

Policeman leads youngsters in martial arts charity challenge.

A LEEDS bobby swapped the beat for a charity fight fest after heading up a sponsored punchathon and kickathon enjoyed by dozens of kids.

PC Dave Brook, based in Chapeltown, led the challenge after setting up a martial arts school to keep kids off the street.

More than 40 youngsters took part to raise cash for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and to buy the club a new punchbag for training.

And to spotlight the plight of the blind, they all wore sight-restricting glasses.

The PC opened the school in the heart of the Gledhow and Roundhay area to get young people to learn Kushinkai Karate for free.

He said: "The group has gone from strength to strength in so many ways.

"These kids are learning how satisfying it feels to help others and are not wasting their time hanging around the streets.

"They are so enthusiastic and rise to every challenge. When we came up with the idea of the sight restricting glasses all were quick to sign up."