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Issue 8
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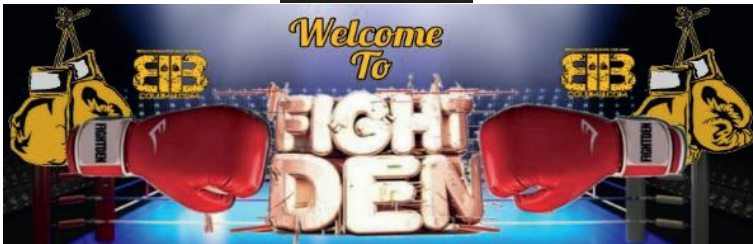
Issue 8

Welcome to the eighth issue of the BBColumn magazine, we are the biggest boxing website in Birmingham and the Black Country and are committed to reporting on all aspects of the noble art in our area. In the quarterly magazine you will find reports on all the professional shows from the last 3 month's that have happened in Birmingham and the Black Country. We also have interviews and in-depth report's on some of the top fighters in the Midlands and also pick out some of the top prospects to look out for.

We hope you enjoy reading the article's and reports which have been re-edited from our website to give you a hard copy of what we do. We would love to get your feed back so please feel free to contact us via email - or via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Also if you would like to advertise in the magazine or on the website please contact us via the same channels.

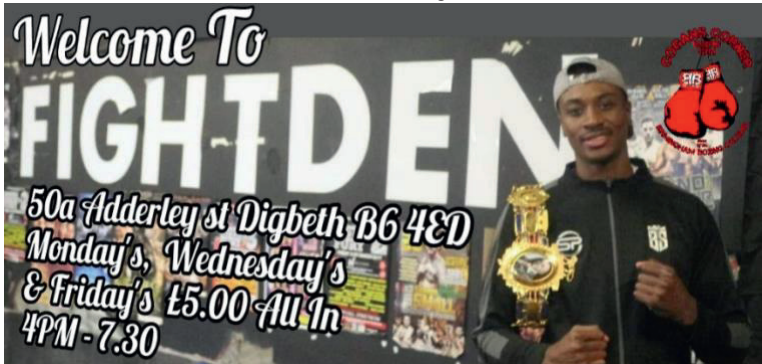
Once again thank you for reading the magazine and please continue to check out bbcolum.com for all your boxing news in Birmingham and the Black Country

Bbcolum.com



Welcome to Fightden

Welcome to Fightden is the flagship show on the Birmingham Boxing Column's YouTube channel. Dexter Hastings has interviewed some of the top fighters in Birmingham and the Black Country which includes the likes of Sam Eggington, Craig Cunningham, Tommy Langford and Frankie Gavin. With over 100 shows behind him Dexter has established the show as a must see for Midlands boxing fans.



To check out all the interviews please go to our YouTube site [Birmingham Boxing Column](https://www.youtube.com/BirminghamBoxingColumn)

DEXTER HASTINGS



Been reffing unlicensed and White Collar for over 10 years
reffed some of the biggest shows in Birmingham &
the Black Country, Fightden, FLUK, TST, Showdown,
Southpaw Promotions and a few other smaller
shows. Always call it the way I see it, message
me for prices and details. Remember I'm firm
but fare.

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COMMUNITY BOXING GYM

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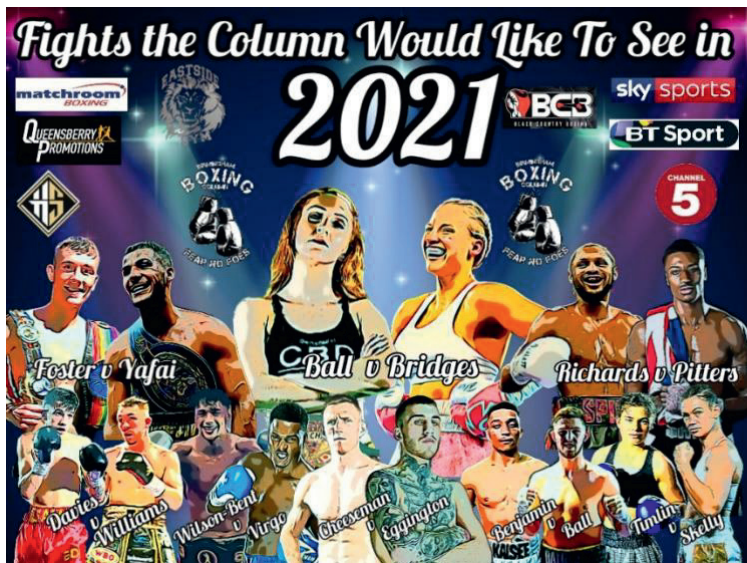
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Magazine

Magazine

BBColumn's
Fight Wish List 2021



The Birmingham Boxing Column has compiled a list of fights it would like to see some of Birmingham and the Black Country's finest have this year. There are some that will definitely happen but there are a few that may not due to all kinds of reasons like being from different promotions and tv channels, fighters having other options to take and promoters not wanting to take the risk with there fighters. None of these fights are confirmed and are basically just fights the column would like to see.

We start off with a fight which almost definitely will happen.

Amy Timlin v Carly Skelly
Super-bantamweight Commonwealth Title
Rematch



There first fight was on the Matchroom PPV show October 31st with Derek Chasora and Oleksandr Usyk as the main event. The Timlin, Skelly fight was a cracker with both fighters bringing the best out of each other in a very close contest. After 10 rounds the three judges could not split them with one judge going for Timlin, one going for judge Skelly and the third judge having it a draw. Myself I had it even but did think Timlin could have made this an easy victory if she had used her boxing more and not been drawn into a war. That said Timlin going to war made this fight a cracking contest but I think if she uses her technical skills she will win the rematch easy.

Craig Richards v Shakan Pitters

British Light Heavyweight title

Rematch

I'm sure this fight will definitely happen as Birmingham's Shakan Pitters will look to rewrite the records after being stopped by Richards in the ninth round of the main event on the Hennessy Sports Promotion show live on channel 5 December 18th.

This was a big shock for a lot of people, especially myself as I thought Shakan would win this easy.

Richards had a great game plan and after putting Pitters down in the forth round grew in confidence, Pitters showed heart and great intestinal fortitude the get himself back into the fight and was winning on my card and the judges. Richards caught him in the ninth and took his opportunity to stop Pitters and hand him his first defeat in his professional

career. I honestly have no doubt that Shakan will reclaim his title and set the record straight and will only come back stronger and wiser for this defeat. This is definitely a fight I want to see.



Ted Cheeseman v Sam Eggington

Any title available at Super Welterweight

Rematch



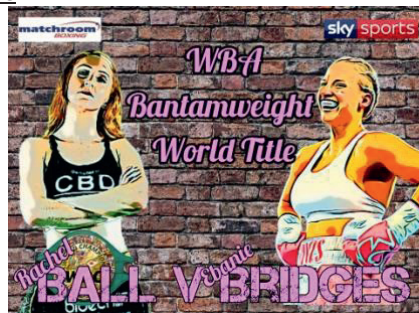
Cheeseman edged a very close fight beating Eggington on a unanimous points decision for Eggington's IBF International Super Welterweight title on a Matchroom show live on sky sports on August 1st of last year. This was a fight of two halves with Cheeseman winning the majority of the first 6 rounds and Eggington coming back strong in the final 6 round and on my card I had it a draw. This was a cracking fight and a rematch should be a no brainer, but Cheeseman seems to want to go in a different direction as he hunts titles he has already held before. Eggington has stated that he would love the rematch but is no going to be chasing Cheeseman for it and it now appears Eggington has moved to Hennessy Sports Promotions which will

make the fight harder to make. The fight may not happen but there is no doubt this would be a cracking contest.

Rachel Ball v Ebanie Bridges

WBA World Bantamweight title

'The Ginger Matador' Rachel Ball was meant to fight Bridges on the 14th November last year for the World title but Bridges had to pull out due to an injury. Ball went on and fought on the same night but for the WBC interim super-bantamweight against the current IBF super Flyweight champ Jorgelina Guanini beating her on points. The fight against Bridges is unfinished business and Ball has already stated she would like to get this fight on this year. There is not much stopping this fight being made as both fighters fight on Matchroom shows.



Brad Foster v Gamal Yafai
British, Commonwealth & European super-bantamweight titles



Now this would be a cracking fight of that I have no doubt, you have the unbeaten British & Commonwealth super-bantamweight champ Brad Foster from Litchfield against the newly crowned European and former Commonwealth Super Bantamweight champ Gamal Yafai from Birmingham. This would be a fantastic clash and a great advertisement for Midlands boxing but unfortunately I can't see it happening. Foster is with Queensberry promotions who air there fights on BT sports and Yafai is with Matchroom promotions who air on Sky sports so I could see this being a big problem. Its a shame as this has fight of the year written all over it as I honestly could not pick a winner. Both fighters have great power and boxing skills the only thing that would be in Yafai's

favour is his great amateur pedigree.

