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Magazine

August 21
Issue 9
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Gibbs wins
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Mission
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Windle wins
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Issue 9

Welcome to the ninth 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 reports 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 articles 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 feedback 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.

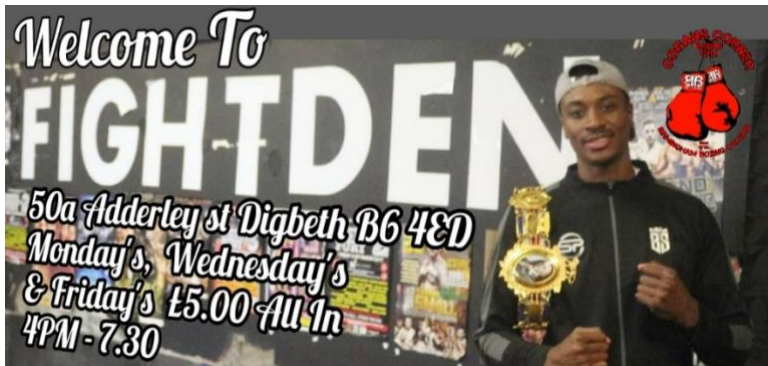
Once again thank you for reading the magazine and please continue to check out bbcolumn.com for all your boxing news in Birmingham and the Black Country

Bbcolumn.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

DEXTER HASTINGS



Been reffing unlicensed and White Collar for over 10 years
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Ball Reflects



from that contest.

"I remember it so vividly because of the impact it's had on me but when I woke up (on January 7th) I'd just felt like I'd over trained because I was really sore. I was having a rest day, anyway, but I was out with the dog in the evening and started to have a bad cough and that continued into the night and the morning after. On the 8th my test came back positive but I still wasn't feeling too bad - I thought I'd be able to bounce back from it - but it was when I tried to start exercising from home that it wiped me off my feet.

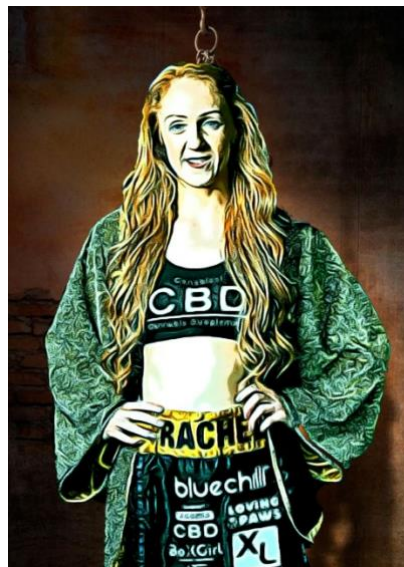
"Even after just a small amount of exercise it was the headaches and fatigue that really got me worried. That continued for a while and the headaches are the most debilitating thing because it's hard to explain, but they can just be so bad and leave me feeling unable to move from the sofa. Unfortunately, it's exacerbated by exercise so the one thing I would love to be doing is the one thing that's making me feel worse."

Ball remained cautiously optimistic of a return on a Matchroom show in July but was candid enough to say if she wasn't back in the gym with eight weeks to go then she'd have to look for a date later in the year.

"It was hard to pull out of the fight and I was expecting a lot of negativity, if I'm honest, but myself and Gav (Burrows, Rachel's coach) know we're a long way off being able to get in the ring so it's what we had to do. I'm getting better at knowing what I can and can't do whilst it's still lingering in the background: I'm trying to do everything I can to get into a position where we can start looking towards getting back in the ring."

If 2020 was dreamland for Rachel Ball then the start of 2021 comes pretty close to being a nightmare. Ball was getting set to fight for the WBA Bantamweight World Title, against Shannon Courtenay, when disaster struck: the 30-year-old testing positive for coronavirus on January 7th writes Oliver McManus.

Whilst, at that point, the contest remained over four months away it quickly transpired that the long-term impacts of COVID would be difficult to shake. Rachel began our conversation by just outlining the circumstances that forced her to withdraw



Summers Loses on a Split Decision



BcB's Ricky Summers was in a cracking contest for the English Light Heavyweight title in Bolton on the MTK show (17,4,21). 'The Digger' was taking on current unbeaten English champ Dan Azeez over 10 rounds which was being streamed live on ILTV's YouTube channel. Azeez weighed in 12 stone 6 with Summers coming in 12 stone 6 as well.

In the first round both boxers got there jabs going and both had joy in a very competitive round. Summers got some great combinations off in the second but the more

eye-catching shots came from Azeez who just edged the round for me. Lovely jabbing from Summers in the third with some great one two's but was getting caught with nice counters from Azeez. Summers marched Azeez down and never took a backwards step but Azeez won the round with the cleaner shots.

The 4th was a better round for Summers who let his hands go and got some lovely combinations off, Azeez had his moments but this was Summers round. Summers used his jab well again in the fifth as he started to grow into the fight with some great combinations and movement. The sixth was a fairly even round as both fighters got good shots off, Azeez put some good shots together, Azeez put some good shots together near the end but Summers came back with shot of his own. Both fighters stepped up the pace in the seventh and let their hands go, Summers nicked the round with the better shots.

Azeez countered well in the eighth round, Summers had his moments but Azeez nicked this one. Azeez was catching Summers clean with some very eye-catching shots, Summers came back strong and rocked Azeez with a great right hand, Azeez managed to take it and finish the round strong. Great battling final round as Azeez tried to finish strong, Summers stood tall and fought back hard to get a share of the final round.

The three judges scored it like this Michael Alexander scored it 97 to 95 to Summers Steve Grey scored it 96 to 94 Azeez and judge Terry O'Connor scored it 97 to 93 in favour of Azeez.

Myself I had it 97 to 96 Summers.

Azeez wins split decision.

Dexter's Thought's



What a great performance by Summers, this was a very, very close contest which could have gone either way. I had Ricky winning it by a point but there were a lot of close rounds so cannot really argue with any of the cards. Ricky has not fought for over a year due to the lockdowns but as the fight went on he got better and better. Hopefully he gets another chance to get his hand on one of the bigger titles as after that close performance I think he deserves it. I look forward to seeing Ricky back in the ring very soon.

Woolery Take on MTK Hot Prospect



BcB's Anthony Woolery took on MTK's unbeaten fighter Paul McCullagh on the undercard of at MTK show in Bolton (17.4.21). The show was being streamed live and free on the ILTV YouTube site. The fight was McCullagh's second fight after stopping his first opponent. The fight was scheduled for 4 three-minute rounds in the light Heavyweight division with McCullagh came in 12 stone 9 and Woolery came in 12 stone 11.

Both fighters had their moments in the first round as they felt each other out. Everything McCullagh did came off the jab while 'The Bull' moved well and pressed with good combinations. In the second McCullagh worked well off his jab and took the centre of the ring using nice combinations to keep Woolery on the back foot. Woolery pressed when he could but the better boxing

came from McCullagh.

McCullagh stuck to his boxing in the third and banged in some cracking combinations. Woolery took them Well and pressed forward when he could. McCullagh continued to box well with everything coming off the jab, Woolery covered up well just waiting for an opening to get a big shot in but it never came.

The ref scored it 40 to 36 to McCullagh myself I had it 40 to 37 McCullagh.

Dexter's Thought's



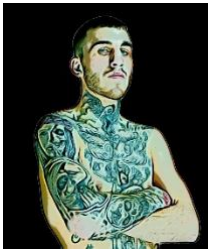
Well Woolery did what he came to do, put MTK's hot prospect through his paces and that's what he did. Woolery gave McCullagh a very hard test especially for only his second fight and kept the fight engaging for all 4 rounds. It was great to see 'The Bull' so trim at light Heavyweight but the one fight I do want to see Woolery in is at Cruiserweight for the Midlands area against BcB stable mate Matt Sen. This fight has been talked about form a while now and when the small hall shows comeback, I can't see why this could not happen. I really look forward to that contest.

Opponents named for the Fab Four

Hennessy Sports

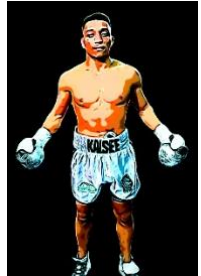


Details of the Hennessy's Sports 'Fab Four' Midlands' fighters opponent's have been named on Boxrec today. As the Column reported over a month ago Birmingham's Sam Eggington, Kaisee Benjamin and Shakan Pitters not forgetting Coventry's Middleweight Midlands area Champ River Wilson-Bent will be fighting on the 22nd May at the Skydome Coventry. The show will be promoted by Hennessy sports and will be shown live on channel 5 with all four fighters looking to be on the live part of the show.



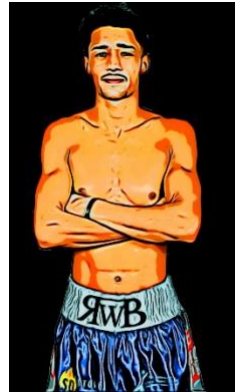
The show is set to be headlined by 'The Savage' Sam Eggington who last time he was out dismantled the experience Ashley Theophane stopping him in six rounds live on channel five. Eggington will now take on the very experienced Mexican Carlos Molina for the vacant WBC Silver Middleweight title. Carlos (37) has won 37 and drew 2 out of 50 contests he is a former IBF super Welterweight champ and has also contested for the WBC and WBA International titles at Super Welterweight. Eggington (27) who has won 29 out of 36 fights will be looking to make another big statement to get him back up the rankings and in line for bigger titles.

Chief support on this stacked card will be the two-time hard-hitting Welterweight Midlands area champ Kaisee Benjamin. 25-year-old Benjamin will be taking on 28-year-old Martin Harkin in an Eliminator for a shot at the welterweight British title. It has not been confirmed yet but the contest its self will be for some form of title. Benjamin won his last contest against a true warrior in the 'O-Taker' Ben Fields winning on points to regain his Welterweight title after relinquishing it the contest for the English. Benjamin has an impressive record of 11 wins and one draw in 13 contests, Harkin also has a impressive record winning 13 out of his 14 fight which makes this fight on paper a potential cracker.



Also, on the card is one of the Columns favourites and former British Light Heavyweight champ Shakan Pitters. Pitters (31) was handed his first defeat last time out losing his British title to Craig Richards as he was stopped in the ninth round. Pitters will be in an eight-round contest as he builds himself back into title contention against Jermaine Springer. Springer (32) from Bradford has a decent record of 7 wins out of 9 fights and I'm sure will be looking to get a big scalp after his last fight ended in defeat. Pitters who has won 14 out of 15 fights will be looking to make a statement as he looks to get either his British title back or move on to bigger ones.

Finishing off the 'Fab Four' you have the Hot Prospect and very talented River Wilson-Bent defending his Midlands area Middleweight title. Wilson-Bent will be taking on the unbeaten George Farrell (28) who has won all five of his fights so far. Wilson-Bent (27) from Coventry won his Midlands area title in sensational style in his debut for Hennessy Sports stopping the talented Troy Coleman in third round. River has an unbeaten record of 8 wins with 4 of them coming by stoppage and will be looking to add to that on the 22nd as he looks to contest for bigger titles.



