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Great kick start for lads

09 March 2007



The motor team proudly showing their certificates at the end of the course

KEEPING youths off the streets proved easy for one Safer Neighbourhood Team - they picked an activity the teenagers were actually interested in.

Twelve determined young men have just completed a five-week course learning how mopeds work and how they should be driven.

The Thames Ward's community police team organised the initiative, which saw the boys gain their completion certificates on Thursday, March 1.

Team leader, Sgt Simon Whalley explained: "The boys have loved the course, they really got a lot out of it.

"We've already got 40 names on our list for the future - we just hope we can get the funding to do this again."

The weekly workshops were held at the Curzon Community Club, in Bastable Avenue, under the tuition of Mark Riches of Orbit Training.

Sgt Whalley added: "Each week we had lots of youngsters turning up to have a chat and see what was going on.

"We had some girls signing up for future courses and others asking about possible beauty courses, while many boys were looking for advice on getting into the forces.

"I'm happy to provide anything I can for them if I can get the funding.

"It's been a unique, informal opportunity for these youngsters to approach and open up to us - which is a really good thing."

Anyone who can provide funding should contact Sgt Whalley on (020) 8649 3529.

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