

SPORT ROUND-UP



Boldmere C team gala stars Chanel Kang and Tom Songhurst.

Picture by Steve Harlow

Swimming stars make the grade

SWIMMING

BOLDMERE Swimming Club's C team performed well against first teams from Tamworth, City of Hereford and Newport in the third round of the Nuneaton and District Junior League.

Their boys' gala star was 10-year-old Tom Songhurst, who scored some crucial points for the team, while Chanel Kang claimed the girls' award with second place in the age 10s 25m butterfly and relay legs.

Nine-year-old Zara Chatfield swam the 25m breaststroke in a personal best time, while older sister Camilla scooped Boldmere's only first place of the night in a personal best of 43.13secs for her 50m breaststroke.

Sam Gale, Marcus Atkin, Aiden Van dan Broek and Archie Cleaver had a busy night, swimming up to seven events each in some cases.

And Megan Oakley put up a great fight, just missing out on first place in the 50m freestyle in a time of 33.77secs.

BADMINTON

Afzal win takes him to 15 games unbeaten

THE John York Trophy quarter-finals took place in the Wyndley Badminton League with Khurum Afzal recording his 15th consecutive league and cup win.

He beat John Brant in a tremendous match that went to a third game which Afzal won 21-17.

John Collins beat John Macdonald 19-21, 21-18, 24-22 after both players had two match points. In the Paul Whitehouse Plate, holder James Clark fell to Osman Stackhouse 21-17, 13-21, 21-12. Stackhouse will meet Gerry Leighton in the semis after he beat Kevin Dodd 24-22, 21-15.

FOOTBALL

Young Roms make appeal for players

THE Roms are looking for footballers in school years 9 and 10 for their under-14s and under-15s next season.

The club plays in the Midland Junior Premier League with the likes of Burton Albion and Kidderminster Harriers.

A trial will be held at Aston University on Sunday, July 18. Registration is at 9.30am prompt.

For details, call youth development director Mark Taylor on 07774 448365.

FOUR OAKS: Four Oaks under-nines are looking for goalkeepers to try out for next season. Anyone interested should call 07825 906378.



ATHLETICS

GOLDEN GIRL: Sutton's Jemma Westgate helped the West Midlands to team gold at the British Modern Biathlon Championships in Wavertree, Liverpool. Westgate finished seventh in the 2km run in 7.17mins to pick up 848 points. She then swam the 200m, smashing her

personal best by more than two seconds, finishing in 2.27mins for 1,036 points. After a nervous wait, Westgate finished seventh overall but her scores, along with those of team-mates Maisie-Anna Dove and Jessica Varley, were enough to secure team gold. Jemma's sister Jessica also competed in the swimming pool, smashing her personal best

for the 50m by more than a second in 34.14secs to pick up 1, 216 points. That was enough for 30th place out of 74. In the afternoon, she competed in the 1km race on the track, equalling her best time of 3.53mins for 896 points and a total of 2,112 points overall. Pictured are Maisie-Anna Dove, Jessica Varley and Jemma Westgate.

Teenager shows fighting spirit to take junior kickboxing title

KICKBOXING

By **MICHAEL BEARDMORE**
Sports reporter

SCHOOLGIRL Sarah Smith swapped school lessons for handing out lessons as she made her mark on kickboxing's junior full contact circuit by taking the WKA Junior English title.

The 13-year-old pupil at Bishop Walsh Catholic School in Sutton Coldfield took just 38 seconds to force a stoppage against Nottingham's Tia Reid and claim the crown at the 52.5kg weight limit.

Smith, coached at the SaXon Kickboxing Academy in Erdington and Castle Vale by Tyler Shakespeare, said the triumph was worth all the hard work she had put in during training for the bout.

The Walmley teenager said:



Sarah Smith, aged 13, claimed a national junior kickboxing title last weekend.

"When I was told I had been nominated to contest this title I was also told how hard the training was going to be for it, and it was.

"But Sunday night made it all worthwhile.

"I was over the moon with just how many of my family friends and clubmates came to support me, and I owe them all a big thank you."

Shakespeare said: "Sarah is the real deal. Her enthusiasm for the sport and the dedication she shows is immense.

"She trains six times a week, often competing on the seventh day whenever we can get her a fight, and still she looks so hungry for more.

"She works continually to improve and represents an ideal student, topped with the fact she is a tremendously popular and likeable character around the gym. She has all the attributes to make it big.

