

SPORT ROUND-UP



Stewart is put through his paces

TENNIS

SUTTON Coldfield tennis ace Max Stewart was put through his paces this week after taking part in the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) National Talent ID Day held at the Bolton Arena.

The 14-year-old was among 12 youngsters from across the country invited to the Bolton session.

Stewart, who trains at Sutton Coldfield Tennis Club, showed off his skills in front of the Talent ID team, who were aiming to spot future performance players.

Stewart, who also trains and studies full-time at Nottingham Tennis Centre, said: "Last time at Talent ID I did really well so wasn't sure if I could make much of an improvement this time around. "It's a bit competitive even though everyone is friendly with each other, which I enjoy, I really went for it on the side to side drill and wanted the best score."

"Last time I was here I got 30 out of 30 on the serving drill though so I knew I wouldn't be able to improve on every single drill but it was still good fun and very worthwhile."

The day was overseen by LTA Head of Talent Management, Andrew Lewandowski, who was impressed by what he saw.

He said: "Max has performed really well and shown lots of ability across a number of different tasks testing qualities including athletic ability, coordination, speed and agility and a real natural talent and love for the sport."

"It was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic and talented players give it their all. The LTA is committed to developing and supporting talent, and we now have the systems in place to give players like Max the best possible chance of reaching their potential so I look forward to seeing him progress."

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Squad swimming success as Boldmere claim second spot

SWIMMING

By HELEN HOLDER
Swimming Correspondent

BOLDMERE Swimming Club's Junior A team claimed the runners-up in the Nuneaton and District Division One Gala Final.

After the earlier three league rounds, Boldmere had qualified for their ninth consecutive final lying in second place, level on 18 league points with Northampton, who were leading with the greater number of gala points.

Achieving 36 from a possible 51 top three finishes, Boldmere claimed 10 first places overall, four of which came from the relays.

Nine-year-old Oliver Carless continued his good form from previous rounds, with second in the 25m backstroke in a personal best and club record of 18.96mins.

He also claimed third in the 25m freestyle with another personal best of 16.24mins.

Luke Butcher also secured a second with a good swim in the 25m breaststroke, in a best of 22.40mins.

Nine-year-old Erin Davies won her 25m breaststroke with an exceptional swim, finishing by at least a body's length in a time of 19.80mins – a league final record.

She then placed second in the 25m freestyle in a personal best 15.81mins.

Bethan Harrison took fourth place in the 25m butterfly and Nadya Sterling, third in the 25m backstroke.

The nine-year-old girls also battled hard to gain second place in both their team relays with another supreme effort from Erin Davies, who pulled the team up four places in the



Boldmere Swimming Club's brilliant young stars.

Picture: Steve Harlow

breaststroke leg of the medley relay.

In the 10-year-age group, Abbey Turnbull fought hard in the opening race taking third place in the 50m freestyle, followed by third in the 50m backstroke.

Defne Balu finished fourth in the 50m breaststroke with a personal best of 46.38secs and Holly Bloor came in fifth in the 50m butterfly.

Ten-year-old Ben Smith maintained his impressive form with a win in the 50m backstroke in a time of 37.57secs and swam a fabulous 50m freestyle, taking second place.

Lily Wood set the pace for the 11-year-old girls with a stylish win in the 50m freestyle in a time of 31.49secs and took second place in the 50m breaststroke.

In both relays, with Harriet Gordon, Alex Bartley and Molly Sherriff, they also gained valuable points by winning after an exciting finish in

the 4x1 freestyle relay.

They also finished second in the 4x1 medley relay.

In the 11-year boys age group, Ben Smith swam up to make up the relay quartet in both the freestyle and medley relays as well as the individual 50m freestyle, where he finished second in 31.98secs.

James Goodwin took third place in the 50m butterfly as did Toby Chiles in the 50m breaststroke in a personal best time on 43.06secs.

Twelve-year-old Megan Holder was second in the 50m backstroke, after a fingertip finish.

He was third in the 50m freestyle while Hannah Turnbull gained a personal best in the 50m butterfly, finishing in 35.47secs.

It was the 12-year-old boys, however, who stole the show.

There was a great swim from Roan Griffiths, taking first place in the 50m backstroke.

Leo Karski steamed into

first place in both the 50m butterfly, in a personal best 32.53mins, and 50m freestyle. Leighton Palmer-Whyte took fifth place in the 50m breaststroke.

The 12-year-old boys continued to dominate by winning their team relays.

It was a great all round performance demonstrating the usual strength and depth of the team with 16 out of 19 top three finishes in the relays.

Some members of the relay teams did not have individual races.

