



Matt Devito was the only London canoeist to finish in an event hit by wind and rain

Canoeist wins out against weather in gruelling event

A TEENAGER was left flying the flag for London in a gruelling canoe event on the River Wye in Wales.

Matt Devito, 15, was the only London representative to finish the 100-mile event.

The teenager, from Welling, was a member of the four-strong team from Danson Youth Centre, Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, who took part in the annual 100 Mile Canoe Test.

The event was organised by the British Canoe Union.

Rain and strong winds meant weather condi-

tions were the worst in the event's 45-year history and many of the teams, from all over England, gave up the struggle.

Matt and Danson team member Harry Norris, 15, persevered but Harry was forced to give up with 23 miles to go.

Not only did Matt complete the challenge, he also raised nearly £200 for the Greenwich and Bexley Cottage Hospice.

The Danson team is already making plans for next year's event, which will be held on the River Severn.