"As a coach you give your fighter a game plan to fight to but, in truth, she went into the fight with us fully confident of her ability to cope with just about anything that may have come her way.

"She is intelligent enough to be able to adapt, a rare quality that she may well have to draw on in future fights, as we are sure she will be tested further as she progresses through the ranks of her division.

"She dominated totally from the second the bell sounded.

"We had asked her to take the fight to the other girl, but even we were surprised by the ferocity of the opening attack.

"The Nottingham girl's corner threw in the towel in haste, after seeing their charge totally and utterly overwhelmed with a barrage of hard accurate punches and devastating kicks, landing clean to the body."

Next up for Smith is a crack at the vacant WKA British Title in November, where she is set to meet Chloe Love from Manchester, who currently holds two versions of the sport's world junior titles.

Brothers honoured as club celebrates successful season

RUGBY UNION

SUTTON Coldfield RFC held their annual awards evening as the club reflected on another successful season.

Not only did the first XV win the Warwickshire Cup, the Walmley Road side's ground staff were also recognised as the best in the county at the Warwickshire awards dinner last month.

And players Mike Worthing-

ton, Antony Worthington, Alex White and Brook Davies all received county call-ups this year.

Davies was also presented with the Warwickshire County Player of the season award for his outstanding performances in Warwickshire's winning county championship campaign.

Antony Worthington was named first XV player of the season, while his younger

brother Mike - who scored 18 tries - was named the first XV's players' player of the season.

Other awards:

- Second XV player of the season - Sean Harrison;
- Third XV player of the season - Matt Lawson;
- Fourth XV player of the season - Richard Hall;
- Colts player of the season - Pat Clarke;

- Colts most improved player - Keenhen Lindsey;
- Clubman of the year - Guy Bamber;

Warwickshire ground staff of the year - Darren Morgan and Tom Jones;

Sutton have already begun pre-season training ahead of the 2010/11 season.

The first friendly they have lined up is away to Devon County Cup winners Barnstaple, on Saturday, August 7.

INSHORT

MEMBERSHIP: Sutton Coldfield Tennis Club is the leading club this month in the Warwickshire LTA for British Tennis Members (BTM) and regularly competing juniors (RCJs). Its British tennis membership has increased from 391 to 455 and RCJs from 70 to 110. To qualify as a RCJ the player must have played a minimum of six competitive matches. Sutton has achieved this thanks to an internal competition programme that has seen more than 500 matches played at the club this year. Sutton enjoyed further success during the AEGON Classic at Edgbaston recently when its Green U10 boys team won the Warwickshire AEGON Mini Tennis Classic event, and its orange team came fourth. Luke Williams, Angus Osborne, Jasmine Skipp, Callum King Harnes, Frankie George and Sofiya Khalyaeva were the successful team members. Anyone interested in joining the club can call Chris Cook on 0121 355 0917 or email chris.cook@suttontennis.com

COACHING: Boldmere Tennis Club is offering free coaching at its open day on Sunday, July 18, between 10am-2pm. Sessions start at 10am, 11.30am and 1pm.

There will be coaching for juniors and adults.

The club recently held the Rogers Cup mixed doubles tournament. Shirley Adams and Neil Hampson were the eventual winners.

Boldmere welcomes new members of all ages. Call 0121 603 7930 or 308 3150.

AWARD: Sutton United Tennis Club was accredited with Tennis Clubmark status by the Lawn Tennis Association recently. "We are very proud to have been awarded Clubmark Status" said Paul Robinson, club coach. For more information on the club call Paul on 07976 375461 or visit the club website www.suttonunitedtennisclub.co.uk.



Wimbledon-bound youngster Tom Crothers, left, with coach Arnie Benidor and Sam George.

Win has Crothers set for Wimbledon

FOUR Oaks Tennis Club youngster Tom Crothers has qualified for the national finals of the nationwide Road to Wimbledon event.

Crothers triumphed in the Staffordshire regional finals to secure a spot at the grass courts of Wimbledon next month.

More than 20,000 young tennis players under 14 have competed throughout England, Wales and Scotland, hoping to reach the finals.

Crothers had to win four knockout matches at Tipton Sports Academy to qualify as Staffordshire champion.

Crothers's club mate Sam George reached the Warwickshire regional finals at Billesley Tennis Centre and won his first game before suffering a narrow defeat in the second round.