

# Observer Sport

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

Sports Desk: Telephone: 01827 848495, Fax 01827 848640, email: sports.editorial@cintamworth.co.uk



Richard Evans (above) and Chris Keogh (below) would like a good cup run.



## Roms and Royals embark on cup trail

ROMULUS manager Richard Evans is in a confident mood ahead of his side's FA Cup tie away to Atherstone Town tomorrow.

After a pair of draws, 1-1 at home to Rothwell on Saturday and 2-2 away to Bromsgrove on Tuesday night, Romulus find themselves third bottom of the Zamaretto Midlands Division this week.

But Evans is unconcerned about the statistics at this stage of the season.

"If we were playing badly, I would be worried," he said.

"But we're not, in fact, we're getting better by the game with the injured lads either coming back or getting back to match fitness.

"We had to battle against Rothwell who were much better than last year after spending a bit of money in the summer, if they keep their lads together they will have a decent season.

"Bromsgrove is always a hard place to go, a massive club at this level and when you look back over the 42 games in May a point at Bromsgrove is a good point for anyone.

"The league table means nothing at this stage, it only starts to take shape after January and February.

"And strange as it may sound, the dressing room is still absolutely buzzing, the performances have been good, especially Tuesday night and the lads know that.

"We're due a break and when we get one we're going to give someone a drubbing."

If Saturday's match is drawn, the replay will take place at Coles Lane on Tuesday (September 1).

Otherwise, the next home match for Romulus is against Soham Town Rangers on Saturday September 5 with the *Fiver Footy* promotion once again in place.

Admission costs £5 for adults and £2 for concessions and children.

Meanwhile, Sutton Town boss Chris Keogh is also unconcerned with his side's position in the lower reaches of the Southern Midlands table after three draws and one defeat in four games so far.

The Royals entertain Tipton Town from the Midland Alliance – a league below Sutton – in the FA Cup extra preliminary round tomorrow.

Keogh said: "All you can ask for is a home tie and that's what we've got. Tipton are a decent side but it's down to what we do.

"We will be favourites which is not always the best thing but we will not take them lightly – it's a massive game for both clubs with the money involved in the cup.

"Every game so far this season we've been the better side and dominated – that little bit of luck has just deserted us.

"Last year we had a poor start with some dreadful performances but I can't knock the lads."



# Morgan's making a splash with GB polo side



Above: Boldmere's Morgan Hirsch in his Great Britain kit. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW

by Michael Beardmore  
SPORTS REPORTER

BOLDMERE Water Polo Club star Morgan Hirsch has his sights set on next year's European Youth Championships – and beyond that the Olympics – after making his tournament bow for Great Britain.

The 16-year-old skippered the British youth side that took part in their first-ever tournament in Turkey last week and gained a great deal from the experience.

The British side finished fifth out of six sides at the games, ahead of the Ukraine but below water polo heavyweights France, Germany and two Turkish sides.

But Hirsch – who scored in both the victory over Ukraine and defeat to Germany in Istanbul – says the experience gained on the trip will be invaluable.

He told *Observer Sport*: "It was different because we were playing in an outdoor pool and had to deal with high temperatures – up to 30 degrees Celsius.

"And we were playing against players who, although they're all our age, are just so big. I almost can't explain how big they are, es-

pecially the German and Turkish teams.

"I'm the biggest player in our team at 6' 2" and I would still have been the smallest player in their whole squads!

"To be fair to us, though, we stood up really well. We lapsed a bit against Germany and got beaten badly but against the Turkish A side – who were the favourites – we only lost 12-9.

"But it was good to experience water polo at a world class level, playing against some of the best teams in Europe and the world.

"Even though the bar we have to obtain is high, it's not unreachable.

"It's a goal we can aspire to reach and by the time the European Championships come round next year, we hope to be competing against these teams and winning.

"I'm perhaps just a bit too young for London 2012 but it's still sort of my goal but 2016 is definitely a goal."

King Edward School pupil Hirsch – who had double reason to celebrate this week with four A\*s and six As in his GCSE results – was also proud to be made captain of the team.

He added: "We've been together as a squad now for just under a year and I absolutely love it.

"It's such a great squad with a good ethos in the team and everyone gets on well with each other even though we're from all over the country."

Britain coach Phil Powell was quick to praise his skipper, adding: "Morgan has great enthusiasm for the sport and knows it well.

"He has come on a lot and is a good swimmer who does a lot of training, he's a top athlete."

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

ISSN 1369-0809



35

9 771369 080026