Finishing off the undercard you have Michael Hennessy jr taking on Journeyman Paul Cunningham, the talented Brett McGinty will be taking on Cogan's Corner Josh Hodgins who is sponsored by the Birmingham Boxing Column. Also, on the card you have Stephen McKenna, Tommy Welch and Idris Virgo whose opponents have not been named yet.

There will be a small number of fans allowed in the venues contact the fighters for tickets.

Dexter's Thought's



What a great line up for a show that will be aired live and free on channel five. Hennessy sports promotions are really starting to get some momentum behind them as this show proves. With some of the best talent from the Midlands on this show it will showcase great showcase for what the central area of England has to offer. I am looking forward to watching all of the Fab Four box's but I'm really looking to see how Shakan Pitters comes back after his first defeat. I haven't talked to him since he lost but I honestly think him and his team will have had gone back to the gym and worked on all the things they needed to. So, I'm looking to see an even better Shakan in this fight.

I can only see a win for Eggington as I think he is on a mission to prove all the doubters wrong and work his way back to world title contention. I cannot see nothing but a River Wilson-Bent win either as in his home town he will be looking to put a performance on, it's just a shame there can not be more fans at the show. Kaisee in my opinion has the hardest task but when you hit the levels, he is at you don't get easy ones. Benjamin has a hard task in front of him but I can see him winning the title in style and taking his crack at the British.

I look forward to reporting on the show.

Denny Gets Euro Call

BcB's Tyler Denny has got the call to fight for the vacant European Boxing Union Middleweight title. The tricky Rowley Regis southpaw will be taking on the unbeaten Derrick Osaze on the 11th of June in Sheffield. Denny (29) has an impressive record of 12 wins, 2 draws out of 16 fights. Denny last fought for the British title at the end of 2019 losing to Linus Udofia on a majority decision. Osaze has a perfect record winning all 10 of his contests but has never fought more than a six-round fight and has only done that once. Osaze (28) best victory so far has been against then unbeaten Kieron Conway where he beat him in a three rounder on a split decision. The majority of Denny's fights have been over six or more with 5 over six, three over 8 and three 10 round

contests. Denny is a former Midlands area champion and has contested for the English and British titles in the Middleweight division.

The fight will be streamed live on Fightzone and is on a very exciting fight card.

Dexter's Thought's

First, I'd just like to say it's great to see Tyler Denny back in the ring. The southpaw has been very unlucky in some of his title fights sustaining a real nasty cut to his lip and eye in his English title fight then narrowly losing for the British. On paper for me this looks like a Denny win all the way as I think Osaze may struggle in the latter rounds. But the promoters must fancy Osaze chances so this could be an interesting fight. I look forward to seeing Denny back in the ring.

Windle Gets Commonwealth Title Shot

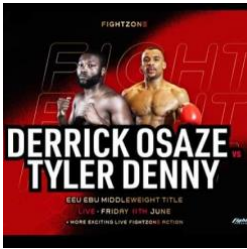
'The punching poet' Matt Windle has been given a crack at the vacant Commonwealth Light Flyweight title. 'Matt Man' will be taking on the unbeaten Neil McCubbin on Friday June 11th to be steamed live on Fightzone. Windle (30) from has won five of his nine fights with 1 ending in a draw. Windle's last two defeats have come in ten round Midland's area title fights against David Seymour and now two-time European Champ Ijaz Ahmed. Windle is trained by the very experienced Spencer McCracken senior and has been training at Cogan's Corner throughout Lockdown.

McCubbin from Scotland made his debut in October of 2018 and has won all five of his contests with 4 out of his five fights being over four rounds and his last one being over six. McCubbin has one stoppage to his name stopping debutant Blessed Sithole in the first round.

The show is set to steamed live on Fightzone from Sheffield on June 11th and is part of a ever growing fight card.

Dexter's Thought's

It will be great to see Matt Windle back in the ring in a championship contest. Matt's last two fights have been for the Flyweight Midlands area title where he has lost in very close fights on points against fighters with a lot more experience than McCubbin. I have had the privilege to see the 'punching poet' training throughout lockdown at Cogan's Corner with the guidance of Spencer McCracken senior. After watching Matt spar and looking at McCubbin's record unless he is Scotland's best kept secret, I can only see a Windle win. McCubbin has not gone more than six rounds and I think the later rounds will be when Windle takes control. Windle has also been in with much more experience fighters and I think this will keep Matt in good stead to win not just a Midlands area, but a Commonwealth title which will also get him into the Bbcolum Hall of Fame which of course is ever Midlands fighters' goal.



Yafai Loses EBU Title



Birmingham's Gamal Yafai lost his Super Bantamweight EBU Title in a sensational contest to the tricky South paw Jason Cunningham (31). This cracking title fight was on the undercard of the Buatsi v Dos Santos fight live on Sky Sports (15/5/21). Yafai (29) had won the EBU Title beating Luca Rigoldi on a unanimous decision in Italy in December of 2020. Yafai who

before this fight had only lost once in 19 fights was the favourite going into the fight against Cunningham who had lost 6 times in 34 fights. Both fighters weighed in 8 stone 9 with the referee on the night being Victor Lockland.

Great movement by Cunningham in the first as he picked his shots well and couldn't seem to miss with his straight left. Cunningham continued his great moments in the second as Yafai chased shadows, Cunningham then caught Yafai with two sharp left hands that put 'the beast' down. Yafai took a eight count and had sustained a cut above his left eye, he continued to pressure until the end of the round. Much better round for Yafai in the third as he started to put his shots together and worked Cunningham's body. Cunningham had his moments in the round but Yafai got this one.



Yafai came out strong in the fourth but Cunningham Shot out a cracking straight left to put Yafai down for the second time. Yafai took another eight count and when the fight continued, he pressed forward but seemed to miss too much. Great movement by Cunningham in the fifth as Yafai banged in some big shots, both fighters had joy even round. Cunningham had Yafai on the floor again at the start of the sixth with a sweet left uppercut and then a straight left. Yafai took another eight count and fought back hard to see the round out.

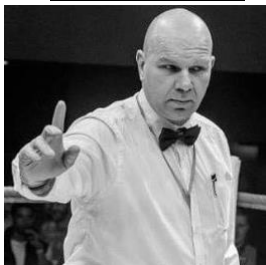


The seventh was Yafai's best round so far as he poured on the pressure and got some good shots off. Cunningham continued to move well and got some good shots in himself but Yafai won the round. In the eighth Yafai continued to close the gap down and get big shots off but Cunningham continued to move well with some great shot picking to nick the round. Yafai poured on the pressure in the ninth banging in some heavy body shots, Cunningham picked his shots well but Yafai got this for me.

Yafai continued to pour on the pressure and seemed to really hurt Cunningham with big shots. Cunningham went down but it was classed as a slip, Yafai's round. Great movement in the eleventh as Yafai continued to press and pressure. Cunningham seemed to be enjoying the fight as he raised his hands several times in the round. Cunningham danced his way through the final round, keeping his distance as Yafai tried to get the Knock out to win the EBU Title.

The judges were unanimous with judge with Mark Lyson scoring it 115 to 110 and John Lewis and John Latham having it 114 to 111, myself I had it 115 to 112 to Cunningham.

Dexter's Thought's



Wow! What a fight, Cunningham was classed as a massive outsider by the bookies but no one had told him that. I think Yafai underestimated Cunningham and didn't seem to change his approach even after the Knock downs. Yafai showed loads of heart getting off the floor three times and the Knock downs were not flash ones; he was properly put down. But Yafai showed his champions heart by getting up, but he never seemed to give Cunningham the respect he deserved. Hopefully Gamal and his team can go back to the drawing board and work out what they need to change to get him back in the title hunt. The Birmingham Boxing Column look forward to seeing him back in the ring soon.

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Katie Healy Wins Debut



Birmingham's Katie Healy started her professional boxing career with a win in Sheffield (21,5,21). The former Kickboxing champion who fights out of Trojan gym put on a near perfect debut winning every round in the four two-minute round contest. Healy took on the very experienced Slovakian fighter Claudia Ferenczi (28) who has over 100 fights. The BcB fighters contest was on the undercard of Myron Mills' defence of his English title at Sheffield arena and was streamed live on Fightzone. Referee Darren Sarginson scored the fight 40 to 36 in Healy's favour as she kicks off her boxing career.

Dexter's Thought's

What a great performance by Healy as she wins every round against a tough experienced fighter. She has made the switch from Kickboxing like her stable mate Rachel Ball and has the potential to emulate her. Hopefully as we get back to normality Katie will be on some small hall shows in Birmingham and the Black Country so she can increase her fan base and hone her skills. I look forward to seeing her progress over the next few years.

Tommy Gun gets second Pro victory



One of the BBC's 'boxer to watch' for the last two years Tommy Collins (23) returned to the ring to notch up his third victory in his third fight in his pro career in Sheffield (21,5,21). Collins whose progress has been scuppered by the lockdowns returned to the ring after over a year out on the undercard of Myron Mills' English title defence at Sheffield arena which was streamed live on Fightzone.

Collins was not given an easy opponent for his first fight back taking on the talented Clayton Bricknell who was looking to get back to winning ways after 3 defeats in a row. Collins boxed well using his speed, great movement and shot picking to win all four of the three-minute rounds of this Super lightweight contest. Collins is now three without defeat and will be looking

to continue his unbeaten record.

Dexter's Thought's

Great win for Tommy against a very tough and talented opponent in Bricknell. He has had to wait over a year to get back into the ring because of the lockdowns but made a positive statement with this win which he can hopefully kick on and be in Midlands title contention in 3 or 4 fights. He is one of the BBC's boxers to watch and we look forward to seeing this talented young progress.

Hennessy Sports Promotion
Live on Channel 5 (22.5.21)



At the Skydome Coventry Hennessy Sports held their first show with fans since the lockdown ended. On the show were 4 of the Midlands finest know by the Bbccolumn as the 'Fab 4' you had 'The Savage' Sam Eggington headlining the show with hard hitting Kaisee Benjamin, the talented Shakan Pitters and Coventry's own River Wilson-Bent all on a packed undercard. Also, on the undercard you have Idris Virgo, Michael Hennessy jr, Steven McKenna, Tommy Welch and Brett McGinty.

'The Savage' Wins WBC Silver Title.



Sam Eggington was the main event on this Hennessy Sports show with his fight being shown live on channel five. Eggington was taking on the current WBC Silver Middleweight champ Carlo Molina in a 12-round contest for this title which will give Eggington a WBC world ranking. Eggington weighed in 11 stone 4 with the champ Molina weighing in 11 stone 5.

