

## Spencer is up for an award

### FOOTBALL

**TEENAGER** Spencer Radley-Martin has been nominated for a national award by Brighton and Hove Albion in the Community.

The 16-year-old has been nominated for the player of the year award after joining Brighton & Hove Albion's Seagulls Specials (for disabled children and adults) as a child 11 years ago.

The award is to recognise his selfless dedication and commitment to the junior section even through a critical illness this year.

Brighton and Hove Albion in the Community is one of 38 Football League Community Schemes to deliver Every Player Counts, the first National PAN-Disability programme, this season.

Jon Sheehy, marketing director at sponsors the New Football Pools said: "The nominations for these awards are inspiring. This programme really demonstrates the power of football and how sport can provide a real driving force for change."

Five regional finalists will be shortlisted for the national awards and announced next month. Each finalist will be invited to the Football League Trust national conference on June 3 where the national player and unsung hero of the year will be announced.

## Portslade victory

### CRICKET

**PORTSLADE** under-tens got their season up and running by beating local rivals Southwick by 61 runs.

They bounced back from an opening-day defeat to score 310-8 off 20 overs, skipper Daniel Buttress making 29 and the last batting pair of Matthew Chart and Tom Lettres putting on 39.

Nathan Lettres (3-9) then took three wickets in an over as Southwick were pegged back to 249.

## Jump to it

**GATWICK** Flyers, one of the most successful competitive trampoline clubs in the South East, are holding open trials at Downlands Sports Centre, Hassocks, next Wednesday (5.45-7.45pm).

Newcomers are welcome and should wear loose fitting sports clothes with socks. Under-18s should bring a parent/guardian to sign a registration form. For more information contact Mike Gevaux on 07905 019357.

**RISING** gymnastics star Jocelyn Hunt wants to compete at the 2012 Olympics in London after tasting success as part of Great Britain's European Championship silver medal winning team.

There is no time for the 15-year-old to rest on her laurels after grabbing her chance to shine in the senior team at the Europeans in Birmingham.

Hunt produced a polished performance in the floor routine and on the vault to play her part as Great Britain produced their best ever result at a major championship as they finished behind Russia and beat heavyweights of the sport Romania into third.

She will be back at Horsham Gymnastics Centre on Friday for seven hours of practice under the watchful eye of her coach Sadie Makinson with her focus firmly on keeping her place in the team after stepping up from being first reserve.

Hunt said: "My first ambition was to compete in big internationals when I first joined.

"My ambition now is to stay in the team and to get to the Olympics.

"That would be absolutely amazing."

Makinson, who coaches Hunt with Horsham's Maxine Pucknell, was impressed with the way her gymnast stepped up to the mark when she got the nod at the Europeans.

She said: "Jocelyn was first reserve for the whole of the trials, even though she won a couple of them.

"One of the girls got injured which created a bit more of an opening but selection was last-minute.

"Even the selection of the two things she would do for the team was really last minute.

"The day before she knew she was doing floor but she was doing beam at one point and that changed again.

"It was all so late and that is why all the team did such a good job because nobody knew what they were doing."

Makinson, an international performance coach, now hopes Hunt will build on the European success with a big year ahead for the team.

She said: "There are still the Commonwealth games and World Championships to come in the second half of this year and she is in contention for either one of those."

Gymnastics' golden girl Beth Tweddle led the team to success and Hunt admits she is someone she looks up to and hopes to emulate.

She said: "She is really nice and gives you quite a lot of help as she has already done it and has the experience. She always knows what to do."

The work being done by Hunt at Horsham's well-equipped centre is crucial to her continued progress and one of the reasons she was able to deal with the pressure of competing at a major championship.

Makinson said: "Because they prepare so well, it takes away a lot of the nerves but nothing can prepare them for the noise in the arena.

"The crowd were so excited because everyone knew they were in with a chance of winning a medal. She had never been in that situation before."

Hunt said: "I wasn't too nervous when I was first going out but when I was on the podium I was quite nervous.

"Once you start you're just concentrating on what you're doing.

"It was really good because everyone was so excited by our success. I didn't expect a medal."

Hunt does 24 hours of training each week which leaves her little time for anything else, although, she will listen to Beyonce and Lady GaGa on trips up to the national centre at Lilleshall.

All the training does not mean she can skip her studies, though.

She said: "I don't go to school on Fridays and I leave early but

they give me quite a lot of work to do. I don't get out of it."

Tweddle has proved hard work and determination can pay off and she has been impressed by Hunt and her young team-mates.

Tweddle said: "Competing in their first Europeans in front of a home crowd they could have taken it two ways but they used it to their advantage and performed fantastically. It's just a special feeling.

"It was so nice to be stood on that podium and have the girls with me. They knew exactly what they had to do and they did their jobs perfectly.

"It's nice to know that we're up there with the best in Europe and it bodes really well for London 2012."

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# Jocelyn's in the hunt for a place at London 2012

**GRACE UNDER PRESSURE:**  
Jocelyn Hunt

### GYMNASTICS by MIKE LEGG



**GYM STARS:** Queens Park School's Gym Club with shield

## Park are winners

**QUEENS** Park beat off seven other schools to win the Sussex Schools Year Three/Four gymnastics finals.

The Brighton and Hove champions took individual medals in the floor and boys' and girls' vault in the finals at Dorothy Stringer School.

They also won the team floor and were second in body management as their hard work and extra practice before school paid off.

The pupils were coached by Mrs Comer.