

Two local boxers celebrated winning debuts at the first charity boxing show to be hosted by the Prince of Wales Youth Club on Friday.

A capacity crowd at the Canterbury Rotary-promoted event was treated to 12 junior and youth bouts and one senior contest, with four POW boxing academy fighters on view, one of whom was involved in the evening's most entertaining contest.

Alfie Sutcliffe dominated an all-action fight against Archie Wilkinson, from the Rumbles Club, Sittingbourne, although Wilkinson showed great pluck as he constantly tried to move forward against a persistent assault from the Canterbury youngster.

After sustaining a bloody nose and taking a standing count in round two, the Sittingbourne boxer was trapped in a corner by Sutcliffe in round three and referee Geoff Cannell stepped in to call a halt to proceedings.

Earlier, Joe Procter had launched his career in impressive fashion with a unanimous points decision over John Friend from West Kingsdown.

The POW boxer was slightly taller than his opponent and put his height and reach to good use to outbox Friend who did, however, put up game resistance.

POW's other winner, Henry Skinner, was also having his first bout and looked evenly matched against Kai Langford, from Kent Gloves BC, Gillingham, in the early stages of their bout.

But his greater strength and technique began to tell as the fight progressed and his supremacy grew in the second round, culminating in a standing count and stoppage.

Sonny Nash, from POW, was perhaps a little unfortunate to finish on the wrong end of a split decision against George Evans, of St Mary's BC, Chatham.

Both fighters boxed well but although Nash had the slightly longer reach, he was unable to pick off Evans with any regularity and the Chatham boy managed to get inside to land enough blows to sway two of the three judges.

Aylesham's Jake Killip made short work of his Earlsfield opponent, Marley Watts, forcing the referee to intervene with a standing count midway through the first round and bringing the bout to an abrupt end shortly after with a flurry of well-directed blows that left Watts unable to defend himself.

Thirteen bouts provided great entertainment for an enthusiastic audience and the evening was well-managed by referee Cannell, who demonstrated excellent judgement in stopping contests to prevent unnecessary punishment.

MC was rotarian Peter Hermitage and sporting guests who helped make the presentations of the City Awards-sponsored trophies included former West Indies Test cricketer John Shepherd and ex-professional boxer Johnny Kramer, three times southern welterweight and twice southern middleweight champion, who fought on the Muhammad Ali-Henry Cooper bill at Highbury in 1966.

Results

Junior novice skills bouts: Ewan Hickson (Rusthall) fought Mark Butler (Rumbles); Aston Watson (St Mary's) fought Hayden Rafter (Chadwell St Mary's).

Junior and youth bouts: Sonny Nash (POW) lost to George Evans (St Mary's), majority decision; Harry Boutell (Rusthall) lost to Olly Jerry (Hastings), maj dec; Joe Procter (POW) beat John Friend (West Kingsdown), unanimous decision; Alfie Sutcliffe (POW) beat Archie Wilkinson (Rumbles), referee stopped fight in 3rd round; Titian Kinsrisuk (Chadwell St Mary's) beat Jesse Smith (Westhill), maj dec; Harry Hill (Tenterden) beat Charlie Warren (St Mary's), maj dec; Jake Killip (Aylesham) beat Marley Watts (Earlsfield), rsf 1st; Charlie Coglan (Westhill) lost to Caspian Reynolds (Gurkhas), rsf 1st; Henry Skinner (POW) beat Kai Langford (Kent Gloves) rsf 2nd; Andrew Corbyn (Earlsfield) lost to Zac Rodgers (West Kingsdown), maj dec.

Senior bout: Luke Ransley (Rumbles) lost to Simon Briggs (West Kingsdown), rsf 2nd.

Judges: Ian Bourner, Wayne Armstrong, Kev O'Rourke.

Timekeeper: Kev O'Rourke; assistant Richie Goodfellow.