

SPORT ROUND-UP



Paul Heard and team-mate Chris Timms.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY: Sutton's Paul Heard showed real pedal power as he claimed team and individual glory at the European Cycle Speedway Championships in Ipswich last weekend. Heard was part of a five man England squad who took on Europe's finest including the dominant Polish team. At the half way stage, Poland had established a six point lead and the match was slipping away from England. However, Heard led England a fantastic fight back and top scored with 17 points as England clinched victory in the very last race. The success was doubly sweet for Heard who added the World Trophy he won in the USA last year. Heard then went on to compete in the individual competition. He again shone, claiming silver on the second day, pipped by 2010 World Champion Marcin Symanski. Heard returns to action for Birmingham Monarchs on August 19 when he races in a BCTG Elite League match against league leaders Horspath at Perry Hall Park. The Oxford side are the only team to beat Birmingham so far this year. Tapes are up at 2pm and admission is free.



Brilliant Ben storms to stunning hat-trick of national medals

By STEVE HARLOW
Swimming Correspondent

FOUR Boldmere swimmers took part in the recent British Gas National Age Group Championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

In his first nationals, Matt Price competed in Boldmere colours while Kate Davies, Ben Stanford and Jake Dixon were representing City of Birmingham.

Having met the qualifying times in seven events, Stanford had an impressive championships with three visits to the podium to pick up one gold and two silver medals.

All the medals came from freestyle events with the first in the 100m where he sliced just under a second off his personal best with a time of 58.01secs to take the silver.

In the longer 400m event, he set a four-second personal best of 4.26.23mins to take his second silver of the championships but his best race was the 200m.

Qualifying with the fifth fastest time, he went more than five seconds quicker in the final to take gold in a new personal best and club record time of 2.05.94mins.

Stanford also finished just outside the medals in two other events with a fourth place in the 1500m freestyle and a fifth in the 200m individual medley.

Competing in six events, Dixon reached the finals in four, finishing tenth in both the 100m and 200m breaststroke, setting a personal best and new club record in the latter.

In the 100m fly, he set another club record of 1.00.48mins with a sixth place finish while in the 200m IM he just missed out on the medals



Ben Stanford with his two silver medals and one gold from the National Age Group Championships.

Picture by Steve Harlow

in fourth place in 2.14.11mins.

Davies competed in the four events of 200m breaststroke, 400m freestyle, 200m fly and

400IM while Matt Price competed in both 100m butterfly and freestyle, both just falling short of reaching the finals.



Ellie Griffiths and Max Stewart.

Town tennis duo serve up successes to reach finals

Tennis

SUTTON Coldfield Tennis Club duo Max Stewart and Ellie Griffiths both reached their respective finals at the AEGON under-14 Tennis Europe event at the West Hants Club in Bournemouth.

On the way to the final, Stewart beat Romeo Midtgaard Jivraj from Denmark 7-6, 7-6 and fellow Brits Alex Parker 6-2, 4-6, 6-0 and Luke Hammond 6-4, 6-1.

Stewart then overcame Mats Rosenkranz from Germany 6-2, 6-0 in the semi final before losing to Lorenzo Corioni from Italy 6-4, 6-4 in the final.

Griffiths, meanwhile, beat Savannah Yardley 6-0, 6-2 in the first round, Jessica Zeynel 6-2, 6-2 in the second round and Alice Gillan 6-2, 6-3 in the quarter final.

She then defeated Ema Lazic 6-4, 7-6 in the semi final before

losing to another fellow Brit, Katie Swan, 6-3, 6-2 in the final.

Sutton head coach Chris Johnson said: "This was a fantastic achievement for both Max and Ellie to reach the final a year early - both of them were competing against players as much as 12 months older and showed real competitive qualities to make the finals."

It was the third Tennis Europe event in a row for both players. The first event was held in Edinburgh where Stewart made the semi-final before losing to Marcus Walters 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 and Griffiths reached the final before losing to Holly Thompson 2-6, 7-6, 7-5.

The following week was played at Edgbaston. Stewart lost in the first round to Eric Wilson 7-5, 7-6 and Griffiths made the semi-final before losing to Serena Nash 6-1, 6-1.



SAILING: Sutton sailor Matt Venables secured a superb silver medal while representing Team GBR at the 29er World Championships in Germany. And fellow Sutton sailor Calum Healey was also a podium finisher at the event which formed part of Travemunde Woche, a spectacular week-long sailing event which attracts thousands of spectators. More than 200 sailors from 23 countries competed in the event.

The first three days of qualifying races took place in light winds and Healey, who sails with Andrew Kilburn, struggled to find form.

The pair qualified in the lower Emerald fleet for the final three days of racing. Venables, sailing with Will Alloway, were borderline for qualifying in Gold fleet after two days but dropped back on the third day, placing them in Silver fleet.

Both pairs performed strongly in

the final stages with Venables and Alloway leading Silver fleet coming into the last race, having won the penultimate race. However a South African overtook them on points and they finished in second place. Healey and Kilburn had four top three finishes, including a first in the final race. They overtook the German pair that had led Emerald fleet initially and finished in the top podium position well ahead of the rest of the fleet.



JUDO: The Yenton Judo Club secured a clean sweep of golds at the Low Grade Championship last weekend. The club, based at Highcroft Sports and Social Club in Slade Road, Erdington won

five gold medals. Juniors Josh and Courtney Barter, Connor Pearsall and Luke Taylor won their finals along with senior member Jordan Russell. Club members train on

Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8.30pm. New members are always welcome from five-years-old upwards. For further information, call Phil or Lesley on 0121 240 3666.