

SPORT ROUND-UP



Tully Kearney.
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SWIMMING: Boldmere Swimming Club's Tully Kearney will be part of the 32-strong British Gas Great Britain Disability Swimming Team at the IPC Swimming World Championships in Canada in August. Kearney – a Royal Wolverhampton School pupil – earned her spot with some storming displays at the recent British International Disability Swim Championships in Sheffield. She broke the British record twice in the 100m backstroke as well as clocking up personal bests in the 100m butterfly, 200m individual medley, and 50m freestyle. She won silver in the senior 400m freestyle, beating fellow Aldridge ace and Paralympic legend Ellie Simmonds, plus gold in the youth 400m freestyle.



TRIATHLON: SUTTON sports all-rounder Jess Westgate secured victory at the Yorkshire Triathlon Championships. Having moved up to Under-17s Youth B age group, Westgate produced an impressive performance. She started in the pool with a 200m swim, smashing six seconds off her personal best. Her time of 2.39mins earned her 884 points, leading the event going into the static shoot. In the shoot, she equalled her personal best for 10 shots at a 10m target, scoring 89 out of 100 for 1036 points. It meant she extended her lead going into the combined event. This entailed a 3x800m lap run and 3x5 target shot after each lap. It was only the second time she has competed in this discipline in competition. She entered the shooting arena and knocked down the first five targets in 35secs and set off on her first 800m loop, had a great run. She extended her lead over the next two shoots and 800m runs to finish the combined event setting another personal best, knocking 12secs off her time finishing in 13.23mins to win the Yorkshire Triathlon Title. She received her trophy from Yorkshire Pentathlon coach Ann Marshall.

Boldmere aces make the top ten to cement national status

Swimming

By **STEVE HARLOW**
Swimming correspondent

BOLDMERE Swimming Club cemented its status as one of the top ten clubs in England with a ninth place finish at the National Arena Final in Cardiff.

The club – crowned National Arena League West Midlands Division One champions in December – were up against some real powerhouses as many of the clubs they competed against featured GB swimmers in their squads.

And one club – Plymouth Leander, who won the title – boasted Lithuanian wonderkid Ruta Meilutyte, who took gold 100m breaststroke gold at the London 2012 Olympics, among their ranks.

Boldmere's youngsters were in the outside lane but remained undaunted, breaking the club's previous personal best by finishing ninth with 190 points.

Such was the level of competition that there were only three Boldmere individual podium finishes, despite 23 personal best times being set plus three new club records.

One of Boldmere's two gold medals came in the boys' 15/u 100m fly with Jake Dixon, ranked fastest in the country for this age group, winning by just 0.08secs in a time of 59.05secs.

Ben Stanford also took gold in the 13/under 100m freestyle in 57.86secs.

Luke Davies claimed silver in the 15/u boys' 100m breaststroke in a new personal best



Bradley Lynch and Emily Gordon (centre) as well as Roan Griffiths (left) and Aristeia Knight (right) of Boldmere Swimming Club.
Picture: Steve Harlow

time of 1.08.91mins.

The boys' 13/u relay quartet not only claimed a bronze medal but set two club records in the process.

Matt Price got the ball rolling in the first leg with a 50m freestyle individual club record of 27.07secs.

That was followed by 28.64 from Kai Alexander; 28.97 from Tom Bloor before Stanford brought home the squad in 26.13secs for a collective time of 1.50.81mins, beating the previous club relay record by two seconds.

The quartet followed this up with a super fightback from tenth on the second leg of the medley to finish fifth.

The youngest boys' relay team (11/u) of Roan Griffiths, Leighton Palmer-Whyte, Leo

Karski and Teleb Givans only just missed out on bronze by a fingernail 0.13secs in the medley to take fourth.

Holly Lynch was fifth in the 100m ladies' open backstroke in 1.06.25mins, while Steve Wilson also finished fifth in the under-15 freestyle in 56.76secs.

The under-15 boys' foursome of Dixon, Davies, Stanford and Wilson also stepped up to the mark with yet another fifth place in their freestyle relay in 1:43.31 a feat made more impressive as Stanford had only just left the pool from his exploits in the 13-year relay race.

Setting new individual PBs on the day were Hannah Turnbull (11/u) with two in the 50m back and fly, Roan Griffiths

(11/u) in the 50m backstroke with 36.57secs swim and Leighton Palmer-Whyte (11/u), knocking over 1.5 seconds off his 50m Breaststroke.

Also recording best times were Aristeia Knight (11/u) 50m breaststroke, Kate Davies (13/u) 100m breaststroke, Matt Price (13/u) with a two-second 100m backstroke PB and Alice Dearing (15/u) with 1.07.27mins in the 100m fly.

In the open age group medley relays, despite finishing seventh and eighth respectively, the women's foursome (Lynch, Emily Gordon, Emma Smith and Givenchy Sneekes) and men's (Jordan Youngman, Josh Winnicott, Bradley Lynch and Joey Stanger) set new club records of 2:04.10mins and 1:52.30mins.

