

Early silverware for Town juniors

Hednesford Town Under 12s retained the Polesworth Pre Season Cup in convincing style last weekend. Having stormed through to the Final with a 3-0 win against Amington Diamonds they met Boldmere Falcons in the final.

Despite conceding their first goal of the day, Town cruised to a 3-1 victory to lift the trophy for the second successive year, with goals from Taylor Allen, Mitch Candlin and Jack Weldon.

Hednesford are looking to add to their squad for this season in the Midland Junior Premier League. Anyone interested please call Kevin on 07968 515020



■ The under 12s with the Polesworth Cup

Gozukucuk the hero in Staffs Cup thriller

Burntwood Rugby Club 1st 28, Leek 24
Staffs Senior Cup – 1st Round
Cometh the hour – cometh the man. Second half replacement Halil Gozukucuk scored a superb individual try three minutes from time to take Burntwood into their first ever semi-final of the senior county cup.

The home side trailed 24-11 well into the final quarter but a three try burst in the last 15 minutes was crowned by Gozukucuk's rampaging run from 40 metres to get his side off to the best possible start to the new season.

It was the only time Burntwood lead throughout the game having found no joy through Leek's solid midfield and cover defence for

much of the match.

From the start the hosts put themselves under pressure by not collecting the Leek kick off. The visitors' had already been held up once over the home line before they scored in the right corner via three slick passes down the blind side of a scrum.

Graham Shelley's men were forced to defend for the rest of the opening quarter but they were up to the task. Burntwood's first excursion into the visitors' territory came courtesy of full back Dan Garrity who impressed in his new role. A fine catch on the run was followed by good progress through midfield.

The attack gained momentum from Ollie Whitehouse darting forward from a tapped penalty and when Leek infringed again, Steve

Blockley got his side off the mark with a well-struck penalty goal.

After half an hour, Leek extended their lead following a good spell of continuity which eventually breached the home defence for a converted try.

Burntwood came back well via Ben Holt's fine restart kick. Blockley had the chance to kick his second goal but was wide of the target but right on half time the hosts made it 8-12.

A burst by Lloyd Shelley had Leek backtracking. An overlap to the right was lost due to a loose pass but possession was rescued, moved left and Garrity put Matt Sishton in for a try in the corner.

With the wind at their backs for the second period, Burntwood were soon attacking in the clubhouse corner. Shelley's line out

take was mauled close to the line and then Ian Jones and Jack Neal's bursts for the line were held up. The latter was injured in the move which paved the way for Gozukucuk's entrance.

Burntwood's pressure was rewarded when Craig Seedhouse dropped a goal to cut the deficit to a single point.

Stung into action, the visitors made good ground, helped by a loose kick on halfway. Leek's full back collected, evaded several tacklers and found his support for a fine team try.

Going into the last quarter, Burntwood were pressing for a reply with skipper Shelley and Garrity both testing the visitors' defence but Leek broke out via their backs for another fine try, this time by the posts so the conversion made it 11-24.

The hosts hit back through the forwards. Inspired by skipper Shelley, they went close twice before electing to chip a penalty award to the corner. The pack mauled the line out possession over for Jones to celebrate his return to the club with the touchdown. Blockley's fine conversion left his side with six points to make up. Two minutes from the end of normal time, Burntwood produced a carbon copy of the previous try. This time it was stand-in hooker Tony Davies who emerged from the pile-up to claim the try. Two minutes into added time and with Burntwood seeming to have to settle for an honourable defeat, Gozukucuk had other ideas. Hitting the line at pace close to a ruck on the Leek 10 metre line, his run proved unstoppable.

Top-form Cannock win local derby

Rugeley Rugby Club 15, Cannock 24
Owen Cup

Rugeley welcomed Cannock to Hagley fields this week for an early start due to the fire work display at that location later that evening.

From the onset Cannock began like a rocket and dominated the game by scoring and converting a try within the first 19 minutes.

Saying that, Rugeley settled in to the game and were able to show Cannock that the summer training had been of value to Rugeley and the home team's set play was looking very good.

Mathew Willisroft once again led from the front with military precision at all times.

The younger additions to the team showed their worth, with some outstanding performances from Mitchell Everall, Jake Graham and Jamie Simons all showing that they are a force to reckon with in the coming months.

Replacement Chris Dynda proved that his involvement in the game was a bonus as no sooner had he pulled his boots on, he was instrumental in creating and then scoring the well-deserved and needed first try for Rugeley.

The home team then opted to go for goal mid-way into the second half and with usual ease and finesse Adam Grocott converted the penalty, bringing the score to a more respectable 10-19.

Cannock once again came back at Rugeley resulting in a try by the visitors. At the restart the home side upped their game with Ceiran Griffin creating and he could have scored but, as a true gentleman, he passed the ball to his captain to score a well-deserved try with only two minutes left in the game.

