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Cutting the competition

A CHEERY call to PEOPLE yesterday brought news of British medals in the Olympics at last - the Skill Olympics, that is, in Australia. The call came from an elated Glyn Taylor of Brighouse, having learned that son Gary, 18, won the silver medal for men's hairdressing at the International Youth Skill Olympics in Sydney at the weekend.

Gary, who is following father's footsteps, and Matthew Rohan, of Norton, near Malton, who won the bronze for joinery, were the two Yorkshire successes in the United Kingdom team of 26 which collected two gold, three silver and four bronze medals. They faced more than 400 youngsters from all over the world, in some 40 different skills ranging from heavy engineering to garment-making.

"Gary rang us from Australia on Saturday after two days of competition, when he still had two days to do, and said it was absolutely murder in the heat. It was 104 degrees on the floor because it was so warm and they had all the hair-dryers going. But we won't know any more until he comes home next week" said his father.

His son has swept all before him on his way to a place in the UK team, beginning two years ago by winning the British College Hairdressing Championships, and then, as the youngest competitor, helping the Great Britain junior team to a bronze medal, its highest place ever, in the world championships 18 months ago.