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SPORT IN BRIEF

Club has a festival feel

CRICKET: Godmanchester Town CC will be holding their second Festival of Cricket on Sunday.

The main attraction of the day will be a 6-a-side 'Sniper' cricket competition for local businesses. This is played on synthetic pitches with shorter boundaries with every player batting and bowling and the emphasis on fun for all rather than cricketing prowess.

There will also be a climbing wall, bouncy castle, inflatable slide, a longest throw competition and golf chipping contest.

A licensed bar will be running, as well as a barbecue, and a prize draw will be held during the afternoon. The day starts at 11am, with the cricket final scheduled for 4.45pm.

Club chairman James Leet said: "The aim of the Festival is threefold, to raise essential funds for the club, act as a launch for the new season and attract new players, both young and old."

Caldwell edged out

CYCLING: St Ives Cycling Club riders Alan Moules and Tom Caldwell tackled the 50-mile Ciclos Uno Road Race in Harlow, part of the Eastern Region Race League.

The pair lined up with 60 other riders in freezing conditions which were to turn a lot kinder during the race.

Caldwell moved into the leading pack on the last lap, but was boxed in during the sprint for the line and finished 12th.

Moules got caught up in the main bunch which rolled over the line shortly after, but both were happy with a good day's racing.

www.stives-cc.co.uk

Oarsome chance!

ROWING: St Neots Rowing Club is organising a new 10-week course for adults who want to try their hand at the sport.

The course will take place on Saturday afternoons, from 4-5.30 pm, starting on April 18.

Club captain Alison Brown said: "If you live in St Neots but have yet to spend time on the beautiful river which runs through it, our course offers a great chance to see the town from a whole new angle while getting hooked on an exciting new sport."

The course costs £50, which will be offset against the £160 annual rowing membership for those who decide to become a full rowing member. This cost provides insurance and helps towards coaching and equipment costs.

Anyone interested in taking part should email Alison Brown at captain@stneotsrc.co.uk by April 10.

Chandler medal joy

GOLF: Anne Chandler was first in the Weekend Medal at Abbotsley Golf Club.

She claimed top spot in Division One, with Janet Card the winner of Division Two and Helen Johnson victorious in Division Three. Abbotsley ladies progressed to the next round of the Mail on Sunday competition with a 3½-1½ win over Cromwell.

Lucy Mills was the winner of the Ladies Medal at Ramsey. She hit gross 89, nett 71, to take the title.

Oliver's haul Fitts the bill for new captains



At the helm: St Neots Swans captains Ash Bygraves and Fiona Moore.

SWIMMING: Oliver Fitt led the way as St Neots Swans' new captains Fiona Moore and Ash Bygraves celebrated success at their first County A Championships held over two weekends at Peterborough and Cambridge.

The very strong Swans squad swept to a club record of 50 medals – 13 gold, 19 silver and 18 bronze, with the boys' team managing a fantastic third place overall behind Peterborough and Cambridge.

Fitt won 10 gold medals in the nine years age category and was also overall boys' winner. Ben Fory, Will Nicholls and Danny Sadler each won eight medals.

Between these four swimmers they managed to register five qualifying times for the Regional Championships.

The other medal winners for Swans were Megan Evans, Emily Keech, Bethan Lukey, Chloe Thompson, Andrew

Burling, Tim Fory and Chris Nicholls. Swans also managed one medal success in the relays in the boys' 15/16-year 200m freestyle.

There were also 106 personal bests across the girls and boys' teams.

Head coach Linda Ashley-Davidson said: "Another fantastic County Championships for both teams justifies all the hard work that the swimmers have put in during the last few months.

"Individual performances, wonderful team results, a staggering total of 50 medals and 106 PBs is the true testament to all the swimmers' commitment to Swans.

"The added bonus for the club is the chance to be represented at the Regional Championships again this year and the four boys who have achieved this really deserve special praise."

www.swans-swimming.com

HOCKEY

Juliana's milestone has Buzzards in flap

Leighton Buzzard IV 2 St Neots III 6
Five Counties League, Division 4

JULIANA Dickinson hit a hat-trick in the final league fixture to take her tally for the season to 51.