I do hope the promotion companies can sort this fight out as it would be a cracker.

River Wilson-Bent v Idris Virgo

Midlands Area Middleweight title

River Wilson-Bent v Idris Virgo
Middleweight Midlands title

River Wilson-Bent made a massive statement on the undercard of the Hennessy Sports Promotion show on December 18th of last year beating the unbeaten Troi Coleman for the Midlands area Middleweight title.

Wilson-Bent stopped the talented Coleman in the 3rd round to win the title live on Channel five. Wilson-Bent took no time at all to call out fellow Hennessy fighter Idris Virgo to challenge him for the title. Virgo engaged with Wilson-Bent in the interview straight after Wilson-Bent's fight but turned it into a kind of joke. River then came on the Bbcolumn's YouTube program 'Welcome to Fightden' where he said "he calls himself 'the one and only', his more like the one and phoney".

I then commented on one of Virgo's many Instagram statuses asking if he would be fighting Wilson-Bent next? Virgo replied "Midlands area belt doesn't hold weight so not interested to be honest.

This would be one of the easiest fights to make as both fighters are managed by the same manager and both fight on the Hennessy shows. The stumbling block seems to be that 'The one and only' 'The Body Breaker' Idris Virgo just don't want it, he is 10 without defeat but as yet has not fought anyone of any note. Wilson-Bent has only had 8 fights and is also unbeaten but has fought at a much higher level hence why he is the Midlands champ. Virgo says the Midlands title holds no weight in boxing but if you look at his points tally on boxrec you can see that it does. Virgo who is 10 and 0 has a score of 26 on boxrec while Wilson-Bent who is 8 and 0 has a score 1313, so just on that stat you can see how much the Midlands title holds in pro boxing. I can see why Virgo wouldn't want this fight but honestly think he needs it more than Wilson-Bent who must have his eye on English and British titles at Middle or Super Welterweight. In my opinion it is a fight Virgo should be asking for so he can prove to sceptics and haters that he is not just hype, but I won't be hold my breath.



Kaisee Benjamin v Danny Ball
WBC International or English if Vacated Welterweight titles
Rematch



They fought for the area title in March 2019 where the fight ended in a draw, I always thought that there next fight would be a rematch but both fighters seemed to go in different directions. Ball has went on and won the WBC International Welterweight title with a third round stoppage of Mason Cartwright. The first fight was a cracker and I'm sure if these two champs got it on again it would be even better contest than the first.

Liam Davies v Kyle Williams
English or any International or Intercontinental titles at Bantamweight.

This would be a cracking fight between two Midlands fighters who are both in the top 10 in the British rankings. Davies has just won the

English Bantamweight title stopping Sean Cairns in the sixth round on November 21st of

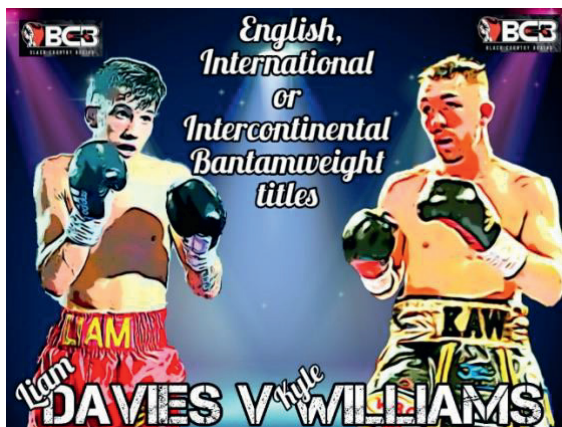
last year on a Matchroom show live on Sky sports. Williams who is a former English

champ has lost 3 out of his last four fights but has been fighting at a much higher level as he challenged for the British, WBO European and then took on the world class Charlie Edwards in his last fight. This would be an excellent test

for Davies as you would say Williams is the next level and if he could beat him he would be better prepared to challenge for the bigger titles. It would also be a good fight for

Williams as if he beat a hot prospect like Davies he could see himself challenging again for the big titles.

This is a fight that would be easy to make as both fighters are managed by Errol Johnson and on paper

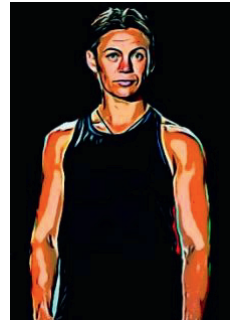


would be a great fight •

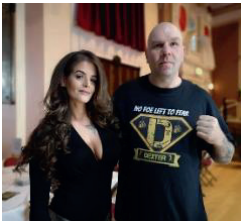
Timlin Gets Date For Commonwealth Rematch



'The Baby face Assassin' Amy Timlin has been given the date for her Commonwealth title rematch against Carly Skelly. Timlin (21) from Southam Warwickshire took on Skelly (34) in October of last year for the Commonwealth Super Bantamweight title which ended in a spit draw. The fight itself was a cracker that went back and fourth with both unbeaten fighters having joy as they went toe too toe for 10 two minute rounds. The fight will be on the undercard of the Avanesyan, Kelly fight which will be aired live on Sky sports on Saturday 20th February. This is set to be another cracking fight with Timlin looking to claim the Commonwealth title and her place in the Bbcolum 'Hall of Fame'.



Dexter's Thought's

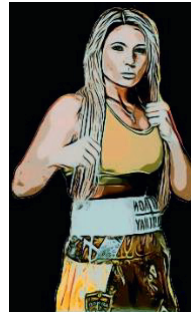


I really enjoyed there first encounter as both fighters showed how female boxing has progressed over the last few years. The first fight was a very close one which I had as a draw and have been looking forward to this rematch ever since. I did think Timlin made it hard for herself as she was drawn into a toe too toe battle where if she had used her boxing skills she would have won with ease. I can see this fight being as good as the first but just hope Timlin uses her technical boxing as I think if she does she will win with ease.

World Title Shot Announced for Ball



'The Ginger Matador' Rachel Ball has been given the date for her first crack at a World title. Ball (29) from Aldridge made a massive statement last year in women's boxing by first beating the unbeaten Shannon Courtenay and then winning the WBC interim super-bantamweight World title against Jorgelina Guanini on a unanimous points decision. Ball was meant to take on Ebanie Bridges for the WBA Bantamweight World title last year but Bridges had to pull out due to injury. Ball will now fight for this title but instead of taking on Bridges Ball will take on Shannon Courtenay. After their first encounter last year when Ball dropped Courtenay in the first round in a very entertaining fight with the ref giving the 8 round contest to Ball, Courtenay has been asking Matchroom for this rematch ever since.



Matchroom have now granted Courtenay (27) from Watford her wish as she takes on Ball for the WBA Bantamweight World title on the 10th April on the same show Conor Benn takes on Samuel Vargas for WBA Welterweight Continental title live on Sky Sports. This is set to be a great fight and a great show which the Column will report on as the Bbcolumn's 'Boxer of the Year' looks for world glory.

Dexter's Thought's



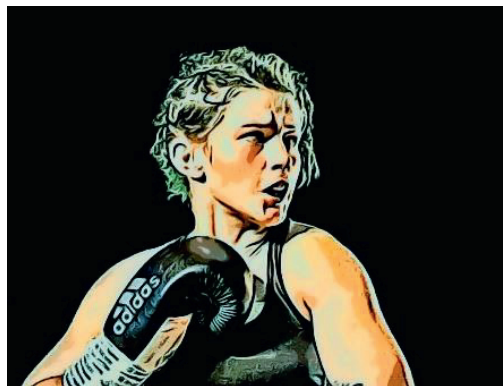
Great to hear that Rachel Ball has got her crack at the WBA Bantamweight World title as she was meant to fight for it last year. Ball lit up women's boxing last year with a great win over Courtenay by taking her '0' and then going on to take the Super-bantamweight WBC interim World title. Courtenay was not happy with the result last time and will be looking to avenge her only defeat but I honestly can not see that happening. Ball made her life hard last time by getting drawn into a tangle but if she uses her technical abilities I can see the 'Ginger Matador', Bbcolumn 'Hall of Famer' and the Bbcolumn's 'Fighter of the year' winning with ease. The Column looks forward to reporting on what looks like a great fight

Timlin pulls out of Commonwealth rematch



'The Baby face Assassin' Amy Timlin has had to pull out of the highly anticipated rematch for the female super Bantamweight Commonwealth title due to injury. The 21 year old has been advised by doctors not to fight on the 20th February live on Sky due to a hernia and rib cage trauma.