It was a great first round by Eggington as he showed controlled pressure as he worked well to Molina's body and head, Molina got some good shots off but this was Eggington's round. Great jabbing by Eggington in the second as Molina got on the front foot and let his hands go, even round. Eggington got back on the front foot in the third and had Molina rocking with some big shots. Molina showed his world class quality but Eggington bossed the round. The fourth was a quite one with Eggington controlling the round with his jab.



Eggington used his jab well in the fifth again keeping it long with his jab and controlling the round, Molina seem like he was tiring in this round. Molina tried to slow the pace in the sixth round getting some good shots off but only in singles. Eggington used his jab well but his work rate had slowed with Molina edging the round. Eggington picked up the pace in the seventh with Molina matching him with good shots for part of the round, Eggington edged the round finishing the stronger. Great jabbing and straight one, two's by Eggington at the start of the eighth as he controlled the round. Molina did have some joy in the middle part of the round but Eggington won this one with a strong ending.

Round nine was a back and forth one with both fighters getting good combinations off even round. Eggington picked his shots well going back to what he had did in the first working Molina's head and body with Molina seemed to be feeling the pace. Eggington moved well and showed some great shot picking as he beat Molina to the punch to win the round. Molina poured the pressure on



in the final round as Eggington moved and countered well. Molina banged in some big shots but Eggington was not going to be denied and fought fire with fire to the final bell.

All three judges scored the fight to Eggington with judge Guido Cavalleri having it 116 to 112, Fabians Guggenheim had it 119 to 109 and John Latham had it 117 to 111. Myself I scored 118 to 112 in Eggington favour.

In the other fights the hard hitting Kaisee Benjamin has secured a shot at the British Welterweight title by stopping Martin Harkin who could not come out for the seventh round. In a hard-fought fight Benjamin started to get through with some big shot ending the sixth round by smashing in a sickening right hand body shot and then catching Harkin with a cracking right hand to the head just after the bell. Harkin went down but the ref didn't deem it a knockdown Harkin then went back to his corner and could not come out for the seventh round. Benjamin has now earned himself a British title shot against Chris Jenkins.



Shakan Pitters showed his class with a polished performance against a very game Jermaine Springer. Pitters was back to winning ways showing great movement and shot picking dropping Springer in the fourth before ref Kevin Parker stopped the fight in the fifth.

The home boy River Wilson-Bent also put on an outstanding performance taking his record to 9 without defeat in front of his Coventry fans. Wilson-Bent took unbeaten George Farrel's 0 stopping him in the seventh round defending his Middleweight Midlands area title as well. Wilson-Bent celebrated in front of his 300 fans that had brought tickets off him and will be now looking to move on to even bigger titles.



Also, from Birmingham Idris Virgo took his tally to 10 wins and 1 draw beating veteran Journeyman Lewis Van Poetsch for the second time. Virgo came in 12 stone 10 for these 6 round fights winning every round.

Dexter's Thought's



What a great night of boxing it's just a shame that more of it was not shown on terrestrial TV.

Sam Eggington showed that he is a world class level winning the WBC Middleweight silver belt. He has had to move up a weight to get that world ranked statuses and beating a very tough Mexican as well. Will Eggington win a world title? In my opinion it depends which world champ he is put up against. Does he deserve a world title shot? I'd say most definitely, he is a shining light of what you can do with will determination, heart and a great team around him. I look forward to seeing 'The Savage' on the world scene.

Kaisee Benjamin showed that he is more than ready for the British challenge and I can't wait to see him fight for the title. He has hung round the Midlands area scene to long and in my opinion should have already contested and won the British title already. I can see Benjamin going beyond the British scene and there may even be a world title in his future.

Shak is Back! I never had a doubt that Shackan would bounce back from that shock defeat. Pitters looked as shape as ever and I can either seeing him winning back his British crown or even surpassing that and going on the win European or even contest for world honours.

River Wilson-Bent put on a great display in his home town and showed he I ready for the step up. I think the next step has got to be the English title and I have very high hopes for this likable fighter.

Virgo beat Van Poetsch for the second time, he came in really heavy for this fight and fair play won ever round, but I would still like to see him a non-journeyman and show how good he actually is. The pantomime Villain of boxing has been on social media calling out the likes of Logan Paul and Tommy Fury, hopefully he can fight someone with a positive record instead of chasing YouTubers and fellow love Island contestants

Walker Wins Midlands Area Title



Wolverhampton's Conah Walker has finally claimed the Welterweight Midlands area title against a very tough opponent in Levi Ferguson. Walker has been waiting a long time to get his hands on this title after injury and lockdowns had scuppered his title quest. Both fighters had similar records with Walker having an unbeaten record of 8 wins and one draw with Ferguson winning five out of his 6 contests with his one defeat coming in his first crack at the Midlands area title.

The fight was streamed live on Fightzone from Sheffield and was of the undercard of Kash Ali's IBF Heavyweight European title challenge (28.5.21). Walker and Ferguson both weighed in 10 stone 6 for this highly anticipated 10 round contest.

Both fighters let their hands go from the start in the first round, with both fighters getting good shots off with Walker edging it. Walker took the centre of the ring in the second and banged out some nice combinations, Ferguson came back with some good shots but Walker won the round on work rate. Walker continued his good work staying on the front foot showing great movement, Ferguson seemed to be waiting too long before letting his hands go but did get some good shots off, Walker edged the round again. Ferguson picked up the pace at the start of the fourth but Walker replied taking the fight to him. Both fighters had joy in this back and forth round with Ferguson edging it. The fifth was another back and forth round with Walker pressing the fight, Ferguson was happy to counter and got on the front foot bear the end but it was Walker's round. Great battling performance by both fighters, Walker caught Ferguson with a nice one, two which caught Ferguson off guard knocking him back with the ropes keeping on his feet. With that the ref stepped in and gave Ferguson a standing 8 count, Ferguson looked fine and saw the rest of the round out with no issues.

Great movement and shot picking by Walker and seemed to be wearing Ferguson down, Ferguson fought back hard but it was Walker's round. Ferguson got some good shots off at the start of the eighth, Walker replied with some great work on the inside, close round could not split them. Close ninth round as they both went toe two toe with Ferguson just edging the round. Ferguson poured on the pressure in the final round and let his hands go in a cracking contest, another round that could have gone either way, even round.

Referee Darren Sarginson scored the fight 96 to 95 to Walker myself I had it 98 to 93 Walker.

Dexter's Thought's



What an epic fight, this was for a Midlands area title but the way these two fighters went for it, it could have been a world title. I had Walker winning this fight by quite a big margin but every round was close and Ferguson was in every round I just thought Walkers got the cleaner shots off. On the refs card the 8 count was the telling factor as he only had a point in it at the end. Thus was a great fight to watch and is an early contender for the Midlands fight of the year. I can see Ferguson coming back from this and win a Midlands title but I can really see Walker moving on and contesting for English and even British titles but there is another Midlands fight I would love to see him fight. Walker was meant to fight Kaisee Benjamin for the Midlands last year and that is definitely a fight I'd like to see for the English

or the British title. I look forward to seeing Conah progress in his career after his first title win.

Fightzone Weekend



Ne steaming channel Fightzone held a weekend of boxing from Sheffield arena's car park. Set over Friday 4th and Saturday 5th of June Fightzone held two full shows on their streaming channel which costs only £4.99 a month. The Birmingham Boxing Column was interested in 3 fighters on the cards with Brett Fido fighting on the Friday and Showy Taylor and Thomas Essomba fighting on the Saturday

Fido upsets Debutant



McCracken gyms Brett Fido was a late replacement for Fridays Fightzone taking on debutant John Patrick Walker on the undercard of the show. The fight was scheduled over 4 three-minute rounds in the Super-Featherweight division with Fido weighing in 9 stone dead and Walker coming in 9 stone 2. All the rounds were close but I thought Walker nicked the first with the second being unite even. By the start of the third Fido seemed to have the measure of Walker and just out worked him and got the cleaner shots off for rounds three and four. The referee Jamie Kirkpatrick had it the same as me 39 to 38 in favour of Fido.

Showy Puts Debutant Though There Paces

BCB's Showy Taylor put a young debutant through his paces in a cracking 4 rounder on the undercard of the Fightzone show Saturday 5th June. Showy was taking on 18-year-old Harry Mullins in the Flyweight division with both fighters weighing in 8 stone 1. Mullins boxed well against the experience Taylor with the two southpaws' entertaining the crowd. Showy poured on the pressure switch hitting and giving this young fighter a good challenge. The ref had the fight 40 to 36 to Mullins but Showy had put on a good display after being out of the ring for such a long time.



Essomba loses in close Eliminator



BcB's Thomas Essomba headlined the Fightzone show on Saturday 5th of June in Sheffield. Essomba was taking on Marc Leach in a 12 round British Eliminator in the super Bantamweight division.

This was a very cagey affair with both southpaws edged their way into the fight. Essomba was put down in the sixth round When he was caught with a lead right hand to his chest which caught him off balance. After the Knock down Essomba picked up the pace but Leach matched him well.

The judges had it unanimously to Leach with judges Michael Alexander scoring it 115 to 113 and Howard Foster and Darren Sarginson scoring it 115 to 112 to Leach.

Dexter's Thought's



First, I'd like to say what a great concept Figtzone is with at least 4 shows a month for £4.99 with Midland's boxing being well represented it is a must for any boxing fan.

What a great result for Brett Fidoe and what a mad decision for Walkers team to pick such a dangerous fighter for his debut. I had the pleasure of watching Fidoe train when his coach Spencer McCracken senior was training his fighters at Cogans Corner. Fidoe trains hard even when there were no fights on the cards for opportunities like this. Fidoe worked his way into the fight and was a very deserved winner, it would be good to see Fidoe contest for a title at some point as I think he would give any fighters in his division a run for their money.

Essomba was in another close contest and I think the knockdown was a big contributor to this decision. It was unfortunate as it was

a nothing punch that caught him in the chest but he was off balance and had to touch down. Hopefully Essomba gets another chance in an Eliminator but I'm sure he will be in high end title fights and will be causing more upsets.

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Early Nights For Davies & Heany

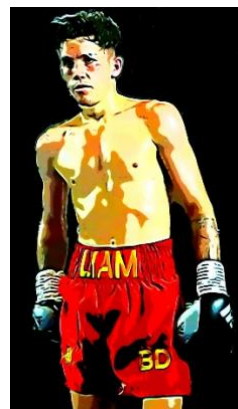


Two of BcB's finest showed off their skills at Telford International Centre on the Queensberry promotions show Live on BT sports (5.6.21). Telford born Liam Davies and Stokes favourite fighter Nathan Heaney sold more than 800 tickets of the 1000 on sale as limited number of fans were allowed back in. Both fighters were in no mood to hang about as both fighters had early nights with great stoppage victories.

Davies Shines In Front of Home Fans

Telford's Home boy Liam Davies took on Stefan Slavchev in a 6-round contest on the undercard of this show. Unbeaten Davies who was crowned English Bantamweight champ in his last contest weighed in 8 stone 11 with Slavchev coming in 9 stone 1.

