

# Sports NEWS

## Becks may go French

David Beckham is in talks with French side AS Monaco. The 37-year-old Englishman has also attracted interest from clubs in Russia and Brazil since announcing he is leaving LA Galaxy.



Gaffigan has plenty of Ironman experience. - PHOTOS: RON SHILLINGFORD



Paul Scheiner is competing.



Gill Comins will compete in the Half Iron in January.

# Half Iron will test the fittest

## SHILLINGFORD

There are so many triathletes and weekend warriors in Cayman Islands that local triathlon association created another.

The Cayman Islands Triathlon Association is staging a 2013 Mercuryman Triathlon on 20 January, starting

at the Reef Resort. The triathlon will be an extremely challenging triathlon and consists of a 1.2 mile swim, a 56 mile bike ride and a 13.1 mile run.

Athletes can also participate in the Aquabike event, which consists of a 1.2 mile swim and a 56 mile bike ride. The triathlon can be completed individually or as part of a relay team.

There is also a special corporate division for the relay teams, where all members are part of the same company.

The Mercuryman Triathlon is the only Half Iron distance triathlon in the Cayman Islands and one of only a few in the Caribbean.

Justine Plenkiewicz is one of the organisers. She said: "The event has already attracted international attention, as we are expecting at

least one professional triathlete to compete in the Half Iron distance triathlon.

"In addition, on Saturday 19 January, Sue Aquila, who is an accomplished triathlete and coach at Endurance Corner will give a free presentation about race day strategy for the Half Iron distance triathlon.

"Early entrants are Dean Gaffigan (several time Ironman finisher), Paul Scheiner (Ironman finisher and several time half Ironman finisher), Larry Walters has signed up for the Aquabike, Paul Drake, James Drury will be racing his first half Ironman, Gill Comins (several time half Ironman fin-

isher), Dave and Carol Bell and Steve Clements who is a newbie to the Islands and an experienced triathlete.

"We also have a super team consisting of Pam Abbott (swim), Steve Abbott (bike) and Dave Walker (run). Our pro triathlete is Guillerme Campos.

"We are grateful to our partners, Cayman Airways and the Reef Resort, for working with us to provide a first class event for local and visiting triathletes.

"All the details of the event can be found on our website [www.mercurymantri.com](http://www.mercurymantri.com) or on our Facebook page. We are also looking for volunteers on race day."



Justine Plenkiewicz is organising the half iron event.

# Invitation champs teed up to help kids perfect swing

Cayman's aspiring Masters champions will soon get their skills during a one-on-one golf clinic with a master instructor from the David Deerwester camp, Sean Hogan.

Hogan will be on Is-lands competing in the 2012 man Islands Golf Invitational next week and as in the past he will take time to mentor Cayman's juniors.

It wasn't until recently that young golfers even had the opportunity to work on their skills let alone be exposed to a professional coach but two years ago Jason Deerwester and Bert Chihman of the North and Club changed all that.

with the development of a junior golf programme.

North Sounds Junior Golf programme provides Cayman's juniors with clinics throughout the year as well as an intensive summer camp where problems with their play can be addressed and worked on to improve the mechanics of their game.

The children are encouraged to work on their strengths and given the guidance needed to improve on their weaknesses.

Deerwester's goal is to introduce golf as an accessible, fun sport to Cayman's younger crowd providing them with another option when it comes to after school activities.



Sean Hogan instructs a keen youngster. - PHOTOS: SHUMMITTED

"Exposing them to a professional coach only heightens their enthusiasm and it is fun to watch their competitive side come out during the clinics."



Federica Santi is a keen junior golfer.

Young golfers. Stop by the North Sound Club or contact Jason on 947-4653 for registration or for further details.

The public is also in-

cluded to attend the 2012 Cayman Islands Golf Invitational at the North Sound Club from 7-8 December. The tournament tees off at 1pm and 9am.