

Youths show skills to win medals

A BRITISH Olympic team has won ten medals in testing international competition — in the Youth Skills Olympics.

The 26-strong team took on the rest of the world to bring home two gold, three silver and five bronze medals from the 29th International Youth Skills Olympics, in Sydney, Australia.

The competitors, all apprentices, were tested on their professional skills, ranging from heavy engineering to dressmaking.

Gold medallists were Paul Blake (21) from Bristol, who

triumphed in the stonemasonry competition, and Andrew Delaney (21) from Sutton Coldfield, in the auto mechanics section.

Silver medals went to Jonathan Firth (21) of Camarthen (plastering); Anita Khandke (18) of Bedford (women's hairdressing); and Gary Taylor (18) of Brighouse, West Yorkshire (men's hairdressing).

Bronze medal winners were Ian Smith (21), of Donington, Lincolnshire, (plumbing); Andrew Fitch (21) of Lowdham, Nottinghamshire, (electrical wiring); Graham Russel (19) of

Whitecraig Crescent, Musselburgh, East Lothian, (painting and decorating); Matthew Rohan (21) of Norton, North Yorkshire (joinery); and Katherine Forster (21) of Hitchin, Hertfordshire (garment production).

Mr Alan Hughes, spokesman for Skill-UK, which organises the British entry, said the triumph was the best overall performance by a British team for 20 years.

"The British team generally perform well but to have such a rash of medals is outstanding."