



# WBC CONFERENCE

**Denise Castle** was recently honoured at the 51st WBC Conference in Bangkok where she was awarded 'most inspirational female athlete.'

The UK's own multiple world champion received global recognition from professional Boxing's most respected authority recently when the WBC (World Boxing Council) awarded **Denise Castle** (Melbor) as their *Most Inspirational Female Athlete of the year* at their 51st Annual Conference in Bangkok in the five star setting of Central Grand Hotel and conference centre.

In a star studded affair, Denise was the only and first ever non-professional Boxer to be awarded by the WBC. She is currently the WBC world Muaythai champion and this shows the growth of the sport as Denise took centre stage alongside the likes of **Vitali Klitschko, Ricky Hatton, Nigel Benn, Jelena Mrdenovich** and **Jeff Finch** - all of whom are household Boxing names.



This was a glittering star studded event that crowned an amazing twelve months for Denise who, in that time has won:

- WBC World Title
- S1 World Title
- Best Technique at Thailand's King's Cup
- WBC Most Inspirational Female of the Year

Denise will go down in history as the first ever female to hold both the WBC and S1 world titles, along with being

the only ever female to be awarded at the *King's Cup* with best technique.

With reaching the pinnacle of success in her sport of Muaythai the WBC confirmed that they would be looking at making her a title contender in pro-Boxing by granting her a Boxing license which she is in the process of receiving through her Thailand based WBC manager and promoter, **Pariyakorn Songchai**. This is a very exciting prospect for the Bournemouth athlete who only came to Muaythai late in her sporting career at the age of 30, following a very successful distance running career which saw her achieve elite starts in both *London* and *New York Marathon*, along with winning the Bournemouth half and 10 km *Bay Runs* and holding best female times. Her previous success in running and fitness (she was named third in UK at *Miss Fitness*) shows that she has the unique physical ability to switch sports and so, moving to Boxing should not prove too much of a transition from Muaythai. This is especially the case as her Boxing was the key to many of her victories in the ring on the way to becoming Muaythai world champion and she is believed to punch well above her weight.

WBC Female chairman, **Ed Pearson**

and co-chair, **Jill Diamond**, both agreed to look into having her compete in the Atomweight division [a maximum of 102lbs] which is a very strong weight for the Bournemouth based fighter who is unbeaten in that category in Muaythai, only having lost occasionally when moving up in classes to achieve matches. With a good reach and good height in that division it is hoped that her punching power will quickly enable her to make a solid name for herself and look to become the UK's first ever female WBC world champion.

During the week long conference Denise managed to adjust to Boxing when she jumped in with some world class Boxing training with pad holder, **Jeff Fenech** (one of **Mike Tyson's** trainers) and current 6 x women's world champion, **Jelena Mrdenovich**, which gave her a sample of the different ranges and movement that she might face.

Her first professional Boxing match is looking to be scheduled for March, 2014 and will be a main WBC event as it will be the first time a WBC Muaythai champion takes on a WBC Boxing champion in a truly film-worthy match up. ■