The game ended with Cannock the victors and Rugeley rubbing their wounds and the coaching team going back to the drawing board.

Womble shines, but team are disappointment

Cricket round-up by Matthew Bull

Cannock 1sts suffered a disappointing defeat away at Eastnor. After deciding to bowl first, Cannock restricted the home side to 209 all out. Dave Womble was the pick of the bowlers with 4-56.

Eastnor's overseas player, Atiq Ur Rehman, then spun his way through the Cannock batting order, taking 5-10 as the visitors were dismissed for just 84.

Cannock 3rds ended their league campaign with an impressive victory away at Rushall.

After deciding to bat first, Cannock got off to a good start with captain, Ant Wood (45) and Aaron

Wilkes (31) putting on 77 for the first wicket. Despite being involved in the comical run out of Dan Wood, Tom Bull continued to pile on the runs as he made his way to a quick-fire 45, Cannock eventually declaring on 205-8.

Rushall got off to a solid start but the introduction of Dan and Ant Wood into the attack brought about a flurry of wickets.

Dan finished with figures of 5-53 whilst Ant took 4-13, helping to dismiss the home side for 127.

Cannock must now wait on the result of Old Wulfrunians' final league game to find out whether they have clinched the title or not.

Cannock & Rugeley 1sts hosted Pelsall and just about gained a losing draw.

The visitors were asked to bat first and made an impressive total of 302-7 from their 50 overs, Paul Grainger top-scoring with 91.

A good innings of 79 from Ali Fawcett was the top score for the Colliers as they looked to gain a draw from the match.

It was left to the last pair of Daniel and Jake Aston to see their side through to the end of the innings and a well-earned losing draw.

Hawkins 1sts picked up an excellent victory at home to local rivals, Bloxwich.

The home side won the toss and decided to bat first, opener Mubeen Rashid got them off to a flying start with 86 and Zaheer Suliman increased the run rate with 68 from 52 balls. Hawkins finished their innings on 313-7.

Bloxwich were never likely to reach their target and four wickets apiece for Qamar Abbas (4-65) and Ejaz Nawaz (4-36) meant that they were dismissed for 227, losing by 86 runs.

Performance of the week goes to Atiq Ur Rehman of Eastnor 1sts. His excellent bowling spell of 5-10 helped his side to dismiss Cannock for 84 and pick up a vital win.

Flying start for hockey club men's team

Cannock Hockey Club
Cannock 1st XI 10, Burton 1st XI 0

A good win for the Nockers as they begin the Pre Season with a resounding win.

Burton, who won promotion to Midlands Premier Division, were no match for a young and enthusiastic Cannock team.

Missing a number of regulars and giving run outs to some youngsters, Cannock turned in a controlled performance.

Hat tricks for Tom Morris and Dave Harris were supported by braces from Matt Plunkett and Arjan Chana. Keeper Paddy Smith had a peaceful evening, relaxing watching his team mates boss the game.

A big thanks must go to Jay Patel and Paul Parker who umpired the game well and allowed the game to flow rewarding skill.

Cannock 1st XI 5, Sheffield Hallam 1st XI 0
 A Winning Weekend for a new look Cannock.

With two wins in a weekend following Thursday's game against Burton, the new look Cannock team deserve a rest.

Saturday's win against Sheffield HC was comprehensive with keeper Paul Parker hardly tested.

Needing to show more resilience in defence, the Cannock team kept their second clean sheet in two games.

Down the other end, goals by Marc Edwards, Ross Hayward, Jack Middleton, Tom Morris and Dave Harris sealed the victory which could have been a lot more if it wasn't for an impressive goalkeeping display by the Yorkshire keeper.

Cannock 1st XI 4, Peterborough 1st XI 1
 Sunday saw the return to Chase Park for Gareth Andrew and his hometown team, Peterborough.

Recently promoted to the National League, they face a tough test in the cash rich Eastern Conference.

Andrew, who was the National League's highest goalscorer two seasons ago whilst playing for Cannock, also scored in our last European outing.

Fatigue was always going to play its part, and Andrew showed his class with a sweet strike after 10 minutes, outrunning a tired looking defence.

The first goal conceded this season however, only proved to spur on the Cannock team.

At half time Cannock had pulled back the score with a powerful short-corner drag flick from Dave Harris.

Harris then proceeded to score a Hat Trick with the hard working and powerful Marc Edwards finishing off a sublime move.

With a final score of 4-1 in Cannock's favour it was the Peterborough side who tired and could not match the game intensity and fitness of the Nockers.

Cannock Ladies Hockey Club
Cannock Ladies 3rd XI 1, Shrewsbury Ladies 2nd XI 1

Cannock Ladies returned for a new season on Saturday with big ambitions, with all girls happy to be back playing the most under-rated and enjoyable sport in the country.

