



OLD SALTS HIT NEW WAVE OF FORM

Pages 138-139

Observer Sport

Telephone: 01827 848495 | fax: 01827 848640 | email: sports.editorial@cintamworth.co.uk | www.thisissuttoncoldfield.co.uk

Kearney's aiming to emulate Simmonds

SWIMMING

By HELEN DRAYCOTT
Sports Reporter

BOLDMERE swimming star Tully Kearney is set to follow in the footsteps of double Paralympic gold medallist Eleanor Simmonds after being approached by the British Swimming Talent Squad that helped Ellie on the path to glory.

Kearney will be considered for the World Class programme following her three-medal haul – including two golden displays – at the DSE Nationwide Short Course Championships in Sheffield last weekend.

And with her eyes already set firmly on one day competing at the Paralympics, the future looks bright for the 13-year-old.

Proud mum Amanda told the *Observer*: “She was chuffed to bits when she was approached after competing in Sheffield last weekend.

“She was pleased with how she'd done, medalling three times and then this – it was a lot to take in.

“She's good friends with Ellie after the time they spent together at school, and when she trained at Boldmere, so it's good that Tully has got someone who has been there that she can go to for advice.

“Ellie's absolutely delighted for her.

“Tully's already said that she wants to go to the Paralympics – it's just great that she doesn't let her condition stop her from doing what she wants to achieve.”

The teenage swimming star, has a form of cerebral palsy called spastic diplegia.

The condition causes the muscles in Tully's legs to be very tight, meaning her legs can be stiff and painful. It also causes balance and co-ordination difficulties.

But coming from a swimming family, Kearney was introduced to the water at an early age.

Her hard work with coach Ashley Cox – who used to train Simmonds – is now paying dividends, as well as being an excellent form of physiotherapy for her.

“It took her a long time to learn to swim but now she's a natural,” said Amanda, who used to be a swimmer herself.

“She trains five times a week at Boldmere and she also trains with the West Midlands Disability squad.

“She moved to Boldmere Swimming Club about six months ago because she wanted to push herself and they set very high standards.”

Kearney clinched gold last weekend in the 400m freestyle in a personal best of 4.56.50secs, with a 200m split in a PB of 2.26.56secs.

The youngster also got first place on the podium as part of the West Midlands Region 4x100m medley relay team, achieving a PB freestyle leg of 1.10.46secs.

Her bronze came in the 50m fly in a time of 37.66secs, while also notching up PBs in the 100m freestyle and backstroke.

Tully is in action again this Sunday.



Tully Kearney of Boldmere Swimming Club with her three medals she picked up at the DSE Nationwide Short Course Championships in Sheffield.

PICTURE: STEVE HARLOW

Mark no Guest as Sutton CC skipper

CRICKET: Mark Guest will remain as captain of Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club's First XI next season. Guest will have the job of leading a Sutton revival next summer. The town side narrowly avoided relegation from the Birmingham League last year, handed a reprieve after Shropshire champions Madeley declined promotion for the 2011 season. There is no appointment of a Second XI captain as yet but Steve Russell will continue to lead the thirds. There will be no First XI in the Warwickshire Sunday League but the seconds remain under the captaincy of Simon Broadhead, and thirds are captained by Neil Hornby. Kim Harvey will lead the ladies side. Off the field,



Mark Guest is set to stay as Sutton skipper ahead of the summer season.

James Ross has been elected president again with the hard working Naeem Arif continuing as chairman. Simon Broadhead has been named secretary while Adil Bhatti will be treasurer. Other appointments include Michael Hepburn as welfare officer, Hugo Russell as fixture secretary and Robin Wheeler as membership secretary. Indoor practice nets commence on Tuesday, January 11 for juniors and January 13 for seniors. For details on joining, call Colin Greetham on 0121 240 9872, Robin Wheeler on 07720 424996, or visit www.suttoncoldfield.play-cricket.com

Reserve your seat on road to Anfield

VILLA COACH: The Sutton Coldfield Lions are running a coach to Liverpool for the Premier League game on Monday, December 6. The coach will leave the Halfway House in Mere Green at 2pm before calling at McDonalds in Sutton (2.05pm), The Fox at Walmley (2.15pm), The Yenton (2.20pm) Blockbusters in Erdington (2.25pm) and The Armada in Gravelly Hill (2.30pm). Cost is £18 adult and £10 per accompanied child. Call Mark Goodwin on 07815 838195 for further details.

Title chasers set for tough test as in-form Roms await at Coles Lane

ROMULUS welcome title chasers Carlton Town to Coles Lane this Saturday on the back of four points from two games this week – and boss Richard Evans has been quick to praise his young side for their form.

The Roms have taken ten points from their five matches since a 4-1 defeat at Belper at the start of the month, moving them towards a mid-table po-

sition with several games in hand on most sides around them.

After being held to a 2-2 draw with Leek on Saturday, Romulus took a maximum haul by overcoming strugglers Shepshed Dynamo 4-2 on Tuesday.

Despite making hard work of their midweek match, Roms boss Evans was upbeat.

He said: “We raced into an

early lead on Tuesday, but credit to Shepshed, they kept going and got back into the game.

“Seeing games out more effectively will come with experience, we are still a young side and it is positive that we have scored the goals to seal a good victory, despite allowing Shepshed back in at one stage.

“Leek was a stern test

against a solid side, they are improving and our performance was good against a physical, experienced side.”

Evans welcomes Naveed Arshad back from suspension this weekend and should be able to call upon leading scorer Marcus Brown after a knock had ruled him out of Tuesday's game.

After Saturday's match, the Roms embark on three con-

secutive away games, starting at local rivals Rushall Olympic on Tuesday night which coincides with the start of Gavin Day's three match ban.

■ ROMULUS are still offering 'Kids for a Quid' for this Saturday's game against Carlton – all under-16s are admitted for £1 with any under-18s admitted for the same price if they are accompanying a member of the Roms youth team.

Published by Central Independent News and Media Ltd, Tamworth. Printed by Northcliffe Press Midlands.

ISSN 1369-0809



4 7