

## Morris side edged out in game of just one try

THE unavailability of several key men did not help the cause of Shrewsbury's high-flying development squad as they were edged out 5-3 in a low-scoring clash at Newcastle in the Staffordshire Reserve League, writes **STUART DUNN**.

Shrewsbury gave debuts to three players and, despite a bright start which saw them take the lead from a penalty, they were unable to add to those solitary three points.

"It was a disappointing result after such a great start to the league season," said player-coach Mattie Morris.

"We certainly weren't helped by no less than four players being unable to play due to illness, including both hookers Leigh Davies and John Cookson.

### Penalties

"We started well and took an early lead but started to become our own worst enemy by giving away many penalties."

Newcastle gradually began to assert more pressure and moved in front just before half time with a well-worked try, which proved the game's defining moment.

The second half then remained scoreless in a competitive clash with neither team able to take any of the few chances that came along.

Shrewsbury's second string will hope to bounce back when they host Handsworth II at home on Saturday.



Muddy hell – this competitor cleans down his bike and (right) Ludlow's Isla Rowntree (centre) on the podium after winning the vet women's race series



# Stars are out for big Wheelers cyclo event

CYCLO-CROSS by Stuart Dunn

**CONSISTENT duo Ian Field and Hannah Payton both showed their class with impressive victories as local club Mid Shropshire Wheelers successfully staged the fifth and final round of the British Cycling National Trophy Cyclo-cross Series.**

The stars of the sport descended on the Shrewsbury Sports Village for the second time this year on Sunday. It followed the memorable weekend in January when the club's dedicated band of volunteers hosted the British National Championships.

Organiser Dave Mellor stressed a tremendous team effort behind the scenes ensured the latest high-profile cycling event to come to Shrewsbury proved another huge success.

He was pleased that a trio of Olympians took part in the elite men's race, with triple Olympian Liam Killeen, who finished as runner-up to Field, lining up against Grant Ferguson, who represented Team GB in mountain biking in Rio recently, and Nick Craig, who competed in Sydney.

Mellor said he received plenty of positive feedback from competitors, officials and spectators, who enjoyed their quick return visit to the Sundorne venue.

He added: "It was a really good event, a stress-free day and we had a wonderful bunch of volunteers who helped make sure everything ran smoothly. The reaction from the riders was absolutely fantastic and the international commissaire was enthusing about the event."

"There were some really good races and Ian Field just blew everyone away in the senior race. He was incredible and has certainly laid down a marker for the National Championships in Bradford next month."

"But it was also very nice to see three Olympians competing in the same race in Shrewsbury – and that underlines the quality of the event."

"The course was muddy in parts after the rain that came on Saturday. Ian Field said he changed his bike every lap whereas in Shrewsbury in January the riders were changing every half lap. Changing every lap isn't too bad."

Field, who arrived as series leader, dominated the elite race to seal his third successive series triumph, finishing well clear of runner-up Killeen. In the women's race, Payton prevailed in fine style, attacking early on the opening lap



Shrewsbury's Ewan Grivell-Mellor in the elite men's race

and never looking back to wrap up her series victory in style.

In the other races, Nick Craig won his fourth round of the series to secure the veteran 40-49 National Trophy Series, with the over 50s veteran race won by Pete Middleton, who also won the series overall.

In the vet women's race, Maddi Smith took her third win of the series, but it was Isla Rowntree, from Ludlow, who came out on top for the series.

The junior men's race was won by Thomas Mein, with Sam Moses the overall victor the series, while the under-16 boys race was won by Charlie Craig, clinching his first series title in the process, with Harriet Harnden completing a clean sweep of five round wins

and the overall series title in the under-16 girls.

In the under-14 category, Joe Kiely won his second race of the series, but Finlay Pickering won the series. In the girls, Anna Wadsworth won her first round of the series, but Millie Couzens kept her white jersey and won the overall.

Of the local entrants from Mid Shropshire Wheelers, Shrewsbury's Ewan Grivell-Mellor, 18, finished 28th in the elite men's race, coming eighth in the under-23 category.

MSW was also represented in the under-14s, with Wem youngster Ryan Greaves 31st in the boys race and Shrewsbury's Daphne Jones 18th in the girls event.

## Tanners make donation to Hospice fund

A TOP Shropshire league has marked another successful year by giving something back.