Dickinson got the first from a short corner when a lucky bounce took the ball past a defender who was blocking the keeper's view.

Brilliant individual play from one of the Leighton Buzzard players pulled the score back to 1-1, but Charlie Gillam restored the lead before half time from a well-worked short corner.

Leighton Buzzard moved their playmaker into defence in the second half and St Neots found the going easier, Dickinson hitting the 50 milestone with a fine solo effort.

Charlie Gillam seemed to have secured the points with a well-taken goal to establish a 4-1 lead. However, Leighton Buzzard were very fast on the break and had several opportunities to get back into the game.

Only acrobatic goalkeeping from Donna Selsby kept them out, until the visitors finally succumbed to a blistering run down the wing followed by a well-taken goal.

Dickinson was not satisfied with 50, however and secured her hat-trick minutes from time. Chris Deeks added a sixth at the last gasp to make the final score a bit more flattering to St Neots than the hosts deserved.

St Ives 2 Wapping II 3
NE14 East Men's League, Division One

The visitors started the brighter and could have opened the scoring early on, but it was St Ives who produced the most meaningful moment of the first half as good work from Chris Duncan led to Alex Gutteridge sliding the ball home.

With the points there for the taking, the second half started in disaster for Ives. First

Wapping scored from a penalty corner, and then from what seemed to be the longest ever goal-mouth scramble.

With the match entering the final stages a change in formation pushed the away side back and after a penalty corner routine was stopped by a defender's foot, the resulting penalty stroke was dispatched by Darren Coles to make it 2-2.

The momentum appeared to be fully with St Ives, but it shifted when a Wapping break led to a converted penalty stroke.

Allan Knox took the man-of-the-match award for an impressive array of skills throughout the game, but St Ives ultimately paid the price for two lapses of concentration.

Saturday's rearranged game against local rivals St Neots will complete the season.

St Neots II 2 St Ives III 0
NE14 East Men's League, Division 4NW

A DERBY between sides at either sides of the table went the predicted way with two first-half goals settling matters.

St Ives set out to stifle their free-scoring opponents, a strategy that enjoyed a mere three minutes of success.

A second goal followed midway through the half but Ives, mindful of the importance of their superior goal difference in the relegation battle, refused to come out of their shell and were content to play out the rest of the game without further damage, and only Tim McGlashan's disallowed penalty corner strike threatened the home goal.

St Ives need now to win their final game at home to Spalding II on Saturday next week and hope for other results to go their way.

The seconds' match against Market Deeping II in the same division was postponed because of a mix-up in start times between the clubs.

■ In Division 5NW, St Ives IV lost 3-1 to St Neots III, while the Fifts beat Rutland V 2-1 in 7NW.

Watton 5 St Ives 5

NE14 East Women's League, Division 4NW

THIS goal-fest saw Watton score first in a deceptively quiet first half, only for St Ives to reply via Amanda Hollands for a 1-1 half-time score.

St Ives were keen to put on the pressure in the second half but even with Fran Wood on her debut looking a natural at the back, it was certainly a game for the forwards, with end-to-end excitement for the crowd.

Lexi Palmer, Vicky Leighton and Emily Crack were also on target for Saints, with Watton replying each time.

St Ives failed to convert a penalty stroke and a penalty corner in the last few minutes of the game and came away disappointed with the one point.

■ St Ives are holding a Club Day on Saturday April 18 at the Outdoor Centre in California Road, St Ives.

The day is open to all former and current members of all ages, and new members will be warmly welcomed.

The day starts at 11.30am with registration for fun hockey activities in the afternoon, including matches for players of all ages and skill levels.

At 3pm, the St Ives firsts will take on Blueharts in the showpiece match.

The day costs £5 per person. There is also a raffle, with all prizes gratefully received on the day, and all proceeds from the event will go to the Antony Nolan Trust & National Blood Donation.

For further information, email info@stiveshockeyclub.co.uk or telephone 07752 737689.