

SWIMMING: Boldmere's medal count rises to 83 after final week of the national championships in Coventry

Sport shorts

Shakespeare in boxing debut

Erdington kickboxer Tyler Shakespeare showed his diversity last week as he made his amateur boxing debut.

Shakespeare fought under the Queensbury rules for the first time at the Mackadown Social club in Kitts Green.

He faced Samuel Ampousah from the Belgrave club in Leicester and emerged triumphant in a bruising encounter.

He said: "I had waited for the fight for so long and trained really hard for it.

"Boxing isn't that much different to kickboxing and though I love my first sport, I have always had a mind to go into boxing as well.

"I was lucky enough to realise what I was good at at an early age and if I enjoy the same success in boxing as I do in Kickboxing then it will be a dream come true."

Not content with an excellent boxing debut, Shakespeare also attended the WKA British Open Championships at the Hardy Spicer Club in Erdington.

He fought three bouts - one after the other - against some of Britain's top Super welter weights in a full contact knockout tournament.

Shakespeare stole the show with two points victories, over Tom Smart and Shaun Law while also achieving a second round stoppage of his third opponent Darren Biggs.

Duo celebrate thai boxing wins

Two Sutton Coldfield schoolboys proved once again that they are the best thai boxers in Britain.

Fifteen-year-old Ryan Subhan and 16-year-old Nathan Bendon, who train at K-Star Thai Boxing academy, in Sutton Coldfield, fought off competitors from all over the country at the open British Championships on Saturday.

This was the second year in a row that Subhan, who is a pupil at Kingsbury Sports College, has won the coveted British title while Bendon, who is a pupil at Plantsbrook school won the title for an incredible third time in a row.

K-Star Director Steve Logan said: "Everyone at K-Star is very proud of the boys, they train incredibly hard and are fantastic ambassadors for us all here at K-Star.

"The standard at the Championships this year was much higher, so they did great to retain their titles, they're part of the next generation of K-Star superstars."

Both boys started training just as a hobby and a way to keep fit and gain confidence, but as that confidence grew they decided to try competing and haven't look back.

Bendon has also started working part time at K-Star in Sutton town centre and one day hopes to become an instructor.

K-Star had 11 competitors in the championships and as well as Subhan and Bendon they also had two bronze medalists, nine-year-old Lewis Coley and ten-year-old Luke Christopher.

Other competitors were, Sohan Akhram, Bradley Coley, Naffess Khan, Ellis Adcock, Orlanda McGonigle, Bilal Hussain and Georgia Shoker.

K-Star have had a long tradition of producing champions over the years and now have three full-time Thai Boxing academies, Sutton Coldfield, Perry Barr and Birmingham City Centre.

Anyone wanting more info about classes can contact K-star on 0121 354 5769 or look at their website www.k-starthaiboxing.com.

Have you got a sports story? If so call 01827 848495, email your reports to sports.editorial@cantamworth.co.uk or fax us on 01827 848640

Lynch clinches the final by six seconds



Jake Dixon took an amazing seven gold medals. Pictures courtesy of Alan Kinghorn of DE Photo.

At the end of the third and final week of the 2009 Warwickshire Championships, Boldmere Orcas' medal haul rose to a whopping 83 medals, the best in the club's history.

The club's 38 gold, 29 silver and 16 bronze was added to by a staggering 15 championship finalists.

There were eight champions on the night as Holly Lynch (100m backstroke), Alix Swinhoe (100m breaststroke), Hannah O'Brien (800m freestyle), Martyn Wyres (50m breaststroke), Joey Stanger (200m breaststroke), Kristie Hackett (400m individual medley and Kathryn Fowler (200m backstroke and 200m individual medley all took top honours.

More than 20 swimmers finished in the top ten of their age group using Bagcat points, with four overall age group winners in Emma Smith (12yrs), Kristie Hackett (13yrs), Ben Campbell (9yrs) and Jake Dixon (10yrs) who won a staggering seven age group gold, two Silver and one Bronze medals in the process.

Having been absent for the first two weeks while preparing for and competing against the country's top swimmers in the British Championships at Ponds Forge, Holly Lynch put on a masterclass in the Girls 100m backstroke.

With the attractive Ainslow Cup awaiting her on the podium, Lynch won the County Final by a margin of six seconds, breaking her own club record for the second time in one week, reducing it down to 1.04.11, which currently ranks her the second fastest 16-year-old in the

country.