Timlin took to social media by saying, "Just to update everyone on this commonwealth title rematch on 20th February. I've had to pull out due to a hernia and rib cage trauma, I've been advised by the doctors not to exercise for a few weeks until I feel better and they advised me not to fight. I've been in pain with it, had other symptoms and have been unable to train".



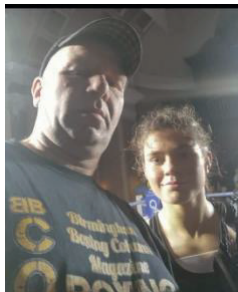
"I'm really disappointed but my health comes first". "Everyone knows how hard I've been training for this rematch, I've been pushing my limits every single day inside and outside the gym and I'm devastated that I had to pull out, but I'm not going into a fight with an injury that could possibly lead to more serious problems in the future, that would be daft on my behalf".

"I'd like to personally apologise to David Coldwell, Kieran Farrell and Eddie Hearn and also my opponent. I'm very sorry about these unfortunate circumstances".

"I appreciate the effort and guidance you've put into me. I look forward to the rematch and look forward to becoming commonwealth champion, thank you

everyone for your support".

Dexter's Thought's



I'm so gutted for 'The Baby face Assassin' that she has had to pull out of this rematch and gutted for myself as I was really looking forward to seeing her win the Commonwealth title. Timlin has made the right decision by not fighting as she has already stated taking the fighting could lead to more serious injuries. Hopefully the rematch with Skelly will happen later this year as I have no doubt that Timlin will claim the Commonwealth title when they do. The Column looks forward to entering her in the Bbcolumn's Hall of Fame when she does. BBColum Awards 2020

Ellis Stopped By Matchroom's Hot Prospect



Birmingham's Ishmael Ellis rolled the dice against Matchroom's hot prospect Dalton Smith live on Sky sports at Wembley (13,2,21). Dalton (24) was a former member of Great Britain squad and gained massive experience in the world series of boxing as an amateur. This was a step up for Dalton who has an unbeaten record of 6 without defeat as it was his first 10 rounder and Ellis had fought at a much higher level as a pro contesting for the Midlands area title twins.

It became clear very quickly that Dalton was the real deal as he hunted Ellis down from the first bell looking for a quick win rocking him with a tidy right counter in the middle of the second round. Dalton got another 2 cracking right hands off at the end of the 2nd round as Ellis hung in there but looked hurt. In the third Dalton was in full control and banged in big shots and combinations that seemed to hurt Ellis every time. Ellis's corner man Jon Pegg did the right thing by pulling Ellis out at the end of the third.

This is Ellis's third defeat in a row as he has been forced to go on the road due to the lockdown and take on these very tough fights.

Ellis took to social media after to thank his team and his fans for their support and confirmed that this is not the end for him as he vies to win the Midlands

area title.

Dexter's Thought's



This was always going to be a big ask for Ellis as Smith is one of Matchroom's hot prospects. Smith proved that he is and I'm glad that Jon Pegg made the right decision to pull him out at the end of the third. It is good to hear that Ellis is going to continue as he has not let these defeats define him. He has stated that he wants the Midlands area title and I know that with his will and determination and the great team behind him he will get another shot at it. Ellis can hold his head up high as he is a credit to his D&A gym and to Birmingham boxing. The Column looks forward to reporting on Ellis fighting for the Midlands title very soon.

Gordon Hangs up Gloves After Stoppage by Debutant Fisher



Heavyweight South paw Matt Gordon has made the decision to hang up the gloves after he took on one of Matchroom's highly rated prospects Johnny Fisher (20,2,21). Fisher (21) from Romford London was making his debut as a professional boxer after only having 4 amateur fights on the undercard of the Avanesyan, Kelly fight. This fight was over 4 three minute rounds with Gordon weighing in 17 stone 8 and Fisher weighing in 16 stone 13.

Gordon (36) from West Bromwich didn't even get chance to settle as Fisher came out fast with combinations from the first bell. Gordon covered up well as Fisher unleashed big shots in the first minute of the round. Fisher then seemed to settle down and picked some cracking straight right hands which caught Gordon making him fall back into the ropes with the ref giving him a 8 count. Fisher put the pressure on Gordon when they continued and smashed in numerous right hands putting Gordon down for the second time. Gordon managed to get to his feet but after the ref have had a good look at Matt he waved the fight off 2 minutes 29 seconds in the first round.

The day after the fight Matt took to social media to say this, the big Heavyweight said "No questions unanswered, no what if's, no regret"

"Shout out to all you amazing people for all your messages and we'll wishes before and after the fight last night and still rolling in this morning".

"I am back home now and totally fine physically and in good spirits".

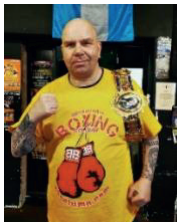
"After taking on some tough prospects which is exactly where I wanted to be in boxing but unfortunately have been falling short, then going back to the drawing board and not quitting being the stubborn guy I am, feel satisfied that I have gave it my best as the true fighting men say... I will now be hanging up my gloves on all levels... these guys are way above my level of boxing, young and have that fire raging".

"So on that note I want to give a massive shout out to my coach and bro Mark Maca Richards who always believed in me stood by me, picked me up when I was down, listened to my moaning and has shared some of the most amazing experiences and memories I'll never forget

Shout out to my training and sparring partners who always push and keep the camp buzzing, my boy Adrian Baddams, Abd Art Shane Nat Gill, Gareth Gordon and Ben Simner when they can get his ass in the gym, love you all"

"Finally thank my Mrs Lynze Duffield Gordon and kids for supporting me training lots, tired a lot, grumpy sometimes"

Dexter's Thought's

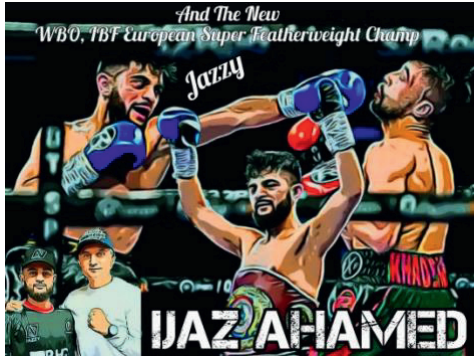


This was a hard watch as I have a lot of time for Matt, I have talked to him at shows on a number of occasions and he is a very likeable bloke. He started his career in 2015 at Walsall town hall winning his first 2 fights and drawing his third at the start of 2016. After a big kay off he then made the decision in 2019 to go on the road where he has lost all 6 of his contests with five of them being ended by stoppage. He has been very busy during the lockdown but has also been out gunned in nearly all of his resent contests.

At the age of 36 I think he has made the right decision to hang up the gloves, he has nothing to prove and has done more than a lot of other boxers will do. He has fought

live on Sky Sports, BT sports and also channel 5 and has never backed down from a fight. Matt can walk away with his head held high as I'm sure some of the prospects he has fought in resent times will be future

Ahmed Crowned European Champ



BcB's Ijaz Ahmed has been crowned champion of Europe in the Super Featherweight division by 2 governing body's after a majority decision victory against current WBO Champ Kaisy Khademi. The fight was top of the bill live on Queensberry promotions BT sports show at the Copper Box in East London. This show was originally supposed to be headlined by Jamel Herring's WBO super-featherweight title defence against Carl Frampton. But when Frampton suffered a hand injury. The original chief support, with Anthony Cacace defending his British super-featherweight title against Lyon Woodstock was promoted to the top of the bill, only to get called off when Woodstock failed a COVID test this week.

With the decision made to proceed with the show, Khademi v Ahmed was made the main event.

Khademi boxed well at times and was dominate, but he could never really subdue Ahmed who was aggressive throughout and often caught Khademi with his hands low. Ahmed did well in the first round, walking Khademi down and finding a home for his short hook. Khademi did better in the second round, catching Ahmed on the way in, but his hands were too low and he was caught by a right over the top on a regular basis.

The third and fourth rounds saw Khademi settle down more, as he moved around the ring and picked off Ahmed. In the fifth, Ahmed was able to apply more pressure when Khademi backed into the ropes were he left himself open.

Khademi boxed well for the first two minutes of the sixth round but was again caught on the ropes near the end of the round and Ahmed was dominating again at the start of the seventh round, as Khademi was fighting hard to keep Ahmed off him.

Khademi had a very good eighth round, as he moved well and made Ahmed look flat-footed for the first time. Ahmed put in plenty of work in the last two rounds with Khademi looking to coast the last round as Ahmed piled on the pressure until the final bell.

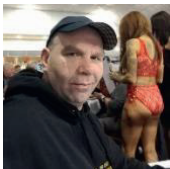
The 3 judges scored it like this Howard Foster, scored it a draw 95-95, while Bob Williams and Michael Alexander scored it for Ahmed by 96-94 and 96-95 respectively.

This win see's Ahmed claim Khademi's WBO "European" belt and add the vacant IBF "European" belt too.