The opening game for new 3rd team captain Stacy Mound saw a trip to Shrewsbury to play a side that will be playing a division higher than the girls this coming season, a difficult task which the girls took to superbly, passing the ball crisply and sharply for large parts of the game, outplaying the hosts on numerous occasions, to the delight of coach Alex Hill who will be looking to improve upon last year's sixth place finish.

Cannock took a deserved lead after a great ball from Sammie Holland was converted by Sophie Tibbetts, sadly, Cannock could not hold onto the lead and drew the game 1-1.

Grant aid: time to apply

The closing date for Burntwood Town Council grant aid applications has been extended until September 22.

Grant applications are invited from organisations which provide a service to the local community or 'enhance the image and identity of Burntwood'.

The scheme provides start-up grants for new organisations as well as to existing ones.

The organisation must have clear-stated aims and objectives set out in writing, a written constitution, be able to provide a copy of its latest annual accounts and most recent bank statement - and have a bank account operated by a minimum of at least two joint signatories.

The organisation must provide, or propose to provide, an activity or service that will be of benefit to the Burntwood community or to a particular group of residents.

Anyone requiring more details before submitting a formal application can contact the town clerk

Mary Danby at the town council office (Unit 1 Lambourne House, Bridge Cross Road, Burntwood).

The office is open to the public 9.30am-3pm, Monday-Friday.

Application forms are available from the town council office or ring 01543 677166 or download a form from www.burntwood-tc.gov.uk

* Late applications or applications from individuals will not be considered.

Bulldog prize for biker Ben

by Janet Lee
 janet_lee@mrn.co.uk

A Chase Terrace custom bike builder has received the ultimate accolade - winning the 'best American' category at the Bulldog Bash.

Andy Bennett (known as Ben), aged 43, has been building custom bikes for about two years.

The former engineer-turned plasterer entered his 'Indian bike' creation into the Bulldog Bash - the UK's biggest bike show.

"We were competing against some of the country's biggest and best bike builders with years of experience and unlimited budgets," Ben said. "But against all odds our bike won and we took home a massive shiny new trophy."

"We made our bike from scratch in an untidy garage at home, with no fancy machinery - just good old fashioned hard work and British craftsmanship."



■ Biker Ben.

"I built the Indian bike at home, sculpturing all the steelwork from scratch. All I had was a sandbag, a mallet and a little angle grinder. It took me ages."

"I got my old schoolfriend 'Mo' to paint it. We bought an airbrush and off he went - freehand."

Ben's latest bike has also earned itself a front page photo and centre spread for the magazine '100% Biker' this month.

"About two years ago building work started slowing down so I started spending more time working on bikes," Ben said.

"I'd import a lot of stuff from the States. Soon I found bikes were taking up more of my time so I concentrated on trying to sell parts on ebay to earn a living. I wasn't bothered about making much money as long as I could pay part of the expense of the bikes I was building."

"My first chopper was featured in '100% Biker' about a year ago. I was so proud."

Ben found he was getting known locally for his bikes - and realised it was what he wanted to do for a living.

"Friends helped out - financing me when I'd spent the rent on Harley parts - and finding the odd day plastering or building," he added.

"These bikes cost from £15,000-£40,000 to build. With a little know-how and a lot of hard work you can build one on a budget. You've got to make a lot of the parts yourself."

"I even made a furnace once so I could cast aluminium in the shape I needed for a particular part because I couldn't afford a miller."

"I also sell chopper parts and make one-off parts for bikes."

"It's hard to earn a living building bikes," Ben said. "It's not like 'American Chopper' on TV. Things are different in Britain."

"I may not have a fortune in the bank - but I'll always have a bloody nice bike to ride on."

See www.hairybushbikebuilders.co.uk



■ Ben's prizewinning bike - enhanced by his sister in law Emily Hill, from Burntwood.

Helen on award shortlist

A Chase Terrace school library manager has been short-listed for a top national award.

Helen Emery is one of just three people in the country to reach the final of the School Librarian of the Year Award 2011.

She has worked at King Edward VI School, Lichfield, for eight years and has been hailed as 'exceptional' by the School Librarian Association Selection Committee.

Helen will be attending a prestigious ceremony on October 3 at the Mermaid Conference Centre, London, where the winner will be announced.

She said she is 'delighted' to have been shortlisted for the award.

"I am absolutely thrilled to have got this far," Helen said.

"It is a real honour to be nominated and to have reached the finals is amazing. I feel really proud and I'm pleased that our work has been recognised - and that Staffordshire's library service is being put on the map."

"School librarians work really hard to broaden the horizons of pupils so they can reach their full potential."

The School Library Association (SLA) has been running the awards since 2004. It aims to promote the work that school librarians carry out every day, to highlight best practice and to celebrate outstanding work.

Helen submitted lesson plans, self evaluation and was shadowed by two representatives from the SLA selection panel for the day.

County councillor Pat Corfield said Helen is 'well respected'.

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