



## EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (February, 2025)

Dear boxing friends

The New Year started boxingwise with just two EBU-championship-contests:

- **Dalton Smith (UK)** won the vacant EBU-Superlightweight crown by stopping **Walid Ouizza (F)** in the very first round. Looking at their records the contest looked well and promising, but **Dalton** started the fight so toughly and convincingly that **Walid** couldn't resist any more and had soon to be stopped by the referee. The new champion relinquished his title already as he is aiming at the world title. The again vacant EBU-Superlightweight-title will be fought for between **Jon Fernandez (E)** and **Pierce O'Leary (IE)**.
- **Mohamed Kani (F)** very closely lost his EBU-Silver Superlightweight-title to **Charlemagne Metonyekpon (It)** by SD ; the contest was tough, close and thrilling.

There are lots of EBU-championship-contests ahead, already arranged and signed and I look forward to them.

### Today's anecdotes :

- As a schoolboy with about 13 years of age I had to pass by a Volvo car dealer while walking to the tramway station that used a big poster of **Ingemar Johansson (SWE)** as advertisement for his cars. At about that time **Ingo** won the Heavyweight World title by knocking out **Floyd Patterson (US)**, and I saw the fight on TV. From then on he was my idol and my hero, and I started to train boxing. Many years later after a Supervisor-job in Finland I had to stop-over in Malmö (SWE) and was waiting for my connecting flight when I suddenly discovered **Ingemar Johansson** sitting in the same waiting area. I took all my courage to shake hands with my hero, and that was the only moment I met him alive. No need to mention that **Ingo** was as well EBU-champion.
- A couple of years later, in the early sixties the career of **Nino Benvenuti (It)** started, and I followed his fights admiring his dispute-contests with **Sandro Mazzinghi (It)**, his trilogy with **Emile Griffith (US)** and of course his devastating defeats against the big **Carlos Monzon (ARG)**. **Nino** stayed a true gentleman all his life long and I met him later in Italy when he worked as TV-commentator. The last time I had contact with him was in Baku (Azerbaijan) when I was asked to translate from Italian in English for his chat with **Bernard Hopkins (US)**. **Nino** was and still is an outstanding example for boxing. No need to mention that **Nino** was as well EBU-champion.
- The 02/05/1998 was the day of fate for the EBU-Superbantamweight champion **Spencer Oliver (UK)**; he met his challenger **Sergey Devakov (UKR)** in the famous Royal Albert Hall in London to defend his title and was knocked out in round 10. Very unfortunately he did not recover at ringside and had to be taken to the hospital where he was operated for a brain haemorrhage. As Supervisor of this contest this has been a very sad moment for me ; I was however impressed by the professional and very quick way the medical staff worked. **Spencer** was operated within the famous golden hour and recovered completely. I was happy to meet him again in Rzeszow (Poland) on 24/05/2024, when he acted as TV-commentator for a World title fight that I supervised, and I was very pleased to realize that **Spencer Oliver** was completely ok.

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