



## HOCKEY MEN ARE ON CLOUD NINE

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# Observer Sport

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Boldmere Swimming Club's junior team (nine-12 Year olds) have qualified for National Inter-League Final. They are pictured with (back row, left to right) chairman Phil Littler, team manager Nigel Kelly and coach Ash Cox. Turn to page 151 for the full story. Picture by Steve Harlow

### Advice on becoming a sport announcer

**ATHLETICS:** Runbritain, in conjunction with UKA and England Athletics, is hosting a half-day road and cross country announcers course for newcomers and established commentators at Sutton Park on the morning of the National Road Relays on October 16.

The course will be hosted by Geoff Wightman and is free of charge for those looking to get more involved in announcing at domestic road and cross country events.

For more details, email Manjinder Singh at msingh@uka.org.uk

### Parsons makes it to high jump final

**ATHLETICS:** Erdington's Tom Parsons has reached the final of the high jump at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Parsons, who failed to make it out of the heats in the pouring rain in Barcelona three months ago, revelled in the searing Delhi heat to clear 2.16m with ease and book his final appearance.

England team-mate Martyn Bernard, who won European bronze in the summer, was a shock casualty as he crashed out in the qualifying stages.

See next week's Observer for news of how Parsons progressed.

### Hockey women are off to winning start

**HOCKEY:** The England ladies hockey team, who include Sutton's Laura Unsworth in their ranks, have got off to a fine start in their quest for a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in India.

A Crista Cullen hat-trick laid the foundations for a 4-1 win over Wales in their first game. The ladies followed it up with a 4-1 victory over Canada in their second pool B match at the Major Dhyana Chand stadium.

England's women play pool B table-toppers New Zealand on Friday.

Sutton-born Susie Gilbert is also in the England squad while, another Sutton hockey player, Katie Long, who was also part of the successful World Cup squad, is a travelling reserve.

# Title-chasing Sutton all set for a tough away challenge

## Rugby Union

By **BOBBY BRIDGE**  
Sports reporter

A MASSIVE test lies in wait for Sutton Coldfield RFC at Old Halesonians this weekend after a scintillating start to the season.

Since losing to Midlands One West promotion favourites Dudley Kingswinford in September, Sutton have exacted revenge scoring more than 100 points in their subsequent games against Leamington

(63-11) and most recently Nuneaton Old Edwardians (43-11).

But Old Halesonians will provide a much sterner test for, lying only one place behind Sutton on points difference.

"It's clear to see already there is a massive gulf in class in the division - there is a league within a league," said coach Matt Nevitt.

"You have four or five teams, Dudley Kingswinford, Old Hales, Whitchurch and ourselves right up there.

"I don't like going to Old Hales' ground, it's always

windy and it's a clayey pitch but we are aiming to get at least the four points for the win and possibly five points with a bonus point."

Sutton's lofty ambitions were reflected by a mood of dissatisfaction in the changing rooms despite running seven tries past Nuneaton Old Eds.

A remarkable start to the match saw Sutton score more than a point a minute in the first quarter.

The classy start had coach Nevitt targeting a huge winning margin, but he was left to

rue what he deemed an 'un-acceptable' refereeing performance.

"I believe we could have kicked on and got 65 or 75 points, really opened them up," said Nevitt. "But the referee couldn't make it to the breakdowns and he was missing some of the great turnover work from our defence.

"The assessor who was there agreed he was out of his depth at this level and it is disappointing for us.

"It got really frustrating because the penalty count mounted and we could get no

continuity to our play."

Old Halesonians boast an impressive playing roster with a number of players arriving from Worcester, Stourbridge and Birmingham and Solihull.

But Nevitt believes his side are up to the challenge, he explained: "They clearly have a bit of money down there to be attracting players like Duncan White, Tom Jordan, Carl Robinson and Chris Hooper.

"But if we play to our maximum and don't get bogged down like last weekend, we can go there and get the win."

## Vase heroes will be looking to do the double over Continental Star

### Football

By **HELEN DRAYCOTT**  
Sports reporter

BOLDMERE St Michaels boss Rob Mallaband will be hoping his side can do the double over Continental Star when they face them in the Walsall Senior Cup next week - just days after defeating them in the FA Vase.

The Mikes overcame the Midland Combination Premier Division side 1-0 at Church Road in the First Round Proper of the competition on Saturday thanks to a 20th minute goal from Matt Hawker.

Now Boldmere travel to Continental on Monday night (kick-off 7.45pm) in the First Round of the cup, knowing that Star will be after revenge.

Boldmere's narrow win could have been more comfortable only to be denied by the post three times in the first-half and some dogged defending by the visitors.

But the win has booked the Mikes' place in the Second Round which will see them entertain Gornal Athletic at Church Road on November 13.

In the meantime, The Mikes

are back in league action this weekend when they host Bidulph Victoria in the Midland Football Alliance. Kick-off 3pm.

■ SUTTON Coldfield Town FC travel to Grantham Town on Saturday in their next Evo Stik First Division South fixture. Kick-off 3pm.

The Royals then travel to Atherstone Town on Tuesday night (October 12) in the First

Round of the Birmingham Senior Cup, kick-off 7.45pm.

Meanwhile, Sutton's tenants Romulus entertain Market Drayton Town at Coles Lane this Saturday, kick-off 3pm.

The Roms are also in action in League Challenge Cup action on Tuesday night (October 12) when they travel to Quorn in the First Round. Kick-off for the midweek clash is 7.45pm.

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