

Beagles in tribute to legend Ohuruogu as well as their athletics stars of the future

Athletics

Newham & Essex Beagles legend Christine Ohuruogu was given a special thank you at the club's Annual General Meeting on Friday night.

The former Olympic and world champion, who retired from competitive athletics earlier in the year, was a special guest at the AGM.

And the club celebrated her 18 years of service to the Beagles after her illustrious career for club and country, with Ohuruogu already the club president and a life member.

Ohuruogu tweeted her delight, posting: "Thank you @beaglesAC you have been with me on my journey from the start. Looking forward to continuing the journey as president!"

While one of the veterans of the club was presented with a special portrait on the night, some of the younger athletes also received awards for their efforts during the 2018 season.

Mayowa Osunsami had a brilliant summer and was given an award for his leadership skills for the Youth Development League upper age group team of which he was the captain.

For the lower age group, the trophy went to the under-13 boys' 4x100m relay team.

The team of Noah Hanson, Omari Watson, Ossari Acquah and Nathaniel Hanson, topped the UK rankings for the event.

They broke the YDL record and also won the British Club Connect relay at the Muller Anniversary Games thanks to a new personal best time of 48.70 seconds.

It has been another successful season for the Beagles in the upper echelons of the sport and they were all thanked for their efforts at the AGM.

Asha Philip, Nethaneel



Former Olympic champion Christine Ohuruogu received a special presentation at the Newham & Essex Beagles AGM, where Mayowa Osunsami (below) and the under-13 boys' 4x100m relay squad (bottom) won awards. Pictures: NEB

Mitchell-Blake, Rabah Yousif and Finnette Agyapong all did superbly, while there was also Karl Johnson's success in the European Junior Championships to celebrate.

And in the English Schools' Championships, Aaron Ashmeade-Shoye, Theo Fadayiro and Johnson once again put in excellent performances on the national stage.



Boxing



Anthony Yarde. Picture: PA

Power-puncher Anthony Yarde has demolished most of his 17 victims at venues around east London, but now looks to the west coast of America for win number 18 on Saturday night.

The Peacock Gym-based light heavyweight still waits for his opponent to be confirmed on the undercard of Deontay Wilder's WBC world heavyweight title defence against Tyson Fury as Los Angeles' Staples Center.

It is a second US visit for the explosive Yarde following on from his 2016 trip to Texas, where he crushed Rayford Johnson in the first round on the night of Liam Smith's WBO world super welterweight title defence against Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez.

"I've experienced the fight scene in the USA before and it is something I cannot wait to sample again," commented Yarde, who has stopped 16 rivals.

"To be a part of such a huge occasion like this will be something else and it will only inspire me to create nights like this for myself in the future.

"These are the events you can only dream of being a part

of and I am looking forward to showcasing my talents to the American public.

"This sort of exposure can only help me for when the time is right for me to be challenging for and winning world titles."

Tunde Ajayi, who is Yarde's manager and trainer, added: "We have put a lot into the sport since before Anthony came into professional boxing and from that point to where we are now has been constant work.

"I just feel that his hard work warrants being involved on such a great card."

It looks set to be a big weekend for Yarde.

*Cruiserweight Mark Little, a worker at Newham's Tate & Lyle factory, looks for his 10th straight win at York Hall on Saturday.

Little faces Lithuanian Dimitrij Kalinovskij on a 17-bout bill topped by the English light-heavyweight title fight between Miles Shinkwin and Joel McIntyre.

*Fairbairn's Joshua Gustave will compete in the NACYP finals in Manchester on Thursday after beating Wales' Will Harding in their semi-final.

Boxing

Cruiserweight Tony Conquest travels to Florence looking for a win to rank among the best of his nine-year pro career on Friday.

Conquest faces powerful Italian prospect Fabio Turchi, 25, who is unbeaten in 15 fights, for the WBC International Silver cruiserweight title in Italy.

And the 34-year-old former Commonwealth titleholder, who is unbeaten since 2014, aims to boost his fighting future with a good win against a powerful rival who has 11 wins inside the distance.

Conquest has lost just two of his 20 contests as a pro and the Matchroom bill will be screened on Sky Sports and features championship action for super-featherweight Martin J Ward.

Former European champion Ward faces Italian Devis Boschiero for the vacant WBC International Silver super-featherweight title.

And Ward, looking to bounce back from his lone pro defeat in 23 fights in May when he was beaten by Irish rival James Tennyson, should put another win on his record on Friday.