Officers of the Tanners Shropshire Bowls League presented a cheque for £500 to the Severn Hospice to maintain the Shrewsbury-based league's tradition of making annual donations to charities.

"The £500 was raised over the season from various events," said proud league president and competition secretary Barry Jennings.

Most of the sum came from a Charity Fours day that was sponsored to the tune of £200 by Hanwood bowler Rob Jones and won by a Castlefields quartet.

The league's annual presentation function at Bagley Social Club made a profit and member clubs are reminded that any rule change proposals must be with the secretary Andy Price by December 31.

Bagley will host the next Tanners executive meeting on Thursday, January 12, at 7.30pm and also the AGM on January 27.



Sunderland footballer Billy Jones (left) who is a patron of the Crossbar Foundation, with Andy Smith, the Foundation's development manager

## Premier League ace Billy backs Foundation

PREMIER League footballer Billy Jones, from Shrewsbury, has thrown his full support behind a Shropshire charity ahead of a host of Christmas holiday courses around the county for youngsters.

The Sunderland defender has become a patron of the Crossbar Foundation, a pioneering charity launched in August to support and improve the quality of lives of young people in communities across Shropshire.

Jones visited the Crossbar offices during a trip to his home town and is delighted to be associated with the Foundation, which has close links with Crossbar Coaching Education in Sport, who are renowned for running popular holiday courses and delivering sport across the curriculum in a host of county primary schools.

Jamie Haynes, Crossbar's head of education in sport, said: "Billy is a friend of Crossbar's who we've known for a number of years. When he heard about the Crossbar Foundation, he was really keen to get involved and was pleased to become a patron. "Just like Dave Edwards of Wolves, another footballer we have a great relationship with, Billy is a great role model for local children."

All proceeds from the Crossbar Foundation's

### SPORT

busy programme of Christmas holiday courses next week will be used to engage with local children and young adults, often through sporting initiatives, and to make a difference in deprived areas around the county.

The Foundation has also joined forces with the Shrewsbury Food Hub, an umbrella group for charities and projects in Shrewsbury which benefit from donations of surplus food from local companies.

The partnership means healthy food will be provided to children attending a holiday course whom the coaches feel would benefit from having something extra in their lunch boxes.

Andy Smith, the development manager for the Crossbar Foundation, said: "We met up with Ali and Katy from the Food Hub and were blown away really with what they've done. They deliver to 30 groups in the area and work from seven stores, so they go and collect the food and then distribute it."

Every child who takes part in one of Crossbar's Christmas courses, open to boys and girls between the ages of five and 13, will receive a present. Young-

sters aged 12 and 13 are welcome attend as Crossbar Young Leaders. The company will be running soccer schools at both Shrewsbury's London Road Sports Centre and Telford's Lawley Primary School from Monday, December 19 to Wednesday, December 21.

Multi-sports sessions will take place from next Monday through to Friday, December 23 at the London Road Sports Centre, which is also the venue for a dance camp from Monday to Wednesday. Multi-sports will run at Lawley Primary School next Thursday and Friday, with a street dance course at Telford's Hollinswood Primary School from Monday to Wednesday.

Holiday clubs, which combine multi-sports, movie club, arts and crafts, and other activities, will be held at Shrewsbury's Greenfields Primary School, Bayston Hill's Oakmeadow Primary School, Pontesbury Primary School, Broseley C of E Primary School and Telford primary schools Old Park and Redhill between Monday and Friday.

Courses run from 9am-3pm each day, with early and late pick ups available. For more details and prices, which range from £10 to £15 per day, email [admin@crossbarcoaching.com](mailto:admin@crossbarcoaching.com) or call (01743) 362368.

## Latest golf returns from Shropshire golf clubs

### BRIDGNORTH

**Bottle Shotgun:** T Merritt and G McKenna 63; M Hodson and P Dyson 65; I Wilson and A James 66; S Butler and A Jones 66; A Lewis and D Morgan 67; B Cox and M Jones 67; M Leszynski and H McNeill 69; T Edmonds and R Speke 69; S Fitzpatrick and A Legge 69; S Law and D Harris 69.

### HENLLE PARK

**Club Individual Stableford Division 1:** C Jones 41pts (cb); M A Jones 41pts; D S Jones 38pts. Division 2: B Mackenzie 41pts; G Peate 39pts; R Harris 36pts.

