

GOLF: Five talking points ahead of the USPGA – see Page 57



Milford victorious in basement battle

MILFORD HALL defeated Shropshire side Whitchurch by four wickets in the fixture that brought together the Birmingham League's bottom two clubs at the start of play.

After electing to bat, visitors Whitchurch found themselves in early trouble at 27-3 as Chris Dean continued his good run of form with a couple of wickets. A 56 run partnership between opener Salim Ahmed and Kristen Ali helped Whitchurch's recovery before Milford struck back to reduce the visitors to 115-6. Salim remained the main stumbling block to Milford and he batted throughout until he was out for 95 in the final over, Whitchurch having posted a respectable 212-8. Dean finished with 3-66 while there were two wickets each for Rob Firth and Aaron Afford.

Michael Astley's 59 got Milford off to a steady reply although a middle order collapse swung the balance in Whitchurch's favour. However, Chris Becker steadied the ship and alongside skipper Kevin Royce the two put together an unbroken 99-run partnership to see Milford home without further damage, Becker finishing on 68 not out and Royce 31 not out.



Kevin Royce

Stafford's struggles go on with home defeat

STAFFORD continued their struggles in Division Two of the North Staffs & South Cheshire League with defeat at home to Silverdale despite performing well in the field.

The visitors were struggling on 105-6 as Paul Freeman (3-40) and Tino Mafusire (3-52) performed well before late runs from Chris Brookes 64 took them to 234-8 in their 55 overs.

Stafford were spun out in the reply by visiting professional Zahid Mansoor who claimed 5-21 with his off spin as only skipper Rob James with 21 out of 76 all out offering much resistance.

Stafford now travel to Norton Hales on Saturday needing points to keep them clear of the relegation places.

The seconds are in a similar spot in Division 5 and a weakened side lost by 77 runs at Onneley. Mark Evans and skipper Chris Dobson (both 47) battled hard but they were eventually 173 all out in 48 overs.

Dobson leads the way

MICHAEL DOBSON was the fastest Stafford Harrier home in the 10k run at Trentham.

Dobson recorded a time of 44 minutes and 55 seconds and finished 108th out of a field of more than 300 runners.

Darren Mattocks and Dave Marsden were the next fastest Harriers, placing 162nd and 170th, completing the race in 50m 43s and 51m 49s respectively.

Runners had to endure the sweltering summer heat at Trentham, with Warrington AC's Nick Jones the eventual victory in just over 34 minutes.

Chris Skellern, Alan Jones, Debbie McDermott, Peter Williams, Jon Freeman, Ed Smith, Graham Williams, Melonie Deakin, Claire Williams, Karen Murray, Julie Nokes and John Hateley were the other Stafford Harriers who took part in the race.

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Storm races to his first Motostar win

By James Driver-Fisher

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STORM STACEY romped to his first ever win in the British Motostar series to close in the championship leader with just eight races to go.

The teenage star, from Eccleshall, placed his FPW Racing machine on the top step during the opening race at Thurstion in Hampshire on Saturday and then followed that up with a fourth on Sunday.

But the win did not come easy for the Staffordshire youngsters as was only given the victory following an appeal which saw his second place upgraded to first.

The results kept the 14-year-old second in the championship, which is raced on the undercard of the British Super-bike series, but vitally moved him within 37 points of series leader Jake Archer.

Stacey, who joined Adrian Mason's team at the start of 2017, laid down a marking during Friday's free practices by topping the time sheets during the afternoon with his final lap of the session.

After making a great start, he headed the field at the completion of the opening lap and with positions constantly changing in the slipstream, the leading pack had been whittled down to seven riders with a couple of laps remaining.

Jack Scott came through to take the chequered flag but later received a penalty demoting him one position, which meant Stacey, the leader going into the chicane, took his first Moto3 win.

Wolves set to splash more cash



Adama Traore yesterday completed his £18m switch from Middlesbrough to Molineux

WOLVES could take their summer spending to more than £80million as they eye two more big-money deals before today's 5pm transfer deadline.

Utility players Leander Dendoncker and Oleksandr Zinchenko are both close to moving to Molineux – hot on the heels of an £18m club record move for winger Adama Traore which was completed yesterday morning.

Dendoncker has played 171 times for Anderlecht and has Champions League experience under his belt.

He has been courted by some of Europe's top clubs with Man-

chester United among those said to be watching him earlier this year.

Wolves have been in for Zinchenko all summer having agreed in principle a £16m deal with Manchester City.

Reports have linked Wolves with moves for Croatian centre half Domagoj Vida and Swans central midfielder Sam Clucas.

While Wolves have looked at the pair, potential moves are believed to be very unlikely.

Gordon back for friendly

FORMER Stafford Rangers striker Josh Gordon skippered Leicester Under-23s to a 4-0 win in a friendly between the two sides at Marston Road last night.

The match was arranged as part of the transfer agreement which took Gordon to the King Power last year.

Keirnan Dewsbury-Hall pounced on a goalkeeping error to put the Foxes ahead after 10 minutes and Layton Ndukuwou doubled the lead just before the half-hour.

Ryan Loft made it 3-0 on 64 and Ndukuwou netted his second with a penalty eight minutes from time.

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