

Observer Sport

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Sports Desk: Telephone: 01827 848495, Fax 01827 848640, email: sports.editorial@cintamworth.co.uk

Skipper leaves Sutton in great condition



Michael Styles believes he has left Sutton RFC in great hands after stepping down as skipper.

by Rob Smyth
SPORTS REPORTER

SUTTON Coldfield RFC stalwart Michael Styles believes he has left the side in good hands and good stead after stepping down as skipper.

Sutton's recent game against Solihull was not only the last of the season but also the last time the first team will be led out by club captain Styles.

After 12 years at the club, many of which he has spent playing for the first team, Styles thought the time was right to step down.

He said: "At 34, it just felt that it was getting a bit too much and I thought I should step down with my head held high and leave the team in good stead.

"Since I joined my local club the progress we have made has been fantastic and it has been wonderful to have been a part of it all."

Despite stepping down as captain, Styles will not be leaving Walmley Road any time soon.

Styles said: "There have been so many achieve-

ments to remember over the years but some of the best would be winning the Warwickshire Cup and gaining promotion last year.

"But also this year is very memorable as we had a really good season with a squad filled with youngsters who preformed so well.

"I will always be involved with this club, I will still be playing a bit, and I hope to do some coaching with the colts as well as helping behind the scenes."

Matt Nevitt, Sutton's first team coach, praised Styles for all his hard work at the club.

He said: "Over the years he has been a huge asset to this team and I feel honoured to have got to play with him during my career.

"When I stepped up to the role of coach, Michael became a great ally in the dressing room and that continued until he walked out onto the pitch for his final first team game. He was and still is a great player, a great leader and a fantastic person."

Styles is not giving up the game completely as he will still turn out for the second side.

The role of captain for Sutton's first team next season has been handed to Steve McCormack.

Broadhurst all set for a crack at British title



ERDINGTON boxer Don Broadhurst retained his Commonwealth super-flyweight title in Wolverhampton on Friday night and has now set his sights on the British title, *writes Matt Panter*.

Broadhurst (pictured above) secured a sixth round stoppage of Asamoah Wilson after the Ghanaian's corner threw in the towel.

Wilson, who had twice been the 12 round championship distance before, took unanswered punishment in the sixth as Broadhurst took control.

Despite injuring his nose early in the fight – his face was smeared with blood from the opening rounds – Broadhurst rallied well and sunk impressive body shots into the ribs of his opponent.

As the fight progressed, his class showed and he claimed his 11th professional win and third stoppage.

The 25-year-old is now ready to take on Lee Haskins for the British title.

Broadhurst said: "It was a hard fight and he was a tough customer but I'm happy overall.

"I got caught by a big swing from the guy in the first round and after that it was a case of chipping away at him, picking my shots, with singles and doubles.

"I hurt him with a few shots as the fight went on and I could see him wobbling and went for it in the sixth.

"His corner did the right thing throwing in the towel for certain."

Broadhurst added: "My punch rate, I was told afterwards was 48 per cent which I'm really happy with.

"That was basically one meaningful shot for every two that was thrown which shows my class.

"And the fact he hit me with a couple of good shots gives people the chance to see how I respond to them – I took them well.

"The better the opponent, the better I box to be honest and now I'm looking forward to the next test.

"That will either be another defence of the Commonwealth title or a shot at a British title fight.

"I will have a break for a week now and spend time with my family before starting running again."

Adlington inspires Orcas to heroics



Boldmere Swimming Club had a surprise when they met double Olympic gold medallist Rebecca Adlington at the National Finals in Sheffield last weekend. Her presence certainly inspired them as they produced a host of club records and personal bests. Turn to page 118 for more from the event. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW

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