Davies started the first round brightly using his jab well getting some nice combinations off. Slavchev was on the defensive from the start and was just looking to counter. But Davies speed and quality shinned though as he put Slavchev down with a straight left hand, ref Kevin Parker counted Slavchev and then warned Davies for hitting while his opponent was going down. Davies had Slavchev down again right at the end of the round, Slavchev got up and managed to see out the round. Davies came out with intent in the second looking for the finish. He banged in big shots putting Slavchev down early in the round, Slavchev reluctantly got up but as soon as the fight continued, he was straight back down as Davies went in for the kill. Ref Kevin Parker waved the fight off one minute and one second of the second round.



Heany Shines In Stoppage Victory



Stokes Nathan Heaney was chief support on the undercard of this Queensberry promotion, the unbeaten fan favourite was taking on Lliyan Markov in a 10-round contest. Heaney weighed in 11 stone 5 while Markov came in at 11 stone dead. Heaney got his jab going from the start in the first round with a massive support cheering him on. Heaney was steady and very calm as he picked his shots well with some nice combinations. Heaney picked his shots well in the second but was now letting his hands go, Markov tried to get some right hands off but was on the back foot for most of the round. Heaney started to bang in

some hurtful body shots as he started to pick up the pace. The end came with Heaney catching Markov with an evil right hook body shot that put him down with ref Shaun Messer counting him out.

Dexter's Thought's



Well, what can you say two great performances from two great talents, Davies is getting better with every fight and has to be destined to be at least British champ at some point. The young unbeaten fighter has a massive support and probably could have sold most of the arena out if it had been allowed. I can only see good things for Davies in his future and now he has established himself BT sports things can only get better for him.

Nathan Heaney's fans nearly brought the roof down in Telford, he had the majority of the support and did not disappoint his fans. Heaney is another unbeaten fighter with a massive future ahead of him and I can definitely see a British or maybe

European title in his future.

I look forward to seeing these two talented fighters fight again soon.



Mission Completed
50 Round For the NHS



On Saturday 29th of May 2021 I managed to complete the challenge I had set myself of doing 50 rounds of sparring in one session to raise money for the NHS at Cogan's Corner professional boxing gym Digbeth. I started the challenge at 1 o'clock with the first 3 rounds being with my old foe and friend Malcolm Stowe. Malcolm as always brought the heat and the people who came to watch witnesses 3 solid rounds of sparring to kick off the event. With pro trainer Shaun Cogan dictating who entered the ring next the people and sparring partners witnessed young, old, heavy and light putting me through my paces in this gruelling

challenge. Some of the highlights of the sparring was moving round with BKB British champ Dan Podmore on two occasions for a total of 4 rounds. I also took on ex pro Carl Dickens who went through the gears to give me a good 4 rounds in two separate sessions. I also got the pleasure to take on ex pros Gary Deakin and Les Byfield, Deakin only came down to support me with Byfield only coming down to support his girlfriend but both got in and done a few rounds.

Some of the big hitters from the unlicensed scene also turned up with Marcus Carter, Stuart Marley and Craig Taylor all seeing if I still had the skills to pay the bills.

There were also some of the lighter lads from the unlicensed game with the likes of Joey Cummins, Craig Jones, Zhico Singh and Danny Benson who used their speed and movement to keep me on my toes. From Cogan's Corner we also had Matt Balfour, Hero and Shaun Cogan's son Luke representing the gym. There were a few light rounds with the likes of female boxer Danielle Bennett, Man like Plug and Shaun Cogan's grandson. The final round was meant to be with Shaun Cogan but ended being against 3 generations of Cogan's with Shaun, his son and his grandson all taking me on in a funny but very hard 50th round.



There was some great generosity shown by the people who came to support me and the fighters who fought with the donation bucket filled with over £650. There is still money coming into the Fund me page but it looks like that we have managed to raise over £2000 for the NHS. I intend to leave the fund me page open for a week or so to let the people who have promised donation to put them in.





Dexter's Thought's



I am truly overwhelmed by the generosity of people and I'm still getting my head around what I managed to achieve by completing 50 rounds at the age of 50. Firstly, it shows that age is only a number and with a bit of determination, will and belief in yourself anything is possible. I have had 24 fights in my unlicensed career and beat some top fighters on the way to winning 6 titles but this achievement has to go down as one of my best. When I started this campaign to raise money for Good Hope Hospital after they looked after my brother Phil who had to be put into an induced coma for 3 weeks after catching Covid-19 I was only looking to raise £1000 and it looks like I have raised over £2000. I have been astonished and humbled by the support I have got and would like to thank everyone who has donated and supported me. The fund me page will be left open for the next week or so, so if you haven't donated there is still time.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has donated and supported me.

Boxing Art By Dexter



Denny Looking for British Title Shot After a Great Victory



BcB's southpaw Tyler Denny is now looking for a British title shot after beating the unbeaten and talented Derrick Osaze. The Middleweight from Rowley Regis showed that his lockdown lay off had not dampened his ambition to win big titles with this fantastic performance. The 10-round fight was streamed live on the Fightzone channel from outside the Sheffield arena and was supposed to be for the EBU European title but for some reason the belt was taken off the card. Denny who's record before the fight stood at 12 wins 2 draws and 2 defeats weighed in 11 stone 3. The unbeaten

Osaze who had won all 10 of his contests weighed in 11 stone 4.

There was no feeling out period in the first round as both fighters let their hands go. Osaze had Denny on the ropes a few times in the round but Denny covered up well and fought back hard but Osaze won the first round. Osaze was really letting his hands go in the second with a barrage of punches which Denny took a lot of them on his gloves. Denny had joy with some big shots which seemed to stun Osaze with Denny nicking the round with the cleaner shots. Denny picked his shots well at the start of the third and could not miss with his left hand. Osaze had a good go back but it was Denny's round.

Denny moved well in the fourth and countered well as Osaze chased shadows, Denny won this round out boxing Osaze. Osaze started the fifth round well with a big spurt but Denny covered up well then got on his toes and countered on the back foot picking his shots well to win the round. Osaze again came out swinging in the sixth letting big shots go, Denny covered up well and came back with shots of his own coming back strong at the end to nick the round. The seventh was another great display by Denny as he moved well and showed great shot picking winning this round with ease.

Denny continued to counter well in the eighth as Osaze looked to put it on him, Denny moved and countered well and put some nice combinations together to win the round. Osaze poured on the pressure in the ninth but Denny countered well with some great shots but Osaze edged the round. Denny moved well shooting out his jab as Osaze pressed and poured on the pressure. Osaze tried everything to get Denny even pushing him down to the floor, for that the ref took a point off him making the round a 10, 8 to Denny.



The ref Darren Sarginson scored the contest 97 to 93 to Denny myself I had it 98 to 91 to Denny.

Dexter's Thought's

What a great performance by Tyler, he has not fought since November 2019 when he lost his English challenge but showed he is a British level fighter. A lot of people fancied Osaze for this fight but Denny used skill, great shot picking and all his experience to win this fight quite comfortably. Denny talked in his interview after about fighting for big titles like the British and I think with this performance he has earned that. He has been sparring the likes of Zach Parker, Lennox Clarke and Ricky Summer and he has held his own which you could see in this performance. Tyler should now be holding the EBU Middleweight European title which this fight was advertised to for but for some reason it wasn't. If it had of been Denny would have been added to the Bbccolumn Hall of Fame so fingers crossed he either gets to fight for that title next or for the British. The Birmingham Boxing Column looks forward to seeing Denny in action again very soon an are glad to see him back in the ring.

Windle wins Eliminator in Style



stone 8

Bright start by both fighters as both of them let their hands go in the first round. Windle sustained a cut above his right eye from a clash of heads with McCubbin sustaining a cut above his left. Windle caught McCubbin with a sharp right hand which seemed to hurt McCubbin, close round could not split them. McCubbin started the second well getting good shots off Windle came back strong to get a share of the round. Close third round with both fighters getting shots off, McCubbin just edged the round. Another close round in the fourth with as both fighters went punch for punch with Windle just nicked it.

The fifth was a back-and-forth round with both fighters getting good combinations off. Windle then pulled out a cracking body shot which put McCubbin down, he managed to get up for the count of 9 and saw the round out. McCubbin seemed to have recovered from the body shot from the last round, it was a quite round but Windle edged it. Great seventh round with some great exchanges, Windle controlled the round with McCubbin coming back at the end but too late to win it. Brave, brave attempt in the eighth round by McCubbin who kept up a high tempo but it was Windle who was in control and getting the eye-catching shots off.

The ninth was McCubbin's best round so far as he put his shots together and seemed to hurt Windle a few times. McCubbin spured on from the success from the ninth came out with intent in the tenth round banging in big shots. Windle then returned fire with great shots with Windle just edging the round. Both fighters went toe to toe in the eleventh with both boxers banging in great shots with Windle edging it. Windle came out in the final round fast as he let his hands go. McCubbin fought back hard and showed loads of heart as Windle finished the stronger.



The judges had it unanimous with John Latham having it 114 to 113, Darren Sarginson having it 117 to 110 and Bob Williams scoring it 116 to 111 all in favour of Windle. I had it 118 to 112 Windle.

Dexter's Thought's

What a fantastic fight and what a great win for Matt Windle. I was lucky enough to see Windle train for most of this camp at Cogans Corner and knew he would come out of this Victorious. His trainer Spencer McCracken senior really got him ready for this fight and it was just a shame it was not actually for the Commonwealth title. Windle should now be the champ and would have been entered into the Bbcolumn Hall of Fame but will now have to wait until he gets his title fight. This was a great contest and will be up there for fight of the year without a doubt. I look forward to seeing Windle fight for the Commonwealth Flyweight title.

Dacres Wins Second Fight



Sol Dacres won his second professional fight on the undercard of the Matchroom promotions Ritson, Ponce show live on Sky sports (12.6.21). The six-foot 5 Heavyweight from Warley West Midlands who had a Stella amateur career put on a great display against a very game Alvaro Terrero stopping him in the fourth round of the six-round contest. Dacres weighed in 16 stone 1 with Terrero coming in 15 stone 5.

Nice jabs and hooks from Dacres who seemed to be taking his time and picked his shots well in the first. Terrero sustained a cut above his left eye from a good right hand with Dacres winning the round

with ease. Dacres countered to pick his shots well in the second and was dismantling Terrero who was having a go back but was not having much joy.

Lovely lead left hooks from Dacres who continued to take his time and was picking his shots well. Terrero battled hard but Dacres was just too good for him. Dacres was boxing well and started to go to the head and body breaking Terrero down, he then seemed to stun Terrero and went through the gears with the ref having to jump in and stopping the fight 1 minute 36 second of the fourth round.

