

Seni07 A SMASHING SUCCESS

Newham played host to a preview of the Olympic combat sports at the prestigious Seni07 Expo.

One of the world's largest martial arts and combat sports exhibitions, Seni debuted at ExCeL London this year after many years at the Birmingham NEC.

In what proved to be one of the biggest events in the borough so far this year, the council worked closely with the organisers and local clubs to help deliver some breathtaking displays.

The Newham Borough Amateur Boxing Association Challenge saw some talented youngsters competing. This took place in the show's main Toe to Toe Arena where the professional promotion, broadcast live on Sky, was staged.

Undaunted by their surroundings, the boxers from Peacock, East Ham, West Ham and Newham Amateur Boxing

Clubs (ABCs) ensured that the bouts were worthy of the spectacular arena.


Over in the council's Olympic Youth Zone, the crowds were treated to some formidable displays of skill and determination in combat sports. The Gurumu Taekwondo Club soon drew a crowd with their extravagant displays. Stratford Judo Club continued the action with a very high tempo display from students of all ages. And Olympic Taekwondo gold medallist Michail Mouroutsos provided a masterclass training session. Day two got off to a rousing start with West Ham ABC delivering a slick routine. They finished off by inviting people onto the arena to partake in pad work and skills drills.

Newham Swords Fencing Club provided a nice contrast by demonstrations involving some of their senior fencers including chief instructor and former Great Britain representative Linda Strachan.

There were more amateur boxing displays to close the show, this time provided by the Peacock ABC from Canning Town. They, like West Ham, had a very successful weekend. The action was briefly interrupted by an impromptu appearance by former Olympian Denise Lewis.

Councillor Jon Knott, who went along, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for local clubs to showcase themselves on a national stage.

"It was particularly appropriate as Newham will be the home of the Olympic boxing and martial arts events in 2012."



Taekwondo gold medallist Michail Mouroutsos gives a masterclass