Also on the card Stoke-on-Trent's Nathan Heaney beat Ryan Oliver with the ref scoring this 10 round fight 97-92, as Heaney extended his unbeaten record to 11 fights.



Dexter's Thought's



Massive congratulations to 'Jazzy' Ijaz Ahmed on his great victory, he has had to wait a while for this chance after it was called off late last year. His opponent Khademi was the favourite in a lot of people's eyes to defend his WBO title and add the IBF title to it, but unfortunately for him not one gad told Ahmed. Ahmed pressured and was the aggressor for a lot of the fight and even when Khademi showed his skills the Birmingham fighter took what ever he had and continued to press. It is mad to think at the end of 2018 Ahmed won the super Featherweight Midlands area title against

Conar Blackshaw on points an now at the start of 2021 and in only 4 fights has now claijedv3 European titles. This is a great achievement but the biggest one is he now fined himself in the Bbcolumn's 'Hall of Fame'. The Column looks forward to chatting Ijaz very soon.

2 Eliminator's for BcB Fighters



Light Heavyweight Ricky Summers and English Bantamweight Champ Liam Davies have both been put in Eliminator's in there respected divisions by the British Boxing Board of Control. Summers (33) will be taking on the unbeaten English Light-Heavyweight champ Dan Azeez for his title and to get a step closer to a British title shot. Azeez (31) from Lewisham London has won all 12 of his fights and won the English title in December of 2019 beating Lawrence Osueke on points. He then went on and defended it in September of 2020 stopping Andre Sterling in the ninth round. Summers who has won 17 of his 20 fights with 1 draw last fought

in a six round contest against Raimonds Sniedze in December of 2019 where he won by a 3rd round stoppage. Summers has previously fought for the British title when he took on Frank Buglioni in July of 2017 losing on points. Summers has also fought Andre Sterling and Lawrence Osueke where he lost to Sterling on points and got a split draw against Osueke. This eliminator will be promoted by Lee Eston and be held in Bolton on Saturday 17th April 2021.

Current hot prospect and current English Bantamweight champ Liam Davies will be defending his title against Dennis McCann with the winner taking on current British and Commonwealth champ Lee McGregor. McCann is a 20 year old southpaw from Maidstone Kent has won all of his 8 fights and has stopped 5 of his opponents. Davies from Telford has also had 8 fights win out defeat, with the 24 year old stopping 3 of his opponents. Davies won the English title in his last fight live on Sky sports at Wembley arena stopping Sean Cairns in the 6th round. The fight has gone up for purse bids and will have to be contested by the end of August 2021.

Dexter's Thoughts



Well this is great news to hear that two of the Bbcolum's favourites are getting eliminator's for British titles. This will probably be Ricky's last chance at getting a shot at the British title but I'm sure himself and his team will not leaving anything to chance. You have got to question at 33 how much desire Summers has left but if he does Azeez could be in for a very hard night. I believe that if Ricky and his team get his tactics right and he still has that desire burning inside he could well be crowned English champ and get one step closer to the Lonsdale Belt.

Davies is a former Bbcolum boxer to watch and was also in the running for Boxer of the year in 2020. He has not put a foot wrong yet and if he can get

passed McCann I can see him emulating Brad Foster and winning the British and Commonwealth titles. But after looking at McCann's record and chatting to some trainers, McCann is by no means a cake walk. Both fighters have proved they can stop people so both fighters have to be aware of this. I am a big Liam Davies fan and I think he will have to be at the top of his game in this fight to get the win, but I am confident he will be and both him and Ricky Summers will be entered into the Bbcolum Hall of Fame very soon.

The Fab Four Return to Channel 5



Four of West Midlands top fighters will be returning to the squared circle Live on Channel 5 on the 22nd May 2021. Hennessy sports promotions will be having there first show of the year as boxing fans are allowed back into venues with social distancing rules in place. The venue for this show is the Skydome Coventry with sources telling me that 'The Savage' Sam Eggington will be headlining and Midlands area Welterweight champ Kaisee Benjamin will be chief support. Also scheduled to fight on the show according to Boxrec are two of the Bbcolum's favourite fighters former British Light Heavyweight Champ Shakan Pitters and

Coventry's own and current Midlands area Middleweight champ River Wilson-Bent. I have also been informed that Birmingham's 'Journeyman slayer' Idris Virgo will be fighting on the show. With the likes of Isaac Chamberlain, Michael Hennessy jr, Stephen McKenna, Alex Dimaghani, Tommy Welch and Brett McGinty also expected on the bill this is looking like a fantastic show. I have also heard rumours that Hennessy's hot prospect Brett McGinty (1-0) will be taking on Cogans Corner tough journeyman Josh Hodgins (0-2). Hodgins will be looking to put on a better display than he did last time out as he was stopped with a body shot in the first round.

Dexter's Thought's



This is set to be a fantastic show and it will be great to see fans back at venues in the Midlands. Hopefully the Column can be there to report first hand on the show, but if not I will be cheering on our West Midlands fighters from the comfort of my home. There are no opponent's named for any of the fighters yet but you know the likes of Sam Eggington, Shakan Pitters and Kaisee Benjamin will be up against top opponent's. I'm sure Matchmaker Jon Pegg will match newly crowned champ River Wilson-Bent with a worthy opponent in his home town but in my opinion 'The

Body Breaker' Idris Virgo should step up and prove that he is 'the one and only' and not the 'one and poney' as River called him in a resent interview.

Idris has stated that River has nothing he wants and the Midlands title does not carry any weight. But if you look at the massive points gap between Idris and River you would have to disagree.

River is currently ranked 18th in Britain in the Middleweight division with 1094 points on Boxrec and has fought only 8 times while Idris is ranked 38th in the super Middleweight division with only 24 points on Boxrec after 10 fights. On paper this is a no contest but Virgo who has all the self belief in the world which you do have to admire thinks he will be one of the greats and beating the likes of River Wilson-Bent would get him there much quicker than beating another 5 journeymen. I can't see this fight happening even if it would be an easy one to make but I live in hope.

Battle of Hastings 50 Rounds of Sparring for the NHS

Written by Matt Farrington



Former Midlands unlicensed boxing champion, Dexter Hastings is committed to sparring 50 rounds in one day to raise money for the NHS, and finish his career positively.

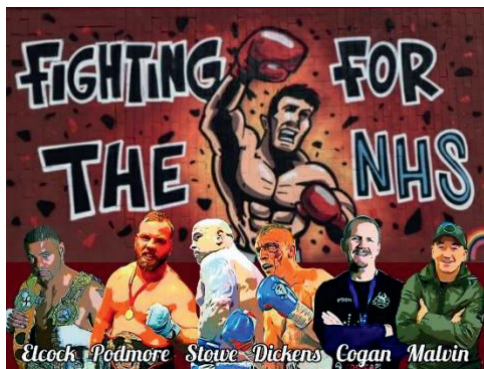
Dexter, who writes for the Birmingham Boxing Column, was inspired to raise money for Good Hope Hospital in Birmingham after his brother Phillip Hastings was severely affected by Covid-19.

Phillip's health was so damaged he was put into a coma for 3 weeks and had to have a tracheostomy. "It affected him really badly with his breathing and lungs being really

affected and then the doctors made the decision to put him in an induced coma"

Phillips' important treatment by the doctors, nurses, and other staff at Good Hope helped him massively during his battle in the hospital. "He is now thankfully awake and out of intensive care but still has a long way to go to get back to anywhere near his old self."

As the NHS battled for Phillip, now Dexter is battling for the NHS to thank them. "This is shaping up to be a great day where we can raise money for Britain's national treasure the NHS and have some fun on the way."



He feels confident to do the full 50 rounds together which is a huge challenge, anyone who's boxed or sparred knows it takes great stamina and a lot of focus. However Dexter showed in his career against fighters like Malcolm Stowe that he has a good engine and good endurance.

He will be sparring names such as;

- Former British middleweight Champ and world title challenger, Wayne Elcock.
- BKB British Champion, Dan Podmore.
- Unlicensed boxer and former rival of Dexter, Malcolm Stowe.
- Recently retired pro, Carl Dickens.
- Respected trainers and former pros, Sean Cogan

and Malcolm Melvin.

Previously, due to the pandemic, Dexter had to cancel his planned final fight, so this is a sort of farewell to the sport and a way to finish his career off in a positive way, 50 rounds and he's out. However, he will still be involved in the sport for the rest of his life as a respected ex-fighter, regular in the gym, a writer on the column and a fan.

"I would like to say a big thank you to Cogans Corners boxing gym for letting hold the event there to owner Shaun Cogan and Spencer McCracken senior and junior for all their great advice and support. I would also like to mention some of the big donors - Taydec Blinds BCFC Ltd, Cimac for donating my gloves and Cogans Corner for their big donation to a great cause.

