

# SUTTON RUGBY MEN RECORD ANOTHER WIN

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# Observer Sport

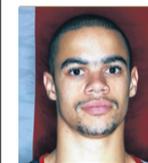
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Jake Dixon, Emma Smith, Luke Davies and Bradley Lynch of Boldmere Swimming Club shone at the British Gas Central Championships – see page 162. Picture by Steve Harlow.

## Luke lands relay spot for the Euros

**ATHLETICS:** Erdington 400m ace Luke Lennon-Ford will be part of the Great Britain squad at the European Indoor Championships in Sweden next month.



Luke Lennon-Ford is set to compete in Gothenburg next week

The Birchfield Harrier is in the men's 4x400m squad for the championships, in Gothenburg from March 1-3.

Lennon-Ford's call-up comes after he won the national men's 400m in a season's best of 47.09secs at the British Grand Orix in Birmingham last weekend.

## Sutton RFC plan Touch rugby nights

**RUGBY UNION:** Sutton Coldfield RFC are looking to get more people playing rugby through the RFU's O2 Touch initiative. Touch allows people of all levels of ability and experience to get involved and develop their skills through coached sessions and game play.

Sutton, along with Aston Old Eds, is among the first clubs in the country to be involved and, as an O2 Touch Centre, is running weekly sessions.

Sutton Coldfield's sessions are being held at their ground at Walmley Road on Friday evenings at 7pm. Further information can be obtained at: O2touch@suttoncoldfieldrfc.com

## Rock fails to cut it in South Africa

**GOLF:** Rob Rock missed his second consecutive cut in South Africa last weekend. A disappointing opening round of 75 cost him at the Africa



Rob Rock has a disappointing time of it in South Africa last weekend

Open and although he followed up with a two-under-par 70, the Midlands golf ace missed the cut by a single shot.

# Royals boss sniffs a shock in Saddlers cup clash take two

## FOOTBALL

By MICHAEL BEARDMORE  
Sports Editor

ROYALS boss Neil Tooth says his side's brave display in defeat to League One side Walsall in midweek has him believing that Sutton will pull off an upset when the teams meet again on Monday.

Tooth took a ton of pride in Sutton's performance as they lost 1-0 to a late goal in the Walsall Senior Cup on Tuesday night by a Saddlers side featuring several regular first team players.

And with Walsall facing a League One trip to Carlisle on Tuesday night, they will be sending a younger side to Coles Lane for Monday's Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final.

That fact, coupled with Sutton's stunning home record that continued with Saturday's 5-0 Evo-Stik Division One South thrashing of Brigg, has left Tooth confident of claiming a scalp.

He said: "I thought we were fantastic on Tuesday night against a Walsall team that had six players who have played more than 20 games for

**Jamie Sheldon hit the bar in Sutton's 1-0 defeat at Walsall**



their first team this season.

"It was no scratch outfit that they were fielding and we more than held our own. We had three or four good chances and hit the bar – if that had gone in, I think we could have held on.

"But they got the killer goal in the 86th minute and there was just no way back for us as

the lads were out on their feet.

"For my lads to play like that against a League One side, with the team they put out, I was just really proud of them.

"With Walsall having a game at Carlisle on Tuesday, they've already told us they will be sending a different team on Monday, although six or seven of the younger players will play again I'm sure.

"But the way we are playing at home at the moment, I would fancy us against any team – even the one they put out last Tuesday night.

"And it's important that we

win on Monday night because if we get through then we've got another home game, against Stourbridge, in the semi-final. It's a really good opportunity for us to get into a final."

Tooth will be forced into some changes for the cup clash on Monday night, which kicks off at 7.30pm at Coles Lane, as striker Mark Danks and midfielders Scott Lycett and Craig Milligan are all cup-tied.

However, the Royals will go into the game rested somewhat as the Evo-Stik Division One South fixture list has handed them a free weekend.

# Truman hopes British champ's magic will rub off on his own title bid

## BOXING

CHRIS Truman has been sparring with British lightweight champion Martin Gethin as he prepares for his own title tilt next weekend.

The Erdington-born light welterweight (8-3-1) faces Amir Unsworth (13-6-1) at the North Kesteven Centre in Lincoln next Saturday (March 2)



Chris Truman has enjoyed some useful workouts in recent times

for the vacant British Masters light-welterweight crown.

The 28-year-old has described the fight as the biggest

of his life and believes sparring with a boxer of Gethin's pedigree will stand him in good stead.

"Sparring Martin is definitely helping me," Truman told www.uko-boxing.com. "You can't get better sparring than a British Champion.

"He doesn't stop coming forward. He's accurate and hits hard. You can see why he's a



British champ Martin Gethin has been sparring with Chris Truman

British champion. You learn from fighters like Martin. He doesn't waste shots and he's really tough. It's been a real

learning curve. It's important to get some quality sparring in and, by doing six, eight, ten, rounds with Martin, that's been the case.

"This is probably the biggest fight of my life. I've been a little inactive over the last year and this is a chance to win a title and put my name out there. Training has gone well and I'm feeling sharp."

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