Dexter's Thought's

Sol Dacres looks a very accomplished fighter and has a nice relaxed style which I like and with Matchroom behind him he will go far in the domestic Heavyweight division without a doubt. He is only weighing in at 16 stone which in Heavyweight terms is very light so I think as he progresses in his career, he will have to bulk up a bit to take on the bigger boys. He looked good against Terrero who came to have a go but could not do much against Dacres. He is still learning the pro game and with Max McCracken staring him in the right direction he can definitely be a force in British heavyweight boxing.

Sensational Victory for Fido

Journeyman Bret 'The Threat' Fido lived up to his nick name with a sensational Victory against Northern Ireland's Tyrone McCullagh on the MTK show (25,6,21). Fido (30) was having his 75th fight of his career where he had won 14, drew 5 and lose 65, McCullagh (30) from Derry had won 14 contest with his only defeat coming in his last fight. The fight was scheduled to be contested over 6 rounds and was in the Featherweight division with southpaw McCullagh coming in 9 stone 1 and Fido coming in at 8 stone 12.

The first two rounds went as expected with McCullagh using his jab well and getting some good combinations out with Fido covering up well and letting the odd shot go. It was the third round where Fido came to life as he started to let his hands go and caught McCullagh with a nice left hook which seemed to rock him. McCullagh took it well but Fido then jumped on him and let left and right hooks go at his much taller adversary. McCullagh looked on shaky legs already then Fido caught him with a lovely left and then a right hook that put McCullagh down. The ref started to count and McCullagh managed to get to his feet, the ref took a long look at him before waving the fight off and giving Fido his 15th victory.



Dexter's Thought's

What a great victory for Fido, McCullagh and his team most likely thought that they were going to have a straight forward night with a good win after his last fight, but no one told Fido that. Brett is a seasoned journeyman and always gives a good show and puts the home boxer through there paces. But if he sees an opportunity he not called 'The Threat' for nothing and will put it on you like he did to McCullagh. This was a great win for Brett let hope he gets more calls to fight as prospects want to test themselves in steady of going for easy fights.

Wilson-Bent v Heaney Scheduled for English Title Clash



Two of the Midlands hottest prospect have been scheduled by the British Boxing Board of Control to fight for the Middleweight English title. Following Linus Udofia vacating the title the BBBoC have named Coventry's River Wilson-Bent and Stoke on Trent's Nathan Heaney to clash for the English as the two fighters put there unbeaten records on the line. The fight has gone to purse bids with the front runners being Hennessy Sports and Queensberry promotions with the fight having to take place before the end of 2021.

River Wilson-Bent (27) is the current Middleweight Midlands Midland's area champion and is unbeaten in his 9 contests. The Coventry's banger has 5 stoppages on his record with both his Midlands title fights ending in stoppage. Wilson-Bent will be hoping Hennessy Sports wins the bid as his massive fan base would turn up if it is held in Coventry.

Nathan Heaney (32) is a former Midlands area Middleweight champ and has also won the IBO continental super Middleweight title. He has a perfect record of 12 wins without defeat with 4 stoppages to his name with five of his contests being over 10 rounds. Heaney will be hoping for Queensberry promotions to win the bid as like Wilson-Bent he also has a massive following that would tare the roof off any arena if it was held in Stoke.

This has the potential to be a fight of the year and a great advert for boxing in the Midlands.

Dexter's Thought's

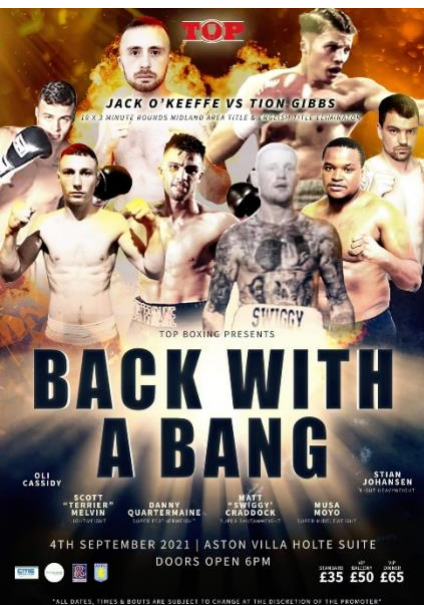


What a great fight this could be, it has the potential to be one of the fights of the year as two of the Midlands hottest prospects putting there unbeaten records on the line in the quest of the English title. Both fighters have massive fan bases and which ever promoter gets this fight needs to get a big arena to facilitate there fans. It is only at the bidding stage so there is the possibility that is might not happen but someone in Wilson-Bent's team has already told me this is the fight they want. He continued by stating that as much as they would like the fight in Coventry, they would be happy to beat Heaney in Stoke.

I rate both fighters but have followed Wilson-Bent's career very closely and have been really impressed with his progress. He has a great chance of winning this title but it is very far from a forgone conclusion, Nathan Heaney is a very talented fighter and like Wilson-Bent has knockout potential in his fists and I'm sure him and his BcB team will be looking to win the title and challenge for bigger honours. Hopefully this fight goes a head whether it is in Stoke or Coventry I'm sure it is going to be a great fight.

New Main Event & Undercard

TOP Back With A Bang



Tommy Owens Promotions have confirmed a new main event and the undercard for their first show back since the first lockdown at the Holte Suite Villa Park September 4th. The main event had been scheduled to be the 'O-Taker' Ben Fields taking on Tom Silcox for the super Lightweight Midlands area title, this fight has now been put on hold until further notice and has been replaced with an equally good main event.

The new main event will be for the Midlands Lightweight area title between the current unbeaten champ Jack O'Keeffe against the very talented and also unbeaten Tion Gibbs. O'Keeffe is unbeaten in 10 fights and won the title against Shaun Cooper in July of 2019 winning by stoppage, he then went on to defend it against Ishmael Ellis winning on points in November of 2019. Tion has had 7 fights without defeat and beat Clayton Bricknell in his last fight in June 2019.

The undercard has 6 bouts of boxing on it with all of them being over four, three minute rounds at the moment with 3 fighters making their debut with all their opponents to be announced. On the card you have Leamington Spa's Super Featherweight hot prospect Danny Quartermaine who has

fought once making his debut in February of 2020. In the super Welterweight division Oli Cassidy will be having his second fight after winning his debut in November of 2019. Having his fourth contest you have Matt Craddock who last fought in September of 2020 putting on a great display against Jack Bateson losing on points.

Making their debuts on the night you have the very talented lightweight Scott Melvin, super Middleweight Musa Moyo and in light Heavyweight action you have Stian Johansen.

Dexter's Thought's



What a great show this is shaping up to be, I was really looking forward to Fields v Silcox but unfortunately, we will have to wait for that one. But O'Keeffe v Gibbs is a cracking contest and I'm sure will be an exciting fight. O'Keeffe has proved he can compete over 10 rounds and if it wasn't for Covid should have challenged for the English title by now. Gibbs is unbeaten but as a pro untested, he has only had one contest over 6 rounds so it will be interesting if the fight goes beyond that. Gibbs was a very accomplished amateur which will see him in good stead, but after watching O'Keeffe train over the lockdown at Cogans Corner he will be asked a lot of questions by the talented Vegan. This is a great main event for Tommy Owens Promotions to come back with.

I will also be looking forward to the undercard and look forward to seeing Danny Quartermaine and Matt 'Swiggy' Craddock again in action. It will also be good to see some fresh talent with three fighters making their

debut but the one I'm really looking forward to see is Scott Melvin who the Column have interviewed as an amateur. He has won multiple area titles and box cups as an amateur and has also fought for England, so I expect big things from the boxer they call 'Terrier'.

Beech jr Loses At Wembley



International and the Commonwealth Heavyweight title with Beech bringing a massive support from his home town of Walsall.

Walsall's James Beech jr took on the current WBC International Super Bantamweight champ Chris Bourke at SSE Arena Wembley (24.7.21). The fight was for the WBC title and would be contested over 10 rounds with both fighters weighting in at 8 stone 9. Beech jr who is a two weight Midlands area champion has only lost once in 13 fights with his only defeat coming against Brad Foster for the British title. Queensberry promotions Hot prospect Bourke is a former Southern area champ and has won all 9 of his contests with 6 of them coming by the way of knockout. This contest kicked off Queensberry promotions show Live on BT sports on the undercard card of the Joe Joyce v Carlos Takam for the WBA Silver, WBO

The first three rounds were very cagey as both fighters tried to feel each other out, Bourke nicked all three rounds finishing stronger in each of them. Bourke started the 4th round strong and caught Beech with some good shots, Beech battled back hard and got some good shots off of his own but it was Bourke's round. The fifth was a quite one with both fighters having joy, even round. The sixth was another quite one with Beech just looking off the pace and seemed to be struggling against Bourke's southpaw stance. Beech seemed to wake up in the seventh and got some great combinations off and started to look like the old James Beech. Bourke really started to let his hands go in the eighth getting some big shots off to win the round. Beech seemed to be feeling the pace in the ninth as Bourke went through the gears to win the round. Beech continued to press but Bourke countered well and forced Beech back to win the round and the fight.

The judges scored it like this, judge Predrag Aleksic had it 100 to 90 Bourke, Ian John Lewis had it 99 to 92 Bourke and Kieran McCann scored it 99 to 91 Bourke. Myself I had it 99 to 92 Bourke

Dexter's Thoughts



As a massive Jamie's Beech fan this is a hard one to write as in my opinion Beech never really got started in this fight. To me he just seemed off the pace compared to when he fought Foster a year ago for the British title. I got to say Bourke had a great game plan and countered well from his southpaw stance, but I just didn't see any of that James Beech skilful pressure he is known for. This was only Beech's second fight in the last two years since beating Luke Jones for the Midlands area Featherweight title and I'm thinking that may be a big part to this defeat. Beech is only 24 and I'm sure will learn and come back stronger from this defeat and be fighting on the big stage very soon. Hopefully his promoters BcB Promotions can get him on some of these small hall shows when they come back so he can hone his skills and go again for some big titles. I look forward to seeing this talented fighter come back stronger and learn from this defeat and

challenge for British and European honours.

Bavington Takes On Matchroom Hot Prospect



BcB's female boxer Kirstie Bavington took on Matchroom's newest hot prospect and former amateur World Championship and Commonwealth medallist Sandy Ryan on her debut. The fight was going to kick off the first Matchroom Fight Camp of the year at Matchroom's headquarters now known as Matchroom Square Garden (31.7.21). It was scheduled for 6 two-minute rounds in the super Lightweight division. Both fighters weighed in 10 stone 4 the day before the fight.

Bavington (28) from Wolverhampton took the fight at short notice and had not fought since February of 2020 when she got a draw against Vaida Masiokaite. Ryan (27) from Derby has had an excellent amateur career winning gold in the Commonwealth games 2018 and claiming silver medal in the 2014 world championships.

Bavington poured on the pressure from the first bell in a scrappy start to the first round, as the round settled down Ryan got some good shots off to win the round. Bavington continued to hunt Ryan down in the second who was moving well, Ryan again won the round with some eye-catching shots. Ryan seemed to have got into her groove in the third as she picked her shots well and controlled the round, Bavington continued to press but it was Ryan's round.

