



SUCCESSFUL: Tae Kwon-do winners, from left, Jason Pereira (instructor), Wim Geberbauer, Sean Andrews, Stephanie Sanchez, Emile Mancera, Ricard Mancera, John Docherty and coach Joseph Sanchez.

KIDS GRAB GOLD

SOUTH London Tae Kwon-Do students fought their way to success in the 2012 UKTA English Championships in Guildford.

Their successes included one member winning the English Championship in his category.

It came in the male youth division, where Ricardo Mancera claimed the national crown by grabbing the gold medal in sparring after a series of tough fights and a bronze in patterns.

His brother Emile took a bronze medal award in sparring.

Wim Geberbauer (17) claimed an English championship by fighting his way through a tough group to win a gold in sparring and a bronze in patterns.

By JOHN HYAM

Also winning a gold in patterns was Sean Andrews. He also took home a bronze medal.

With more than 400 competitors from Great Britain and Europe taking part, the 11 competitors, who are based at the Peckham Leisure Centre and the Dulwich Hamlet Health Club, performed with distinction.

The team won 13 medals - four gold, two silver and seven bronze medals.

In the female youth division Stephanie Sanchez, 12, dominated the sparring to win a gold while nine-year-old Maria Ciortea was awarded a bronze.

In the female adult division there was a silver

for Becky Bursnoll while Alex Ciortea took the silver in sparring and Nam Tran won a bronze in sparring.

In the black belt division John Doherty won bronze medal in veteran sparring - his first competition after more than 10 years taking part in tae kwon-do training.

Instructors Jason Pereira (fourth dan) and Niilante Ogunsola (second dan) were delighted with their team's achievements as it was the first competitive event for the majority of their students.

Pereira said: "Competing in tae kwon-do brings out a person's true fighting spirit.

"It's very rewarding to watch students develop their confidence, whether they win or lose their bout."

ATHLETICS

Harriers falter at road relays

BLACKHEATH & Bromley Harriers' senior men finished 22nd in the National 12 Stage Road Relays at Sutton Park.

Their best performance came from James Poole, who moved the team up from 19th to fifth on the second leg.

Andy Rayner had got the team off to a solid start when he finished in 19th place on the opening leg.

Peter Tucker slipped to 24th on the third leg with Phil Sesemann staying there on the fourth leg.

Michael Skinner was in 18th place on the next leg, then Stephen Cavey put Blackheath in 19th place at the halfway stage.

There was little change in placing on the restart with Blackheath returning an overall time of 4hrs 29mins 34secs.

HERNE Hill Harriers U13-U15 boys' team opened their defence of the Ebbisham League championship at Sutton Arena on Saturday.

They have won the title five times in the last six seasons. The boys finished the match ahead of Croydon Harriers and Sutton & District.

There were some good results by team debutants including Sam Moody, who won the U13 boys' 800m race, Anthony Ahatty, who led home the U15 boys' 80m hurdles. Alex Graham won the B-string high jump with a 1.50m leap.

HERCULES Wimbledon AC's former English cross country champion Dave Clarke heads a record 22 club runners in the London marathon on Sunday.

Clarke, 54, will be racing in the London event for the sixth time. He goes into the race after recovering from an Achilles tendon injury.

He said: "If I get round in under three hours I'll be happy."

Paul Wignall, 58, and Frank Wood, 47, will make their marathon debuts on Sunday. Wignall ran 2hrs 51mins 6secs in last year's Edinburgh marathon. Wood has completed marathon courses in Nottingham and Stratford-on-Avon.

Dennis Williams, 66, has missed only one London marathon since it started. He will be competing for the 31st time.

TENNIS

Chloe's mixed form in titles

CHLOE Halliday, photo, won a title for host club Westside LTC at the club's annual week-long Easter Classic junior tournament which attracted a strong entry of young prospects, writes Mike Sinclair.

The 15-year-old, who has played in Westside's senior ladies in the AEGON National League, won the 16-and-under girls singles final and was runner-up in the 18-and-under event.

Halliday overcame third seed Kristen Venter, of St George's Hill, Weybridge, in the 16-and-under final after losing the opening set 6-2. She battled back to win the second 6-1, forcing a deciding champions tie-break, which she took 10-0.

In the 18-and-under final, Halliday went down 10-5 to Gabbi Webb, of Putney, in the shoot-out. She won the first set 6-2 then lost the second 6-4 after holding a 4-1 lead.



Westside men's first team, depleted by injuries and illness, just lost out at Virgin Active Brighton in the South East South division of the AEGON National League.

James Silvester and Rob Conroy were Westside's winners as the singles finished 2-2.

Silvester and Steven Tart then tied the match at 3-3 to force a champions tie-break shoot-out which the

Brighton club won to take the match 4-3.

The ladies first team, who had convincingly beaten Wimbledon in their opening AEGON match, lost 6-0 away to Cumberland LTC.

CATFORD Wanderers' promoted mixed second team were given a sharp warning of what faces them in the Kent North League this season as they lost 6-0 to visitors Hartley Country Club on Saturday, writes Denis Costelloe.

The visitors fielded a strong side which included Lewisham's current British number 35 Jason Barnett.

He partnered Carmen Lewis and they easily beat Catford's Andy Hellier and Sue Rice-Vine 6-1 6-1.

They did a similar job on Dean Smith and Janice Reid with a comfortable 6-0 6-4 victory.

There were also defeats for Wanderers' other pairs.

TROPHIES: Cambridge Harriers winning walkers, left to right, Heather Butcher, Indigo Burgin, Sophie Lewis Ward and Evie Butcher



Girl walkers scoop five honours

CAMBRIDGE Harriers young race walkers, photo, came away with three individual medals and a team title from the National Young Age Group Road Race Walking Championships at Hainault on Saturday.

In the U15 girls' 3k event, Heather Butcher retained the title in 15mins 30secs.

Sophie Lewis Ward won her first national medal when finishing second in 17min 19secs.

Indigo Burgin was the third scorer for the team finishing in 18mins 39secs to give Cambridge Harriers the team title.

In the U13 girls' race, Evie Butcher won her first national medal when placing second in 12 mins 1sec.

Heather Butcher said: "I started off too fast

and made myself tense and slowed a bit. But I improved my time by half a minute on last year."

Lewis Ward commented: "For the first two-thirds of the race I stayed behind Rebecca Chambers of the City of Sheffield AC team and kept the pace continuous. But after 2k I overtook her and finished in second position."

Another of the Cambridge squad, Indigo Burgin commented: "For the whole 3k I was at the back as everyone else went off fast and just one minute under my personal best."

Evie Butcher was also delighted with her first national medal for second place in the 2k race.

She said: "I started at the back, then caught Laura Achurch and then managed to overtake her for second. It was good race to take part in."