



Club refine youth policy



HITCHIN Town under-sevens lifted their first trophy after an impressive and deserved win in the Shefford Saints summer tournament on Sunday.

They topped their group with four wins out of four and held their nerve in a close, tense final against Baldock Templars to win 2-0.



FAIRLANDS Youth under-13s recently enjoyed a successful tour to BVV Barendrecht which is just outside Rotterdam in Holland.

The team was given a warm welcome by the youth development co-ordinator Robert Lucas and his wife Jaqualine.

They were treated to a great weekend of football against local and district teams from the area.

And they finished off a successful weekend by winning the Jim St Nicolaas Bokaal Fair Play Award.

Fairlands Youth are looking for under-six, under-seven and under-17 players. If you are interested, call Dean Spary on 07967 682511.

HITCHIN Rugby Club's mini and youth section has gone from strength to strength in the past two seasons - and they could not have done it without the generous sponsorship from Tony Else of Else Refining and Recycling.

Else has donated funds to help develop mini and youth rugby in the town and make sure that the game is available to all sections of the community.

As a result the club has invested in numerous training courses for the 40 plus volunteer coaches, equipment for training and playing purposes, plus real investment in recruiting new players.

Sponsorship from Else Refining and Recycling has also attracted funding from Sport England and adds to contributions made by private businesses, aiming to maximise contributions from industry.

This has resulted in the highest membership ever recorded at Hitchin (more than 350 players aged from six to 19) plus



great playing success.

This includes a Herts/Middlesex league title at under-17 level, a county final at under-14 level and numerous victories and championships at other age groups this season. The club is also proud to provide rugby for any player whatever their ability.

Mini and youth section chairman Tim Jeffries said: "Thanks to Tony and Sport England we don't have to worry constantly about our funds and making ends meet."

"Instead we can budget wisely, provide the right equipment

and back-up and concentrate on what we are here to do - provide the best possible rugby coaching for any player."

Else is an ex-Hitchin player and active vice-president of the club.

He is happy to help out rugby in the community and said: "Congratulations to Hitchin RFC for a major achievement in assembling a skilled team of coaches to promote the growth of rugby in the area."

"Rugby is not only a great game to play, it produces great team spirit and sportsmanship which greatly improves young

people's attitudes to each other. "Team sports undoubtedly improve the quality of people's lives.

"Hitchin RFC are making a huge contribution to the welfare of young people in our community and arresting the decline in the standard of sport and number of young people playing.

"I am delighted to be involved with the club supporting young people in this way."

Hitchin has squads at every age group from under-seven to Colts (under-19) plus senior sides that play in the London leagues.

Girls and boys from five to 18 and their parents are welcome to come along for an introduction to the sport at the Hitchin club in Old Hale Way.

No rugby knowledge is necessary and all abilities, shapes and sizes are welcome when the season starts again on Sunday, September 7.

For further information, you can visit the club's website www.hitchinrfc.com or call Tim Jeffries (chairman) on 01763 287460 (evenings).

Young Saints are in the swim at finals

ST IPPOLYTS C of E Primary School officially became the joint second best primary school in England at national swimming finals.

This is after they went up against the ESSA Divisional finalists at the 14th national swimming championships for primary schools at the renowned Ponds Forge international sports centre in Sheffield.

The championship is organised by the English Schools' Swimming Association and is open to all primary schools in England.

The phenomenal swimmers were Dominic Stevens (team captain), Jessica Jackson (team captain), Lucy Lapham, Christian deTrafford and

Alessandra Stevens. St Ippolyts qualified for the nationals after winning the medley relay and were runners-up in the freestyle relay team at the Division 10 championship.

Twenty-four primary schools qualified in the small schools' category from the dozen divisions nationally.

Sensational St Ippolyts made both the freestyle (Jessica Jackson, Alessandra Stevens, Dominic Stevens and Lucy Lapham) and medley (Dominic Stevens, Christian deTrafford, Lucy Lapham and Jessica Jackson) team relay A finals.

In the freestyle heats, St Ippolyts got through to the finals in eighth place, and in the final finished an impressive fourth.

In the medley relay



■ The fab five, left to right, are: Lucy Lapham, Jessica Jackson, Alessandra Stevens, Dominic Stevens and Christian deTrafford

they finished in an outstanding third place.

Points are allocated to the top eight teams and St Ippolyts' overall position nationally was joint second with St Felix from Southwold.

Ros Cramp from the

North Herts School Sports Partnership sponsored the swimmers, who were coached by Zena Connell, by supplying fantastic tracksuits and t-shirts and providing extra coaching sessions.



SYMONDS Green entered two teams into the Biggleswade Carnival five-a-side tournament.

The A team reached the semis without losing a game but then were beaten in a penalty shoot-out by Lewsey Youth.

The B team, who also won all their matches, gained revenge by beating Lewsey Youth 1-0 in the final (both teams pictured).

Symonds Green are looking for new players to join their squad for next season. Anyone interested should call club secretary Jim Regan on 07941 219705.



Champs movin' on up

LEAGUE champions Baldock Girls under-16s are moving on up.

The team is joining the Beds and Herts county girls and women's league at the open age level.

Baldock Ladies remained unbeaten in testing and challenging matches in a recent seven-a-side tournament run by Leverstock Green Ladies.

They are currently looking for new players aged 16 and over to increase the size of their squad. Anyone interested should call Colin on 07957 647473 or Steve on 07903 738532.



HITCHIN Town under-11s won the prestigious Shefford summer tournament.

It capped a fine season that also saw them win Division Two of the Royston Crow League.

After getting through their group, Hitchin beat Division One sides Broadhall Youth in the semis and Wymondley Park in the final.

Captain Jake Alderson scored the winner in the final and lifted the cup.

The squad was Luke McCabe, Alfie Dinsey, Ollie Payne, James Smith, Michael Williams, Jake Alderson, Liam Sweeney, Kameron Bethell, Lee Caller, Christian Farrughia and Jake Holbrook.