

## SPORT ROUND-UP



Kieran Mullis and Nigel Stephens.

## Stephens and Hayes are the big winners

## SQUASH

SUTTON Coldfield Squash Club held their annual finals recently.

Nigel Stephens and Kate Hayes were victorious in the senior championships.

Stephens took on 16-year-old Kieran Mullis who had outperformed his seeding to make his first senior club final.

Mullis won the first game 11-8 but Stephens took the following two, equally close, games and clinched a 3-1 victory by winning the fourth set 11-3 to claim his first club championship title.

Top seed Hayes beat junior starlet Harriett Perry, 14, 3-0 in the ladies' final.

Stephens made it a double with a three-game victory over Carl Smith in the men's over-35 final.

Mark Watkins took full advantage of a tiring Colin Crawshaw to claim the over 45 title, Crawshaw having taken out Darryl Grayston 3-1 in the over 50s earlier in the day.

In the men's plate event, Mike Melsom got the better of 16-year-old Harry Lucas 3-0.

Perry, Karim Samir and Dan Parker stole the show with some impressive performances to each claim two titles at the junior finals.

In the girls under-15 event, Perry beat Natalie Samir (11) before defeating Nadia Stapenell in the under-19 final.

Samir was also in the girls under-13 final against Evie Thursfield, winning 3-0.

In the boys' under-19 final, Karim Samir beat John Kamel 3-1 and also defeated Mullis to win the under-17 crown.

Parker, 11, won the under-15s event against Jamie Hubbard, sneaking the final game 12-10, before beating Harry Stephens in the under-13s to complete his own double.

In the boys' under-11s event, Charles Hill saw off a Harry Stevens comeback to win 3-2.



Kate Hayes and Harriett Perry.

# Boldmere teams swimmingly get seasons off to a fine start

## SWIMMING

By LYNN HOLSEY

Swimming correspondent

BOLDMERE Swimming Club's A and B teams both made great starts to the season in the Nuneaton and District Junior League.

The A Team got off to a solid start at Chase, securing second place behind Leamington Spa and beating Chase, Bilston, Blythe Barracudas and Stratford Sharks.

They claimed 34 top-three finishes from 51 events, a whopping 33 personal best times and seven race victories.

Boldmere swimmers claiming gold were Connie Palmer and Luke Sargent in the 10 yr/u 25m fly, plus two for Grace Lee-Sinclair in the 11 yr/u 50m freestyle and backstroke.

Also winning gold were Phoebe Williams in the 11 yr/u 50m breaststroke, Georgia Ball in the 12 yr/u 50m freestyle and Lauren Knight in the 12 yr/u 50m backstroke.

Palmer and Knight followed up their success with second place finishes in the 50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke with Jude Denning also finishing second in the 11 yr/u 50m freestyle.

Other notable swims came in the relays with 12 yr/u girls Lowri Bevan, Louisa Powers, Knight and Ball taking first spot in freestyle and medley relays.

There was also a second-place finish for the 10 yr/u girls medley foursome of Poppy Read, Grace Cooper, Palmer and Regine Wachira.

Also taking silver were the 10 yr/u boys freestyle and medley team of Sargent, Omar Maamoun, Charlie Butcher and Tom Parry, and finally the



Above (l-r): Boldmere A and B team gala stars Alexandra Williams, Phoebe Williams, Aiden Druce, Grace Lee-Sinclair and Ben Harris. Picture by Kevin Butcher.

11 yr/u girls quartet of Lee Sinclair, Williams, Daisy Bevan and Olivia Belai in the medley relay.

The 11 yr/u boys medley and freestyle teams (Jude Denning, Clark Hopkinson, Jack Atkins, assisted by Sargent and Maamoun) secured two bronzes, as did 12 yr/u boys Noah Southgate, Charlie Wood, Sam Woodhall, Denning and Hopkinson.

The boys' Stars of the Gala award went to nine-year-old Ben Harris for his PBs in 25m freestyle and fly while the girls' award was shared between Lee-Sinclair and Williams.

With 201 gala points and five points for their second place finish, the A team sit in eighth

place in the 24-team Division One league.

In Division Two (East) at Halesowen, the B team had a cracking result with 39 top-three finishes from the 51 events.

They amassed 200 points to earn a brilliant second place against four other A teams of Walsall, Fox Hollies, Broadway and winners Coalville, which places Boldmere an impressive sixth in the league.

First places went to Olivia Allen in the 10 yr/u 2L breaststroke, Abbie Arthur 11 yr/u 2L backstroke, Isabelle Andrews 10 yr/u 1L fly and Abigail Cope 9 yr 1L backstroke. Andrews and Arthur also claimed silvers in the 2L freestyle.

Boldmere relay squads fin-

ished in the top three in 15 events, with first places for 12 yr/u freestyle boys Xander Heeks, Pierce O'Dwyer, Oliver Atkin, Jamie Suviste and girls teams (Kitty McAteer, Caitlin Ralph, Niamh Mold, Anna-Maria Maamoun).

Also claiming gold were the 10 yr/u girls' medley squad of Francesca and Olivia Allen, Alexandra Williams and Andrews.

