

The Tour of Britain riders covered a total of 744.2 miles over eight

# Handball champs get set for world tournament

**A LAMBETH handball player is heading to the US to take part in the world championships this month.**

Andy Pringle, from Clapham, is part of the England Handball team that is set to take part in the Handball World Championships in Portland, Oregon. A total of 12 players will be taking part for the England team and they will be coming up against teams from across the world.



Handballer: Andy Pringle.

Andy said the team, currently rated sixth in the world, is hoping to break into the top five and that the world championships would be the perfect place to do it. He said: "It's a

relatively new sport in this country – no one on the team has been playing for more than three years, and I only started playing 18 months ago. Most of the players started playing a game called fives, which is basically squash without the racquets. We started to play handball because it's a sport that's recognised around the world and it gave us a chance to compete in international competitions."

The team played in the Irish National Championships earlier this year and Andy won his category. He is hoping to carry on that good form in the US where the team will also be competing in the Federations Cup, a ranking event that could see the team break into the top five.

The sport's governing body in England is also keen to see more people take up the sport and is encouraging schools to get involved. Andy said: "We train in West London but I would like to see us become more active in south London and Lambeth. Handball England has gone into schools around where we train to show the sport to around 400 children and it would be great if we could get Lambeth schools to take up the sport.

"In the US the Government has ranked it as the best sport for cardio-vascular workout. The winner is the player who scores the most points in a set time, so when time is running out it gets very fast and frantic.

"The great thing about the game is that you don't need a great deal of kit – anyone can play with a wall and ball."