

## SPORT ROUND-UP

## INSHORT

**FOOTBALL:** Former Sheffield Wednesday striker O'Neill Donaldson and Premier League scout Nick Rose have teamed up to start a new football training project with a difference in Sutton.

On Wednesday evenings, from 6-8pm, the pair will be delivering their 'Learn from the pros' football sessions.

Based at Clifton Road Youth Centre, the course is aimed at 13-16-year-olds of all abilities. The cost is £2 for a two hour session.

Donaldson started out as a trainee at Manchester United alongside David Beckham and played for Shrewsbury Town, Doncaster Rovers, Mansfield Town, Sheffield Wednesday, Oxford United, Stoke City and Torquay United.

Rose is a UEFA 'B' Licensed coach who has worked at Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion. Call Nick on 07929 619040 or Mandy on 0121 355 2438.

**NETBALL:** Parkside Netball Club has a number of exciting opportunities for qualified coaches.

The club wants to hear from coaches who are UKCC levels 1, 2 or 3 qualified and who are enthusiastic and passionate about netball and developing players.

Parkside is one of the leading clubs within the West Midlands. The senior team plays in West Midlands Regional League One and both the under-14s and under-16s teams were 2012 regional champions.

For more details, contact Trudi Cox, club secretary, by emailing trudicox@hotmail.co.uk or calling 07791 508415.

To register interest, forward full details of coaching experience and reasons for applying by August 31.

**JUNIOR CRICKET:** The seventh Walmley CC Mini League is now underway.

The competition is sponsored by Sportology Ltd and is aimed at the club's youth section.

It runs on a weekly basis, features 11 teams, five pitches and more than 100 children playing in a softball and pairs cricket, round robin format. Organiser and vice chairman of the youth section, James Herron said: "This is a fantastic league, with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment.

"It also gives the children an early opportunity to develop their match skills which really does improve as the season goes on."

**MOTORSPORT:** Race ace Riki Christodoulou has been handed a sponsor boost.

Plastidip UK will sponsor the 24-year-old in the last three rounds of the Avon Tyres British GT. Christodoulou currently races a Ginetta G55 for Team WFR along with teammate Jody Firth. He said: "My new relationship with Plastidip is really cool and I'm excited to be working with them."

The next round of the Avon Tyres British GT will take place at Snetterton throughout this weekend.

**CRICKET:** Sutton Coldfield CC Vets will take on Four Oaks Saints on Sunday. The match starts at 2.30pm at Rectory Park.

A host of former first team players from both sides will be in action.

The bar will be open and there will be a barbecue later in the day.

# Smoothy is ready for flavour of prestigious golf challenge

## Golf

By **MATT PANTER**  
Sports reporter

WALMLEY Golf Club's Joe Smoothy is gearing up for one of the biggest weeks in his golfing career as he prepares to make his debut in the Glenmuir PGA Professional Championship.

The Midland PGA pro is among the 156-strong field contesting the £78,000 tournament being staged over 72 holes at De Vere Carden Park, Cheshire, from Tuesday through to Friday.

And the 26-year-old has paid tribute to Walmley director of golf Matt Morris, a former Midland number one, for his support and encouragement ahead of the Peugeot-supported event which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

"I owe Matt a lot, without him I wouldn't be where I am today," said Smoothy.

"Matt's my coach and has been absolutely brilliant with me and encouraged me to play.

"He's got so much experience in the game that I find I can bounce a lot of things off him. My game's improving all the time.

"I've been here a couple of years now and it's been fantastic for me."

Smoothy is hoping to make the most of his debut appearance in the showcase final having just missed out last year.

"It was one of my main aims at the start of the season to get there but now that I've qualified I want to do well," he said.

"The first aim is to make the

cut, but if I can do that then I'd like to go for a top five place."

Smoothy believes the Jack Nicklaus-designed course at Carden Park will suit his game.

"I have played the Carden Park course before, I went up there with a few friends and I liked it," he added.

"I think my favourite hole was the 17th where you can play around the lake or go for the green where there's a greater risk and reward.

"But the 18th is good as well, it's a par five but you could get on the green in two.

"So I'm hoping I can use a bit of knowledge when I'm there, but I also plan a couple of practice rounds."

Other Midlands golfers taking part at Carden Park include former Glenmuir champion Brian Rimmer (Little Aston), Cameron Clark (Moor Hall) and Andrew Cheese (Sutton Coldfield).

Walmley Golf Club has won the West Midland League for the first time in more than 35 years.

The team secured victory in the annual end-of-season West Midland League Golf Davenport Salver at Redditch Golf Club.

