

**CRICKET:** Victory means Eldon Drive side could leapfrog Kenilworth and Shrewsbury if results go their way

# Walmley eye a top three finish after impressive win

## Birmingham League Premier Division

Walmley CC First XI (211-6) beat Himley CC (210-9) by four wickets

WALMLEY kept alive their hopes of a top three finish in the Birmingham Premier with an impressive win over Himley.

A final day victory at all-but-relegated Bromsgrove could see the fifth-placed Eldon Drive side leapfrog Kenilworth and Shrewsbury into third spot should other results go their way.

They looked in for a long day against Himley as the visitors got off to a quick start with plenty of runs for Tranter (40), Cox (53) and Wright (61).

However, there was little support elsewhere and steady bowling from Ricketts (2-70), Nadeem (2-38), Griffiths (2-61) and Patel (1-20) meant Himley were re-

stricted to 210-9 from their 55 overs. In reply, Walmley's top order made equally as good a fist of things as Patel (30), Mohammed (40), Bromley (19) and Booth (60no) piled on the runs.

Booth received good support further down the order from

Leigh (24) as Walmley passed the total with four balls remaining and four wickets in hand.

## Birmingham League Division Three

Sutton Coldfield CC First XI (131) lost to Cannock (132-4) by six wickets

SUTTON'S long-expected relegation was finally confirmed on Saturday as they fell to defeat at home to Cannock.

Only Parker (14), Booth (43) and Smith (40) made it into double figures as the Rectory Park side were dismissed for 131.

In reply, Howard (1-23) dismissed Woodcock lbw for a duck but his fellow opener Talbot

made 82, which was the backbone of the Cannock innings.

Stevenson (2-14) and Ali (1-15) also claimed wickets but it proved to be in vain as Cannock cantered past the target for the loss of just four wickets with many overs to spare.

## Streetly sit on verge of promotion

### Warwickshire League Division One

Streetly CC First XI (162-3) beat Walsall YMF (161) by seven wickets

LEAGUE leaders Streetly had a superb win on Saturday against a Walsall YMF side who were unbeaten in their previous six games.

Streetly hope to have club captain Dave Yeend back after injury for their final game against Row-

land tomorrow, where victory will see them promoted to the Warwickshire Premier.

On Saturday, Walsall won the toss and elected to bat on a dry wicket, reaching 112-1 without any problems.

However, when skipper Guy introduced the spinners the game changed dramatically as O Crutchley (5-25) and S Findlay (4-30) skittled YMF for 161.

In reply, Streetly lost an early wicket.

However, run machine S East-

ham 72 and back-to-form C Moore (65no) saw Streetly reach their target after only 25 overs for the loss of just three wickets.

Four Oaks Saints will this week follow up a nail-biting win over Massey Ferguson on Saturday with a Warwickshire Division Two promotion decider at Clarence Road.

Lyndworth, currently just eight points behind Saints, are the visitors for the noon showdown which will see the winner promoted to Division One.

## Sprinter takes blow bravely

ROYAL Sutton Coldfield sprinter Nick Pryce insisted he would take his UK School Games disappointment with a pinch of salt after leaving South Wales empty handed at the weekend.

The 16-year old was representing the West Midlands at the Games, having lifted 200m gold and 100m bronze at the West Midlands Schools Championships in Birmingham in June.

But Pryce struggled to keep up with the pace in Cardiff, clocking 23.63 seconds – his slowest time of the season – to finish sixth in his 200m heat.

And after missing out on the 4x100m final by 0.01 seconds, Pryce admitted the long season was beginning to take its toll.

"I'm feeling pretty tired right now," said Pryce, who was competing in his second consecutive UK School Games.

"The 200m was a bit of a struggle but I felt a bit happier in the relay and we were really unlucky not to be in the final.

"I've really enjoyed the weekend here but I'm glad to have got through a tough day.

"I've been training hard all year and I'm looking forward to having a bit of a rest now before winter training."

Pryce is the eighth fastest under 17 in Britain for 200m this season and was expected to be on the cusp of a final berth in Cardiff.

