

SPORT

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Boxing

Newham-based boxers Daniel Dubois and Ohara Davies were on opposite ends of points wins at Leicester on Saturday - with contrasting reactions.

Heavyweight Dubois wants to keep busy after accepting his first decision following eight straight knockout wins, but super-lightweight Ohara was angered by his first points loss, dropping a unanimous decision to Jack Catterall in a dull 12-rounder.

"It was a complete robbery, I won the fight by out-jabbing him in every round," said Davies following the WBO Inter-Continental title clash.

Most ringsiders disagreed with one judge who scored Catterall a 118-110 winner but there were few arguing against the two judges who favoured the undefeated southpaw 115-113.

Davies' only previous defeat in 20 fights was a thriller against Scot Josh Taylor but Saturday's setback came in a boring bout when the fighter based at the West Ham gym, hardly used his usually lethal right-hand punch.

"I was winning the fight with my left. I did not need to throw the right," added Davies who told promoter Frank Warren he wants to take six months away from boxing after the defeat.

By contrast 21-year-old Dubois wants more fights this year after a one-sided points win over American veteran Kevin Johnson.

"I'm learning all the time," said the six foot five inch 17-stone giant, trained by Martin Bowers at the Peacock gym.

"The ten rounds against an experienced campaigner like Kevin Johnson was great for me," added Dubois, who won nine of 10 rounds according to referee Shaun Messer.

American Johnson is a regular survivor - stopped just twice in a 15-year career against top heavyweights - and stayed upright, absorbing a barrage of solid jabs, hooks and uppercuts that the powerful Dubois threw.

"Daniel is a strong youngster. Not the heaviest puncher I've faced but he is a solid hitter and is being brought along well," said the 39-year-old Johnson.

*Newham cruiserweight Robin Dupre faces unbeaten rival Chris Billam-Smith on the Cyclone promotion topped by a Commonwealth title clash between Lee McGregor and Thomas Essomba at York Hall on Saturday.



The Beagles team at the six-stage road relay in Birmingham with team captain Wayne Bell.

Picture: NEB

Beagles slip to 26th in road relay championships despite superb run by John Beattie

Athletics

DAVE EVANS

dave.evans@archant.co.uk

Newham & Essex Beagles had to settle for 26th place out of the 76 complete teams at the National six-stage road relay at Sutton Park on Saturday.

Last year at the same venue they had battled to a superb eighth position, but despite an excellent start from John Beattie, things did not go so well this time round.

"We did well up to halfway, but trailed off a little for the last three," said team manager Tony Shiret.

"Luke Conway is just coming back from an injury, while Dale Clutterbuck has just been on holiday, so it was always going to be tough.

"They came along and competed which was good, but if you want to compete with the best teams and make the top 10, you need to be strong all the way through."

Beattie was certainly strong as he got the Beagles underway on the first leg in style.

"Fair play to John," added Shiret. "He came along and wanted to run fast and run the first leg as it is always hot.

"He led until the last mile when he was overtaken by some really quick runners, but he managed a good time."



Beagles opening runner John Beattie ran an excellent leg to be the 13th fastest runner on the day.

Picture: NEB

That time of 17mins 21secs was the 13th fastest of all on the day and he handed over to Rory Chesser in fifth place.

Chesser was about 10 seconds down on his usual time as he clocked 18.39 to hand over in 15th, while Eoin Pierce lifted the team to 14th at halfway with 18.12.

"Some teams top load their team and others put their stronger runners at the end and we did the former," said Shiret.

It certainly looked like it as Luke Conway saw the team drop to 21st with his 19.16, while Will Rial's fifth-leg run of 19.15 left them in 23rd.

Dale Clutterbuck was on the

last leg and managed 19.54 which left them in 26th, three minutes down on last year and over seven minutes behind champions Stockport Harriers.

"It was disappointing to finish there, but we were missing a couple of runners and it probably cost us as much as seven minutes," said Shiret.

Next up for Shiret and his team is the Met League cross-country which begins at Claybury Park in Woodford this Saturday.

"We were hoping to get out some younger runners in the age groups, but it may be a little early for that," said Shiret. "But we will give it a go as always."

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Athletics

Newham & Essex Beagles youngsters seem to be thriving at their new track next to the London Stadium.

Club chairperson Tony Shiret was overseeing coaching at the Stratford track on Sunday and was impressed by what he saw.

"There were about 35 youngsters there on Sunday which is good, but we are looking to attract a lot more," he said.

"We split them into two groups, the year one to five where we had between 20 and 30 in attendance, and the year six to eight group where we had a bit less.

"I think some are certainly attracted by the new facilities and we make sure they try a lot of different disciplines."

That means not just sprinting, which the Beagles are famous for, as there is also field events and coach George Choa is there to look out for more talent in the longer distance disciplines.

The cost is £5 per child, per session and starts at 10am for the younger group and 10.30am for the older ones.

Handball

London GD play Livingston in a highly anticipated European Handball Federation Challenge Cup second-round tie this weekend.

The men's match, dubbed the 'Battle of Britain' will be the first between English and Scottish clubs in European Handball competition.

The two teams met in the British Championships in May when GD, the Premier League champions and National Cup winners, lost 29-26 in the semi-final. The Scottish club then lost to Glasgow in the final.

The home and away ties will be played at Medway Park in Gillingham, Kent and Miguel Puig, head coach of the Copper Box-based GD squad, said: "Livingston HC will make things difficult for us as demonstrated in Edinburgh last May.

"There is no doubt they're one of the best British teams at the moment. Their fast game and quality young players are the main assets of the Scottish squad.

"A couple of long-term injuries, several leavers and a change of head coach won't make our aspirations lower. We'll aim to win every national competition again and go as far as possible in the European Challenge Cup."