Ryan showed great shot picking in the fourth as she picked Bavington off with some very slick shots, Bavington seemed to tire but continued to press. Ryan moved well around the ring in the fifth as she picked off Bavington with slick and composed shots. Bavington rolled the dice in the final round as she poured on the pressure leaving it all in the ring. Ryan showed her quality and banged in some heavy shots winning the round and the fight.



The referee Mark Bates scored it 60 to 54 Ryan, I had it the same.

Dexter's Thought's



First of all it was great to see Kirstie back in the ring after a long lay off due to the lockdowns. Bav was always going to be up against it taking on the very accomplished amateur Sandy Ryan on her pro debut. Bavington pressured and pressed Ryan all the way and I got to say made the debutant work for all six rounds and she had to show her class to see Bav off. Kirstie and her team will learn a lot from this fight and the experience of fighting on a real big show and I'm sure Bav will be back real soon as the small hall shows come back. I look forward to seeing her in the ring real soon.

Galal Win Gold



Team GB's and Birmingham's Galal Yafai has won the gold medal in the men's flyweight final after beating the Philippines' Carlo Paalam at the Tokyo Olympics.

The Birmingham boxer put down his opponent in the first round with a cracking straight left and kept going to edged a highly competitive contest to secure the verdict.

This ended a stunning run of form for the 28-year-old, who was competing in his second Olympics having lost his second bout at Rio 2016.

All five of the judges gave Paalam the last round of the contest but Yafai had built up enough of a lead to secure the win on four of the five judges' cards.

Yafai told the BBC: "I have trained hard, given it everything. It shows if you do that you can get the rewards. I'm Olympic champion and I'm over the moon.

Advertisement

"I'd like to thank everyone who has supported me, it's overwhelming."

The young fighter plans to take his time before deciding his boxing future, adding: "I'm going to chill and relax with my friends and think about the next chapter after."

Yafai followed his older brothers Kal and Gamal onto the GB Boxing programme and in Rio he became the family's second Olympian, losing to Cuba's eventual bronze medallist Joahnys Argilagos in his second fight.

Yafai came into his own in Tokyo, negotiating a tough route to the gold medal match, starting with a convincing stoppage win over Koryun Soghomonyan of Armenia in his preliminary bout.

He then had a close win over Zambian Patrick Chinyemba which provided a timely opportunity to refocus, and then Yafai reaped the benefit in his following bout when he beat Cuba's former world champion Yosbany Veitia.

With a medal was duly guaranteed, Yafai went one better with a fantastic performance in his semi-final against Kazakhstan's Saken BibossinovanH

He then faced an opponent in Paalam with arguably an even more impressive path than his own, including a split decision win over Ireland's Brendan Irvine, plus a split decision victory over reigning Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirov in a quarter-final bout that was abridged due to injuries.

He refused to go down without a fight, landing a left-hand in the dying seconds of the contest, but it was not enough to deny Yafai the victory.



Dexter's Thought's



What an amazing performance from Birmingham's boxing royalty, he is the youngest out of the Yafai brothers but with this Olympic gold has achieved one of the biggest accolades in amateur boxing. At the age of 28 he is more than ready to run over to the professional ranks and I'm sure if he chooses to do so he has more than enough ability to emulate his brothers Gamal and Kal and become champions and continue the Yafai legacy. I really look forward to seeing Galal fight in the pro ranks if he chooses to turn over.

Heaney Out Denny In for English Title



As Nathan Heaney is pulled from the highly anticipated and very lucrative English title fight against River Wilson-Bent a new opponent has been announced for the Coventry Midlands area champion.

Wilson-Bent will now be taking on a former Midlands area champion and a two time English Middleweight title contender Tyler Denny. The fight will go to purse bids with Wilson-Bent's promoters Hennessy Sports being the front runners to air it live on Channel five.

Southpaw Denny (30) from Rowley Regis has an impressive record of 13 wins, 2 draws and two defeats and beat Tom Stokes on points to win the Middleweight Midlands area title in September of 2017. Denny has also challenge for the English title twice before being stopped in the eighth by Reece Cartwright after sustaining a very nasty cut to his lip and then losing on points to Linus Udofia on a Majority decision. Denny is coming off a fantastic win against the then unbeaten Derrick Osaze on points in June of this year.

Wilson-Bent (27) is unbeaten in 9 contests with five of them coming via stoppage. Wilson-Bent won the Midlands area Middleweight title in December of last year against Troy Coleman stopping him in the third round. He then went on to defend the title against George Farrell stopping him in the seventh round in May of this year.

There has not been a date announced yet and as it has gone to purse bids but the contest will fought by the end of January 2022.

Dexter Thought's



Gutted that Wilson-Bent and Heaney won't be getting it on at the moment but that fight could well be for a bigger title in the future. Denny is a seasoned professional and will be a very tough challenge for the hot prospect Wilson-Bent of that I have no doubt. Denny has fought for this title twice before and has been unlucky both times and after his last victory against Derrick Osaze he will be looking to get his hands on this English title. Wilson-Bent is unbeaten and has passed every test that has been put in front of him. He has a massive fan base and if Hennessy Sports win the bids his Coventry support will take the roof off the Skydome in his home town. I got to say I like both fighters and was there when Denny beat Tom Stokes to claim the Midlands area title in great style at Walsall town hall in 2017, but I have also watched River Wilson-Bent's

career flourish and have been very impressed with his progress. This has the potential to be a cracking fight and the Column will be there to report on it. I look forward to this great contest between two great fighters.

Healy Wins Second Contest

Former Kickboxing champion Katie Healy won her second professional boxing match at the Ponds Forge arena Sheffield (27.8.21). Healy took on the highly experienced Karina Kopinska in a four-round contest on the undercard of the Tomlinson, Jardon IBO intercontinental Welterweight title fight. Healy put on an excellent display in a shut out victory winning all four rounds which was being streamed live on Fightzone TV.

The contest was in the super Featherweight division with Healy weighing in 8 stone 12 and Kopinska coming in 9 stone 1. Healy stayed claim as Kopinska let her hands go with lots of aggression in the first round, Healy won the round with great movement and nice jabs. Healy used her movement and jab well in the second as Kopinska continued to press and get shot off. Great movement and counter punching in the third from Healy as Kopinska continued to move forward and put the pressure on. Kopinska did not stop coming forward and pressed with aggressive intent as Healy moved well going to head and body with great shots win with a shut out victory. Referee John Latham scored it 40 to 36 to Healy and I had it the same.

Dexter's Thought's

Another impressive performance by Katie Healy against a very experienced opponent in Kopinska. Her opponent never stopped coming forward and Healy's movement, shot selection and countering was there for all to see as she showed her class. It is still early in Healy's pro boxing career but the form Kickboxing champion is looking like she has the goods to mix it up with the highest level of female boxers, and with BcB Promotions, Fightzone and her trainer Gavin Burrows behind her the future is looking bright for Healy.

Davies shines on Queensberry promotions show



Telford's Liam Davies (25) took his unbeaten record to 10 – 0 on the Queensberry promotions show at the Arena Birmingham (28,8,21). The English champ was doing an eight rounder on the show against the highly experienced Raymond Commey from Ghana. Commey (34) had a decent record of 19 wins 1 draw and 11 defeats after making his debut in December of 2019. Davies was looking to be defending his English title on this show and was looking to impress in these eight rounders in front of 600 plus of his fans that had made the journey to Birmingham. Davies weighed in 8 stone 12 with Commey coming in 8 stone 11 with Shaun Messer refereeing the fight.

Good start by Davies as he boxed well behind his jab in the first round getting some eye-catching uppercuts off. Commey had a go at the start of the second but Davies stuck behind his jab which everything came off. Davies then ended the contest with a cracking right hand which rocked Commey to his boots, Commey went down and did manage to get to his feet, but ref Shaun Messer stopped the fight 2 minutes 52 seconds into the second round.



Dexter's Thought's



What a great display by the English champ in front of his adoring fans as he moves on to 10 without defeat. Davies was looking to defend his title tonight but they couldn't seem to find an opponent willing to take him on. Commey was supposed to be a very durable opponent and had experience and a positive record but Davies beat him with ease to make a statement to all the Bantamweights out there. Davies is a very exciting fighter and has a massive following and if he continues in this form he should be fighting for the British, Commonwealth or European titles this year. I look forward to seeing this exciting fighter back out very soon.

Ahmed in Split Draw for British

Birmingham's Ijaz Ahmed took on Quaise Khademi for the second time this time for the British Super Flyweight title (28,8,21). Ahmed beat Khademi in their last encounter in a cracking contest on a majority decision for the WBO and IBF European Super Flyweight titles in February of this year. The fight was part of the Queensberry promotions show that was being shown live on BT sports at the Arena Birmingham. Ahmed weighed in 8 stone 2 and Khademi coming in the same for this 12-round contest with Steve Gray refereeing the fight.



Both fighters started fast as let there hands go from the first bell with Khademi winning the round with the cleaner shots. The second was another close round with both fighters letting there shots off with Ahmed not taking a step back edging the round. The third was another high tempo round with great shot coming from both fighters, could not split them. None stop action in the in the fourth as both boxers got great combinations off, Ahmed nicked the round with some great inside work.

Ahmed continued to press in the fifth and never took a step back with relentless punching and accuracy to win the round. Khademi kept it long in the sixth and moved well switching from orthodox to southpaw, Ahmed came back strong near the end of the round but Khademi won it. Khademi got on his toes in the seventh and got some great shots off from a southpaw switch, Ahmed continued to press but Khademi won this one. The pace seemed to slow in the eighth as both fighters continued to exchange shots, even round.



The ninth was another even round as both fighters continued to trade shots. Khademi was caught early in the tenth round sustaining a cut above his right eye, this spurred Ahmed on who banged in good shots, Khademi came back with a late rally but it was Ahmed's round. Great right hand by Khademi at the start of the eleventh round, Khademi kept it long and moved well to nick the round. A back and fourth final round as both fighters left it all in the ring, great end to a great fight could not split them.

The three judges had it like this Ian John Lewis had it 115 to 113 Ahmed, John Latham had it 115 to 114 Khademi and Marcus McDonnell had it 114 to 114 split draw. Myself I had it 116 to 116 draw.

Dexter's Thought's



What a great fight this was, definitely a contender for fight of the year the two fighters can be very proud of themselves. Both fighters gave it everything they had and a rematch has to happen, this was a great mix of styles and has all the ingredients for a great trilogy. Ahmed will always be in great fights because of his style, but his style always makes them close exciting contests due to the level of fighter he is taking on. This fight could have gone either way and most rounds in this fight came down to one eye-catching punch in a round, it was that close. I really look forward to the rematch and have a feeling 'Jazzy' will

come out victorious.

