



## LONDON'S CALLING FOR ACE SIMMONDS

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# Advertiser Sport

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Aldridge swimmer Tully Kearney wrote her name into the record books with a superb performance recently – see page 77 for more.  
Picture by Steve Harlow



### Club opens doors for Midlands Golf Week

**GOLF:** Calderfields Golf Club is putting on a series of offers and taster sessions as part of Midlands Golf Week. The county's first golf festival tees off after the Open at Sandwich comes to its conclusion with a week-long programme from July 18-24. Next Monday and Wednesday (July 18 and 20), Calderfields is hosting an open evening from 6-8pm. On Tuesday (July 19), there is a free coaching session from 6.30-7.30pm, while Thursday (July 21) will see a junior golf fun evening take place from 6-8pm. There are also reduced rounds on certain days – call 01922 632243 for more details.

### MLF makes a slow start on comeback

**ATHLETICS:** Darlaston Dart Mark Lewis-Francis suffered a disappointing week on his return from injury last week. The 100m European and Commonwealth silver medallist finished last (eighth) on his comeback in 10.53secs at an international meeting in Reims, France last Wednesday. He then failed to make the final at the star-studded Aviva Grand Prix at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium on Sunday, finishing seventh in 10.38secs in a heat won by Asafa Powell.

### World champ visits town for exhibition

**POOL:** Former world 8-ball pool champion Carl Morris visits Walsall for a charity exhibition night next week. Morris, the 1998 world champion, will show off his skills at the Station Street Working Men's Club in Milton Street, Palfrey next Thursday



**Former pool world champion Carl Morris is in Walsall next week for a charity exhibition**

evening (July 21). The night is part of Morris's quest to tour 43 English counties in 43 days to raise more than £43,000 for the charity Against Breast Cancer. The exhibition runs from 7.30-11pm with all members of the public welcome.

# Squad almost complete as manager hunts three more

## SADDLERS

By MICHAEL BEARDMORE  
Sports Reporter

MIDFIELD strengthening remains Dean Smith's number one priority between now and the moment Walsall kick off their League One season on August 6.

Smith has already brought in Adam Chambers, Kevan Hurst and Claude Gnapka to counteract the departures of Matt Richards and Julian Gray among others.

But he missed out this week on former loan man Marc

Laird who has opted to sign for Leyton Orient and will be lining up against the Saddlers on opening day.

Smith, whose side played their first pre-season game away at Greenock Morton last night (Wednesday), said: "I'm looking to probably get three more players in – midfield and a keeper.

"Hopefully I'll have those signings in time for the home friendlies next week.

"I might look to bring one more defender in as well just to give us cover and a bit more competition for places.

"The new lads so far have settled in really well with the



**David Grof is one of three trialists trying to impress boss Dean Smith**

group and I'm quite excited about the new season."

Smith's squad have been on a pre-season tour in Scotland this week, which will be rounded off with a game at Gretna tomorrow night (Friday).

And they have taken three trialists with them who could feature in Smith's thinking when it comes to his final few signings.

Young keeper David Grof, released by Notts County in the summer, is attempting to impress Smith as he looks for a back-up to Jimmy Walker.

American midfielder Anton Peterlin, who played for Plymouth last season, and full-back Lee Beevers, released by Colchester, are the other trialists under Smith's gaze.

If the trio impress enough they could feature as the Saddlers they continue their pre-season programme by hosting Premiership pair Wolves (Tuesday) and Aston Villa (Thursday) at the Banks's Stadium next week.

Smith added: "It has gone

really well in Scotland and we've been doing a bit of everything to get the lads prepared.

"I've been really pleased with the fitness levels – the lads have come back really fit and have been looking after themselves.

"They seem eager to get the season started and we've had to pull the reins back on some of them.

"We're looking forward to the games next week too against two big clubs, two of our local rivals.

"It will be our fantastic for our players to pit their wits against top flight teams."

# Kitching raring to go as Chester are first up for the promoted Pics

## FOOTBALL

RUSHALL Olympic got a reminder this week of the huge leap they have made thanks to promotion last season – when the newly-published fixture list handed them an opening day trip to Chester.

The Pics kick off their first-ever Evo-Stik Northern Premier campaign on Saturday, August 13 by travelling to the club that rose from the ashes when ex-League side Chester City folded.

And Olympic boss Neil Kitching said: "It's a daunting task but one we are looking forward to – you have to play every team at some point.

"They got promoted last year too and there will probably be 2,000-plus fans watching so it will be a great atmosphere.

"It will be a good test for our lads as it will give them the idea of the level we have jumped to because, no doubt, Chester will be up there.

"But hopefully we can go



**Neil Kitching's Rushall will kick off their season with a tough trip to Chester**

there and upset a few people, pick something up and then focus on two really important home games."

Those home games see Olympic entertain Mickleover Sports on Tuesday, August 16 and Ashton United on Sat-

urday, August 20.

And Rushall have also been handed home games in their initial FA Cup and FA Trophy draws – with their promotion last season meaning they enter those competitions a round later.

The Pics host either Bedworth or Sutton Town in the FA Cup first qualifying round, and they entertain Southern Premier side Cambridge City in the Trophy.

Kitching added: "They are both good draws because they

are both at home and that's all you can ask."

Kitching has swooped to capture Loughborough Dynamo top scorer Luke Edwards and has also signed up forward Matty Lewis whose goals while on loan in the run-in last year helped the Pics gain promotion.

He has pretty much secured most of last season's squad – although Lei Brown has left for Redditch – and has also signed Danny Bragoli, James Skedgel and Marcus Jackson.

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