

REPORT & RESULTS

MuayThai World Series kicked off this summer spectacular with a first for UK MuayThai fans when the S1 World Title was contested for on UK soil for the first time ever. Bringing this belt to the ring was the current -100lbs champion, **Loma Sitjauo**. With over 200 fights under her belt from all round Asia, she knew in advance that she would be in for one of the fights of her life here against the UK MuayThai superstar, **Denise Castle** who has lit up female MuayThai matches around the globe.

As seen in the previous write ups, this is a rematch of the fight of the night from 2012 Kings Cup where Loma walked away with the points victory and, as such, the belt. It was clear that the UK fans would be in for a treat of a fight with Denise eager not to lose in her own backyard. Loma came in lighter this time at 95lbs with Denise at 98lbs, looking physically stronger and in peak shape as she had not had to deal with the stress of travelling this time.



Loma eats an overhand right from Denise

Both fighters entered the impressive set up to a roar from the crowd who were in awe of this match where they could see the worlds best females fight off and look to settle a score - Loma to prove that the decision in Bangkok was right and Denise to prove that she is the real champion. In their first match Loma had tripped and thrown Denise to take the victory and it was clear within the first minute that this would be the same tactic, with a straight foot sweep in their first exchange. This fired Denise up who went straight on the aggressive, with long straight punches which kept Loma moving back rather than try to move forward for the clinch. Loma did manage to evade and clinch in a couple of times, but it was clear that Denise had trained for this as she dropped her weight and could not be dumped as easy. Following a couple of attempts to trip, Loma then reverted to kneeling and elbows, which allowed Denise also to unleash the same weapons giving an action packed end to round 01, which was pretty even on the scorecards.

MUAY THAI WORLD SERIES

Lorne Castle reports for MAI on the summer's most spectacular MuayThai event as the MuayThai World Series rolled back into town.

Round 02 saw Denise come out strongly and keep Loma at the end of her punches for the majority of the round and, when the action did move in close, Denise started to unleash a flurry of accurate elbow strikes. Loma did manage to dump Denise down at one point, but other than that, it was a good round for the UK girl.

Loma came out in round 03, attempting to land hard right bodykicks, but every one she threw was caught swiftly by Denise and countered with two

or three sharp Boxing shots right to Loma's head, snapping it back and forward and clearly frustrating Loma as everything she tried to do, Denise had a better reply for. Even in the clinch now Denise prevented the throw and fired back cutting elbows through the middle and round the outside - Denise landed shots from all angles this round, much to Lomas frustration. Knowing Denise was more than likely two rounds up, Loma came out aggressive in round 04 but ate a hard elbow in the jaw for

her troubles! After landing a couple of good kicks Loma managed to dump Denise to the ground midway through the round and land heavily on her. On standing back up, Denise was clearly dazed after hitting the back of her head on the canvas and Loma tried to capitalise on this, but to no avail. However, she probably managed to steal her best round and so left the fight balanced on who would win the final round. Loma started with a couple of good kicks, but Denise countered them well with Boxing and then followed with a tight body and overhand head Boxing combinations. Loma started to realise her only chance would come in the clinch and she started literally walking in to try and grab but was open to a straight one/two punches that Denise delivered on time. On the bell Denise finished the fight with another kick catch and right cross reply - leaving the judges in no doubt who was the winner.

Denise Castle became the first ever female to hold the **WBC** and **S1 world titles** - both fights brought to the world by the *MuayThai World Series*.



The **Chang Cup** matches were up next, with Bournemouth's **George Worthington** stepping in against **Jimmy Regan** [WAKT] at -70kg for the *South West area Chang Cup*. Both fighters were coming in to this match following a training camp in Thailand and that showed in a very stylish and respectful first round where they literally felt each other out to see what each had in the Boxing and kick department. Over the duration of the fight, George turned out to be the crisper kicker and Boxer, with Jimmy looking to dominate in the clinch with some good jumping side knees. Jimmy had a great grip in the clinch that kept Georges hands high and opened his ribs for those knees, but George managed to slip out the clinch and back to kicking range more often. In a real back-and-forth fight that really got the crowd on their feet, George walked away with the win.

