

Walsall 4 v Warley 16

Warley go through to the Midland finals and play Nottingham on April 9 at Walsall.

North West

Skills camp

Twenty-eight swimmers from the region were selected to attend a skills camp at Manchester Aquatic Centre on February 23. Regional coaches on the Assistant Coaching Offer programme were also invited. The day included 50m pool training with Mark Rose, chief coach at City of Manchester and head coach of Manchester Beacon Programme, and core stability/land training with Leanne Tipple, chartered physiotherapist with the England Talent Programme.

There was also a question and answer session with **Emma Saunders**, Commonwealth silver medallist, and **Jessica Lloyd**, member of the European junior team. Both swimmers also took part in the afternoon 50m pool session.

New supporter scheme

Rural Splash, formally known as Kirkham Baths, is bubbling over with a new supporters scheme. Pool users and businesses are being given the opportunity to help secure the long-term future of the pool in Kirkham. The 97-year-old pool was threatened with closure three years ago but a spirited community campaign led to the YMCA being brought in to run the facility.

A group of residents, who have helped the Fylde Coast YMCA run the pool since 2008, have designed a wall of 'bubbles' which is installed in the foyer of the pool. The sale of bubbles, which contain names of supporters or personal messages, will raise funds vital to the pool's survival.

Francis McCaffery who has made the wall said: 'These bubbles make a lasting gift or could form a memorial to a loved one. The wall will act as a roll of honour, with more bubbles being added as people sign up to the scheme.'

Emma Saunders, Jessica Lloyd, coaches and swimmers on the NWR skills camp



One of the first contributors is Duncan Copperthwaite, whose two children have both learnt to swim at the pool: 'I am buying one in memory of my dad, who died last year. He never learned to swim but was delighted that his grandchildren received such good teaching at Rural Splash. He was keen to support the pool in any way he could. I hope my donation will go some way to help secure the future of the pool.'

The pool serves 15 schools around Kirkham and the Rural Fylde and is regularly used by a number of swimming clubs and groups as well as residents. Long term plans include the installation of a gym and redevelopment of the existing premises.

Cllr Liz Oades, who is part of the community group, said: 'Local people supported the campaign to save the pool - we now hope they will be able to support its long-term future. I have been approached by a number of non-swimmers who want to purchase a bubble as well as those who use the pool regularly.'

The different sized bubbles, which are available to purchase from the pool reception desk, are priced from £5 to £200.

For more information please contact Miranda Cox on 01772 684 945 or Rural Splash on 01772 682 988 (rural.splash@fyldecoastymca.org).

New aquatics officer

The region has welcomed Lorna Postlethwaite, who started work as aquatics officer on March 14. Her contact details are lorna.postlethwaite@swimming.org. Lorna has vast experience of the Lancashire area having joined the region from Lancashire Sport, where she was the partnership development officer.

Team manager training

The region are organising more training courses on Saturday May 7 at Leigh Indoor Centre, Sale Way, Leigh. Module 1 will take place from 1-4pm. This course is for candidates who wish to become team managers and accompany athletes to competitions. Module 2 will take place from 9.30am-12.30pm for candidates who have experience of being a team manager, have completed Module 1 and who are going to accompany athletes overnight or abroad.

If anyone wishes to book a place on the courses, please email diane.stafford@swimming.org or ring 0161 273 3907.

Development day and council

Our annual development day and council meeting will be on Saturday September 3 at Leigh Stadium, Sale Way, Leigh. More details regarding the available courses, Aquaforce lunch and the council meeting will be published shortly.

Open water championships

The 2011 championships will take place at Salford Quays on June 28. More information will be circulated soon.

Anyone wishing to be added to the

circulation list should e-mail diane.stafford@swimming.org.

Coach of the Year

Lee Orrell, of Blackburn Centurion SC, has been named Coach of the Year by Blackburn with Darwen Council for his hard work and commitment to the development of his swimmers, especially while delivering the technical skills they require.

Lee was appointed lead coach for the sprint training group at the end of 2009 and the results in 2010 were simply astonishing, far exceeding the expectations of both coaching staff and swimmers.

Beginning with seven or eight swimmers, the sprint squad now consists of no less than 25 swimmers, all of whom regularly achieve personal best performances and represent the club in regional events.

General enquiries

If anyone has any questions, queries or issues they would like to discuss with any member of the regional team, please ring 0161 273 3907 or email swimnorthwest@swimming.org

West Midlands

Boldmere JIM meet

Boldmere SC staged their sixth - and best - JIM (Junior Invitation Meet) at Stechford Cascades in Birmingham. JIM was a one-day unlicensed meet for swimmers who are eligible for the forthcoming junior league season, plus swimmers who are 8 on the day. Swimmers aged 9 to 12 can enter all the league events for which they are eligible, plus 100m IM, while 8-year-olds can enter one-length events on all four strokes.

Ninety-two Boldmere youngsters and 181 from seven invited clubs (Fox Hollies, Kingsbury Aquarius, Stourbridge, Northgate, Lutterworth, Blythe Barracudas and Corby) did 1,027 swims in front of an audience of over 300 enthusiastic spectators. The Boldmere youngsters recorded 250 PBs, while Bethany Grant broke the club's 12yrs 50m breaststroke record with a time of 36.85. All the feedback received from visiting swimmers, parents and coaches was very positive.

Before presenting Fox Hollies with the elegant Top Visiting Club Trophy, the West Midlands president handed Boldmere their swim21 (teaching) certificate and the Sutton Coldfield Club of the Year Trophy, presented by Tamworth Audi.

Young volunteers in Shropshire

The Young Volunteer project was well received by clubs in Shropshire with many taking advantage of the scheme to provide older club swimmers with the opportunity to learn new skills. The scheme put young volunteers through their team manager, timekeeper and judge level 1 courses and also offered the opportunity to gain a Young Aquatics Organiser Award. >