Everyone's welcome to come on the 29th and please give generously."

Fund Me Link - <https://gofund.me/f7edd205>

BBColumn Awards 2020



It has been a hard year in the boxing world with the Lockdowns and the tearing system stopping small hall shows with only the big promotions companies and a few streaming channels putting shows on. The Midlands has been quite fortunate to have had two of the best matchmakers (Jon Pegg & Errol Johnson) getting the Midlands fighters out on the big shows. Jon Pegg has been a big force in getting a lot of his fighters fights on the Hennessy sports show live on channel 5 and on Matchroom shows live on Sky sports. Errol Johnson has been just as much of a force getting his BcB fighters bouts on Queensberry promotions who

air on BT Sports and Matchroom shows. This has gave the Column the opportunity to run the rule over the cream of fighters in Birmingham and the Black Country in big fights.

The Column will be giving out 3 awards starting with 'Boxer to Watch' then 'Fight of the Year' and finishing with the big one 'Boxer of the Year'.

Boxers to Watch



This was a difficult one as there have not really been any new hot prospects to rave about due to the Lockdown, but let's just look at howl's years picks have done. Amy Timlin was given the opportunity to fight for the female Super Bantamweight Commonwealth title live on Sky sport during Lockdown and put on a great performance getting a split draw against Matchrooms hot prospect Carly Skelly. After watch this fight I am sure 'The Baby face Assassin' will get the belt in the rematch.

River Wilson-Bent was another boxer to watch and made his first step to a title this month taking on BcB's unbeaten

fighter Troi Coleman for the vacant Midlands are Middleweight title beating him on points on the Hennessy Sports show live on channel 5. Wilson-Bent has got bigger titles in his future of that I'm sure and can see him fighting for English or even British in 2021.

Liam Davies was another boxer to watch who took his opportunity during Lockdown fighting on the Matchroom show live on Sky Sports against Sean Cairns for the vacant English Bantamweight title. The 24 year put on a great performance stopping Carins in the sixth round. Davies has surpassed what the Column would have done this year and he will almost definitely be fighting for British, Commonwealth or European titles next year.

There were two more Boxers to watch who haven't had chance to fight over this year due to the Lockdowns. Tommy Collins and Lewis Coley are the Columns Boxer to watch for this year. These two exciting fighters will hopefully get lots of chances to showcase there skills in 2021



Boxers to Watch Tommy Collins & Lewis Coley

Fight of the Year



There were many great fights due to the Lockdown as promoters tried to put on the best shows they could and the Birmingham and Black Country fight scene was well represented. These are some of the fights that are well worth a mention as they were crackers.

Brad Foster v James Beech jr



This was a cracking fight between two unbeaten West Midlands fighters for Fosters Super Bantamweight British title (7,10,20). The fight was the first main event after the first Lockdown and was a cracker with Foster getting a unanimous points verdict to win the Lonsdale belt outright.

Sam Eggington v Ted Cheeseman



The Savage defended his IBF International Super Welterweight title on a Matchroom live on sky sports (1,8,20). This was an fantastic contest with the two fighters styles gelling well to make a great fight. Cheesman was given the result on a unanimous verdict, myself I had it a draw but this fight could have gone either way and we hopefully get to see this fight again.

Shannon Courtenay v Rachel Ball



'The ginger Matador' upset the apple cart as she showcased her boxing skills live on sky sports against the Matchroom hot prospect in this 8 rounder (14,8 20) . Ball had Courtenay down in the first with a cracking left hook, Ball then seemed to let Courtenay back into the fight by going toe to toe with her which made this a cracking contest. Ball got a well deserved decision with the ref scoring it 77 to 75 in favour of Ball. Ball then went on to contest for the WBC World interim Super Bantamweight title beating Jorgelina Guanini on points and becoming the first female boxer to be entered to the Bbcolum Hall of Fame.

Shakan Pitters v Chad Sugden

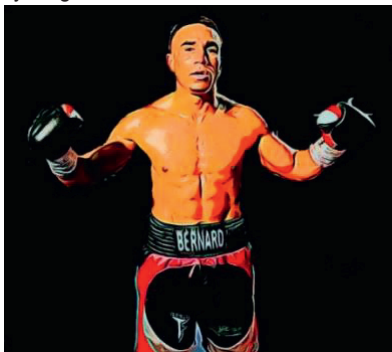


One of the Bbcolum's favourites Shakan Pitters contested for the vacant British Light Heavyweight title against Chad Sugden (22,8,20). Pitters put on a near perfect performance of hit and not bring hit to win the British title on a unanimous points decision and being also being entered into the Bbcolum Hall of Fame. He then went to defend his title against mandatory challenger Craig Richards

Bbcolumn's 'Fight of the Year'
Alex Fearon v Ben Fields



The 'O-Taker' Ben Fields travelled to Derby to take on Alex Fearon for the vacant Super Lightweight Midlands area title (13,9,20). The fight was streamed live on Fight TV streaming channel and was scheduled over 10 rounds. The fight went the distance and it was a none stop action contest as Fields put on a relentless performance where he pressed and pressured Fearon from the first bell to the final one. Fearon boxed well but Fields ragamuffin style stopped Fearon from having any joy. This was an exciting fight to watch with none stop action and even if it was just for a Midlands area title they fought like it was for a world title.



Alex Fearon v Ben Fields
FIGHT OF THE YEAR 2020

Fighter of the Year



There have been a number of boxers this year that are worthy of joining the likes of Craig Cunningham, Lennox Clarke, Jason Welborn and Brad Foster as the Bbcolumn's Boxers of the Year but there can only be one. Here are few of the fighters that were in contention for this years award.

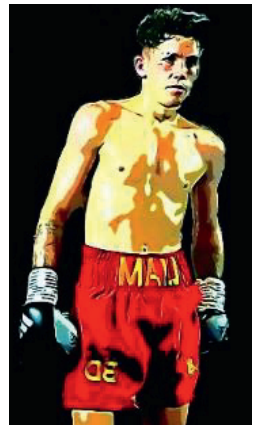
Ben Fields was in contention last year due his great year on the road beating some of the hottest prospects around. This year was all about his contest with Alex Fearon where he left it all in the ring to win the super Lightweight Midlands area title away from home. Fields as the warrior he is the challenge for the Midlands Welterweight title against the very talents Kaisee Benjamin losing on points. I'm sure Fields will be in the mix next year as well and may could even win it.

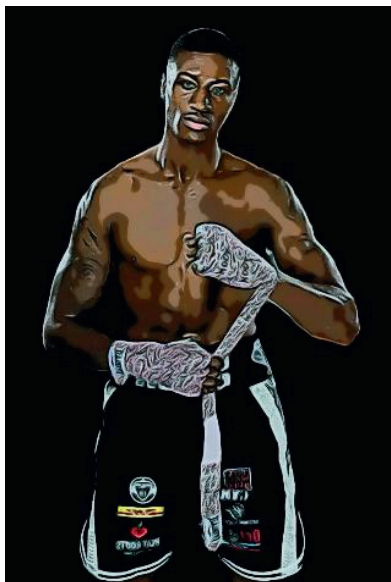


Brad Foster was 2019's winner of Boxer of the year after winning and defending the British and Commonwealth titles. Foster headlined the first show after the 1st Lockdown this year defending both titles against Walsall's James Beech jr beating him on points and winning the Lonsdale belt outright. Foster was a big contender for the award again and I'm sure the young fighter will be crowned it again in the coming years.



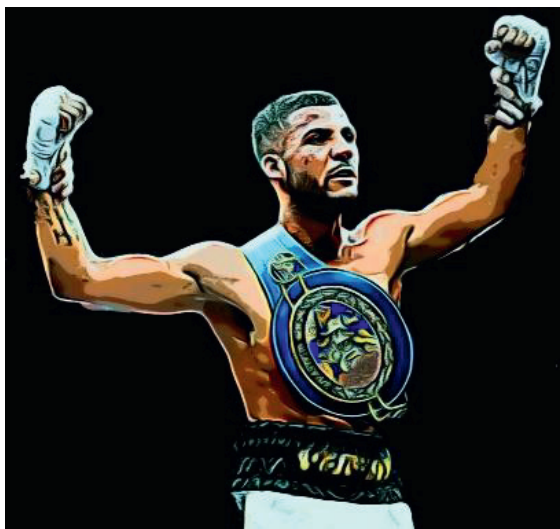
Liam Davies a Bbcolumn 'Boxer to Watch' from 2020 to his chance this year and won the English Bantamweight title live on Sky sports stopping Sean Cairns in the 6th round. Davies was well worth a shout as I can see British and European titles in his future.





