

CRICKET: Batsman Bromley digs in to help secure club's best ever Premier Division finish

Saints edge out rivals in thriller

Warwickshire League Division Two

Four Oaks Saints CC First XI (216-8) beat Lyndworth CC (174) by 42 runs

SAINTS gained promotion to Division One of the Warwickshire League by beating their closest rival Lyndworth by 42 runs in a nail-biter at Clarence Road on Saturday.

Skipper Alex Perkins won the toss and elected to bat on a dry track, but was soon out for 16.

However, fellow opener Mark Sheldon (62), Tom Wright (31), Julius Benjamin (16), Anthony Joseph (15) and Gary Wilson (13no) enabled Saints to reach a competitive 216-8 from their 50 overs.

In reply, Lyndworth got off to a rocky start with pace man Benjamin (4-48) and leg spinner Aaron Khatkar reducing them to 46-4.

However an excellent stand between skipper Saij Baig (40) and Ali Hussain (44) put Lyndworth back into a strong position.

Knowing that only a victory was good enough for them, Lyndworth continued to press for the runs, much to the angst of the Saints supporters basking in the late September sunshine.

However, once Tom Holley had removed Hussain, the return of Benjamin and Khatkar saw Lyndworth slump from 150-6 to 174 all out, ensuring promotion for Saints.

Walmley climb to new heights with edgy win

Birmingham Cricket League Premier Division

Bromsgrove CC (211-5) lost to Walmley CC First XI (215-8) by two wickets

WALMLEY secured third place – their highest ever spot in the Birmingham Premier League – with a two wicket win over relegated Bromsgrove.

Bromsgrove won the toss and elected to bat first on a good wicket and were soon making their intentions known with some free-flowing stoke-making.

Newdick (24) and Worcestershire's Kevezee (38) provided support for Levitt (115) who was the main stay of their innings.

Bromsgrove looked set for a huge score at 120-1 but eventually had to settle for 211-5.

Griffiths was the pick of the Walmley bowlers, finishing with 2-59 from 17 overs.

In reply, Walmley lost Mohammed in the second over and he was soon to be

followed by Patel and Booth as Walmley slumped to 33-3.

However, number three Bromley (63) took the game by the scruff of the neck with some fine attacking strokeplay of his own and he was ably supported by Brocklebank (32) and 14-year-old McKay (20).

Having fought their way back into the game, Walmley almost threw it away by losing another three wickets in quick succession before Nadeem (35no) and Griffiths (14no) steered the visitors home in the last over with two wickets in hand.

Birmingham Cricket League Division Two

Old Elizabethans CC (239) beat Sutton Coldfield CC (63) by 176 runs

SUTTON'S wretched season came to an end with a disappointing 176-run defeat.

Elizabethans accumulated a score

that Sutton have not achieved all season with R Ekstraal hitting 77 while Nick Thompson, promoted from the Second XI, claimed fine figures of 5-42 for Sutton.

Steven Howard (3-82) and Richard Norgrove (2-42) were also in the wickets as Old Elizabethans were bowled out for 239.

The total was always going to be difficult to achieve with Matthew Parker top-scoring with 15 alongside Jamie Klapper (15no).

Ekstraal did the main damage, taking 5-26 off 12 overs.

Sutton now have the task of strengthening their side for what will be their first ever season in Division Three.

Indoor net practice will begin at Bishop Vesey's School in January when new members will be welcome.

Sutton seconds were defeated by 10 wickets by Dorridge.

Sutton were bowled out for 97 with Chris Hobbs (16) top scoring and Harry Betts (13), Rob Worsfold (10), Jacob Brotherton (12) and Stuart Russell

(11no) contributing. However, Dorridge eased home without losing a single wicket.

Birmingham Cricket League Division Three

Bridgnorth CC (232-9) beat Aston Unity CC First XI (165) by 57 runs

ASTON'S search for an elusive first win failed as they lost by 57 runs on the final day of the season.

Champions Bridgnorth declared on 232-9, a total they reached thanks to 103 from MacPherson-Lees.

Allsopp (3-40) was the pick of the Unity bowlers.

In reply, Unity produced a much better performance with the bat than their recent failings with Butt (24), Cooke (38) and Miller (22) all contributing.