A busy week of sporting action for Bishop Vesey pupils

BISHOP Vesey Grammar School's cricket sides have enjoyed another fine week, notching a host of victories.

On Saturday, Vesey won four of their six games against Bablake School from Coventry.

The under-12s won by 69 runs, with Asselman (38) and

Baines (4-12) impressing.

The under-13s and under-14s both posted massive totals in their victories, with Jaden Patel (116no) and Dan Curwen (138no) leading the way respectively.

At the annual Sports Day last week, Blue House were

victorious and there were four new school records.

In the 800m, David James (Yr11) beat the previous record set by P Stevens in 1972 by four seconds, running a fantastic time of 2.06.14mins

Also in the 800m senior competition, Sam Lacey (sixth

form) broke another record held in the same year by D Wright by one second, finishing in an impressive time of 2.01.72secs.

Catherine Smith broke her 100m record in 12.47secs and Megan McBrien beat her 800m record in 2.32.25mins.

BOXING: Four Oaks teenager Joe Stevenson (right) is one bout away from the National ABA finals this weekend – and the honour of representing his country.

Stevenson defeated Harry Woods from Kirkby in Liverpool at Great Barr Leisure Centre in the quarter-finals last weekend. The 18-year-old now faces George Parrish from Beartown ABC in Cheshire in the under-71kg last four this Sunday. Stevenson has reached the semi-finals before but is desperate to go further this time around.

A victory would not only secure a spot in the finals in Mansfield the weekend after – it would also hand him an England vest as all finalists will box for their country in this summer's Three Nations tournament with Scotland and Wales. Stevenson, who boxes out of Walsall Wood ABC, will have company this weekend as clubmate Daniel Breeze, of



Walsall, has also made the national semis at under-66kg level. Their coach Shaun Healy said: "It's an amazing achievement to get one lad this far, never mind two. Their semi-finals are both 50/50 matches because now we are getting down to the best lads in the country but they've both got a good chance."

BOXING: Erdington boxing talent Ryan Hatton secured victory in the national quarter-finals in the Junior ABA Championships in Great Barr last weekend.

The 17-year-old will now be facing the semi-final stage this weekend and for his coach Alan Keast, that means anything is now possible.

He said: "I have got to start by saying how proud I am of Ryan. "He has boxed superbly to get where he is now.

"We are talking about the last four stage of a national competition, now he is there it really is anybody's to win.

"I am not going to put any pressure on any him by saying he will win, or should win, but he can win and he knows that."

Hatton, who boxes for Tamworth ABC, was up against Liam Richards from Bamsley Star, with the youngster proving no match for the Tamworth fighter.

Keast said: "Ryan won the bout



with a unanimous decision from all of the judges. He was up against a guy who has only ever lost two fights before but Ryan was too good for him and deserved the win.

"Ryan has already showed that

Beeches hold their own at Pingles gala

Swimming

A RECENT gala at Pingles in Nuneaton went swimmingly well for the Perry Beeches and Sutton Swimming Squad youngsters who took part.

Swimming against stiff opposition in the form of Nuneaton, Worcester, Halesowen, Blythe Barracudas and Ludlow, the Beeches team were able to hold their own.

Beeches came a very respectable third on the night, and are looking forward to the next round.

Winners on the night included the girls' 14/under freestyle relay team of Sareena Gaddu, Jessica Jones, Lucy Keyte and Pia Tonks, plus the ladies' open medley relay team of Rachel Lickorish, Gaddu, Katie Gulliver and Keyte.

Hannah Kilminster stepped in for the injured Sancha Tonks, and won the 100m breaststroke with an impressive personal best to boot.

Dominic Blackwell won both the 14/under 100m breaststroke and 100m freestyle, while Gaddu triumphed in the 14/under 100m breaststroke. Pia Tonks also swam a very good 100m freestyle to win the 12/under event.

Other top-three finishers were the girls' 12/under medley relay team of Danya Gaddu, Kilminster, Pia Tonks and Sancha Tonks, plus the men's open medley relay team of Dominic Cotter, Jaime Nugent, Andrew Gulliver and Jamie Keyte.

Individually, there were top-three spots for Jessica Deans (10/under backstroke and breaststroke), Jessica Jones (14/under backstroke); Katie Gulliver (open 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle) and Lily Massey (10/under 50m freestyle).

Rachel Lickorish (open 100m backstroke); Pia Tonks (12/under 50m butterfly) and Sareena Gaddu (14/under 100m breaststroke) also claimed podium positions.

As did the girls' 14/under freestyle relay team of Jones, Sareena Gaddu, Lucy Keyte and Kilminster; the girls' 12/under freestyle relay team of Pia Tonks, Danya Gaddu, Kilminster and Sancha Tonks, and the ladies' open freestyle relay team of Sareena Gaddu, Lickorish, Lucy Keyte and Katie Gulliver.

he has got what it takes to be a national champion this year and he showed the same kind of determination last weekend. "He continued the great run of wins he has put together and is looking forward now."