



## MIDLANDS GLORY FOR TOWN RUNNERS

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# Observer Sport

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Left to right: Phil Hewitt, Emma Smith, Givenchy Sneekes and Bradley Lynch were just four of the Boldmere Swimming Club stars who shone at the inaugural ASA Central Zone Competition in Corby last weekend, claiming a host of medals, records and personal bests. Turn to page 153 for more details. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW

### Fairfax place to be for Villa wannabes

**VILLA SCHOOL:** Budding Darren Bents are being invited to sign up for an Aston Villa Soccer School later this month. Sessions take place at Fairfax High School from February 21-25. Mini Kickers (4-6) are coached between 10am-12noon daily with weekly prices £25 (pre-booked) or £8 (daily). Seven to 14-year-olds train from 10am-3pm. The weekly cost is £50 (pre-booked) or £15 (daily) To book a place, call 0800 612 0970.

### Make a weekend of trip to Blackpool

**BLACKPOOL TRIP:** Sutton-based Aston Villa fans have an opportunity to make a weekend out of the trip to Blackpool next weekend. Sutton Coldfield Lions are running a coach to the game at Bloomfield Road, which takes place next Saturday (February 12). The coach departs on Friday at 2pm from the Halfway House in Mere Green and returns on Sunday afternoon. Other pick-up points are McDonalds in Sutton Town Centre, The Fox at Walmley, The Yenton, Blockbusters in Erdington and The Armada in Gravelly Hill. The cost is £25 for coach only and passengers will have to book their own accommodation for the two nights in Blackpool. Call Mark Goodwin on 07815 838195 for further details.

### Hatton aims to make it big like namesake

**BOXING:** With a name like R Hatton, a 14-year-old from Sutton could be destined to star in the ring. Ryan Hatton, who boxes for Birmingham Irish, is looking to emulate namesake Ricky by becoming a top-class boxer. In Coventry on Sunday, he takes on Jordan Howard in the under-75kg Midland ABA Schoolboy Championship final.

### Six of the best for wonder Woakes

**CRICKET:** Former Walmley CC star Chris Woakes became only the second Englishman to take six wickets in a one-day international on Sunday. He claimed 6-45 but England lost to Australia by 51 runs.

# Bears ace Perryman eyes a bright future at Sutton CC

## CRICKET

By **MICHAEL BEARDMORE**  
Sports reporter

SUTTON Coldfield Cricket Club have announced that former First XI Warwickshire coach Steve Perryman will be joining them in a coaching capacity for the 2011 season.

He will coach both junior and senior players with a focus on producing first-team players from Sutton's fine crop of young stars.

Perryman, who played for Warwickshire between 1974-81

before moving to Worcestershire, became a full-time member of the Bears' coaching staff in 1995.

He subsequently became Second XI coach and First XI bowling coach before leaving last year after 15 years with the county to pursue further coaching opportunities in a freelance capacity.

Perryman said: "Although I have enjoyed all my roles since retiring as a player, I have missed being involved in club cricket and by becoming coach at Sutton Coldfield I have the opportunity to return to it. "Sutton Coldfield's youth



**Ex-Warwickshire player and coach Steve Perryman has joined Sutton CC**

teams had a very successful season in 2010 and were County Champions at under-14 level.

"That team will go on to represent Warwickshire in the under-15 National competition in 2011. That is the measure of the talent we have here."

Perryman has other coaching commitments but intends

to play a full part in Sutton's plans to stabilise in the Birmingham League after a number of seasons where they have lost senior players through retirement.

Sutton chairman Bobby Arif spoke of his pride at the appointment during the club's recent annual dinner, when ex-Lancashire and England player Mike Watkinson was guest speaker.

Arif said: "Having Steve on board is great news for the club.

"We will be opening our new net facilities in the spring and there is no more respected

coach in the area with which to make best use of them.

"Steve played a very important role in Chris Woakes's development and we're sure he can also help develop our players to their full potential."

Sutton's winter practices are underway on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the club is keen to welcome new players for all sections, including ladies.

More details can be found on their club website or by calling Colin Greatham on 0121 240 9872 or Bobby Arif on 07813 127693.

## Evans hails Roms players after receiving Manager of the Month award

## FOOTBALL

RICHARD Evans hailed his players after he and joint Romulus boss Keith Brown received the Evo-Stik League Manager of the Month award for December/January.

The Roms won seven out of eight matches over the two-month period which has propelled them towards the play-offs.

"It's nice for the club to be recognised, but at the end of the day both Keith and I feel it's not an award for us but a reflection of the commitment and desire of the lads over the last couple of months.

"These things are awarded for the form you show and the players are pivotal to that.

"The main thing is we retain our focus, don't get carried away and hopefully keep this



**Richard Evans knows his side face a tough test against Grantham**

run going in what will be a very tough game against Grantham on Saturday."

The Evo-Stik League will present Evans and Brown with

their award at tomorrow's game (Coles Lane, 3pm).

The Roms will be seeking a seventh straight win against a side who have shown fine form themselves in recent weeks.

The Gingerbreads are unbeaten in 13 games in the league.

"They had a few draws at the start of that run but have really come into form lately," added Evans.

"Any side who can stick five past Barwell are a danger.

"As ever, though, we will concentrate on our own game and play how we want to play.

"They won't relish coming here, as our home record is strong."

■ *Observer* readers can watch the clash of these two in-form sides at Coles Lane at a special discount price – for more details, see page 154.

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