Heaney Goes To Thirteen an 0



Stoke-on-Trent's Nathan Heaney took his tally to 13 without defeat at the Queensberry promotions show at the Arena Birmingham (28.8.21). 'The Hitman' (32) took on Konstantin Alexandrov (32) who was a late replacement in a ten round contest Live on BT sports. Heaney had a monstrous support with 1600 plus of his fans making the trip to Birmingham to cheer him on. Heaney weighed in 11 stone 6 with Alexandrov coming in 11 stone 5, referee for the night was Kevin Parker for this ten round contests.



Great jabbing from the first bell by Heaney in the first round with some nice combinations going to the head and body. Heaney continued to pump out a heavy jab in the second as Alexandrov just covered up, nice tidy boxing by Heaney with some great one, twos. Heaney continued to smash in a heavy jab in the third and started to mix it up with some heavy body shots, Heaney was warned for a low blow halfway through but still dominated the round.

Heaney's jab was the trigger for everything in the fourth as his massive fan base cheered him on. He switched from head to body well and Alexandrov was already in survival mode. In the fifth Heaney turned up the pace and started to go though the gears eventually dismantling Alexandrov catching him with two heavy one, twos and then a cracking body shot to put him down. Alexandrov was counted and ref Kevin Parker stopped the fight one minutes 36 seconds of the fifth.



Dexter's Thought's



Great performance by Heaney but not really the best opponent, he was a late replacement and did what he could but like the old saying goes you can only beat what is in front of you. Heaney got the job done in front of over 1600 of his fans who were very happy with his victory. Heaney has asked for big fights and tough opponents, but for some reason his team or promotion company what to go in a different direction than fighting for the English title turning down a title fight against River Wilson-Bent. This would be a truly great fight with two unbeaten fighters with massive fan bases putting it all on the line. If they don't meet for the English and they keep on the same tracks they will have to meet as some point, I look forward to when they do clash.

Gibbs Wins Midlands Area



Tion Gibbs has claimed his first title of his professional career as he took on the unbeaten and former Midland's area Lightweight champ Jack O'Keeffe for the vacant title. The fight was scheduled for 10 three minute rounds and was the main event on the Tommy Owens Promotions show 'Back With A Bang' (4,9,21) at the Holte Suite Villa Park Birmingham. Gibbs (26) was unbeaten in 7 contests before this fight with the tough O'Keeffe being 10 without a loss. Gibbs weighted in 9 stone 8 with O'Keeffe (28) coming in 9 stone 7, refing and scoring the contest you had Shaun Messer.

O'Keeffe started the first round well applying pressure and getting his shots off, Gibbs moved well and slipped O'Keeffe shots well. As they both met in the centre of the ring O'Keeffe seemed to lose his balance but was also caught with a nice left hand that put him down, he got back to his feet took the eight count and continued but this round went to Gibbs. The second was a close one with both fighters getting good shots in, O'Keeffe nicked it with the better work rate. Great movement by Gibbs in the third as he picked his shots to the head and body of O'Keeffe, O'Keeffe came back strong at the end of the round but this round was Gibbs



The fourth was another close one with both fighters having joy, could not split them. Great boxing by Gibbs in the fifth whose movement and shot picking won him the round, O'Keeffe was always in the round but Gibbs style and class shined through. Gibbs continued to move well and picked his shots as O'Keeffe attacked hard, had Gibbs nicking this one. O'Keeffe continued to pressure and press in the seventh but Gibbs movement was keeping him out of trouble and was also landing the eye-catching shots.

The eighth was another back and forth round with both fighters getting good shots off, even round. O'Keeffe poured on the pressure and banged in some heavy shots; Gibbs came back near the end of the round but O'Keeffe had this one. In the final round Gibbs got on his toes as O'Keeffe poured on the pressure, Gibbs countered well on the back foot but O'Keeffe earned a share of the round.

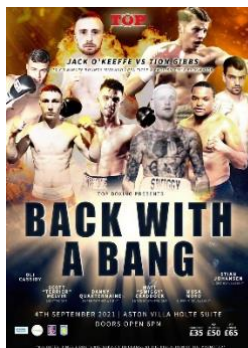


Referee Shaun Messer scored the contest 96 to 95 Gibbs, myself I had it 98 to 94 Gibbs.

Dexter's Thought's

First thing I'd like to say "it was great to be back at a small hall show" and I got to say TOP Boxing delivered with this main event. Both fighters put there unbeaten records on the line and left it all in the ring with a great contest. This was Gibbs biggest test and if we are honest his first real test and he showed that he is more than up for it with a great display of technical boxing and great movement. O'Keeffe showed all the experience and quality's of a real champion and I know he will come back from this defeat stronger. Gibbs has now started his journey up the ranks and will be looking to progress up the ladder and I can definitely see these two warriors fight again maybe for the English in the future. Both fighters should be proud of themselves as they put on a great display on fir their fans. If you look at my scorecard it had Gibbs winning by 4 rounds, the only reason I had it like that was because I favoured the movement of Gibbs and his countering but this was a great fight with the style of both fighters making it a good one. I would like to see these fighters do it again.

Back With A Bang
Tommy Owens Promotions
Undercard



Tommy Owens Promotions held their first show of 2021 at the Holte Suite Villa Park Birmingham (4,9,21). The main event was a Midlands area Lightweight title fight between two unbeaten fighters in Jack O'Keeffe and Tion Gibbs. The main event ended in a close decision with Tion just edging it 96 o 95 on Ref Shaun Messers card.

The undercard had 5 fights on it with four fights over four three minute rounds and one over six three minute rounds. Doing the four rounder's in the home corner you had Danny Quartermaine, Olly Cassidy and making their debuts you had Scott Melvin and Musa Moyo. The six round contest was being fought by Matt Cradock who turned the Holte Suite into St Andrews with his massive support.

Kicking off the show you had debutant Musa Moyo who was taking on veteran Lewis Van Poetsch in the light Heavyweight division. Moyo came in 12 stone 12 and Van Poetsch can in 12 stone 10, refing Chris Dean.

Good start by Moyo who worked behind his jab well and got some nice combos off switch hitting on the way. Moyo continued to switch hit in the second and banged in some very impressive combinations with some nice uppercuts. Moyo continued to control the fight in the third round from start to finish as Van Poetsch did what he could to stop the relentless onslaught of Moyo. Moyo continued to bang in big combinations in the final round, he was warned for a low blow but won the round and the fight with ease.



Ref Chris Dean had it 40 – 36 I myself had it the same.



Next up you have Danny Quartermaine (24) who was taking on Matar Sambou (37) with Quartermaine weighing in 9 stone 9 and with Sambou coming in 10 stone in the welterweight division.

Sambou moved well around the ring as Quartermaine hunted him down with great combinations going to the head and body. Quartermaine was patient in the second and picked his shots well against a very tricky southpaw with some great combinations and cracking right hands that won him the round. Sambou had a go in the third but Quartermaine continued to box well and got some great combinations off winning the round. Quartermaine finished strong picking his shots well with some nice fast combinations with some cracking body shots.

Ref Chris Dean scored it 40 to 36 to Quartermaine I had it myself.

Next up was another debutant Scott Melvin (21) who was taking on Dylan Deaper (39) with Melvin weighing in 10 stone 1 and Draper coming in 10 stone 7 in the super welterweight division. Steady start by Melvin as he picked his shots well catching Draper with a cracking right hand that put him down. Some how he managed to get to his feet and continue, Melvin then jumped on him and let him have everything he had eventually dropping him with a evil body shot which put him down and this time he was not getting up. Melvin won by KO 2 minutes 27 seconds of the first round.



Oli Cassidy (24) was up next and was taking on Seamus Devlin (33) with Cassidy weighed in 11 stone 1 and Draper came in 11 stone 4 in the Middleweight division referee Chris Dean.

Steady start by Cassidy, great jabs and movement controlling the round with nice combinations and body shots. Great jabbing by Cassidy in the second as he controlled the round picking his shots well. The third was another controlled round by Cassidy with great combinations all coming off a great jab. Dealing got on his toes in the final round as Cassidy picked his shots well to win the round and the fight. Ref Chris Dean scored it 40 to 36 I had it the same.

Last on the undercard you had Matt Craddock AKA 'Swiggy' he was contesting a six rounder against Ricky Starkey from Liverpool. Swiggy weighed in 8 stone 11 with Starkey coming in 8 stone 12 in the Featherweight division, referee Chris Dean.

Swiggy took the centre of the ring and took control from the start with some good shots, Starkey came back near the end of the round but Swiggy got this one. In the second Swiggy and Starkey met in the centre of the ring and Starkey sustained a bloody nose from an accidental clash of heads. As blood poured from Starkey's nose Swiggy didn't really jump on this and continued to box well behind his jab to win the round. Swiggy continued to work well behind his jab in the third as Starkey got on his toes as his nose continued to bleed, great pressure by Swiggy to win the round.

Swiggy continued to control the fight in the fourth as Starkey moved away and was in survival mode, Swiggy kept his composure as his massive fan base cheered him on to win the round. Swiggy poured on the pressure in the fifth as Starkey who you could see was in a lot of pain due to his nose was already looking for a way out. Swiggy was banging in big shots before Starkey's corner did him a favour and threw the towel in with the ref stopped the fight. Swiggy Wins TKO 2 minute 44 seconds into the 5th round.



Dexter's Thought's



What a fantastic show for Tommy Owens Promotions first one back after the lockdown. The undercard was fantastic with all the home team winning there fights convincingly. Danny Quartermaine had his second fight and showed how skilful he was but used patients and great shot picking to win this fight against a tricky opponent. Oli Cassidy looked impressive in his first fight at the Holte suite, everything came off a great jab and he looks like he could make waves in the Middleweight division.

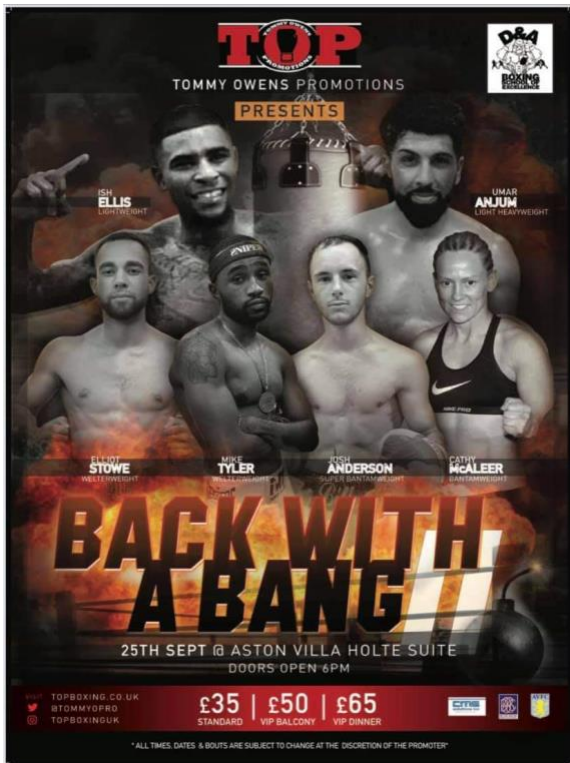
Swiggy put on a great performance in front of a massive support that had came out to cheer him on, and cheer him on they did! Swiggy boxed well and was patient, not rushing in and working behind a tidy jab. The clash of heads was a big factor in how the fight went but Swiggy was impressive and I look forward to seeing him box again soon.

