



Andrew Jordan, inset, in action at Silverstone.

## INSHORT

**BADMINTON:** Wyndley Badminton League's August session finished with the following divisional winners: Division 1 – Gerry Leighton; Division 2 – Khurum Afzal; Division 3 – Tom Gough; Division 4 – Ben Blowman; Division 5 – Karl Thompson; Division 6 – Chris Greenwood; Division 7 – Mark Ferriday; Division 8 – Peter Hughes; Division 9 – Mark Stevenson. Players unbeaten through the month were Leighton, Steve Shakespeare, Afzal, Gough, Phil Nobbs, Girish Gupte, Thompson and Ferriday. Meanwhile, at the Birmingham Bonanza Tournament, Staffs county star Gough retained his Under-17s singles title with some outstanding performances.

**BOWLS:** Sutton Park retained their position on top of Division Two in the East Birmingham League, beating close rivals Beaufort by 22 shots with Dai Roberts (21-8), Colin Porter (21-10), Ron Handsaker (21-11) and Graham Ord (21-15) in commanding form. Sutton then beat Streetly Methodists by 67 shots thanks to Alan Middleton (21-1), Maurice White (21-8) and Danny Biggins (21-11). The Sutton League side walloped Warmley by 67 shots with Bud Sheehan (21-4), Alan Tipton (21-2), Carl Green (21-7) and Jim Caulwell (21-13) in top form. The East Birmingham League side beat the Deer's Leap by 36 shots thanks to incisive bowling by Dave Perry (21-4) and Dann Biggins (21-12).

**ENDURANCE:** Erdington strongman Paddy Doyle smashed another two fitness world records this week. At Stamina's boxing self-defence gym, he performed 41 step-ups in one minute on a 15-inch bench carrying a 40lb backpack. And Doyle also beat the five-minute record with a 50lb backpack, with 141 reps, taking his haul of records to 184.

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## Jordan left to ponder what might have been as luck deserts him

## MOTORSPORT

BRITISH Touring Car Championship ace Andrew Jordan was left to rue what might have been after a puncture and a crash marred a promising start at Silverstone.

Jordan had looked good in practice at the home of British motorsport, finishing second in two pre-qualifying runs.

And he continued that form

into qualifying to line up sixth on the grid in his Pirtek Racing Vauxhall Vectra.

Jordan challenged leaders Tom Onslow-Cole, Tom Chilton and Jason Plato for much of race one and although he fell away to finish fifth, it was a solid start.

It looked as if race two would be even better for the 21-year-old when he leaped from fifth to third early on, but a punc-

ture led to a scheduled pit-stop and an eventual 17th-place finish.

And any hopes Jordan had of finishing the day on a high in race three came to a screeching halt when he was forced to retire after being in the midst of a three-car collision.

He collided with Steven Kane's BMW – the impact of which sent Jordan into another

PICTURE BY KEITH HUBBLEDAY

collision with the BMW of Rob Collard.

Jordan ended up in the gravel trap with no option but to retire. He now lies 10th in the championship standings on 64 points, well behind the leader Plato on 171.

He is 37 points behind ninth-placed Collard and needs a good final three rounds – starting at Knockhill on September 5 – to climb the rankings.

## Ellie soaks up pressure to land four gold medals and three world records

## SWIMMING

By GERARD MEAGHER  
Sports reporter



Ellie Simmonds took four gold medals in the IPC World Championships

DOUBLE Paralympic gold medallist Ellie Simmonds insists she can handle the weight of expectation on her young shoulders after smashing a host of records at the IPC World Championships.

The 15-year-old Boldmere Swimming Club life member, who last year became the youngest MBE in history, scorched her way to four gold medals in Eindhoven, and bagged herself three world records to boot.

Simmonds topped to podi-

um in the 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle events, collecting world records in the latter two, while she rounded off her sparkling week by carving nearly two seconds off the 200m medley world record en route to gold.

Ever since Simmonds returned home from the Beijing Paralympics in 2008 as a 13-year-old double gold medallist, the media spotlight has never left her side – but she is adam-

ant she feels no added pressure to perform.

"At the World Championships I won four gold medals and I am so happy about that," she said. "Some of the world records I haven't broken for a while so I felt really good to do it there.

"So to do as well and produce those kind of performances was a great feeling and it has filled me with a lot of confidence.

"I'm still quite young but I have always been able to deal with pressure.

"I like pressure and I like nerves because when I am nervous I know I am going to perform to the height of my capabilities.

"It is now only two years until the Paralympic Games in London so this is a great chance to show what you can do."

At the London 2012 Paralympics, Simmonds is set to be among the star attractions and her face will become synonymous with the Games as the countdown, which will pass the two-years to go mark this Sunday, continues to tick.

Simmonds was the jewel in the crown of a stellar British swimming team at Beijing 2008, which garnered 41 medals in the Far East – 11 of which were gold.

And Simmonds is convinced she can repeat the trick in home waters.

## Christodoulou still upbeat after crash

## MOTORSPORT

SUTTON Coldfield's Formula Renault driver Riki Christodoulou remained upbeat after his latest race, despite crashing out early, writes Joe Jarvis.

Christodoulou's day ended prematurely as he spun out in the opening lap of the first race in the latest round of the Michelin Formula Renault UK Championship at Silverstone on Sunday.

He said: "I had made a great start and was up to third exiting the first corner but at (Brooklands) corner I moved to the centre of the track.

"I don't know whether I was touched but I did a 180 degree spin and ended up stationary facing the remainder of the field.

"Unfortunately, I was hit by another car damaging various components, which put me out on the spot."

The Sutton racer admitted that he was surprised that Renault did not have the car parts he required to continue but, despite the disappointment, he remains confident ahead of two races at Knockhill, Scotland, on September 4 and 5.

Christodoulou added: "I can take away a lot of positives from Silverstone.

"I felt more comfortable behind the wheel compared to Snetterton two weeks ago.

"With only a couple of drivers having previous Knockhill experience, I'm sure I'll be on the pace."

Christodoulou will race for Fortec Motorsport, of Daventry, in the final 10 races of the competition, which launched the careers of Formula One World Champions Kimi Räikkönen and Lewis Hamilton.

## Appropriate that the two Lucys finish even

## SWIMMING

Boldmere Swimming Club's Lucy Gale claimed a share of the bronze medal at the Open Water Championships at the Albert Dock in Liverpool.

This will be the 15-year-old's last year competing as a junior and at the two-mile event she was attempting to defend her

title after triumphing there in 2009.

She was unable to accomplish that but was still involved in a thrilling battle with the similarly-named Lucy Hale.

After the best part of half-an-hour's head-to-head action, with the pair swimming stroke for stroke, they were

both credited with the same time of 40.49mins – a personal best for Gale by almost two minutes – and equal third place.

If she had been swimming indoors, Gale would not only have bettered her 1,500m personal best but she would have taken almost 30 seconds off the club record.

