

The Inverness Courier

Houston wins but Macphee loses out

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by Graham Linton

THERE were mixed fortunes for Highland Boxing Academy at a show organised by Doonhamers Amateur Boxing Club in Dumfries.

Ross Houston managed to overcome a late change of opponent to prevail in his middleweight bout, but Donald Macphee lost his light welterweight contest to a British Universities champion.

After a last minute alteration to who he would be facing, Houston came up against the more experienced Kerr Edmiston, of the 1314 club from Stirling.

Despite giving away some weight as well, the 21-year-old managed to triumph, albeit courtesy of a narrow points decision.

"A lot of boxers might not have coped with such a late change, but Ross went there with the intention of boxing and that's what he did," said academy head coach Liam Foy.

"He managed to overcome the fact his opponents had more experience and was a little bit heavier, so it was great to see him get the decision on points.

"Ross caught him with some beautiful overhand shots and jabs. It was a tremendous result for him and it'll give him plenty of confidence as well."

Unfortunately, Scottish Novice champion Macphee went down to a defeat on points to Hamish Connell, from the host club, who earlier this year was crowned champion at the British University Championships.

It was a below-par display from the 24-year-old, who did win the prize for the best visiting boxer on the night, but Foy insists there was good reason as to why Macphee did not perform at his best.

"It wasn't his best showing of the season, but I think you can put a lot of it down to the injuries, which have really hampered him in training," said Foy.

"He's had ligament damage in his elbow, while he's also had problems with the small of his back and although he felt quite confident about going into box, he's not quite been the same since picking up these injuries.

"Hopefully these injuries will be behind him when he returns next season."

The academy's Sarah Harper also fought an exhibition match in Dumfries and Foy was encouraged by the 24-year-olds performance.

"Sarah did really well," he said. "She dominated her opponent and it's wonderful for us that we have a girl of her ability at our club."

