

SPORT



Newham & Essex Beagles face the camera at the first meeting of the new Met League Season. Picture: NEWHAM & ESSEX BEAGLES

Shiret confident Beagles can build on strong first meeting of new Met League season

Tony Shiret was pleased with Newham & Essex Beagles' third-placed finish in the Division Two team standings at the first race of this year's Start Fitness Metropolitan Cross-Country League season.

In the opening event in Claybury, Beagles were only beaten by London City and London Heathside 'B' after taking 878 points.

Eoin Pierce (26 minutes and 30 seconds), Luke Conway (27.00), Christian von Eitzen (27.53), Alex Cameron (28.54), Wayne Bell (29.03), Nick Armstrong (29.22) and Victor Nutakor (29.25) helped Beagles to a good points haul.

And Shiret was content with the opening to the new campaign, particularly owing to testing circumstances in Claybury.

"On balance, I'm pleased with how Saturday went. It was very

Athletics

hot and one of the women in the senior race fainted, so there was a delay of about an hour that led to a couple of our runners dropping out," he said.

"If we had been able to put a full squad out, we would have won the opening meet.

"Division Two has been a tough division for us to get out of, but we've started well and we need to push on.

"It's important to get a lot of points when you have good availability and hopefully we can make good on our solid start."

Pierce led Newham home in 10th with Conway not far behind in 16th, and Shiret was pleased with their performances.

"Eoin didn't expect to do as well as he did and he started cautiously because of the heat,"

added Shiret. "He's been running well in recent weeks and enjoys running when the ground is hard.

"Luke ran well too and it was a great debut from Christian, who showed he's a good runner. It was a good day in general for us with some good showings."

In addition to the seniors, Shiret also had praise for two of the club's younger athletes.

Kevin Jake-Richards was 12th in the under-11 boys' race in 6.04, while Olivia Tinubu, an under-15 runner, clocked 21.52 in the junior women's race, leading Shiret to predict a bright future for the pair.

"Kevin ran well and he finished like Usain Bolt! He ran beautifully and could be a real talent, so we expect there is more to come from him," he added.

"Olivia also ran her race very well too, so there were some pleasing youth results."

sport

Taekwondo

Christian McNeish is getting ready for another big event after Great Britain confirmed their 16-strong squad for the World Taekwondo Grand Prix.

This fourth series of the competition will take place in Manchester this weekend with the action getting underway on Friday (October 19).

Plaistow-born McNeish will

again compete in the under-68kg category and look to enjoy success after quarter-final appearances in earlier events.

After reaching the last-16 of the Grand Prix competition in Rome in June, the east Londoner followed this up with a decent showing in the second series in Moscow.

McNeish made it through to the quarter-finals in August, but

fell short against home favourite Alexey Denisenko.

It was a similar story in the third series in Taoyuan when the former St Bonaventure's pupil again reached the last eight, but couldn't earn a shot at a podium finish.

Iran's Mirhashem Hosseini proved too strong, but back on home soil this time around, McNeish will target success.

Boxing

After a ring career of less than 30 contests - just a dozen amateur bouts and 16 pro outings - Anthony Yarde wants a world title.

The big-hitter is now rated number two in the WBO light-heavyweight rankings and faces his 17th contest at Brentwood on Saturday.

And he said: "I could win a world title now.

"It's not just reaching world title level - staying there is my target."

Having just been appointed a global ambassador for Adidas sportswear, the Ilford puncher, who is trained at Canning Town's Peacock gym, heads a quality Frank Warren show which also features undefeated local prospects Umar Sadiq, Lucien Reid and Hamzah Sheeraz.

Yarde, who has halted 15 of his 16 victims, is matched with tough Argentinian rival Walter Sequeira on Saturday after six scheduled opponents turn down the fight.

Bigger money fights are ahead and Yarde says he will welcome a showdown duel

with big South London rival Joshua Buatsi.

He added: "That fight will keep, if we both stay unbeaten it will be massive down the line."

Another eagerly awaited clash between unbeaten London prospects does take place on Saturday when local super-middleweight Umar Sadiq (three wins) faces Zak Chelli (four wins).

Chelli's aggressive style can overwhelm his opponents but stylist Sadiq predicted: "I will take him to school."

Two other hopeful punchers are looking to maintain their unbeaten records at Brentwood, with former West Ham BC captain Lucien Reid campaigning at super-bantamweight and the six foot-plus super-welterweight teenager Hamzah Sheeraz a big local ticket seller.

A British title fight between Gary Corcoran and Johnny Garton, plus fights featuring Bradley Skeete, Nathan Gorman and Boy Jones junior, add further appeal to the Warren show which is being screened on BT Sport.

Boxing



West Ham's Miley Cash, Esharveer Singh Gill and Kerim Kilinc all won.

West Ham Boys had plenty to cheer in the ring during a busy week.

Four club youngsters took on White Hart Lane rivals at Tottenham, with three making their debuts.

And West Ham celebrated a hat-trick of victories, as Esharveer Singh Gill and Miley Cash beat Michael Casey and Patrick McDonagh on unanimous points.

Kerim Kilinc stopped Mahmoud Kizk in the third round of their contest, but James Friend lost to Joseph McDonagh on a split decision, with the two set for a rematch next week.

Jordon Dujon moved into the semi-finals of the National Development Championships with a comfortable win over the previously unbeaten



Vernon Henry (Essex Uni).

And Omar Jamal opened his West Ham account with a win over Guildford's John Spillane at Five Star ABC.

Joshua Jarvis lost a split decision to Sudbury boxer Scott Stanard in a tight bout at Cambridge.