But despite not delivering on his potential, the youngster was refusing to let his UK School Games disappointment take the gloss off an otherwise impressive season.

"It's been a really successful season for me and it's a good way to finish it here, even if I didn't quite reach the times I'm capable of," said Pryce.

"I got a 4x100m relay medal at the English Schools' Championships, I've got a couple of medals from the indoor season and have been knocking seconds off my personal best in the past few months.

"All in all it's been a good year and hopefully I can keep progressing next season."



## England hero offers Ashes tips

CRICKET prodigy Tom Banton has enjoyed a one-to-one coaching session with England's Ashes star Ian Bell as a reward for the youngster's stunning form.

Banton, of Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club, had his potential recognised by Warwickshire Cricket Board (WCB) at its awards dinner last weekend.

He collected three top awards – under-10s players' player, under-10s outstanding contribution and the Neil Abberley trophy awarded for the WCB player of the year across all age groups.

As a result, Warwickshire star Bell offered to give the youngster a few tips prior to the PRO40 game against Derbyshire this week.

## Trio of medals for swimming star

### Swimming

BOLDMERE Swimming Club star Holly Lynch claimed two gold medals and one bronze at the UK School Games in Wales.

Lynch, representing Central England at last weekend's event in Swansea, set a new games record in the women's 100m backstroke to claim gold in 1.05.63mins.

She then took bronze in the 200m backstroke and swam the first backstroke leg as the 4x100 medley relay team took gold for Central England, who topped the medals table.



Holly Lynch with her three medals from the UK School Games. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW

## Sutton athletes move into a new league at season's final meeting

### Athletics

ROYAL Sutton Coldfield Athletics Club have secured promotion to the top flight of league athletics, writes Matt Salter.

The final meeting of the Heart of England Athletics League Division Three took place at Wyndley recently and Sutton won the eight team event to clinch promotion.

The meeting began in silence as the athletes and supporters paid their respects to Joan Marshall.

The stalwart of Royal Sutton and Midlands athletics had recently died while on holiday in Switzerland.

The event began with Sutton members already chalking up good results.

In the under-11s age group, Annabell Massey won the 600m and 75m event while team mate Jessica Tarr won the B 600m.

For the boys, Callum Masse won the 600m event with Jamie Morrow-Jones clinching the B race.

Elsewhere in the under-13s age group, winners included Sophie Elgar in the 200m and 800m A races with Sophia Kersey and Georgia Dodd winning the 800 B races.

Natasha Longstaff won the long jump event and was second in the 100m.

For the boys, Sean Evans won the 800m and was equally successful in the 200m B event.

Will Bonner was second in the discuss and first in the shot B event. Finally at that age group, Josh Stratford came second in the shot A and the relay team were also victorious.

In the under-15s age group, Maddie Stern claimed victory in the 75m hurdles and Rachel Smith won the high jump.

Taryn Beach was second in the 1,500m while Gemma Gilbert won the B race.

Jenny Lago came second in the discuss event with team mate Elise Robinson winning the B throw.

For the boys, Kouri Yee won the 80m hurdles and was second in the 100m. Edward Harrison won the B race for the team while Tom Hipkiss won the high

jump event with a clearance of 1.40m.

There was also great support from the senior athletes clinching podium finishes, notably Kathryn Smyth, Stuart McCaw, Luke Humphries and Kieran Smith.

With the track and field season drawn

to a close, cross country races will start at the end of this month and Sutton Royal Athletics Club are always on the look out for new members.

Training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and again on Sunday mornings.

## Freeman shows her pace to win 1,500m bronze



Jessica Freeman, centre, with her bronze medal alongside Birchfield teammates Ellie Howat and Lily Sutton. (SI)

SUTTON athlete Jessica Freeman claimed a 1,500m bronze medal for her club Birchfield Harriers at the McCain

Young Athletes UK league finals at the Alexander Stadium last weekend. Harriers were up against Blackheath

and Bromley, Preston, Sale, Windsor Slough & Eton, Rugby and Northampton, Enfield and Haringey, and Edinburgh.