



EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (October, 2024)

Dear boxing friends

There is no doubt that the **British Boxing Board of Control (BBBofC)** is one of the most important Professional Boxing Federations worldwide and certainly the biggest and most important EBU-Federation. It is lead by the Chairman, **Charlie Giles**, our EBU-Vice-President, and backed by **Robert Smith**, the General Secretary; the President is **John Williamson**. The **BBBofC** has more than 1'000 licensed active professional boxers, many very competent Ring Officials, experienced Ring doctors, big promoters, well known managers and lots of licensed stewards, volunteers and supporters. Professional boxing is an important business in the UK. There are more than 500 shows a year under the excellent control of the BBBofC, among them world-title-contests (WBC, IBF, WBA, WBO, IBO), and of course EBU European Championships. The quality of British Professional Boxing is high and attracts therefore many fans. Very recently one of the biggest shows ever took place in the **Wembley Stadium** in attendance of 100'000 people. The main event was for the IBF world Heavyweight-title between **Anthony Joshua** and **Daniel Dubois**, both UK and licensed by the BBBofC. The old boxing wisdom came true again: «**Fight the boxer and box the fighter**». That is exactly what **Dubois** did, he mercilessly attacked **Joshua**, who was surprised and fought back instead of staying away. The undercard of the same show offered the **EBU-European** Middleweight contest between **Tyler Denny** and **Hamzah Sheeraz**, again both UK and licensed by the BBBofC, which was easily won by **Sheeraz**, who stopped his opponent already in round 2, such winning the **EBU-title**. All those four fighters are British and EBU-rated and we may mention with complete justification that world-class boxing does not only take place in the USA, but as well in the UK and in Europe. The British boxing supremacy is confirmed by the fact that **Sam Noakes (UK)** just won the **EBU-European Lightweight-title** and that on 27/09/2024 the two BBBofC-licensed boxers **Thomas Essomba** and **Charlie Edwards** will fight for the **EBU-European-Bantamweight-title**.

As a short anecdote let me tell you how I got to know **Charlie Giles**. It was in Birmingham, on 10/09/1994, 30 years ago, when I supervised the WBC-world-title-fight between **Nigel Benn (UK)** and **Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)**, that we met at ringside; **Charlie** represented the BBBofC together with **John Morris**, the then General Secretary. The real main event was for the British Superwelterweight-title between **the Viking, Steve Foster (UK)**, and **Robert McCracken (UK)**, which attracted lots of fans from both sides, the Viking ones wearing helmets with horns. During the world-title-fight a big riot broke out as the two parties started to hit each other, almost interrupting the championship fight. After the contest I went to the dressing room of **Nigel Benn, the Dark Destroyer**, and found him in company of his wife or girl friend and a white boy in a wheel chair. Nigel told me that he was caring for this boy who was suffering from multiple sclerosis. I was very touched and said to him: «You are not only the champion of the world, you are as well the champion of hearts» and he gifted me his championship gloves writing my name on them. As I had too much luggage with me I offered those gloves to **Charlie**, who gave them to a friend and boxing fan with the name «Pete»..

Please show responsibility and care for all boxers not only for those that are licensed with you!

With my warmest personal regards

Peter Stucki, EBU-President