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Quinn impresses on first start

by Graham Linton

MATT Quinn added another trophy to the Highland Boxing Academy cabinet after impressing in his first competitive bout. Competing at in a show at Tweedie Hall in Linwood, Paisley, Quinn (26) forced the retreat of his more experienced opponent Ben Fitzpatrick following the second of the three allotted rounds in their lightweight contest.

After the academy had a debut event to remember in Castlemilk last month with three of their fighters making winning starts, head coach Liam Foy was delighted with yet another success so early in the fledgling club's short history.

"Matt is a southpaw and his opponent basically couldn't deal with the shots he was taking from him," he said.

"He moved really well in the ring throughout the fight and made himself hard to hit.

"It was a big step up for Matt to be taking on a more experienced boxer in his first bout, but he handled it all incredibly well.

"After the second round, his opponent retired, such was the punishment he had taken, so it was a great victory for Matt."

Foy made the journey with a total of five boxers, although it was only Quinn who managed to prevail from his bout.

Mitchell Dalton took on Darren Wood in an exhibition match and the 17-year-old put on an encouraging display with the way he controlled this encounter.

Fighting at welterweight, Darren Ravenhill (22) took on Terry Imrie, but despite a great performance, he lost the contest on points.

"The fight had to be stopped a couple of times because of the damage inflicted upon Imrie by Darren, yet he gets beat on points," said Foy.

"It was a fairly close bout and it went to the judges score, but because of how Darren had done, I thought he would have won it, so it was a bit of a shock when he didn't.

"However, he can take a lot of encouragement with how he performed and on another day it could easily have went his way."

Like Ravenhill, light welterweights Cameron Mackay (19) and James Dearie (21) had to endure losing their fights on points, but Foy is confident the experience will stand them all in good stead for the future.

"It was a bit of mixed event for us, especially after the success we had at Castlemilk previously," he said. "However, win or lose, the guys will benefit from the experience.

"It's hard when your fighting away from home, but this will be great preparation for them all to take into future bouts.

"Each of them gave everything for the cause. Unfortunately, it just wasn't enough for three of them when it came to the judges scores."