Shakan Pitters won the British Light Heavyweight title in September of this year beating Chad Sugden in a unanimous points decision in a near perfect fight. He then went on and fought in December this year against the mandatory challenger Craig Richards. Richards beat Pitters in this fight with a great game plan stopping Shak in the ninth round which if he had won he would of earned this award as well. I'm sure Shakan will learn from this minor blip and come back in 2021 and either claim his belt back or contest for bigger ones.

Gamal Yafia was a late contender for the award after he won the European super-bantamweight title in December by beating current champion Luca Rigoldi on point in Milan Italy. All three judges had it to the Birmingham fighter who had stopped three opponents in his last three fights before this. This shows the level of fighters we have to choose from.



BBColumn 'Boxer of the Year'



Everyone of the boxers that have been mentioned would be worthy winners but there can only be one. We at the Column have thought hard and long about who would win the 2020 BBColumn boxer of the year and have decided on this very talented champion. Rachel Ball is the only female fighter to have been entered into the Bbcolumn 'Hall of Fame' after having a fantastic year beating Matchrooms hot Prospect Shannon Courtenay and then winning the vacant Super Bantamweight WBC World interim title by beating Jorgelina Guanini. Rachel is the Midlands answer to Katie Taylor and is an inspiration and a role model to all young female's thinking of taking up the noble art. The Birmingham Boxing Column congratulates

Rachel on her achievements and look forward to seeing her winning bigger titles in 2021.



2020 Boxer of the Year
Rachel Ball

50 Rounds & Out

50 Rounds of
Sparring in 1
Day

Dexter
'The Sting'
Hastings

Raising Money
For The
NHS



Saturday 29th May 2021
Cogans Corner 13.00 Till its Done

Healy Kick starts Boxing Career



Former Kickboxing champion Katie Healy kick starts her career in Boxing, as she signs with BCB Promotions writes *Matt Farrington*.

"I just love competing," she told bcb-promotions.com. "I put my all into it, I put my everything into training and fights, I'm never half hearted."

After years of Kickboxing as a teenager, gaining two world titles at different weights, it is a love for sport and competition that has inspired Katie Healy to work hard to become yet another female boxer from the U.K with great potential.

Although she has acknowledged that there is a good calibre of woman's fighters in her division she remains positive about her future in the sport. Healy is aiming to storm the pro ranks as one of the biggest prospects in the country. "With people like Gavin (Burrows), Rachel (Ball) and BCB behind me I'd like to think I can strive for the best."



Katie couldn't have picked a better time too with the women's boxing in a state of prosperity. It is a perfect time for Katie to make an impact in the domestic scene in Britain, where she could quickly ascend to being one of the top ranked fighters in the Country/World like gym partner Rachel Ball.

Katie's relationship with Interim WBA Super Bantamweight champion Rachel Ball goes back to when they were very young, and they have been working together to push each other for years; "It's very inspiring, we started sparring when we were 15. We are similar in how we fight, it's really useful to have her advice on how to make things work in boxing." While Katie has not yet had her first fight she still sees a big future in the sport; "I'd like to think I could aspire to achieve the best of the best like Rachel."

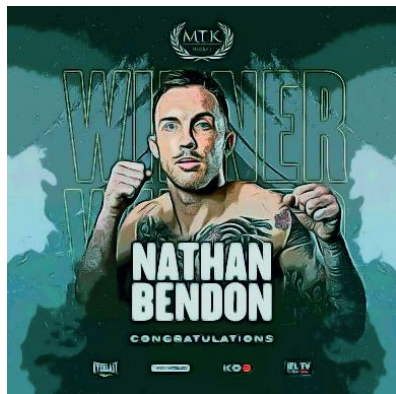
Despite her Kickboxing experience, Katie is still paying very close attention to the skills required in the boxing game. "I'm learning everything from scratch, it's going well though and I'm excited to see how it's going to come together on the night." As she trains she is noticing the huge differences between the sport.

"When I was kicking I had to have my feet very light, now I'm planting my feet more" which leads to much more powerful punches.

Healy is announcing fight news soon but said that she is expecting a fight around May. Unfortunately, it will be without fans, but she is looking to make a statement and enjoy the beginning of her boxing journey.

Bendon Wins On The Road

MTK



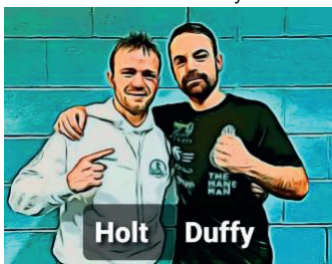
Eastside's Nathan Bendon pulled off a shock victory on just 4 days notice on the MTK Global show in Bolton (19.3.21).

Bendon took on unbeaten Polish fighter Eryk Apresyan who had stopped 5 of his 7 opponents in a six round contest in the Super Welterweight division.

Both fighters fired out great combinations in the first round with Bendon just edging the round. Apresyan started to control the second round and got some great body shots in, Bendon fought back hard but Apresyan won the round. Both fighters got good shots off at the start of the third with Bendon catching Apresyan with a cracking uppercut that rocked the Pole. Bendon continued to bang in some big shots to the body with Apresyan just looking to hold and see the round out.

Apresyan seemed to have recovered and started the fourth round well, Bendon continued to get his shots off but Apresyan nicked this round with the better work. Scrappy fifth round with lots of holding and wrestling, could not split them, even round. Bendon put the pressure on from the start of the sixth with Apresyan having a point taken off for pushing Bendon down. Apresyan came back strong in the second part of the round but due to the point deduction lost the round.

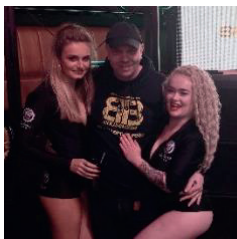
Referee Mark Lyson scored it 56 – 57 to Bendon, myself I had it 57 – 58 to Bendon.



Also on the show Birmingham's boxer Paul Holt took on Sean Duffy in a four rounder at Lightweight. Holt put up a valiant display against the unbeaten Duffy battling back hard as Duffy poured on the pressure.

The fight came to a end in the third when Duffy caught Holt with a well disguised body shot which Holt could not recover from.

Dexter's Thoughts



What a fantastic and well deserved victory for Nathan Bendon, he took this fight at just four days notice and beat an unbeaten fighter who had won 7 contests. Bendon showed a lot of grit and determination and banged in some great shots especially in the third round. Bendon caught Apresyan with a cracking uppercut in the third that changed the fight and was unlucky not to get the stoppage in that round. Obviously the point deduction was the key to the win, but Bendon deserved it after all the hard work he had put in. I look forward to seeing Nathan fight again very soon and hopefully get a title shot.

Paul Holt put up a great display of boxing against a very fired up unbeaten prospect. He gave Duffy a good fight and I'm sure he would of learnt from this contest. It was a cracking shot that stopped Holt and I don't think there are many fighters who could have withstood that shot. I'm sure we will see Paul Holt back in the ring very soon.

The 'O-Taker Ready For His Next Challenge



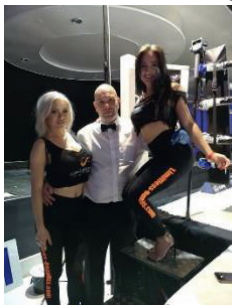
Inspirational Birmingham fighter Ben Fields is champing at the bit to return to the ring and continue his amazing story. Nicknamed the 'O-Taker' by the Column after beating 7 unbeaten fighters on his travels, Fields is training hard at a Cogan's Corner boxing gym under the tutelage of his coach Shaun Cogan. Fields has had two fights during lockdown, first traveling to Derby and beating the much fancied Alex Fearon on points to be crowned Midlands super lightweight champ, then relinquishing the title to take on the hard hitting Kaisee Benjamin for the vacant Welterweight Midlands area title losing on points.

I caught up to Ben at the gym and asked him about a rumour I'd heard about a potential title fight against the unbeaten Tom Silcox for the super Lightweight title? Ben told me, "yeah I have heard this but nothing has been confirmed, I'm just training hard waiting for the right fight to come along". I then asked him how he thought a fight with Silcox would go? Fields replied "yeah I think it would be a great fight, Tom is a good boxer and is unbeaten but obviously I think I would win especially at super lightweight".



I then got to talk to Ben's trainer Shaun Cogan and asked him about potential fights and how Fields is doing in training? Shaun told me "Ben is training like he is already in camp, he is keeping in weight and is ready for the right fight". Shaun continued "we have had some fight offers but all of them have been at higher weights and have not really been the right fights to move Ben forward". I then ask Shaun about the Silcox fight? Shaun said "this is a fight we want but nothing has been confirmed and I think it would be a great fight but Ben is ready for when the right fight comes along".

