

Premier League

In Brief

No better time for title tilt, insists Redknapp

Tottenham Hotspur

SPURS boss Harry Redknapp will send his players into battle against Manchester City today with the message they have never had a better chance to win the Premier League.

The White Hart Lane side beat big-spenders City to fourth place – and Champions League qualification – last season and Redknapp is determined to build on that achievement.

“It is about time somebody else won the championship. It is not impossible and that is what I will tell the players today,” he said.

“Yes (it is a realistic aim). There is no point me looking anywhere else. The sky is the limit.

“We finished fourth last year and Tottenham will never get a better chance.

“If we stand still, the others will pass us.

“We did great last year finishing fourth. This year will be even tougher.

“I still feel we need one or two top quality players to tip the balance for us.

“It will be hard to make up the extra three spots because Liverpool will be strong, Everton will be right there and certainly Manchester City.”

Redknapp poured cold water on talk of England striker Peter Crouch leaving the club.

“Not a chance. He is not for sale. He is not going anywhere,” said Redknapp.

“I am a big fan of Peter’s. I brought him to the club and I have no interest in letting him go.”



CONFIDENT: Spurs boss Harry Redknapp.

Mascherano is not going

Liverpool

LIVERPOOL manager Roy Hodgson insists he does not want Javier Mascherano to leave the club and that new signing Christian Poulsen has not been brought in as a replacement for the Argentine.

Poulsen was presented to the media yesterday after signing a three-year contract following his £4.5million move from Juventus.

“I don’t want to let Javier Mascherano go. At the moment Javier has shown no signs of going,” Hodgson said.

“It is not a question of Christian replacing Javier, I believe Javier is going to play for us.”

Rovers set for takeover

Blackburn Rovers

AHSAN Ali Syed has moved into pole position to take over Blackburn after his Western Gulf Advisory (WGA) investment vehicle was given a four-week period of exclusivity to check the club’s accounts.

Syed, an Indian businessman, has earmarked £300million to wrap up the acquisition, cover outstanding debts and, according to a statement, ‘provide the necessary capital to buy new players and invest over the longer term so it can once again become a title contender’.

The statement added that WGA would also ‘discuss the potential business and investment strategy including the transfer of new players’ with Rovers chairman John Williams.

In your Telegraph on Monday ...



Howe hoping to inspire Premier Fours glory for Scorpions

Scunthorpe’s latest bid for silverware at Peterborough

Junior all-stars

SUPER SIX: Some of the Scunthorpe Anchor swimmers who took part in the ASA North East Regional District Championships. Back row, left to right, Caitlin Bower, Kieran Skinner and Becci Foster. Front row, left to right, Jack Newton, Holly Williams and Bryony Bower.



Jack shows potential with a golden display

Improved form from Scunthorpe swimmers at Forge

JACK Newton was the star of the show as Scunthorpe Anchor took seven swimmers to the ASA North East Regional District Championships.

Swimming

The event, held over two weekends at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, allowed youngsters the chance to showcase their talents, an opportunity grasped by Jack as he claimed two medals for his efforts.

The first, a gold, was delivered in the 1500 metres freestyle.

That display of potential was then reinforced the following weekend when he took home a bronze in the 800m freestyle, a result which capped off a fine set of swims for the youngster.

He also competed in five more events over the weekend, with his 100m fly performance earning him a seventh place finish in the final, while knocking two seconds off a personal best in the process.

Caitlin Bower was another Scunthorpe swimmer to impress, as she made the final of the 100m breaststroke.

The 13-year-old was not finished there however, recording a personal best in the 200m breaststroke event and a place in the 13-year-old girls’ final.

The scale of this achievement was

made all the more prominent as she only celebrated her 13th birthday some two weeks before her swim.

Caitlin was then joined by Scunthorpe team-mate Becci Foster to take part in the 400m medley relay team.

Both girls put in strong performances alongside Savannah Cheung and Molly Unwin.

Josh Jones and Holly Williams finalised in the 200m fly after shaving four seconds and two seconds respectively off their bests in the heats.

Josh went on to swim the 200m individual medley and 200m backstroke, earning two final spots.

A ninth place in each was his

reward, as well as an eight second improvement on his previous best time in the backstroke.

Bryony Bower showed her improving style in the form of a five second personal best in the 200m backstroke, recording a time of two minutes 50.58 seconds.

Kieran Skinner also swam solid races in the 14-year-old boys’ 200m breaststroke and 100m fly event, competing alongside team-mate Josh.

● Anybody wishing to join Scunthorpe Anchor – a competitive swimming club that trains at Riddings Pool, Scunthorpe – can visit the website, www.scunthorpe-anchor.org.uk, for more information.

Campbell leads field in President’s Prize victory at Holme Hall



SECOND: Josh Raspin won the Vice-President’s Prize.

JORDAN Campbell could not be caught on a Holme Hall President’s Weekend to remember for the youngster.

Facing stiff competition, the golf starlet registered a total of 84-17=67 to claim the President’s Prize, beating Josh Raspin, 74-5=69, into second spot, a position which earned him the Vice-President’s Prize.

Golf

As well as that contest, pre-juniors took part in a competition on the practice ground which included a combination of driving, target chipping and putting.

For the presentations afterwards, the winners were separated into two

categories – seven years and under and eight years and over.

In the former, Alex Brewster received the President’s Prize, with William Saville taking the Vice-Presidents Prize.

Jake Ricketts took the best putting prize, and there was also a best newcomer’s prize for Jack Marshall.

In the eight years and over group, Holly Davy won the President’s Prize.

Meanwhile, Morgan Conner claimed the Vice-President’s Prize.

Zak Coombs was the best putter, with Mia Conner taking best newcomer accolade.

All those who participated were given a certificate and a prize.