

SPORT ROUND-UP

Wonderful Wilson and super Stanger bag Midland medals

SWIMMING

By STEVE HARLOW

Swimming correspondent

EIGHT Boldmere swimmers qualified for this year's British Gas Midland Youth Championships in Corby, reaching 15 finals between them and bringing back three medals – one gold and two bronze.

Following up on his 200m freestyle 15/16 title last year, 16-year-old Steve Wilson was this year crowned the 15/16 100m freestyle champion.

Qualifying fastest for the final with an impressive personal best of 54.39secs, he was just 0.08secs shy of achieving his first national qualifying time (NQT).

However, he got the job done in style in the final – at the turn 0.2 of a second separated the first four with Wilson sitting fourth but he came back strong to take the gold with a winning PB time of 54.07.

In the 200m freestyle, Wilson did just enough to qualify for the final but only by the skin of his teeth, qualifying in eighth and nudging the ninth-placed competitor out by 0.01secs.

Then, in the final, out in lane eight, he stepped up to the plate, setting a two-second PB to take the bronze medal in a time of 1:58.47mins.

Competing in six events over the two-day championship, Joey Stanger took silver



Boldmere's Steve Wilson and Joey Stanger with their Midland Youth Championships medals. Pic: Steve Harlow.

in the 19+ 1,500m freestyle, as well as reaching the finals of the 50m and 200m freestyle.

Alex Dolan made all three finals of the 15/16 breaststroke event, setting three club records in each of the 50, 100 and 200m distances along the way.

In the 200m, she clocked her fastest time of the season with a 2:46.79mins, which was her second NQT, while in the 50 and 100 she just missed out on the medals, finishing in fourth

place in the latter by only 0.22secs.

In the older 17/18 category, Emily Gordon also made the finals of all three 50, 100 and 200m breaststroke events finishing sixth, fifth and fifth respectively.

Katie Richardson (17/18) qualified for all three finals of the events she competed in – the 200m IM, 200m fly and 400m IM – setting a season's best in the latter as she fin-

ished just outside the medals in fourth place.

Competing in four events – 200m freestyle, 400m IM, 100m fly and 200 fly – Morgan Harlow made the final of the latter, improving on her eighth-place qualification by one spot to finish seventh in the final.

Rachel Wilson and Ben Campbell also competed in the championships for the first time, having qualified for four and five events respectively.

Beeches boys and girls claim runners-up berth at Cannock

SWIMMING

YOUNG swimmers from Perry Beeches SSS did the club proud as they showed off their swimming skills at round two of the Nuneaton and District Junior League at Chase Baths in Cannock.

They produced a string of successes, winning the boys and girls cannons as Becky Gulliver, Vinay Gaddu, Sophia Deans, Lewis Carless, Lily Spencer, Daniel Kilminster, Jessica Deans and Dylan Scruton proved forces to be reckoned with.

There were a string of personal bests on the night with

success for Emma Sarling (50m freestyle), Carless (50 freestyle and 25m breaststroke), Gaddu (25m breaststroke), Cody Robins (50m backstroke), Kilminster (50m breaststroke and backstroke), Gulliver (25m butterfly and 50m breaststroke) and Harvey Higgins (25m butterfly).

Hannah Lawrence (50m breaststroke), Sophia Deans (25m butterfly) and Catrise Hart (50m freestyle) also claimed personal bests.

Beeches finished in second place on the night to Blythe Barracudas and are seventh in the league ahead of the next round at Tamworth.



The delighted Perry Beeches youngsters show off their medals from the Nuneaton and District Junior League meeting.

Sutton CC net grant to boost Last Man Stands initiative

CRICKET

SUTTON Coldfield Cricket Club has been given a grant of £5,700 by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Sport England towards the cost of a new synthetic match play pitch.

The club was identified by the ECB and Warwickshire Cricket Board to become the focus for the development of Last Man Stands cricket in the Sutton Coldfield area.

Sutton – one of the oldest cricket clubs in the area with several adult teams and more than 120 junior cricketers – hosted a few early Last Man Stands matches at the invitation of the Warwickshire Cricket Board two seasons ago.

The new non-turf pitch facility will give increased playing opportunities for all age groups and Sutton chairman Colin Greetham was delighted with the financial assistance the club has received.

Greetham said: "We are grateful to the ECB and Sport England for their grant sup-

port which will enable us to provide up-to-date cricket facilities and to encourage the growth and further development of the game.

"We are working with Ed McCabe, the Warwickshire Cricket Board's cricket development manager, and forming a league for Last Man Stands which is a new, fast-moving format of the game which has been developed in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand and which is growing in popularity in this country."

Last Man Stands matches are played on a T20 basis with five balls per over and each side consisting of eight players.

The games can be completed in less than two hours and all eight wickets need to be taken to bowl a side out. When the seventh wicket falls the Last Man Stands on his own.

Matches will be played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings – leagues are being established and anyone interested in entering a team should contact Ed McCabe on 0121 446 3651.

Dan takes county crown – nationals next

BOXING

STREETLY boxer Dan O'Sullivan is targeting national glory after being crowned Midland Junior ABA champion.

The 15-year-old Aston ABC ace claimed the 60-63kg Midland title in Walsall last weekend, beating Kevin Florence,

from Ledbury, on points.

The St Francis of Assisi pupil has now qualified for the national quarter finals which take place at Great Barr Leisure Centre on Sunday.

He takes on Corby Boxing Club's Irdi Cupi and coach John Homer says O'Sullivan is up for the task in hand.

"He's a good lad, a very competitive boxer," said Homer. "There's a bit of history between the two lads as they have boxed before and Irdi won on his home show."

"So Dan is keen to put things straight this weekend and hopefully he can go out and put on a good performance."



Dan O'Sullivan (centre) with his coaches at Aston ABC, John Homer (left) and Lee Walton (right).

INSHORT

BOWLS: Sutton Park completed the double over Streetly Sports in the Erdington League, winning away by 25 shots thanks to superlative bowling by Graham Ord (21-12), Ron Handsaker (21-12), Jim Caldwell (21-13) and Colin Porter (21-15). They then beat the Beeches by nine shots with Steve Yarrington (21-13), Ord (21-15) and Porter (21-8) in excellent form. The Alliance League side beat Selly Park by 38 shots with Dave Perry (21-6), Porter (21-6), Chris Sheehan (21-9) and Andy Wiggan (21-7) bowling superbly.

CHARITY RUGBY GAME: Aldridge RFC is hosting a charity day of rugby to raise funds for Help for Heroes this weekend. The club – based on Little Hardwick Road, Streetly – is putting on two games this Sunday (May 25) as Aldridge's First XV and Veterans XV take on their counterparts from Help for Heroes. There will be a remembrance ceremony at 12noon, followed by the veterans game at 12.30pm and the first XV match at 2pm. There will be a bouncy castle and a raffle, plus a disco later on into the night and the club bar will be open all day. Parking is free.

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