

**ATHLETICS:** Sutton club thrower hopeful of podium place in Manchester after recovery from shoulder injury

**Swimming**



Boldmere SC's Alice Dearing picked up a second place in the 100m fly for Warwickshire in Milton Keynes. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW



Boldmere's gala stars from the latest Nuneaton League meeting. Back row: Emma Hogg, Ben Stanford, Françoise Evans and Zeyad Khalil. Front row: Jake Markidis, Jake Dixon, Jemma Youngman and Chloe Andrews. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW

**Boldmere stars in swim for trophy dip**

SEVEN Boldmere Swimming Club stars were selected to represent Warwickshire County at the annual Kingerlee Trophy meeting in Milton Keynes last weekend.

Bethany Grant, Elliott Walker, Charles Payne, Alice Dearing, Matthew Hyde, Jordan Youngman and Bradley Lynch were the Orcas chosen.

The trophy – for swimmers aged 10 to 13 years – was contested by four counties: Warwickshire, Bedfordshire, Leicestershire and the host county, Oxon and North Bucks.

Helping Warwickshire to defend the trophy it won last year, the Boldmere swimmers gave their all with first places for Bethany Grant in the 50m breaststroke and Charlie Payne in the 50m backstroke, both in personal best times.

Payne also claimed a second place in the 50m freestyle, while Dearing (100m fly), Hyde (100m backstroke), Youngman (100m fly) Lynch (100m fly) all took silver too – the latter two in new personal bests.

In an extremely hard-fought contest, Leicestershire and Oxon and North Bucks tied for first place with Warwickshire a close third.

Elsewhere, the Boldmere A team claimed 25 first places and 15 silvers to finish second behind Leicester Penguins in the second round of the Nuneaton and District Junior League Division One season in Stratford.

Gala star Jake Dixon (2), Chloe Andrews, Kate Davies Lauren Wall, Bethany Grant (2), Ben Campbell, Penny Whittingham (2), Charlie Hackett, Charlie Payne, Alice Dearing and Jordan Youngman all won individual races.



Charlie Payne claimed gold in the 50m backstroke for Warwickshire at the Kingerlee Trophy. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW

Boldmere's B team romped home to a second successive win in Division Two by a huge 71 point margin ahead of Nuneaton and Bedworth B as they took victory in half the events on the night.

Ben Stanford and Jemma Youngman were named gala stars while Lauren Wilson, Carl Joyce, Kai Alexander, Eden Harlow, Caitlin Meade, Alexandra Dolan, Daniel Lynch Davies, Gina Luckett, Steven Wilson and Luke Davies all claimed individual wins.

Finally, Boldmere's C team travelled to Worcester and finished the night in a very impressive second place with 36 personal bests achieved on the night.

Chanel Kang, Bonita Deathridge, Megan Oakley, Jessica Westgate and Françoise Evans claimed individual wins and the latter shared the Gala Star award with Emma Hogg, who shone in the relays. Jake Markidis and Zeyad Khalil shared the boys' award.

**Paralympian has his eyes on medals**

by Craig Chisnall  
SPORTS REPORTER

SUTTON Coldfield Paralympian Kieron Murphy has set his sights on the BT Paralympic World Cup podium after shaking off a troublesome shoulder injury.

The 23-year-old club thrower, who is ranked third in the world, has not competed so far this year.

But he will return to competitive action at the event in Manchester, which is the largest international multi-sport disability event leading up to the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Murphy finished fourth in the North West a year ago, before coming seventh at the Beijing Paralympics, but he believes now is the time to make a move for medals.

"It's been a really frustrating start to the year but I've been training properly again for the last month and I feel in really good shape again," said Murphy.

"The injury meant I couldn't train properly for a couple of months but a couple of injections sorted the problem out and I'm confident of a good performance in Manchester.

"It was great last year and set me up well for Beijing, but I want to be on the podium at least this time and get my first medal at a major event.

"It's going to be tough, but with the home crowd behind me I'm confident it will go well for me and I can put a show on for the fans."

