



**MAI reports on the Ambassadors Cup, the highlight of Bournemouth's Thai Summer event this year.**

**T**he 10th anniversary of Bournemouth's **Thai Summer Fair** saw the hugely popular **Chang Ambassadors Cup** return with **EVA Air** providing a return flight to Thailand as the winning prize for the last man standing.

The eight entrants came from all over the South coast and with the weight category being an open 70 - 75kg there were a range of heights and builds which promised to provide an array of exciting matchups.

Before the first match the Thai ambassador acted as judge for the Junior Ram-MuayThai contest where twelve year old **Millie Sargent** won the Ram Muay Cup with her graceful performance of the 'Bow and Arrow' pre fight dance. Following this, there was an open junior demonstration of padwork skill and choreographed self defence from junior MuayThai practitioners.

**Courtney Johnstone** walked away with 'best junior female' after a fantastic display showing flexibility to the extreme along with great strength and accuracy on her pad drills. **Jame Johnstone** took the 'best junior boy' with a record breaking fifteen jumping spinning roundhouse kicks, coupled with a very dominant display of sparring in the ring.

The adult *Ambassador Cup* followed with the draw performed live in the ring:



# THAI AMBASSADORS CUP: FIGHT REPORT

**Quarter final 01** saw Bournemouth's **Gary Beecroft** facing **Josh O'Shea** from Torquay *Fightworx*. Gary had the weight advantage, but O'Shea had slightly better ringcraft and was able to land crisper combinations whilst moving in and out quickly to avoid counter shots. Winner, Josh.

**Quarter final 02** saw the tallest fighter of the tournament, **Amadeusz Sakowicz** from Honiton face *Bournemouth Champion's Gym* fighter **Tom Perkins**. Amadeusz proved a tricky opponent with great reach and accuracy as well as crisp Boxing and long push-kicks. Tom

had some success when he managed to counter the kick with a catch and takedown but, by the end, it was a clear win for Amadeusz.

**Quarter final 03** saw local fighter **Ryan Cole** return to the ring after a long lay-off facing the in-form **Andy Turland**. Ryan had good Boxing combinations when in close, but his work rate was far behind Andy Turland who took the win to move through to the semi-finals.

**Quarter final 04** saw two local fighters from *Bournemouth Champion's Gym* face off with **Liam Barker** fighting **Joe Dean**. Barker





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had the height advantage and with it, a good reach and strong low kick which Joe tried to work in off with forward Boxing into the clinch. However, Liam managed to dominate the rounds to take the win to the semi-finals.

**Semi final 01** saw **Liam** straight back in against **Josh O'Shea** from the first quarter final win. Josh looked to work in with a good overhand right punch during the first round, but Liam worked a good counter with a lethal left body punch that took the first round. The second and third rounds saw Liam stay out of trouble with a solid low kick to prevent Josh from reaching him so, after three more rounds, Liam advanced to the final.



**Semi final 02** saw the tournament's tallest face the shortest, with **Amadeusz** fighting **Andy Turland**. Amadeusz cruised a good first round, with Andy not able to get past his superior reach, however, after advice from his corner Andy upped his workrate and managed to push the pace, putting Amadeusz on the back foot and so landing good shots to take round 02. But, this extra energy required proved too much after his first fight and Andy could not keep this up for the third round which saw Amadeusz again regain control and advance to the final with the win.

After a really exciting tournament the crowd had grown to a huge sea of people, eager to see who would take the winning EVA air flight and *Chang Ambassadors Cup*. Both fighters had



## LIAM BARKER STORMED THROUGH ROUNDS 02, 03 AND 04 WITH LETHAL BOXING TO THE HEAD AND BODY, COUPLED WITH EFFECTIVE BODY KICKS.

shown a good array of skills and danger on their way to the final, so the match was one everyone was eager to see. **Amadeusz Sakowicz** took the first round with good use of his range with long Boxing, but caused no real damage. This fired up **Liam Barker** who stormed through rounds 02, 03 and 04 with lethal Boxing to the head and body, coupled with some really effective body kicks. Round 03 saw Liam get some great kick catches and counters in where he literally kicked Amadeusz's standing leg to the sky. Amadeusz pulled back round 05 where he knew it was an all or

nothing round, but, by the final bell Liam had cemented a clear win to take the *Ambassadors Cup* and also the EVA Air Bangkok flight.

The Thai ambassador and Bournemouth town mayor were both impressed with the standard and also crowd enjoyment of the event which was another great demonstration of MuayThai Boxing. This event is a yearly tournament and is open to all - see [www.muaythaiworldseries.com](http://www.muaythaiworldseries.com) for more details. ■ **LORNE CASTLE**

