

Happy Hooker edges out Erick

But Haringey learn a lot from Dutch venture and now stage a show back on home turf

HARINGEY Police ABC were invited by the famous Van T Hof boxing club to participate in a two-day event in Rotterdam involving teams from the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark.

The first match on happened at Van T Hof's gymnasium. In his first 3 x 3s Erick Ochieng gave Dutchman Surriel Hooker a count in the first before taking his foot off the gas to be outpointed 15-13.

Kingsley Okolie used his jab well to outpoint Tommy Haddad from Sweden, and it should have been wider than the 11-10 margin.

Next day boxing was at the Odeon Sports Hall in the city centre. Okolie tired in the last (3 x 3s), losing 12-11 to Sweden's Philip Jablonski, whom he had outpointed in the Angered Box Cup.

James Easy landed at will against Okolie victim Haddad, winning by a 12-1 margin, while Ochieng lost a too-wide 9-1 verdict to the host club's

19-year-old Stephen Danyo, who countered skilfully.

Haringey host Van T Hof on a dinner show in North London on Friday March 13, when Ochieng boxes.

But first they stage an open show at the Irish Centre, in Pretoria Road, London N17 tomorrow (start 4pm).

As we went to press, matchmaker Terri Kelly was doing her usual sterling job of arranging top bouts.

Mark McKray meets Eastern Counties 64 kgs king Joey Payne (Chatteris), while middleweight Kingsley Okolie faces Lee Markham (Five Star).

Two Haringey v Norway contests pit James Easy against Shaun Liverod at middle and Ryan against Eirik Sjursen at light-welter.

Sam Ojomo has a run-out over 3 x 3s with featherweight Jon Fernandes from Golden Ring, while among the women Hannah Beharry has a tasty bout with Vesna from Earlsfield.

KING OF THE RING: Okolie won in Rotterdam and boxes again tomorrow



Perry spoils the goodbye

LAST season's Home Counties welterweight champion Phil Gill said goodbye to the amateurs with a bout on his own Cheshunt show at club HQ on January 30.

Stevenage's Justin Perry spoiled the party somewhat by outpointing Gill, although their 4 x 2s was close.

"I boxed badly," admitted honest Phil. "I was trying to land the big one as I thought I hurt him. He's awkward - doesn't throw any straight shots and is hard to read but very open to a big backhand."

Gill, who says he will do light-welter in the pros, came in at 66 kgs because

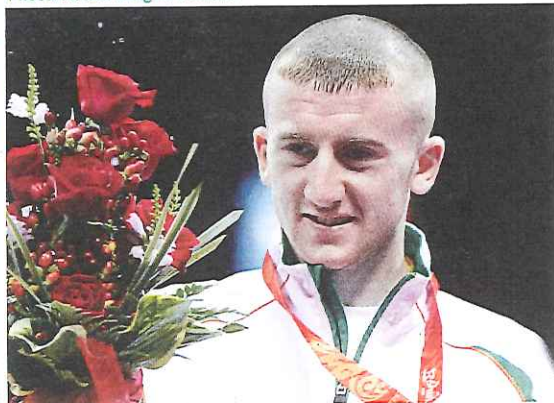
he knew Perry was a 68 kgs boxer.

"I was trying to hard to put on a good show for my last fight," said a disappointed Gill. "But Ashley Sexton gave out trophies, so the kids were loving that, and it was a good send-off for me with loads of support."

Gill's debut is set for the Troxy Nightclub in Limehouse on Thursday (March 5).

In another senior four-twos, experienced Chris Truman (Aston) outpointed Cheshunt's outpd Alfie Morris, while over 3 x 2s Dave Hookey of Slough was a points winner over the host club's Dave Leo.

Photo: Action Images/Reuters



CHAMPION: And now Beijing bronze medalist Paddy Barnes boxes against the USA

IRISH TACKLE YANKS

FRESH from their national championships, Ireland host the USA in two matches this weekend - at the National Stadium tonight (Friday February 27) and at the Arch Centre in Athy on Sunday evening (March 1).

Only non-Irish champion in the team tonight is runner-up Ross Hickey at lightweight. (Their Sunday team has not been finalised yet).

The USA finished their training in Colorado Springs on Monday and arrived in Dublin on Wednesday. Tonight Queen Underwood meets Irish heroine Katie Taylor at 60 kgs.

Ireland for Dublin: 48: Paddy Barnes. 51: Declan Geraghty. 54: John Joe Nevin. 57: Carl Frampton. 60: Ross

Hickey. 64: Philip Sutcliffe. 69: Willie McLoughlin. 75: Darren O'Neill. 81: Ken Egan. 91: Con Sheehan. 91&: David Joyce. USA squad (with their USA Boxing 2008 4th quarter ranking): 48: Louie Byrd (Denver/1). 51: Rau'shee Warren (Cincinnati/1). 54: Ernie Garza (Saginaw, Michigan/4). 57: Raynell Williams (Cleveland/1). 60: TBA. 64: Charles Watson (Johnson, Mississippi/4). 69: Eric Fowler (Montgomery, Texas/1 at 60) & Javontae Starks (Minneapolis/1). 75: Aleem Whitfield (Geneva, New York/2). 81: Siju Shabazz (Las Cruces, New Mexico/1). 91: Paul Koon (Philadelphia/1). 91&: Michael Hunter (Las Vegas/1).

The 102nd Varsity Boxing Match Tuesday 10th March 2009 From 6.00pm



Picture by www.sophiepickford.com

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