And if Murphy is to break his medal duck, he will have to do it the hard way, with Beijing champion and world record holder Mourad Idoudi set to make the trip from Tunisia. Bronze medalist Jan



Sutton's Kieron Murphy intends to make an impact at the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester next week. (SI)

Vanek, from the Czech Republic, is also scheduled to appear.

But Murphy, who has a personal best of 31.32m, insists he could not have asked for a better start to his season.

"It's a great event to open my season and anything over 30m would be a huge boost," he said. "I want a new personal best this season and I'm confident I can do that, but it will be a tall order this early in the year after my injury."

"I was throwing more than 35m in training for Beijing

and that would have been a new world record, but things didn't go well for me in competition.

"If I can get back to that level then I will be really pleased. It's all about planning for 2012."

●The BT Paralympic World Cup is taking place in Manchester from May 20 to 25 with more than 400 competitors from more than 30 countries scheduled to compete. Go to [www.btparalympicworldcup.com](http://www.btparalympicworldcup.com) for more information.

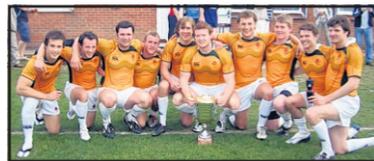
**Super Sutton claim Sevens success**

SUTTON Coldfield RFC's Sevens team won their first tournament of the summer season at Loughborough, following on from finishing runners-up at the Wye Valley Sevens.

Sutton's flying start saw off Syston 47-5 in the first group match and was followed by two further victories over Super Loughborough 24-12 and Royce 14-7.

In the semi-final, Sutton faced a strong Loughborough Exiles team, but the ever improving Royal Town team swept them away with some superb rugby, James Butler contributing a hat-trick in a 41-0 win.

They saved their very best for the final,



The Sutton RFC Sevens team. (SI)

completing the total destruction of Cayley as they racked up a 52-7 victory.

Butler was the undoubted star of the final with four tries, Matt Gillick notched two and captain Alex White one. Lee Douglas, meanwhile, managed to score in every match.

**Young get chance of coaching at course**

A JUNIOR coaching course will be held for budding Garcias and Harringtons at Boldmere Golf Course over the May half term.

Youngsters will receive six hours of tuition and free rounds of golf. The course costs £30. Call 0121 354 3379.

**Sport Shorts**



Craig Wilkins takes the chequered flag in Belgium. (SI)



Craig Wilkins negotiates a corner on his way to victory at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit. (SI)

**Wilkins seals maiden win**

by Matt Salter  
SPORTS REPORTER

SUTTON Coldfield race ace Craig Wilkins claimed his long overdue first win in the Avon Tyres British GT Championship at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium.

With only two laps remaining before the chequered flag, Wilkins' ABG Motorsport Viper snatched victory from the race-long Ferrari leaders Allan Simonsen and Hector Lester.

"I had a bit of a run on him through La Source," said Wilkins. "It was a bit of a last minute thing but I made it past. It's very special to get our first win at last."

Tricky conditions in the early stages of the race may have been a blessing in disguise for the Midlands as the Ferrari team might have had a greater advantage had the race not spent its first four laps under the safety car due to the poor visibility.

"We have worked very hard for two seasons to get here," said Craig.

"All credit to Aaron – he's a true professional who knows how to drive a car and bring it back with good tyres and brakes."

Wilkins and his team mate Scott are now showing their true potential as they push for this year's Championship after only managing 11th and 12th respectively last season.

"It's been great working with Craig and it's great to get this win," said Scott.

"We should have had more victories last year but this is the culmination of a lot of hard work by the team and I would like to say a very well done to all of them."

When Wilkins, now in the hands of the ABG Viper, slipped past Gregor Fiske into second place he was still a remarkable 11 seconds behind Ferrari's Lester after 13 laps but the Sutton racer nibbled away at that gap each lap.

Wilkins then recorded his fastest lap on his 20th attempt as he had Lester in his sights.

The telling move of the race came on the run through Eau Rouge – "There was a bit of contact but I made it past," said Wilkins.

Wilkins crossed the line three-and-a-half seconds ahead of their Ferrari rivals which now leaves the Midlands top of the provisional Championship standings by a single point.

Wilkins was also presented with the Sunoco Driver of the weekend award for his efforts.