

# The Inverness Courier

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## Dream debut for new club

by

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THE newly-formed Highland Boxing Academy had a debut to remember with three fighters winning their first-ever competitive bouts.

Cameron Mackay, Jason Campbell and Kevin Doig all emerged triumphant from the ring at a show in Castlemilk, organised by Durie's Amateur Boxing Club.

A first round stoppage allowed Mackay to prevail, while both Campbell and Doig enjoyed unanimous points decisions to claim victory.

With youngster John Duncan also impressing in an exhibition match, there was plenty for head coach Liam Foy to be happy about following last weekend's achievements.

"It's unbelievable," he said. "We couldn't have wished for a better start.

"It was a wonderful effort from all the boys and the challenge now is going to be trying to sustain this level of performance.

"Having been involved in boxing for a while now, I'm fully aware of the highs and lows.

"You have got to enjoy the highs while they last, but you also have to get back into the ring and prepare properly for that next bout to ensure those lows don't come around."

Duncan was first in the ring for Highland Boxing Academy — a club which only opened its doors in June at the city's Forge Gym.

The 14-year-old had an exhibition match against John Lee Joyce in a bid to prepare him for the season ahead and he fought very well against the southpaw.

"For someone who is that age to want to make the journey just for an exhibition bout says a lot about him and how he wants to progress as a boxer," said Foy.

"Facing a southpaw would give any boxer trouble, but he handled it well and I was very pleased with him."

Mackay was next up for the academy and the 19-year-old made short work of Hamilton's Steven Reguenet on his competitive debut.

The referee gave Reguenet two standing counts inside the first minute before this light-welterweight contest was finally stopped early in the first round.

"He couldn't have asked for a better start," said Foy about Mackay's display. "He remained focused and calm throughout and followed to the letter the instructions we gave him."

It was then Campbell's turn to make his competitive debut at welterweight level and having been away working offshore for three weeks prior to this, Foy was unsure how he would fare against Kevin McGuire. He need not have worried, however, as the 26-year-old enjoyed an emphatic 13-1 victory on points.

"The guy Jason was facing had a bit of boxing experience before, but he was wanted to take this bout and he controlled the fight throughout," said Foy.



"I think there's a lot more to come from him as he wasn't as fit as he could have been given he'd been offshore, but he was only three punches away from the referee having to stop the fight."

The main event of the evening was a super-heavyweight fight between Doig and Darren Lynch — a member of Durie's ABC.

With a strong home support against him, Doig (28) was up against it from the start, yet he quickly set about silencing the backing for Lynch before going on to secure a unanimous points triumph.

"At one point the ring announcer actually had to warn the spectators for encroaching on the ring, so it was a very tough environment for Kevin to make his first competitive start in," said Foy.

"However, by halfway through the second round he had silenced the crowd, such was the level of control he had.

"He kept his opponent behind a stiff jab and it certainly proved effective as he was a unanimous winner with the judges."

Attentions for fighters from the Highland Boxing Academy now turn to preparing for the Scottish Novice Championships, which take place at Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh, towards the end of October.