Two current *Chang Cup* holders faced off in the next match with **Andy Turland** (area 64kg champion) against national 67 kg champion, **Danny Harrison**, at 65kg. Both fighters really lapped up the entrance with their opposing fans on their feet, which is where they remained during this fight. Facing off at the ref talk Danny clearly had a big height advantage, but this didn't deter Andy from starting aggressively and throwing the first teep kick, sending Danny



Danny throwing a vicious knee strike

back a little stunned. Andy showed more composure than his previous fights, showing the level of respect he had for this opponent and knowing that his only real chance of success was to come straight down the middle, which worked until Danny started to land his trademark fast high right kick. Even though Andy blocked these and took them on the gloves, the power sent a shockwave through right through him. Danny showed a couple of times in round 01 that he had dominance in the clinch and utilised his height advantage to deliver some head knees. Danny had clearly used round 01 to understand his opponent and find the weaknesses as, straight off in round 02, he took Andy into the clinch and kneed until the referee was forced to break it with a standing 8 count. Following another two of these, the fight was stopped, giving a sharp looking Danny Harrison his second *Chang Cup* national title.

The fastest KO on record of *MuayThai World Series* and possibly of female MuayThai worldwide came next with feisty **Jennie Hastie** from MAUK against the experienced **Tracie Richards** from WAKT. Matched at -51kg it is rare to see KO at this weight, due to lower bodyweight behind the shots, but following Tracie landing a nice bodykick after the initial bell, Jennie came out swinging and landed a rocket of a right hook that sent Tracie flying into the ropes and, literally, as the ref



Jennie Hastie's high speed KO of Tracie Richards

came flying in to save her, Jennie went into overdrive and landed a devastating six punch combination at supersonic speed, knocking Tracie out cold to take the South West area female title. With an unbeaten record and now area champion *MuayThai World Series* can see an exciting future for this lady.

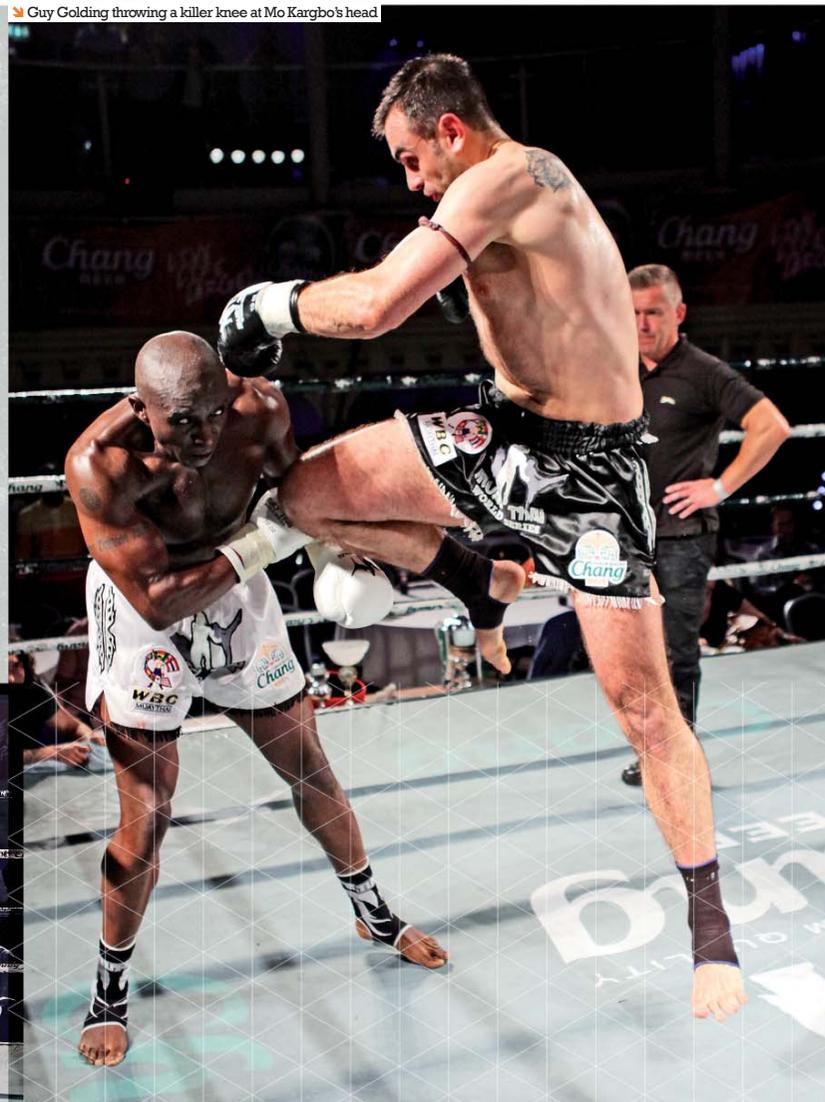
European Kickboxing champion, **Danny Winstanley**, was matched against the taller and leaner *National Chang Cup* holder, **Liam Barker** next. Liam is known for his accurate and powerful strikes as he showed in his destruction of **Mark Little** in the last world series, whereas Danny is famed for an aggressive come forward style with hard

"DENISE CASTLE BECAME THE FIRST EVER FEMALE TO HOLD THE WBC AND S1 WORLD TITLES"

REPORT & RESULTS

hitting hands. Using full MuayThai rules, this match gave both fighters the chance to use elbows in addition to their knees, kicks and Boxing. Danny used great footwork and showed great ring experience to control this fight, staying just out of Liam's range and moving in at will with those dangerous hands. As the rounds progressed, Liam managed to tighten his Boxing and work close punches from a range of angles, but Danny had great conditioning and was not fazed by any of the shots. The result was a unanimous points win to Winstanley and possibly one of the fights of the night.

