



■ **ROWING FOR IT:** The championships were held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Here we row

LANGLEY Academy has paid tribute to a dual Olympic gold medallist and its former director of rowing with a sporting performance at the British Indoor Rowing Championships (BIRC).

Academy coaches Peter Blewett and Joanne Warner led a team of 13 pupils to the event, which is held annually at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham and also raises money for forces' charity Help For Heroes.

Mr Blewett said it was the team's first time at BIRC and its first outing without Andy Holmes, who died in October aged 51 after contracting rare

waterborne disease leptospirosis, also known as Weil's disease.

Katie Long won a silver medal in the J12 section in a field of 88 competitors. Junior girls Katie Long, Catherine St Ledger, Erin Simmonds and Samantha Luther also came fifth overall in the team event. Mr Holmes won a gold medal in the coxed four rowing at the 1984 Olympics, and another gold in the coxless pair event at the 1988 Games.

Mr Blewett added that The Langley Academy was in its third year of operation and that rowing was one of its speciality sports.



■ **ALL IN A ROW:** Langley Academy students (in foreground) compete at the British Indoor Rowing Championships