But Irisha Powell, Daniel Banks, Leo Butts, Mollie Goldstone, Jamie Dark, Molly Sherriff, Tim Beesley, Taleb Givens and Anya Mee provided a massive contribution to the overall Boldmere success on the night.

After 51 events, Boldmere trailed Northampton by 35 gala points to finish runners-up but still secured a place in the Northern Regional Final on October 6, in Leeds.

International test leaves Sutton disappointed once again

HOCKEY

SUTTON COLDFIELD LADIES FIRST XI 1
SURBITON LADIES 3
National Premier Division

SUTTON were left disappointed for the second time in two weeks as they lost out to a team containing a number of internationals last weekend.

The match started at a high pace and both teams played good quality hockey.

Sutton passed the ball around well and defended tightly in order to minimise any Surbiton attacks.

The home team took the lead through excellent linking up from midfield and finished by new-signing, Emma McCabe.

Sutton continued to look in

control for most of the first-half. Surbiton were awarded a penalty stroke, which they coolly converted, to level the score.

Sutton had a few chances that narrowly missed the goal and went into the half-time break feeling pleased with a great first-half performance.

After the break, Surbiton came out with a renewed conviction that Sutton couldn't match.

Sutton worked hard, but the away team had the numbers to keep their pace higher.

The away side scored two goals in quick succession midway through the second half and this hit Sutton hard.

The home team tried to pressure the Surbiton defence, but couldn't capitalise on their chances.

Player of the match, Charlene Mason, caused Surbiton problems on the right wing and created some dynamic opportunities.

Despite not taking any points from the game, the team's performance was greatly improved and they look forward to welcoming Leicester to Wyndley at 2pm next Saturday.

LICHFIELD 3
SUTTON COLDFIELD MENS FIRST XI 3
Midlands Premier Division

SUTTON kicked off the new season with a solid performance against a strong Lichfield side.

Sutton went ahead when Terry Lavery managed to jab the ball home from under the

keepers foot after a ferocious shot from Jon Ward.

Lichfield came back fighting and put Sutton on the back foot, the pressure mounted and Lichfield finally managed to get on the score sheet. They then doubled their tally in the second half.

Sutton came back fighting and with the game becoming increasingly feisty, with some strong tackles going in, they drew level through a reverse stick shot from the top of the D from newly appointed captain Alex Johnson.

They then went ahead through a great team move finished off by Tom Nicholls.

Sutton can be pleased with their start to the season and will look to next Saturday when they entertain Telford looking to get three points.

INSHORT

TENNIS: Sutton United Tennis Club have completed their 2013 championships.

Alex Davis won the Men's Singles Division One, beating Ed Moore 1-6, 7-5, 6-4. George Cassidy won the Division Two crown, beating Viraj Patel 6-1, 6-2.

Yvonne Scrivener won the Ladies singles with a 6-0, 6-0 win over Ruth Anslow.

Keiran Loveder and Cassidy won the men's doubles, beating Richard Miller and Matty Davage. Scrivener and Lisa Miller won the ladies doubles with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Anslow and Jackie Woodward.

The mixed doubles crown went to Scrivener and Alex Davis while the mixed veteran doubles went to Anslow and Neil Ashley.

For more information about the club, visit www.suttonunitedtennisclub.co.uk

TENNIS: Sutton Coldfield Tennis Club is holding a charity tennis festival this Sunday.

It takes place from 12pm-4pm and involves a string of tennis-based activities.

There will also be a barbecue, face-painting, stalls and live music.

There will be fun tennis competitions, between 1pm-3pm, for players of all ages and abilities. The cost to enter is £3. For more details, email josie@suttontennis.com.

A clean sweep for the new Royals

NETBALL

NEWLY formed local netball club Sutton Royals built on the success of winning the prestigious Nottingham Tournament recently by making a clean sweep of their opening league games in the Birmingham and Walsall leagues as well as the under-19 regional league.

The Royals Blue won an entertaining encounter with Bournville thirds 55-26 in Division Four of the Birmingham League.

Remi Brown played an outstanding game and was deservedly named player of the match.

The Royals White defeated Bournville fourths 40-24 in a closer Division Six game. Amelia Berry top scored for Royals to secure the victory.

The Royals recorded a victory over Parkside under-14 41-23 in the opening round of matches in the Walsall League.

Sutton Royals won their opening under-19 regional league game against Tibberton 55-23 at Walsall Campus.

Teams representing the Royals at under-11, under-12 and under-14 age groups also played their first matches at intermediate league level with the under-11 and under-12 teams losing close games to Lyndon and Elmdon while the under-14 team scored one a victory 15-12 over Tigers and a 14-14 draw with Foxes.

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