The unbeaten 'Ghost' AKA **Jake Clarke** from *Gladiator Academy* entered the ring next against WAKT's **Dan Church**. Jake is known for his 'rope-a-dope' style movement and counters which have managed to surprise and frustrate all his opponents so far, however, Dan Church had evidently done his homework and wasn't in there to wear himself down hitting nothing but air. Instead, he too used good footwork to move Jake against the ropes and take the fight in the clinch and almost bully him in the fight. The decision was split, as was



within hand reach. Once in the clinch it was all one way traffic, with Kargbo simply attempting to block the knees with his arms, which gave Golding an unblocked head to land hard left hooks on after a couple of knees.

Round 02 saw Kargbo move round the ring more and utilise good head movement by slipping under Goldings shots and replying with good Boxing, however, Golding was unfazed and proceeded to stalk him down with the sole intention of slamming his knee into Kargbo's head, which he landed midway through the round to get a standing 8 count against Mo.

The following round saw Mo adapt his kicks to a longer range where he had good effect, but this allowed Guy to show how good his hands are but again the direction of this round was Kargbo in reverse, being hunted down. This hunting paid

dividends for Golding in the next round, where everything he threw managed to land and, once again, that sledgehammer of a right knee was smashed in to Kargbo's skull, forcing him to voluntarily take an 8 count.

When the action commenced, Kargbo knew he had one chance and did the attacking of his own, landing a great right cross to Golding, but it was too little, too late, as Golding landed a devastating low kick in reply that forced the fight to be stopped, giving Golding the win via TKO. This was Kargbo's first step into MuayThai and he only showed weaknesses in the areas he had never used - with a little more experience, Kargbo will surely have more exciting fights ahead. Golding is looking towards an exciting future with so many options available in the heavyweight division for a fighter of his calibre.

MUAY THAI WORLD SERIES

This show also had a great undercard that started with junior matches. **Kiera Bradley** and **Charlie Butler** started the show with a hard hitting match in the junior 53kg category. Both girls were very game, with Kiera looking to Box into the clinch and Charlie landing more kicks. This round was a great opener and the fight really continued much the same over the three rounds and resulted in a win to Charlie via points.

The next match saw **Reece Lawrence** face **James Johnstone** from *Champions Gym*, Bournemouth, for the *MTWS* junior national title -35kg. Both boys started round 01 very aggressively and James backed Reece up to the ropes with jabs and a couple of his famous low kicks. Reece clinched and attempted to turn James to the floor, but James has great balance and stayed in, delivering great Boxing after breaking the clinch. James then landed some hard leg kicks and caught a bodykick that Reece threw in reply. James executed a great powerful dump to the floor that Reece was unable to continue from... However, due to the dump being a trip, the bout is declared a no contest.

One of the fights of the night followed when **Courtney Johnstone** faced **Lauren Dwyer**

THAT SLEDGEHAMMER OF A RIGHT KNEE WAS SMASHED IN TO KARGBO'S SKULL, FORCING HIM TO VOLUNTARILY TAKE AN 8 COUNT.

for the *MTWS* junior -40kg female title. Lauren had slightly more rangy kicks and Boxing in comparison to Courtneys tighter, close combinations using great Boxing and knees. This was a real back-and-fourth match over every round, with both girls taking it in turns to push the pace and back the other onto the ropes - however, in the end, it was Lauren who took the championship via points.

The adults section followed with local favourite, **Eve Penderis**, from *Champions Gym*, Bournemouth facing *Warrior Fight Club's* **Magdalena Winska** in the -60kg weight class. Eve comes to this fight on a two win streak and looked very eager to continue that by landing her sledgehammer overhand right straight off. Magda used her longer jab quite well to attempt to keep Eve at bay, but Eve really dominated this fight with hard Boxing into some great knee work - even dropping Magda for an 8 count from the clinch. After a very hard three rounds Eve walked away with her third win in a row.

The males followed with **Lee Paddock** facing **Amadeus** from Honiton. Amadeus used his range very well and fought a counter

Vallet. Sherylyn managed to keep the action within her range by staying close. Missy did demonstrate a good clinch at times, but didn't manage to take advantage of this great position, giving the points victory to Sherylyn.