There was gold too for the girls 8xfree team of Williams, Cope, Andrews, F Allen, Maddison Mann, Arthur, Mold and McAteer while the boys' eight of Felix and Xander Heeks, Jenson Holsey, Alfonso Campino, Finn and Pierce O'Dwyer, Ronnie Carless and Teo Fekete finished third.

## Veseyans robbed of cup glory by late Kidderminster score

## RUGBY UNION

KIDDERMINSTER CAROLIANS 23 VESEYANS RFC 16

North Midlands Shield Final

VESEYANS narrowly missed out on cup glory as they were edged out by defending champions Kidderminster in the final of the North Midlands Shield.

It took the holders a long time to wake up and they gave



Veseyans coach Dan Hemingway was proud of his side despite the cup final defeat

Veseyans a 10-point lead.

They pulled level three times in the second half but it was only when left wing Ryan Tiene crossed three minutes from the end that Kidderminster led for the first time.

It was the first time in five years that Veseyans had reached the final, held at Dudley Kingswinford, but they started well.

Dominating early possession and moving the ball well across the field, they took the lead through young full-back Ed Saunders and Jon Fellows added the extras.

Fellows was able to extend the lead to 10-0 with a penalty and that was how the score stayed until five minutes before half-time.

With captain Jimmy Hateley in the sin bin, Veseyans found their defensive line short and Kiddy went over for a try, reducing their half-time deficit to 10-7.

The second half became an extremely tense affair with both sides playing some excellent rugby but relieving pressure on the opposition with small errors.

Veseyans winger Fellows and the Kiddy fly-half traded penalties and the score was 16-16 going in to the last five minutes.

Under the competition rules, Veseyans would have won the trophy had the scoreline stayed that way, having scored first to claim the tie-breaker.

But it was at this point that Kiddy pounced, making a good break down the left wing and some fantastic support play and offloading led to their winger reaching for the line in the bottom corner.

Veseyans came back at their opposition in the last few minutes and their final pass was inches from sticking and bringing the scores level but it was not to be.

Veseyans head coach Dan Hemingway was nonetheless proud of his side, saying: "The Shield is an awkward competition, you don't feel the momentum of a cup run as it is extremely disjointed, but a cup

final is a fantastic opportunity that many of our young squad haven't experienced before.

"It wasn't the result we wanted but it is invaluable experience that will only help us grow as a group.

"Next season will be my third year as head coach and I feel like I'm learning all the time. I have a fantastic group of players who are ambitious and hungry to achieve, the club backs us up 100 per cent and we feel we are building something special around Veseyans Rugby."

**BOWLS:** Erdington Court continued their strong start to the outdoor season with an 83-67 win over Charford (Bromsgrove). The winning rink for Court was Michelle Blakey, Iain Aitken and Peter Yates. Elsewhere, Court's A team, led by Rob Robinson, beat Rowheath 50-21 and Blossomfield 30-26 in the Birmingham Bowls Association's League and, in round one of the Bowls England National Two Fours, Court won 44-36 against Bourneville.

## FOOTBALL APPEALS

**UNITED SEARCH:** Colron United are looking for new players to join their team for season 2017-18 in readiness for the step up to 9v9 next season. Players currently in year five at school who are looking to join a strong successful team, should contact Jason on 07977 502054 for more details.

**COLRON CALL:** Colron Boys under-12s are looking for new players for next season. The side has had a very successful second season together but is looking to strengthen with players in all positions welcome. The team plays in the Lichfield League on Sundays and trains in Streetly every Tuesday. Players must currently be in Year 6 at school. Call Martin on 07818 878105 for more details.

## Colron run goes on as rivals are hit for six

## JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Colron Boys under-13s 6 Knowle Juniors 1

COLRON made it 25 wins in a row in all league and cup competitions as they secured their second cup final of the season with a Central Works Open Cup semi-final victory over Knowle. Four first-half goals from Brandon Hocking, Josh Roberts, Alex Jones and Caius Farmer set up the win. A second-half own goal and an Alfie Fleming strike sealed the victory.

Stourbridge 2 Sutton Coldfield Town under-16s 2

MAX McNulty and Kye Hemans scored headers as Sutton earned a deserved draw at in-form Stourbridge.

Sutton Coldfield Town under-16s 2 Henley Park Rangers 1

SUTTON came from behind to win this exciting game. A Kye Hemans equaliser and a late winner from Dan Hurst gave Sutton the three points they needed to replace Henley in runners-up spot in the table.

## Green make light of deficit to take point

MERE GREEN FC 4 IGBY RANGERS 4

Sutton and District Sunday League Premier Division

MERE Green came from 3-0 down after 25 minutes to secure a draw.

Striker Kieron Clarke pulled one back on the stroke of half-time but Digby restored their three-goal advantage early in the second half.

Mere Green finally turned up and Jamie Barley pulled one back.

David Weinstein then scored with an overhead bicycle kick and Shaun Ellis completed the fight back.

Dan Aldred was named player of the match.

**NETBALL:** Sutton Royals Netball Club are running fun social netball sessions this month. They take place between 7-9pm on Wednesday, May 17 and 24 at Stockland Green School. Sessions are for players of all ages and abilities and cost £2.50. Email suttonroyals@gmail.com for details.