

# Observer Sport

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

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Sutton athlete Laura Kenney came seventh on her senior GB debut.

## Kenney enjoys Euro debut

ROYAL Sutton Coldfield AC star Laura Kenney helped Great Britain to third place in the inaugural European Team Championships last weekend.

Kenney finished seventh in the 5,000m – which equalled the place she was predicted to finish – at the competition in Leira, Portugal.

Kenney finished in a time of 15:53.29mins in the race, which included the *Devil take the Hindmost* elimination format.

“The conditions were tough,” said Kenney. “It was really hot and I think the elimination aspect of the race meant that the pace was really quick.”

“I did okay but the last three laps were very tough.”

“But it was a good experience

to be on the senior team for the trip. And the race and surroundings were just another part of my learning curve – it’s something that will help my development.

“It was really good to be part of the GB team battling for points and hopefully it’s an experience I will get to enjoy again.”

“But now I’m looking forward to getting back to normal racing and hopefully I’ll be able to work on reducing my time,” added Kenney, who is competing over 5,000m at the Gran Premio Andalucia in Malaga on Saturday.

Germany won the European Team Championships with Russia taking second.

# Keogh: ‘New signings can take us up’

by Michael Beardmore  
SPORTS REPORTER



SUTTON Coldfield Town FC boss Chris Keogh believes his quartet of new signings can give the Royals the extra push they need to achieve promotion.

Town reached the Southern Midlands play-offs in 2007 and agonisingly missed out last year on goal difference on the last day of the season.

But having brought in goalkeeper Tony Breeden and Nathan Lamey from Rushall Olympic and midfielder Graham Deakin from Bromsgrove – along with the return of Matt Jackson from Boldmere – Keogh is happy with how his squad is shaping up.

With Nuneaton and Leamington promoted last year and likely title favourites Chasetown moved across to the Northern League, Keogh (pictured left) believes the Southern Midlands could be wide open.

He told *Observer Sport*: “Junior Brown has gone to train with Solihull Moors but we

all report back for training tomorrow (Saturday) and everybody else has signed.

“I’m quite excited by the signings we have made and they should give us plenty of competition for places.

“Chasetown have gone and with Nuneaton Town and Leamington getting promoted, that’s our three biggest gates of the season gone so it will affect us from a financial point of view.

“It’s still going to be a strong league again with Chesham and Aylesbury – there will be a few teams capable of being up there and there is always the unknown quantity who surprises everyone like Atherstone did last year.

“But it’s about what we do and I am confident with the squad we have got together – we just have to start well, unlike last season when we made a disastrous start.

“We just missed out last year which was heartbreaking but it was a remarkable achievement to finish where we did considering how we started.”

Striker Lamey has been the league’s top scorer in the past and Keogh is hoping for big things from him, if he can steer clear of injury.

Keogh added: “When Nathan is fit we know what he is capable of – every time he has played against us he has scored goals.

“He missed three months of the season for Rushall and still scored 20 goals.

“He’s still only young at 29 and should be coming to his peak and if we can get him fully fit we have great competition up there with Jamille Matt, Neil Davis and Jimmy Quiggan.

“Hopefully, the additions we have made to the squad can give us that little extra push.”

Keogh has also swooped to make former Rushall boss Paul Holleran his assistant manager after the departure of Steve Hinks to take over at Darlaston Town.

The Royals boss added: “I was delighted when Paul agreed to come here because he had a couple of other offers and he really knows this level and the players well.”

## Water polo stars make a splash



BOLDMERE Water Polo Club have been making waves at both junior and senior levels recently.

For the third year running the club’s under-14 side retained the Kath Beauchamp Trophy for winning the Combined West and East Midlands Championships in Walsall.

The squad of Chris Carter, Sam Baker, Jaje Pearson, Peter Shipway,

Connor Jukes, Harry Divall, Nick Boddington, Peter Lawler, James Bevan, David Carty, Sam Birch, Oliver Cull and Oliver Cash beat HGSOB 9-0 and Solihull 5-2.

With the summer Midland League Youth Division at the half way stage, meanwhile, the club’s under-16 side are on course to retain the league championships having won all of there eight fixtures so far.

They have beaten Coventry 17-12 and 24-9, Solihull 21-3 and 18-3, Worcester 29-3 and 22-0, Walsall 25-7 and Warwick 25-12.

The senior A side have played six matches in the Midland League, winning five and losing one and currently occupy second place in the league with a top two finish well in their sights.

The youthful Development team

have dropped just one point in eight fixtures and are also hoping for a top two spot, while the women’s team had their most successful season ever with a top half finish.

Anyone interested in joining the club can call coach David Geiss on 07887 778191 for more details.

Above: The Boldmere Water Polo under-14s squad. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW

Published by Central Independent News and Media Ltd, Tamworth.  
Printed by Northcliffe Press Midlands.

ISSN 1369-0809



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