Dexter's Thoughts



It was great to catch up with Ben and I can confirm the 'O-Taker' is training hard. I have the privilege of training at the same gym as this inspirational fighter and if you know his story you know how far he has come. Ben is a true fighter and would be happy to take anyone on but his manager and coach are doing the right thing by turning down fights above his weight division. The Silcox fight for me would be a cracker, Tom (a former Bbcolum boxer to watch) has won all 8 of his fights and has beaten some good journeymen on the way, but this would be a big step up for 'The Silk'. The fight would be easy to make as they are both managed by Jon Pegg and in my opinion it would be a great advertisement for Midlands boxing. Finger crossed this fight happens but I just look forward to seeing Fields fight soon.

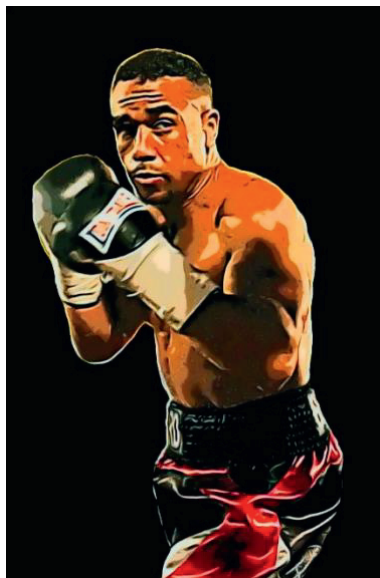
GOGANS



CORNER

*Home of the
Birmingham Boxing Column*

Ever Ready Fields Will Takes On Maxwell

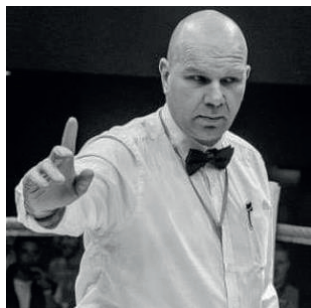


Cogan's Corner boxing gyms Ben Fields has stepped in at 4 days' notice to take on the highly rated and unbeaten Sam Maxwell on the Queensberry promotions show on Friday, March 26th. Maxwell 32 who is the current WBO European Super Lightweight champ was meant to take on another unbeaten fighter and current British and Commonwealth super-lightweight champ Akeem Brown. Maxwell and Brown (25) both have similar records winning 14 fights without defeat and their fight was going to be for all three titles. Unfortunately for Maxwell, Brown has had to pull out of the fight but in true Cogans Corner style the man nicknamed 'The 0-Taker' has agreed to step in. The fight will not be for any titles and will be over 8 rounds with the weight set at 10 stone 3.

As written about by myself earlier this week Ben has been training hard at Cogans Corner waiting for an opportunity like this to present its self and he was never going to turn this opportunity down. Fields has beaten 7 unbeaten fighters on the road already where he has earned the nickname 'The 0-Taker' but if Ben can pull this one off it will open some big

doors for him. The fight will be Live on BT sports on a packed card with some of the Midlands finest fighters on it with the likes of Brad Foster, Danny Ball, and Zach Parker fighting.

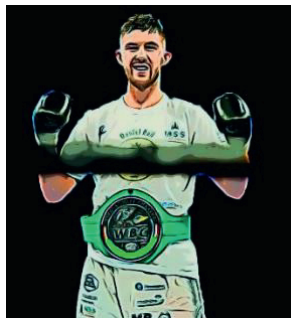
Dexter's Thoughts



I am so chuffed for Ben to get this opportunity as he has been working tirelessly in the gym since his last fight. Maxwell is 14 without defeat and has had a full training camp and will be looking to take his frustrations out on Fields. This will be one of Ben's hardest fights to date, of that I'm sure, but if anyone can pull this off 'The 0-Taker' can, and if he does, this win will propel him up the rankings and into British title contention. I believe Fields has the grit and determination to pull this off and continue his boxing journey on to big fights and titles.

9

Ball Retains Tittle with a Great Performance



Dudley's unbeaten 24 year old fighter Danny Ball kicked off the Queensberry promotions show Live on BT sports with a great performance against another unbeaten fighter (26.3.21). Ball who has 9 wins and one draw was defending his WBC International silver Welterweight title against Sam Gilley (26 from London) who had won all 11 on his previous contests. Ball weighed in at 10 stone 5 with Gilley coming in at 10 stone 6 as they took to the ring at the Copper Box arena Hackney.

Not much between them in the first round as they both just sized each other up. A cagey start to the second by both fighters with Gilley get some good shots ear the end to nick the round. In the third both fighters started to let there hands go with Ball going to the body well,

Gilley had his moments but it was Balls round.

Good combinations by both fighters in the fourth with Ball nicking the round for me as he started to close the gap quicker. Ball started to take charge in the fifth as he boxed his way in well with some sweet left hooks, Gilley fought back hard but it was Ball's round. Ball looked in control in the sixth banging in shots at will to win the round.

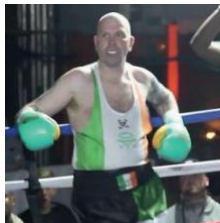
Gilley stepped it up in the seventh as he started to use his jab well, Ball got some good shots off but Gilley edged the round for me. Gilley started the eighth well getting his jab off and pressing the fight.



Ball fought back hard as they stood toe to toe in the middle of the ring, close round could not split them. Both fighter let there hands go in an entertaining ninth round, both fighters had joy but I thought Ball nicked this one. Ball came out fast in the final round and pressured Gilley from the start, Gilley moved well but Ball stayed on the front foot with some great exchanges with Ball winning the round.

At the end of the contest judge Howard Foster and Bob Williams scored the fight 96 to 94 to Ball with Terry O'Connor having it 96 to 94 to Ball. I scored the fight 98 to 94 to Ball.

Dexter's Thought's



What a great performance by Danny Ball tonight putting his title and his unbeaten record on the line against a very credible opponent. Ball boxed well throughout the fight and with this win must be on the cusps of major title fights. He really impressed me tonight as Gilley came to win and Ball dealt with him well. I look forward to seeing what his Black Country Boxing Promotions and Queensberry have install for him next.

Fields steps in to take on European Champ

The Inspirational Ben Fields rolled the dice again accepting a fight at a few days notice against the current WBO European super lightweight champ Sam Maxwell. The 8 round fight was live on BT sports and was part of the Queensberry promotions show (26.3.21). Maxwell was unbeaten in 14 contests winning them all with have gloves will travel Fields winning 10 and drawing 2 of his 21 fights. Both fighters weighed in at 10 stone 2 for this super lightweight contest.

Fields came flying out in the first round roughing up Maxwell and getting some big shots off with Maxwell working well when he could but Fields round. Maxwell got his jab going in the second and was getting some good combinations off, Fields continued to work hard but this was Maxwell's round. Fields poured on the pressure in the third but Maxwell's skill was shining though, Fields had joy in this round but Maxwell nicked it. Fields dragged Maxwell into a toe too toe scrap as both fighters banged in shots, Fields unleashed some cracking shots but Maxwell nicked this one.



boxing well to win the final round.

Ref Bob Williams scored the fight 79 to 73 to Maxwell I had it the same.

Maxwell kept it at range in the fifth but Fields continued to press and keep the pressure on. Maxwell stuck to his boxing to win the round. Maxwell moved well in the sixth as he continued to box well as Fields continued to press forward. The ref talked to both fighters about using there heads. Fields continued his relentless pressure as he tried to bully Maxwell, Maxwell boxed well on the vacant foot with the ref also taking a point off Fields for holding. Fields looked like he was enjoying the fight as he taunted Maxwell as he moved in with his Ragamuffin style. Maxwell showed why he is ranked 10th in the world by

Dexter's Thoughts



What a great display of boxing by Maxwell who had to be switched on for all eight rounds against Fields who stepped in on a few days notice. But what a display by 'The O-Taker' Ben Fields who has just took on the WBO European Super Lightweight champ who is ranked 10th in the world by the WBO. It was always going to be a big ask for Fields to get the win in this fight but his heart, determination and Ragamuffin style made it a cracker. Fields my not have got the result but he can hold his head up high as he as always left it all in the ring and his stock in boxing will only go up after this fight. It was a massive buzz for me to hear Ben announced as 'The O-Taker' before the fight as it was the

Column who nicknamed his that. This is just another page in the inspirational Ben Fields story and may there be many more to come.

Shut Out Victory For The Blade



Litchfield's British and Commonwealth super Bantamweight champ Brad Foster made the step up to the international ranks by taking on Alvaro Rodriguez for the vacant IBF International super-bantamweight title. The 22 year old went into the fight unbeaten in 15 fights winning 13 and drawing 2, Rodriguez (35 from Madrid) has also fought 15 times winning 10 and drawing one. The fight was shown live on BT sports and was part of the Queensberry promotions show (26.3.21) and was set to be contested over 10 rounds. Foster weighed in 8 stone 10 with Rodriguez coming in 8 stone nine.