More than 30 West Midland Golf Clubs took part in the competitive pairs better ball medal competition.

Walmley were represented by Paul Barrett and Robert Robbins in the morning, with the pair shooting a six under par 66.

In the afternoon, Nick Humphrey and Nick Hill came through strongly with another 66 to win by one shot from the home team Redditch.

The club, who last won the



Joe Smoothy is among the Sutton golfers in action next week.

competition back in 1975, will now have the honour of hosting the competition in 2013.

## Brilliant Boldmere stars show their steel in Sheffield

## Swimming

SEVEN Boldmere Swimming Club aces shone at the British Gas National Youth Championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

Luke Davies and Joey Stanger competed in Boldmere colours while Emma Smith, Kristie Hackett, Bradley Lynch and Josh Winnicott represented City of Birmingham and Alice Dearing swam for Royal Wolverhampton School.

Fresh from his silver medal winning performance in the European Junior Open Water Championship in Turkey, Bradley Lynch picked up more silverware in Yorkshire.

Lynch claimed bronze in the 15/16 age group 400m freestyle in a new personal best of 4.01.39mins, fifth in the 100m freestyle final and fourth in the 1,500m freestyle.

But his crowning glory came in the 200m where, trailing in third place and a second down at the halfway mark, Lynch fought back to touch first by 0.11secs to take gold in 1.52.83mins, bettering his personal best by more than half a second.

Competing in five events, Winnicott reached three finals in the 200m individual medley,



Bradley Lynch and Josh Winnicott with their National Youth Championships medals.

Picture by Steve Harlow

200m and 100m breaststroke, setting new personal bests and club records in all.

In the latter event he qualified fourth fastest for the final, turned in fourth place at the halfway point in the final but took another second off his personal best to take bronze – his first nationals medal – in 1.05.87mins.

Although she did not medal

in her five events, 15-year-old Smith reached two finals and broke two long course junior Warwickshire county records by half a second in each.

The first record broken was her own in the 100m backstroke in a time of 1.05.05mins and the second came in the 200m IM, breaking an 11-year-old record set by GB international Sophie Caul with

2.20.87mins.

In his first nationals, 15-year-old Davies set a personal best in his 200m breaststroke as did Stanger in the 50m freestyle which was also a club record.

Hackett competed in four events setting personal bests and club records in the 400m and 800m freestyle as well as the 200m fly.

## Rock heads back to the drawing board

## Golf

By **MICHAEL BEARDMORE**  
Sports reporter

ROB Rock crossed the pond this week admitting he was going back to the drawing board in a bid to get over his Open disappointment and get his season back on track.

The Belfry star headed to Royal Lytham and St Annes two weeks ago with high hopes of contending for the Claret Jug – only for a nightmare opening round to put paid to those dreams.

He was due to try to bounce back as he joins the rest of the world's golfing elite for this week's Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone in Ohio and the final Major of the year next week, the USPGA at Kiawah Island.

But Rock admits his poor run of form recently has lowered his expectations for the big double-header in the States – and that he is more focused on rebuilding his game than dreaming of glory.

The current world number 63 told *Observer Sport*: "I came over earlier which should get me adapted to the time zone change – in fact I feel like I have adapted already.

"And it gives me a bit of time to do a bit more practice and build my confidence up.

"I've missed some cuts lately so I want to get four rounds under my belt at Bridgestone (there is no cut at the event) to sharpen myself up a little bit.

"My last few months have been pretty busy but they have been pretty poor golf wise.

"So I'm just really looking to start again and have a decent few rounds.

"I've had a few distractions off the course that have kept me busy and I haven't been able to put the time in on the course that I would do normally.

"But those things have gone now so it's time to get back to work.

"There were some parts of my game that were good at The Open but some weaknesses too.

"In general, it was pretty rubbish but my short game was better so I have to take that as a positive.

"I was pretty much out of it after three holes at Lytham which was annoying because I didn't give myself a chance to see how good my game was.

"I played one bad shot in those first three holes and double bogeyed two of them so that was a year's hard work and preparation down the pan that quickly.

"From there, you really have battle hard to make the cut, which would have been a big achievement, but I didn't manage it.

"I just have to write that week off and have another year's build-up to the next Open."

Rock is toying with the idea of playing more golf Stateside but says that will depend on other factors.

He added: "It's good to get a bit more experience of playing in America – I've played everywhere else in the world but this is somewhere I haven't played a lot. There are some of the best fields and tournaments over there and some really old, established courses so it's a good place to play."