Warrior Fight Club were up next with **Prezmeck** against *Planet Combat's* **Marcus Ford**, matched at -75kg. This was a real hard hitting match with both throwing everything in every shot. Prez showed a strong low right kick which he landed on the end of most of his Boxing combinations, with Ford landing more single, but effective shots. The third round saw both fighters really give everything and, in the end, it was so close that even the judges couldn't agree, leaving Marcus Ford the winner via split decision.

The evenings first KO came in the next match when *Combat Academy's* **Rob Steel** landed a great head kick to the jaw of *Champions World Gym* fighter, **Louis Curley**, midway through the third round. This followed on from a very even initial two rounds where Louis had worked well with Boxing and clinch, but Rob had shown great range with



the crowd's view of it, with Dan taking the victory.

A highly anticipated match at the end of the evening saw world champion Kickboxer, **Mo Kargbo** face rising MuayThai star, **Guy Golding**, for the *National Chang Cruiserweight Cup*. Mo entered in peak condition, as always, with Golding entering with a dominant height advantage and legs as thick as tree trunks.

Kargbo moved well, throwing his trademark right hand at will, but with the addition of knees in this MuayThai match, he was unable to work within a range where they were dangerous as Golding just took the fight in the clinch as soon as Kargbo was



Denise celebrates winning the S1 belt



attack style against a forward fighting Lee. Lee managed to catch a few of those longer kicks and showed a great dump to the floor mid second round, which only fired Amadeus up to throw a heavy Boxing combination back - forcing a standing 8 count from the referee.

Amadeus again turned up the pace in round 03 with a strong clinch and sharp knees that forced a second 8 count, from which Lee didn't recover, giving Amadeus the win via TKO.

Back to female action next with the tall **Missy Trent** facing a stockier **Sherylyn**

kicks and long Boxing. Two local fighters faced off next, with **James Courtney** from *U2 Portsmouth* against **Charlie Guest** from Salisbury. Charlie started out as the aggressor and almost landed his shots at will very confidently, but James showed a strong guard and landed some crisp counters back, showing he was dangerous. Guest used his great high kick and body hook throughout the fight - often landed crisply, but were absorbed by Courtney who worked close Boxing when he could get inside the range of Guest. The match finally went to Guest via points.

One of the tallest 75kg fighters to fight on



MUAY THAI WORLD SERIES

MTWS was up next when **Sam 'Mantis' Egan** faced **Ryan Forgeron** from Portsmouth in a very even match, with both bringing one win each into the match. In a super-sharp start, Sam knocked Ryan down with only his second punch when his long right cross landed cleanly on Ryans jaw, sending him flying to the canvas, forcing an 8 count literally before the bell had stopped ringing for the round to start. Ryan was eager to make up for that and went straight in hard following the count and did well with a great kick, catch and dump down, but it was just not enough to make up for the lost points at the beginning with Sam winning points after three more rounds of hard exchanges.

A classic aggression versus technique match followed, with **Lukusz** from *King Gym*, Southampton, facing **Michael Mucha** from *Warrior Fight Club*. Lukusz

rushed in and overwhelmed Mucha in the first round, forcing two eight counts but, over the next two rounds, Mucha's skill started to shine through and he began to turn the tide, but it was too little, too late, as Lukusz took the points victory.

Local rivalry again came in when *Champions Gym* fighter, **Dave Griggs**, faced Salisbury's **Chris Coombes**. Griggs was the faster, but Coombes was possibly the crisper in a fast paced match for 90kg guys, with the win going to Coombes in the blue corner.

Salisbury instructor, **Ryan Lynch**, was up next, facing **Leon Elphic** from Bognor. During the fight, Ryan was the cleaner, with better combinations, with Elphic swinging a little more, but staying aggressive. Ryan's fitness also let him keep the pace up for the rounds and gave him the victory at the end of the fight.

Weymouth's **Rob Tee** was up next against Penzance fighter, **Pete Thomas**, who was the shorter of the two. Rob showed a fast moving style, utilising his reach, but Pete was able to close him down for just a little more of the fight and, as such, gave him the judge's decision and victory.

With another sell-out show filmed for TV again, *MuayThai World Series* has really set the bar high for the sport and has an exciting rollout for 2013/2014 to take MuayThai to the next level. With a junior only *MuayThai World Series* event planned for the end of September 2013 and another *Chang Cup* event in November, it is advised that trainers get their fighters put forward asap, as the card for these events fills up quickly - contact via www.muaythaiworldseries.com for more information. ■

LORNE CASTLE