Foster was very busy in the first round getting some good shots off, Foster caught Rodriguez with a hurtful body shot that made the Spaniards wince but he managed to see the round out. Foster dominated the second as he controlled the ring with fast hands and feet picking his shots well. The third was another round controlled by Foster where he banged in some nice shots.



Rodriguez moved well in the fourth and got the odd shot off but Foster edged the round with the cleaner shots. Rodriguez had his best round as he put some good shots together to just nick the round for me. Foster came out sharp in the sixth with some nice fast hands, Rodriguez put some shots together near the end of the round but Foster won it. Rodriguez tried to draw Foster into a scrap but Foster kept his discipline and boxed well to win the round.

Foster boxed well in the eighth behind the jab getting some nice right hands off. Foster moved well in the ninth and let his hands go with Rodriguez having some

joy but it was Fosters round. Foster picked his shots well as he moved around the ring causing to victory in the final round.

The judges where unanimous with Howard Foster, Marcus McDonnell and Terry O'Connor scoring it a shut out 100 to 90 to Foster. I had it 99 to 91 Foster.

Dexter's Thoughts



Yet another great performance by Foster and to get a shut out victory over 10 rounds is an achievement in its self. Foster in my opinion is destined to fight for a world title, but there is one fighter that may stand in his way. Gamel Yafia is the current EBU super-bantamweight champ and Foster has been made mandatory for this title. This will be a fantastic contest and the winner I'm sure will get a world title shot.

Parker Wins Title on Queensberry Debut



Derby's Zach Parker made a big statement on his Queensberry promotions Debut at the Copper Box arena Hackney live on BT sports. The 26 year old took on Vaughan Alexander (35 from America) for the WBO International super Middleweight title which was scheduled for 10 three-minute rounds. Unbeaten Parker who has won all of his 19 contests weighed in 11 stone 13 and Alexander who had won 15 out of 19 fights weighed in 11 stone 11.

Parker took the centre of the ring in the first round and used his jab well to set up nice combinations finishing the round strong. Parker continued his good start in the second and got Alexander down early in the round. Alexander was able to get up and continued but the writing was on the wall with Parker smashing in big shots until the ref stepped in and stopped the fight 1 minute 39 seconds in the second.

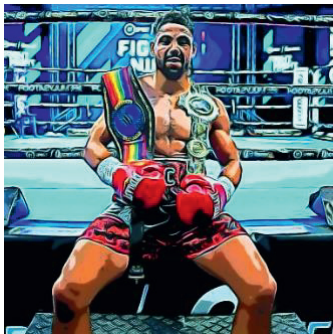


Dexter's Thoughts



What a great statement for Parker to make on his debut for Queensberry promotions, he has added another title to his CV and has cemented his WBO number 1 contender ranking. He stated in his interview after that he would love to fight the winning of Billy Joe Saunders, Canelo Alvarez fight as he wants to be tested by the best. He is number 1 contender so I think he should get this opportunity and the way he is boxing at the moment and his confidence he could maybe upset the world scene. Hopefully he gets the chance as he deserves the opportunity.

Clarke Crowned British & Commonwealth Champ



Birmingham's Lennox Clarke pulled off a shock victory Live on BT Sports on the Queensberry promotions show where he was crowned British and Commonwealth Super Middleweight champ. Known as 'Dangerous' Clarke (29) lived up to his name by stopping the then unbeaten and Queensberry promotions hot prospect Willy Hutchinson in sensation style. This was Clarke's second attempt at the British and Commonwealth title's after losing in a split decision in his only defeat in 21 contests against Lerrone Richards. Hutchinson (22 from Scotland) came into this fight as the bookies clear favourite with an unbeaten record of 13 fights.

This 12 round contest was the main event on Queensberry promotions second show of the weekend (27.3.21) at the Copper Box arena Hackney. Clarke weighed in bang on 12 stone with Hutchinson coming in 11 stone 13.

At the start of the first round both fighters just sized each other up, Clarke then started to press in the second part of the round with Hutchinson switch hitting. Untidy start to the second but Hutchinson started to unleash some sweet combinations, Clarke stood strong and battled back but Hutchinson round. Hutchinson sustained a cut above his left eye due to a clash of heads. Clarke upped the pace at the start of the third and started to rough up Hutchinson, Hutchinson worked well behind his jab when Clarke let him, but I would have to give this round to Clarke for his pressure.

Clarke was warned by the ref for hitting Hutchinson on the back of the head at the start of the fourth, Clarke continued to move forward and press getting some good shots off getting close. Hutchinson had some joy but Clarke nicked this round for me. Clarke continued his high paced start in the fifth keeping the pressure as Hutchinson tried to keep it long. Clarke then unleashed a destructive right hand that rocked Hutchinson to his boots, Clarke then caught Hutchinson with another cracking right hand followed with a left hook that dropped Hutchinson for the first time in his career. Hutchinson managed to get to his feet but the ref waved off the fight 1 minute and 5 seconds into the fifth.



Dexter's Thought's



What a performance by Lennox Clarke last night, you could see in the stony stair he gave Hutchinson before the fight he was not going to be denied. For the bookies, Frank Warren and Queensberry Promotions this was a shock victory but the fight was really man against boy. Lennox's looked the part and his game plan was perfect for Hutchinson and he definitely live up to his name as 'dangerous'. In my opinion he should have been crowned British and Commonwealth champ in 2019 when he took on Richards but he has now rectified that result and now is the champ. The sky is now the limit for Clarke now as I'm sure he will want to kick on and fight for the European or even world titles in the next year. Clarke has already been crowned the Bbcolumn 'Boxer of the Year' back in 2017 and with this win could well be crowned it again in 2021. He has also set his place in history by being entered into the Birmingham Boxing Column 'Hall of Fame' after winning g the British and Commonwealth titles. The Column looks forward to seeing what Clarke and his BcB team do next. The Column would like to congratulate Lennox's on his win and a great performance and hope to catch up with him for an interview soon.

And The New

BIRMINGHAM
BOXING
COLUMN



Lennox Congratulations
CLARKE

Brave Performance By Baker in Gibraltar



The Boxing Fan with a Licence' the fighter known as the 'MexiKane', Kane Baker continued his boxing story heading to Gibraltar to take on the talented Youssef Khoumari on the undercard of the Whyte v Provetkin show. The show was promoted by Matchroom and was live on sky's Pay per view with Bakers fight being the first on the card. Baker (30 from Birmingham) won his last contest on a Matchroom show beating Meshech Speare on point taking his win column to 14 out of 21 contests. Khoumari (24 from Wembley London) came into the fight with an unbeaten record of 11 wins and 1 draw. The fight was scheduled for 10 three-minute rounds at the

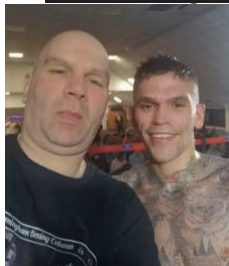
super Featherweight division, Baker weighed in 9 stone 2 with Khoumari coming in 9 stone 4.

Both fighters let there hands go from the first bell, they both stood toe to toe in the middle of the ring with Khoumari getting the better out of the exchanges banging shots to the head and body. Bakers gum shield came out bear the end of the round. Khoumari used his jab well to set up some nice combinations, Baker boxed an weaved trying to get in on the inside but Khoumari countered well with Bakers gum shield coming out again. When his gum shield was put back in Baker continued to press and had some joy but Khoumari won the round. Khoumari picked Baker off with his jab in the third and got some good combinations off. Baker's gum shield came out again with the ref warning him a point will be taken off if it happens again. Baker continued to press and pressure but was being out gunned by Khoumari.

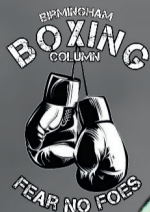


Khoumari continued to control the ring but Baker was relentless pushing forward and getting some good shots off of his own. Khoumari let some hurtful looking shots off near the end to win the round. Baker started the fifth brightly but the quality shots were coming from Khoumari, Baker's gum shield came out again and the ref took a point off him. Khoumari then started to push Baker back and started to sit down on his shots putting in some big combinations with the ref eventually stepping into save Baker from anymore punishment two minutes and twenty two second into the fifth round.

Dexter's Thoughts



I'll start by saying what a great performance by Khoumari, he showed all the skills and talent of a future champion. But hats off to one of to most likable fighters in the game at the moment, Baker kept every round competitive and refused to take a step back which made for a entertaining contest. Kane can now add fighting in Gibraltar on a pay per view show to his ever increasing boxing story and hopefully there is more to come from the 'MexiKane'. The Column looks forward to seeing Baker fight again very soon.



Coming in Issue 9



Out In July

Dexter
50 Rounds
& Out

Summers
English Title
Shot



The Boys Are Back

CHANNEL

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