There where two great debutants on the show with Musa Moyo really impressing with 4 dominant rounds against the veteran Journeyman Lewis Van Poetsch. He showed great shot picking and relentless pressure to win his first fight I look forward to seeing him again.

Scot Melvin stole the show with a fantastic first round stoppage in his first fight, I have raved on about this young amateur fir a while now and am glad he has now turned over and he is in the professional ranks.

This was a great stoppage and a great way to start your pro career, I look forward to seeing him again.

The Birmingham Boxing Column would like to thank Tommy Owens Promotions for having the Column at there show.



Eggington Defends Title



'The Savage' Sam Eggington defended his WBC Silver Middleweight title in a potential fight of the year contest live on channel 5. Eggington took on the unbeaten Frenchman Bilel Jktou at the Skydome arena Coventry topping the bill on the Hennessy Sports Promotion show (10,9,21). In this magnificent back and fourth encounter Jktou brought the best out of 'The Savage' with the judges being spit at the end of this 12 round encounter. Sam Eggington weighed in at 11 stone 4 with Jktou coming in 11 stone 3 with Mark Lyson refereeing the contest.

It was a fast start by both fighters as they both let there hands go getting great shots off, I just had Jktou edging it. They went toe to toe in the second as they both let big bursts of combinations off as they went at it in the centre of the ring, Eggington sustained a cut above his right eye but I could not split them in this round. In the third Eggington gave himself some space and started to get nice clean shots off, Jktou had his moments in the round but Eggington won this one.

Eggington started the fourth round well staying behind his jab, Eggington then started to hold his feet and got toe to toe with Jktou who came back strong to just edge the round.

The fifth was another toe-to-toe round that could have been fought in a phone box, both fighters got great combinations off with Eggington edging it with the better work rate. Eggington mixed it up well in the sixth boxing long and then going toe to toe, this was Eggington's most convincing round. Jktou was still battling hard but Eggington's work rate was winning him the seventh round Jktou finished the round strong but it was Eggington's round.

Jktou started the eighth round strong but Eggington came back hard in the second part of the round to winning it.

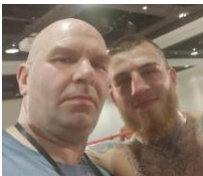
Jktou started the ninth well with some nice shots and

combinations, but Eggington rallied again and got some great combinations off of his own to just nick the round. In the tenth Eggington boxed well using his jab and good movement to control the start of the round, Jktou came back strong in the second part of the round to make it even. The eleventh was won by Eggington's work rate as both fighters went toe to toe again for the entire round. Both fighters left it all in the ring in this fantastic contest as they both neither took a step back as the banged in shots with Eggington finishing the stronger.



The fight went to the judges who had gave a split decision Judge Chirstophe Fernandez had it 116 to 112 Jktou, John Latham had it 117 to 112 Eggington and Judge Alexander Walter scored it 117 to 111 Eggington. I had it 118 to 113 Eggington.

Dexter's Thought's



First things first what a great fight that was and it will definitely be a contender for fight of the year. Eggington was tested in every round of this fight by a fighter who did not know how to lose. At points in the fight when they went toe to toe it looked like 'The Savage' could be out savaged as Jktou seemed to have a lot of joy in this pitched battle. But Eggington's work rate and desire to win saw him edge a lot of the rounds but when Eggington used his jab and movement he seemed in complete control. I think if he had boxed that way on the outside his night would

have been much easier but anyone who has watched Eggington fight knows that's not 'The Savage's' way. This is why Eggington's fights are always exciting encounters and we wouldn't have him any other way. Sam and his team must now be looking at getting a crack at a World title and after this performance Eggington definitely deserves it. I look forward to seeing 'The Savage' in the ring again very soon.

Pitters, Benjamin & Wilson-Bent
Win on Hennessy Undercard



On the undercard of the Hennessy Sports Promotion show at the Skydome Coventry you had the rest of the 'Fab Four' with WBC Silver champ Sam Eggington head lined the show (10,9,21). You had former British champ Shakan Pitters doing a eight rounder, former Midlands area champ Kaisee Benjamin doing a 10 rounder and the 'Coventry Crusader' River Wilson-Bent also doing a 10 rounder.

First up out of the Midlands lads was Shakan Pitters who was taking on Farouk Daku with Shakan weighing in 12 stone 12 and Daku coming in 12 stone 8 with Chris Dean reffing. Pitters started the first round with some great jabbing controlling the round with some nice right hands. Daku covered up well in the second as Pitters picked his shots well with everything coming off a great jab. Pitters picked up the pace in the third and let his hands go as Daku just covered up and was already in survival mode. Daku let a few jabs go at the start of the fourth but Pitters just let his hands go again with heavy combinations to put Daku back into survival mode. Another dominate round by Pitters as he unloaded heavy combinations in the fifth, how Daku stayed up was a miracle. Daku stayed tucked up in the sixth as Pitters picked great shots varying the power to win another round. Pitters piled on the pressure in the seventh banging in flurries of heavy shots, Daku went down from some big shots, but somehow managed to get back to his feet, some how the ref let his carry on. Pitters banded in big shots and the ref could have stopped this fight at any time but somehow Daku saw the round out. Pitters continued to work at a high tempo in final round as Daku looked to see the final bell. Pitters banded in great shotsto head and body and somehow Daku saw the round out.

Ref Chris Dean scored it 80 to 70 Pitters, myself I had it 80 to 71 Pitters.



Next was the hard hitting Kaisee Benjamin who was taking on Jarkko Putkonen. Benjamin weighed in 10 stone 5 with Putkonen coming in the same, referee for this fight was Shaun Messer.

Good start by both fighters in the first as Putkonen seemed to have came to fight, Benjamin worked well behind a hard jab getting great combinations off to win the round. Benjamin showed great movement and shot picking as Putkonen had a go, but all the eye-catching shots came from Benjamin. In the third Benjamin continued to bang in heavy shots to Putkonen head and body, Benjamin then.

made the break though with two evil body shots putting Putkonen where he stayed with Ref Shaun Messer calling off the fight.
Benjamin wins 1 minutes 9 second of the third round.

The final Midlands fighters on the card was River Wilson-Bent who was taking on Gabor Gorbics, River weighed in 11 stone 5 with Gorbics coming in 11 stone 7, reffing the fight you had Shaun Messer.



Wilson-Bent took the centre of the ring in the first and worked well behind a long jab banging in some nice combinations. Wilson-Bent continued to box well in the second behind a stiff jab banging in sweet combinations to Gorbis head and body. A disciplined performance in the third by Wilson-Bent as he continued to work behind the jab getting in some evil body shots with Gorbics just looking to see the bell.

Gorbics got a few good right hands in the fourth as Wilson-Bent continued to bang in some great combinations and now seemed to be breaking Gorbis down. Wilson-Bent went from head to body well in the fifth with some great combinations with some sweet uppercut thrown in, Gorbis did well to get through the round. Wilson-Bent banged in big shots into Gorbis head and body in the sixth as all he could do was cover up, credit to Gorbics for taking all this punishment. Wilson-Bent picked his shots well as he hunted Gorbis down in the seventh who was in full survival mode.

Wilson-Bent was warned for a low blow near the start of the eighth round, the pace had slowed but Wilson-Bent continued to banging in good combinations to win the round. The ninth was a quite round where Wilson-Bent won the round just on his jab. Wilson-Bent kept his concentration in the final round and cruised to a shut-out points victory.
Ref Shaun Messer scored it 100 to 90 I had it the same.

Dexter's Thought's



Wow three great performance's by three of the best from the Midlands. Shakan Pitters showed his class tonight with great shot picking and a lovely jab. I think the fight should have been stopped in the seventh as for the rest of the round and the all the eighth Daku just took more unnecessary punishment than he needed. Hopefully he will be back in title contention either for the British or European very soon.

Kaisee Benjamin was in devastating form dismantling his opponent in three short rounds. His power shone though and the body shots he dropped Putkonen will haunt him. Benjamin needs to be contesting for British honours in my opinion as I think he has surpassed the English title and deserves a crack at the Lonsdale belt at Welterweight he made a big statement tonight and I look forward to seeing him again.

'The Coventry Crusader' River Wilson-Bent showed his discipline in a shut-out performance against a very durable fighter. Wilson-Bent stuck to the plan and boxed well behind a stiff long jab and looked in total control throughout the fight. Wilson-Bent is set to fight for the English Middleweight title against fellow Midland's fighter Tyler Denny who will be by far Wilson-Bent's biggest test. I think if he can get passed Denny he will also be looking for a crack at the Lonsdale belt but he has to beat Denny first. I look forward to this fight.

Dexter Doing 60 Rounds to Raise money for Stop the Bleed Kits



BBColumn's magazine's head writer and CEO Dexter Hastings is on the fund raising campaign again this time to get Trauma Kits to be placed in Pubs and knife crime hotspots around Birmingham. Last time Dexter raised £2500 for the NHS and is now looking to raise as much as he can for his new cause. As he completed 50 rounds last time he has now upped the ante and intends to do 60 two-minute rounds with Ex-pros and some of the best from the unlicensed scene. The event will be held at Cogan's Corner boxing gym 50A Adderley Street Digbeth B9 4ED on Sunday 21st November and will start at 1 O'clock. Already confirmed to do a few rounds we have Ex-pros Craig Cunningham, Don Broadhurst, Frankie Gavin, Josh Baillie, Matt Sen, Eddie Macintosh, Tommy Owens and Carl Dickens.

From the unlicensed scene we have BkB British Champ Dan Podmore, Marcus Carter, Tom Hench, Ginge from Shardend and unlicensed legend Malcom Stowe to name just a few. Dexter told the Column "We at the Column have always tried to raise awareness against knife crime and feel that if one of these kits saves a life the sixty rounds will be worth it". Dexter finished by saying "Please donate whatever you can for this great cause and let's get these life saving Trauma Kits out there and maybe save a life".

If you would like to donate or pledge some money for this great cause. You can contact Dexter Hastings via social media or by email birminghamboxingcolumn@gmail.com.

There is also a go Fund me Page where you can Donate
<https://gofund.me/26264db8>

*Felt So Nice I Had To Do It Twice
But This Time*



60 ROUNDS

Of Sparring

Home to the Birmingham Boxing Column
**COGANS
CORNER**
Boxing Gym



*One O'clock Sunday November 21st
50a Adderley Street Digbeth B9 4ED*