more details, email carolperryman281@btinternet.com or call Steve Perryman on 07769 338898.

### Spartans sharpen up and invite new blood

**RUGBY:** Spartans RFC's pre-season training is now underway at Coppice Lane, Middleton on Tuesday and Thursdays. Sessions start at 7.15pm. All coaches are RFU qualified and the sessions are aimed at all ages and abilities. New players are welcome regardless of experience. Further details are available from Leigh Goodwin on 07971 004903 or email info@spartansrugby.co.uk

### Mallett shines as England progress

**GOLF:** Sutton Coldfield Ladies Golf Club ace Elizabeth Mallett helped ensure a smooth qualification for England at the European Girls' Team Championship in Sardinia. Mallett's rounds of 75 and 77 helped England qualify for the matchplay section of the event as top seeds. They were three ahead of second-placed Spain.

### Booth's men make it to national last 16

**CRICKET:** Walmley CC have reached the last 16 of the ECB National Knockout after a superb victory over Cheshire side Grappenhall last weekend. Skipper Chris Booth led the way with a superb 103no that saw his side home. Walmley now face Lancashire side Ormskirk in the last 16 next Sunday – but their league form in Birmingham One still remains hit and miss.

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# White departs but Sutton plug gap – at the double!

## RUGBY UNION

By **BOBBY BRIDGE**  
News Reporter

TWO major signings by Sutton Coldfield RFC have softened the blow of losing influential centre Alex White to Birmingham and Solihull.

The former Worcester Warriors and Stourbridge player was offered the mouth-watering opportunity to sign for the Bees, who play their rugby at National One, just two levels below the Premiership. But the 25-year-old's exit has



**Alex White felt a chance to play for Birmingham/Solihull was too good to refuse**

done little to temper the mood of optimism at Walmley Road, with head coach Matt Nevitt insisting: "We are in a stronger position than last season, and pre-season has started really well."

White signed for Sutton Coldfield after a shoulder injury brought to an end his time at Stourbridge. He played a pivotal role in Sutton Coldfield's period of great success, achieving two Warwickshire Cups and promotion to Midlands One.

"These are two major signings for the club and we're delighted to have got them," said Nevitt.

"Alex (White) has made his decision and we respect that, but the club is in a stronger position than last season, and pre-season has started really well."

White signed for Sutton Coldfield after a shoulder injury brought to an end his time at Stourbridge.

He played a pivotal role in Sutton Coldfield's period of great success, achieving two Warwickshire Cups and promotion to Midlands One.



**Matt Nevitt has joined to strengthen his squad after White's exit**

"It's a wrench to leave the club, but this isn't the kind of opportunity I want to pass up," said White, a teacher at Cardinal Wiseman School in Kingstanding.

"I never thought I was going to stay as long as I did, but it was such a good time for the club, we had a lot of success and played some great rugby."

Nevitt was keen to focus on his two major acquisitions which will serve to bolster an already formidable pack.

Adam Parr arrives from Walsall with fantastic pedigree, having played for Loughborough Students and England at age group levels.

And former Moseley player Evans decided to leave the semi-professional club at the end of last season having made 202 appearances.

"Mark has played semi-pro for 12 years, has played for England Counties and captained the North Midlands side," added Nevitt.

## Twin delight as super Simmonds smashes two world records in Berlin

## SWIMMING

**BOLDMERE** Swimming Club life member Ellie Simmonds has been in record-breaking form again at the IPC European Championships in Berlin.

The double Paralympic and reigning world champion came home 17 seconds ahead

of her rivals in the 400m freestyle, shattering her own world record in the process as she clocked 5.25.20mins.

She said: "It was such a hard swim and at 200m it was tough. 400m seems so long but when you finish and you win, the feeling makes it worthwhile."

"When I touched, there was no time because of a timing



**Ellie Simmonds set two new world records at the European Championships**

problem. I was surprised and then I mistook the time of the board for 5.41mins which I was

really disappointed with. Then when I was told that I had got the world record I was so pleased.

"I have been training really hard and it's great to have got that done on day one."

Double Paralympic champ Simmonds then went on to lower her own world record in winning the women's SM6

200m individual medley. Simmonds waited until the final freestyle leg to take the lead before storming home in the final 50m to touch in her new world record time of 3:08.98.

Simmonds also claimed bronze in the S6 50m freestyle on day three of the event on Tuesday.

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