



Children show enthusiasm for wallball



■ **'FANTASTIC EVENT':** Children have a go at wallball

WALLBALL

UK Wallball president Daniel Grant was delighted with the positive impact his sport made as Merchant Taylors' School, in Northwood, hosted the WPH UK Wallball Open.

Grant, who lives in Pinner, combined his duties of event organiser and wallball star to put on a showcase for the sport and claim third spot in the men's open competition on Saturday.

He said: "I am so proud Northwood has been able to host such a fantastic event. In truth, even with some elite internationals present, the youngsters made the tournament. Their constant energy and enthusiasm throughout the weekend was so encouraging for the future of this sport

"Any time there was a break in play and a free court opened up, it would be swarmed by seven or eight kids each trying to get more time playing. With the easy accessibility and low costs of wallball it is a great game for inner cities, so I hope that as the sport grows this will be a common scene throughout the country."

More than 100 entrants, coming from as far afield as Canada, meant the competition was the biggest ever European Open wallball event.

Wallball is a fast but simple sport where players compete against each other by hitting a ball against a wall with their hands.

The sport was selected as a demonstration sport for the 2013 World Games in Colombia and there is a strong belief that it will become one of the highest participation sports in the country over the next 20 years, underlined by full inclusion in the next World Games, taking place in 2017.

In excess of 50 of the entrants competed in the youth categories and were given a 45-minute masterclass by men's open champion Vlad Klym (USA) and runner-up Luke Thomson (GB) along with Dutch internationals Miranda Sheffer and Hans Wassenaar.

A new club night is starting from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday nights at Merchant Taylors' School, perfect for beginners.

Visit www.ukwallball.co.uk.