But Weaver (4-26) and Leather (3-43) ensured that Bridgnorth were on top and Unity were eventually bowled out for 165.

Streetly net title

Warwickshire League Division One

Rowland CC (107) lost to Streetly CC First XI (109-2) by eight wickets

STREETLY won their final game of the season to finish champions of Division One and secure a place in the Premier Division next season.

The team – with an average age of only 23 – have been in the top three all year and in the final weeks of the season took maximum points in five games to clinch promotion.

On Saturday, 17-year-old Sam Bates and 19-year-old brother Matt took six wickets between them for only 20 runs and, along with top class fielding, helped bowl out Rowland for 107.

In reply, Streetly never looked in trouble as Yeend (42no) and C Moore (38) knocked off the runs.

Over the season, spin twins Crutchley and Findlay have taken 80 wickets between them, while C Moore and S Eastham have each notched 600-plus runs with the bat.



The triumphant Walmley CC girls under-11s side. Back row (l-r): Courtney Evans, Rebecca Brazier, Katie Rudd (coach), Zara Thomson, Louise Brazier, Charlotte Newis. Front row: Grace Ballinger, Mollie Burke, Jess Turner, Emmy Milner, Charlotte Cullen. (SI)

Walmley in Edgbaston title win

WALMLEY CC girls' under-11s continued their fine season with an outstanding team victory at the Warwickshire Indoor School at Edgbaston on Saturday.

The three-team event was organised and hosted by Warwickshire CCC and involved not only Walmley Girls but also Kingsheath Girls and a Warwickshire Cricket Board Kwik Cricket Academy.

In the opening match, Walmley were set a target of 219 by Kingsheath and easily surpassed this as they scored an impressive 252.

A win for the Kwik Academy over Kingsheath set up the deciding game and they posted a total of 198, which proved to be too little as Walmley again chased down the runs and finished on 212.

Promotion success seals a top-flight double for Boldmere swimmers

BOLDMERE Swimming Club's B team created history last Saturday in the Nuneaton and District Junior League Division Two Final in Wolverhampton.

They secured promotion to Division One where they will now join the club's A team in 2010 – the first time the club has had two teams in the top division and only the second club ever to achieve such a feat.

There were some excellent legs and team performances in the relays, with the 11-year girls not only taking maximum points in both medley and freestyle relays, but also setting two new divisional records.

In the medley, Caitlin Meade, Alexandra Dolan, Morgan Harlow and Emma Buckroyd won in 1.09.61mins and the same quartet claimed victory in the freestyle in 1.01.02mins.

Swimming

Kai Alexander, James Bartlett, Jack Carty and Carl Joyce took first place in the nine-year relay, while Joyce swam up an age group to help Ben Stanford, Mark Murphy and Ben White win the ten-year medley relay.

Alexander, Joyce, Stanford and Murphy then teamed up with Dan Lynch Davies, Jack Swinhoe, Luke Davies and Steve Wilson to win the boys' 8x1 cannon freestyle relay.

Wins came from Meade and Gina Luckett and there were silvers for Luckett, Alexander, Laurie Wilson, Harlow and Stanford.

The A team missed out on a national semi-final spot by one point after finishing third behind Northampton and Leicester Penguins in the Division One Final of the Midlands Junior League.

Individual victories came from Matt Price, Jake Dixon (2), Jordan Youngman (2), Penny Whittingham (2) and Beth Grant.

Grant, Charlotte Smith, Whittingham and Margaret Gately set a new club record of 1.07.23mins to win the 11-year medley relay, while Charlie Payne, Charlie Hackett, Dixon and Joel Cunningham won the boys' race.

Price, Payne, Hackett and Dixon gave the 11-year boys a clean sweep by winning the freestyle relay, while Lauren Wall, Georgina Dolan, Kate Davies and Stella Anne O'Heir (Free) won the nine-year medley relay in a club record 1.19.49mins.

The boys' 8x1 length cannon relay saw another record fall with a time of 2.01.94mins from Price, Cunningham, Campbell, Dan Curwen, Dixon, Hackett, Payne and Youngman.



The promotion-winning Boldmere B squad. (SI)