



► **RACE DAY:** Competition was fierce among the drivers on the Rye House kart track.

Photos: GEOFF GARFIELD



Fun had by all as brokers make



► **PETROL HEADS:** Drivers challenge for position during the racing at Rye House kart track.



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It was billed as adrenaline-filled fun — whitewater rafting at the purpose-built London 2012 Olympic site a few miles from the capital and then kart racing at the track where 2008 Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton learned his trade.

Around 35 brokers and bankers arrived as guests of demolition

cash-buyer Mideast Shipping & Trading.

Mideast general manager Steve Wansell and wife Sarah put together an action-packed day that saw some of the leading names in demolition broking take a soaking and come out smiling.

They started the day at the Lea Valley White Water Centre by putting on wet suits and then being asked to throw themselves into the water as part of a pre-

liminary safety exercise. Everyone floated.

Then the real thing: whitewater rafting in large inflatables looks easy standing on the bank but take to the water and it's a different story.

Some of the inflatables flipped over but everyone survived the gruelling test of stamina to beat a hasty retreat to the affluent Hanbury Manor Hotel & Country Club for lunch.



► **ORGANISERS:** Sarah and Steve Wansell put together the action-packed day.



► **SHABBIR BAIG:** The owner of Mideast Shipping & Trading flew in from Dubai to take part.



► **ALL SMILES:** Guests also enjoyed getting to grips with the London Olympics whitewater rafting venue.



a splash and live life in fast lane

But there was only a brief respite before they moved on to Rye House Kart Raceway for an afternoon and evening of racing.

With no speed cameras in sight the “boys and one girl racer” [Jas Viridi from St Kitts & Nevis ship register] threw caution to the wind in pursuit of the Mideast Challenge Cup and Mideast Plate spoils.

Konstantin Oetker of Platou took the Challenge Cup honours,

followed by James Wansell and Tom Westerling of Howe Robinson, while Robert Reid of Simpson Spence & Young raced to the Plate title, with HSBC banker Pietro Intranova second and Martin Baber of Joachim Grieg third.

Young James Wansell quietly collected his trophy and, rather wisely, said little about beating his father, Steve. In the final, he completed 38 laps in a staggering 29 minutes.

With one broker bringing along his Aston Martin to the day’s events, maybe James will be one day tempted to get into shipping.

Mideast’s owner and managing director, Shabbir Baig, travelled from Dubai to take part in the day’s fun, as did Eric Pierot — the son of New York broker Chris Pierot — who took a break from his university studies to cross the Atlantic for the day’s events.



► **ADRENALINE JUNKIES:** It is all smiles as guests get stuck into the Lea Valley White Water Centre, the London 2012 whitewater venue, while more drivers jostle for position at Rye House kart track.



► **VICTORY LANE:** Platou’s Konstantin Oetker (centre) took the karting honours in the Mideast Challenge Cup, closely followed by Tom Westerling (left) of Howe Robinson and James Wansell (right).



► **WINNERS:** (From left) The Mideast Plate final top three of Martin Baber of Joachim Grieg (third), Robert Reid of Simpson Spence & Young (first) and Pietro Intranova of HSBC (second) at the Rye House kart racing.



► **PIT STOP:** Some of the karters take a well-earned break.