

SPORT ROUND-UP



FOOTBALL: Erdington and Saltley Old Boys got the better of Rectory Lyons in their annual charity match held at Sutton

United. Erdington (pictured in green kits) got revenge for last season's defeat with a 5-1 victory over the Lyons (black



kit). The game had a sombre side to it as Richard Cowley – who had regularly turned out for Old Boys – sadly died of cancer

earlier in the year at the age of 27. The money raised from the game has gone to the Bone Cancer Trust in his memory.

Personal bests and records fall as Boldmere pack the podium

SWIMMING

By **STEVE HARLOW**
Swimming correspondent

ANOTHER outstanding performance from Boldmere Swimming Club's A team saw them triumph in the second round of the Junior League at Nuneaton.

Boldmere amassed 241 points to finish nine ahead of second-placed Leicester Sharks, claiming 40 top-three places out of 51 events, including 21 wins and 31 personal bests.

Erin Davies claimed two first places, the first a PB and club record of 19.59secs in the 9yr 25m breaststroke followed by another PB in the 25m freestyle in 16.53secs.

Irisha Powell came third in the 25m backstroke, while nine-year-old boys' gala star Oliver Carless was also on great form with two personal bests, winning the 25m freestyle (16.66secs) and 25m backstroke (20.10secs).

In the 10-year age group, Abby Turnbull claimed silver in the 50m backstroke in a PB of 41.04secs, while Ben Smith won both the 50m freestyle (PB



Above: Boldmere's six gala stars from the recent Nuneaton Junior League meetings (l-r): Oliver Carless, Harrison Batchelor, Ben Thorn, Stephanie Deathridge, Lily Wood and Holly-Eva Franks. Pic: Steve Harlow

31.32secs) and 50m backstroke (PB 37.19secs).
Girls' gala star Lily Wood

(11/u) produced two brilliant performances to take gold in both the 50m breaststroke (PB 41.19secs) and freestyle in 30.94secs.

Ben Smith swam up a year for the 11-year boys and delivered another superb first place in the 50m freestyle while James Goodwin took second in the 50m fly.

Toby Chiles placed third in both the 50m breaststroke and backstroke with PBs of 44.43secs and 39.20secs respectively.

Megan Holder also won both her individual 50m freestyle (PB of 30.06secs) and backstroke races for the 12/u category.

Leo Karski claimed second place in the 50m fly and third place in the 50m freestyle, while Leighton Palmer-Whyte cruised to gold in the 50m breaststroke in a PB of 38.66secs.

A further club record was set by the girls' 12/u freestyle relay in 57.30secs.

In Division Two, Boldmere's B team finished a creditable fifth against 'A' teams from Lichfield, Rugby, Orion, Dove Valley and Perry Beeches with 32 PBs, six wins and eight other podium finishes.

Boys' gala star Harrison Batchelor won the 10yr/u 50m

freestyle and claimed silver in the breaststroke.

Mollie Goldstone took third place in the girls' 10-yr/u breaststroke while Jack Dobson convincingly won the 12-yr/u backstroke.

The 10-yr girls' quartet of gala star Holly-Eva Franks, Goldstone, Holly Beavan and Isobel Millington claimed bronze medals in both medley and freestyle relay.

The 10-yr boys' team of Batchelor, Tom Sherriff, Max Southgate and Solomon Langston took maximum points by winning both medley and freestyle relays.

There were also back-to-back wins in the 10-yr boys' and girls' 50m backstroke races by Langston and Franks respectively.

Over at Cheslyn Hay in the Division Three gala, the 'C' team produced 35 PBs and, despite tough competition against three A teams and one B squad, still managed ten top-three finishes.

The sole win for the team came from the girls' gala star Stephanie Deathridge in the 11/u 50m breaststroke.

The boys' gala star award went to Ben Thorn, who knocked three seconds off his PB to take second place in the 10/u 50m breaststroke.

BOXING: Bishop Vesey sixth former Joe Stevenson just missed out on a National ABA Junior title last weekend with a narrow defeat in the final to Yahia Chelli of Dale Youth ABC. Stevenson (below), who is from Four Oaks but boxes for Walsall Wood ABC, had recorded several impressive victories to reach the under-71 kg final, which was held in Mansfield. After an exciting bout, Stevenson was just edged out by Chelli on the judges' scores but reaching the final was still an amazing achievement for the 18-

year-old. Only eight months ago, he gave up boxing to support his father Philip who was extremely ill and battling colon cancer. But with Philip – who runs the Stebro Flooring firm which is a long-time sponsor of Walsall Wood ABC – now in much better health, he decided to return to the ring and almost made it a fairytale ending. His coach Shaun Healy added: "Joe has only just come back after a year out because his dad had cancer, plus he's doing his A-levels at the moment so to still reach a national final given all that is brilliant."



PAGET PLEA: Paget Rangers are looking for players to join their under-18s and under-14s squads. Call Mick Coggins on 07711 953211 or Matt Dainty on 07801 507780 for details.

STARLANDS HUNT: Starlands St Annes are looking to start a new under-10s/11s girls' team. The club is also looking for players, including a goalkeeper, for their under-16s side, as well as seeking to strengthen its under-18s team. Anyone interested in joining any of the above sides can call Jason on 01922 860079, 07806 545973 or email jason-barrow@live.com for more information.

SUTTON SEARCH: Sutton United are looking for players for their new under-9s team. Training starts tonight (Friday) at Hollyfield Road at 6pm. For more information, call Paul Burke on 07791 696957.



JUDO: Two members of Erdington judo clubs claimed medals while representing the Amateur Judo Association at an international competition in Mierlo. Youngster Harry Ashen, from Bushi Judo Club, won silver in the under-38kg event, while 46-year-old Lesley Farnell from Yenton Judo Club won gold in the under-70kg event.



TENNIS: Four Oaks Tennis Club's Tony King retained his Over-55s Scottish Senior Open Championship title in Glasgow last week. He defeated James Kerr in the final 6-0, 6-2 having beaten George Macray 3-6, 6-1,

10-5 in the semis. King earlier beat Colin Anderson 6-3, 6-2 in the quarter-final. In the doubles, partnering Andrew McKeown, King finished runner-up. The pair lost the final 6-4, 3-6, 10-8 to William Clarke and Ian Murdie.