**Mixed Christmas Comp:** D Edwards & J Maxted 43pts; T & K Gleave 42pts (cb); R Grindley & A Tomley 42pts.

**Seniors' Turkey Trot Division 1:** C Vernal 41pts; M Morris 10pts. Division 2: M Cunningham 42pts; C Parker 40pts.

**Bowmaker:** J Postle, C Chare & A Wright 88pts; C Andrews, T Gleave & P Coombes 87pts; T Davies, P Hampson & A Elwin 83pts.

### HILL VALLEY

**Ladies' Turkey Trot (Sapphire) 9 Holes:** C Ellwood 13pts; B Sierstema 13pts; A Wilson 12pts.

**Turkey Trot (Emerald) 9 Holes:** S Wynn 16pts; I Stiles 16pts; G Thomas 14pts.

**Turkey Trot December (Emerald) 9 Holes:** S Wynn 15pts; C Ellwood 14pts; B Sierstema 12pts.

### LLANYMYNECH

**November Medal:** G Evans 82-17= 65; A M Williams 73-7=66; J Clewlow 72-6=66; C Andrew 90-23=67; T Weatman 73-6=67; G Owens 80-13= 67; J Smith 79-11=68; T Fairclough 90 -22=68; D Griffiths 73-5=68; D Evans 80-22=68; N Clewlow 78-9=69; B Beckett 80-11=69; D Yapp 86-19=69; J Bailey 77-8=69; I Rodger 75-6=69; S Pritchard 78-9=69; J Cleaton 82-13 =69.

**Xmas Competitions - Texas Scramble:** D Collins, K Davies, J Cookson, D Jones 56; P Whale, P Dunn, S Jones, J Logsdail 56.2; D Griffiths, B Beckett, P Ord, A Lewis 56.4.

**Stableford Waltz (1, 2, 3):** J Bailey, C Allen, A Gittens, J Turner 93; N Clewlow, K Evans, R Davenport, B Suckley 90; S Jones, J Logsdail, G Rodger, I Jones 89.

**Stableford Texas:** P Humphreys, B Ayers, P Jones, N Owen 100; F Morris, G Ashton, D Yapp, M Owen 99; A Matthews, C Jones, J Jones 98.

**South African Stableford:** J Bottomley & T Westman 90; D Caldwell & B Hardy 88.

**Shotgun Foursomes (Daily Mail Qualifier):** H Barbour & G Evans 65; A Cleaton & J Cleaton 67; B Griffiths & D Caldwell 68.

**Ladies' non-qualifying Medal 1 Division Winner:** C Broughall 70. Runner Up: S McMahon 72.

### MARKET DRAYTON

**Mid-week Stableford:** D Orwell (19) 41; T Holiday (27) 34; D Griffith (16) 34; P Butterfield (17) 32; G Gibbons (28) 32.

**Christmas Turkey Trot:** D Birch (11) 42; K Smith (23) 37; K Parsons (16) 36; D Garrett (15) 35; R Thompson (16) 35; N Jefferies (15) 34; P Till (17) 34; M Taylor (20) 34.

**Ladies' Christmas Stableford:** I Atkinson (32) 28; P Chinnock (25) 26; J Barker (22) 26; J Harris (27) 26; G Tame (27) 26; M Holmes (24) 26.

### MILE END

**Winter Pairs Winners:** B Davies & J Wildblood 49pts. Runners Up: P Davies & D Peever 45pts.

**Christmas Competition:** A Hoyle 41pts; M Godfrey 39pts; B Sharpe 39pts.

### OSWESTRY

**November Stableford Division 1:** M Jennings 39; A Hall 38; R Lawrence 37 (cb); P Pardoe 37; G Hughes 36 (cb); J Poole 36 (cb). Division 2: D Kershaw 40; G Griffiths 39; D Hopton 36; T Thompson 35; T Davies 34 (cb); A Jones (1894) 34. Division 3: A Pickles 42; R Preece 40; M Pardoe 38; P Windham 36 (cb); P Huxley 36 (cb); S Chambers 36 (cb). Best Gross: A Hall 73.

### THE BROW

**Winter League No 6:** P Morris 27pts; K Fairbank 25; T Brough 23; K Abbott 22 (cb); P Shore 22 (cb).