Touching in third and also setting a new PB was Kathryn Fowler.

Three new individual medal winners in the final week were: Josh Winnicott who topped the podium in the 200m breaststroke in a personal best time of 2.50.66, Adam Kelly who took bronze with a club record time in the 50m backstroke final, and followed up with another club record in the 50m fly, and Joey Stanger who was crowned county 200m breaststroke champion following a superb swim.

In winning his first gold of the championships, Bradley Lynch shaved over two seconds off the club record in the 50m fly in a time of 31.70, while Jordan Youngman doubled up - taking the bronze in the same event, and then the silver in 200 individual medley.

Phil Hewitt increased his individual medal haul to five with two more silvers in 100m freestyle and 50m fly, while Matt Hyde collected a well-earned silver in the 50m backstroke in a new personal best of 35.24secs. Charlie Payne finished the 100m freestyle in a personal best time of 1.06.45 to take silver position - ahead of Jake Dixon who had to settle for bronze this time.

In the afternoon session, Dixon went on to shave 13 seconds off his 400m freestyle time, setting a new club record of 5.03.68mins for his age group.

Kristie Hackett took her gold tally to four winning the 50m freestyle and 400m freestyle ahead of Hannah O'Brien in second place.

Following suit, Emma Smith's gold in the 50m was her fourth, and she collected her second silver in the 100m backstroke.

Alix Swinhoe was crowned 100m breaststroke county champion, breaking the club record in the heats and again in the final and finished with a silver in the 50m fly.

Alice Dearing added the final missing colour to her collection by securing gold in the 200m fly - four seconds ahead of second place - in a new personal best, while Jenny Fowler collected bronze in the 400m freestyle and 200m fly, with a new club record in the latter.

The final afternoon session was rounded off perfectly with two exciting relay finishes.

In the girls' 4 x 50m freestyle, Katrina Holmes set a personal best on the first leg followed by Hannah O'Brien, Kristie Hackett and Verity Pratt on the final leg put in a storming performance to missing gold on the touch, but slicing five seconds off the club record.

The boys 4 x 50m free quartet of Adam Kelly, Josh Winnicott, Phil Hewitt and Joey Stanger went one better and rounded off the championships in style - setting a new club record, with anchor man Stanger hitting the timing pads in first place to take an impressive team gold.

Other club records on the final day came from Penny Whittingham in the 100m backstroke, Ben White in 200m individual medley, Kate Davies in the 50m fly and Matthew Price with two in the 50m backstroke and fly.

Kearney knocks 14 seconds off personal best in 400m freestyle

The rapidly improving Perry Beeches and Sutton Swim Squad claimed a host of personal bests at the recent Warwickshire Swimming Championships in Coventry.

Tully Kearney, fresh from her success at the National Disability Swimming Championships, knocked 14 seconds off her personal best in the gruelling 400m freestyle event.

She also shaved her personal best for the 50m

butterfly.

Racheal Lickorish improved her 200m backstroke time and there was a massive effort from the boys' 100m freestyle team, with Dan Badger, Joshrun Mann and Andrew Gulliver all improving their personal bests.

In the 50m butterfly, Dan Badger and Gemma Cooney both impressed while Dominic Cotter also had a great championships, with improvements in

his 200m breast stroke and 200m freestyle times.

The relay teams also performed phenomenally well with the open boys' 400m medley relay team scooping the county title in a tough field.

The girls' junior freestyle relay team scooped bronze.

The club is always on the look out for new swimmers. Anybody interested should call Mark Haywood on 07779 037438.

School's girl's swimming team takes first place

Moor Hall School were left celebrating this week after achieving swimming success in a local competition.

The Sutton Coldfield primary school took part in the Sutton Coldfield Primary Small Schools Swimming Competition at Stechford Baths.

More than 24 swimmers took part and it was a fantastic team effort, each swimmer gaining points for the school. The girl's team were the winners on the day while the boy's team were runners-up.

There success was added to by that of the relays who were also runners-up.

Moor Hall also won the girls and boys combined trophy.

Right: Moor Hall Primary School swimming captains Zoe Newman and Oliver Smyth, both aged nine, celebrate their success with fellow team members. (PJ2857-0676450)

