



Boldmere Swimming Club members are all smiles after it received a cheque for £5,000.

Shoppers' vote gives Ellie's club £5,000 to help young swimmers

By Bobby Bridge
News Reporter

A SWIMMING club which once helped hone the skills of a multiple gold medal winning Paralympian has been awarded a bumper grant to nurture more stars of the future.

Boldmere Swimming Club has received £5,000 to help nurture more talents like Ellie Simmonds after they were chosen as The Mall Sutton Coldfield's 2012 charitable grant winners.

Back in February, following public nominations, organisations from Sutton Coldfield were shortlisted for their work to promote sport, exercise and an active lifestyle among the town's young people.

Shoppers spending more than £20 in The Mall were invited to post a token to vote for their preferred cause, and Boldmere Swimming Club earned the most votes.

"We are delighted to have won the competition and the £5,000 will make a real difference to our club," said Steve Harlow of Boldmere Swimming Club.

"The money will also help us to put on a course in October to train up more coaches, particularly former professional swimmers who want to give something back to the sport by training others.

"What is even better is to have been nominated and selected by the people of Sutton Coldfield - it shows how much the public appreciates what we do and that is truly heartening.

"It couldn't have come at a better time as pool hire



Fiona Faizey, marketing manager at The Mall, Four swimmers from the club, Steve Harlow, press officer at the club.

charges have gone up by 37 per cent in recent months so our outgoings are particularly high."

Boldmere Swimming Club is one of the longest established swimming clubs in the Midlands, with the largest number of active members of any sports club in the Birmingham area.

The club is also currently one of the most successful competitive sports clubs in the Midlands, reaching the finals of the Arena National Swimming League in every year since 2009 - where its swimmers have competed successfully against other leading English swimming clubs and their Team GB swimming stars.

Runners-up in The Mall's charity nominations were the Rhythmn Junkies Dance School and Zen Shin Black Belt Club, which were rewarded with cheques for £300.

Andy Jackson, general manager of The Mall Sutton Coldfield, said: "A huge congratulations to Boldmere Swimming Club.

"In what has been a huge year for sport in Britain, we're delighted to have been able to work with our shoppers to support the club and the invaluable work they do.

"By engaging Sutton Coldfield's young people in sport and exercise, Boldmere Swimming Club makes a lasting impression on their way of life."

Your chance to have say in cemetery row

FAMILIES protesting over the state of graves at Streetly Cemetery are invited to a public meeting this weekend.

Members of the Walsall Muslim Organisation (WMO) drew up a petition - signed by more than 2,500 people -

earlier this summer to instigate changes at the cemetery after edgings to Muslim graves in 'R' section at the site were removed.

Walsall Council - which manages the cemetery and will consider the petition at its

meeting on Monday, September 24 - has now proposed to reinstate wooden edging.

The public are invited to a meeting at the Royal Hotel in Ablewell Street, Walsall on Sunday, September 23, from 3-6pm to discuss the proposals.

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