

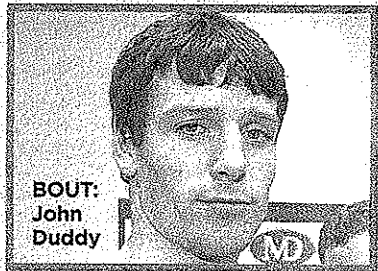
FIGHTING TALK



WITH
**PAT
MYLER**

MYLER'S MIX

Sinclair keen on Duddy date



BOUT:
John
Duddy

AN intriguing clash between John Duddy and Belfast veteran Neil Sinclair, who recently beat Mayo's Henry Coyle for the Irish light-middleweight title, is on the cards.

Sinclair said he "would love the fight" and his manager, John Breen, is keen on making it happen.

"Duddy lost his last fight and maybe in some way he has been found out at middleweight. If he is serious about moving down a weight, let's see who is the best light-middleweight in Ireland," said Breen. However, Duddy's advisor, Craig Hamilton, said it has yet to be decided if the Derryman's next fight will be in Ireland or the US.

Belshaw insists he'll recover from Fury loss

LISBURN heavyweight Scott Belshaw blamed a lack of good sparring and proper preparation for his poor performance against unbeaten Englishman Tyson Fury last weekend.

Belshaw, who was crumpled to the canvas twice from vicious body blows before the referee came to his rescue in the second round, vowed: "I'll be back. I just need a break to get myself organised."

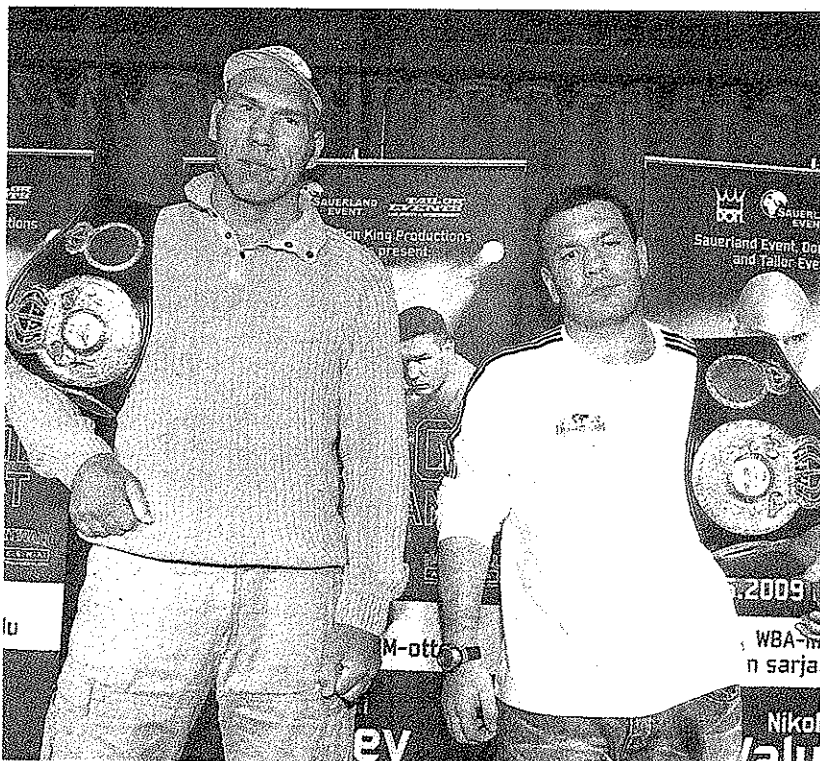
Meanwhile, Fury's promoter, Mick Hennessy, has called out Derek 'Del Boy' Chisora to fight Fury for the right to challenge British champion Danny Williams.

Chavez Jr may team up with legendary dad

UNBEATEN Julio Cesar Chavez Jr is considering bringing his legendary father onto his coaching team before his next fight against an as-yet-unnamed opponent on July 25. Chavez, whose 39 wins includes a four-round points decision over Dubliner Oisín Fagan in 2004, has Shane Mosley and Manny Pacquiao in his sights.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I remember watching boxing as a kid and thinking you'd want to be crazy to get hit in the face. Years later, I was a movie stunt man getting thrown down a well as Batman's double." - Paul Lowe, Britain's smallest boxer at 4ft 8ins.



ALL OFF: Russian heavyweight boxer, and current holder of the WBA title, Nikolai Valuev (l) and Ruslan Chagaev of Uzbekistan in Helsinki. The fight was called off yesterday after Chagaev was unable to fulfil the Finnish Boxing Federation's medical requirements.

Wonderful exhibition of 'Fighting Irishmen'

FIGHT fans looking for a summer treat might consider making a trip to Omagh, in Co Tyrone, to view 'The Fighting Irishmen' exhibition which opened at the Ulster American Folk Park this week.

The eclectic exhibition of boxing memorabilia is a celebration of the Irishmen and sons of Irishmen who made an important contribution to American history through the power of their fists.

DISPLAYS

Included in the displays are John L Sullivan's fur coat, Gene Tunney's punchbag, Jack Dempsey's jacket, Wayne McCullough's WBC title belt, and items loaned by Barry McGuigan, John Duddy and Gerry Cooney.

Sure to attract special attention is Dan Donnelly's preserved right arm, cut off after the celebrated Irish bare-knuckle champion's grave was raided in 1820. The exhibition is the brainchild of American businessman and boxing fan James J Houlihan, who first arranged to have it staged at the Irish Arts Center in New York three years ago before switching it to Boston College.

The latest move to the Ulster American Folk Park has created enormous interest and there are hopes of the exhibition coming to a Dublin location when its run ends in Omagh on November 29.

Information on opening times, etc. can be obtained from www.nmni.com or phone 0044 28 8224 3292.

DUNNE IN LIMBO AS TITLE CHAOS REIGNS

THE WORLD Boxing Association continues to work in mysterious ways. Take the case of Bernard Dunne, who seems to own just half of that organisation's world title - or is it a third?

While I attempt to explain the convoluted situation, bear in mind that every time the WBA approves a fight with a title tag, they pick up sanctioning fees from the fighters and promoters. That's the bottom line.

Dunne was proclaimed WBA super-bantamweight champion in March after his sensational knockout of Ricardo Cordoba, only to find he was still rated No 2 in the division by that organisation.

The No 1 spot still belongs to Celestino Caballero. He was already the WBA champion and, by then adding the International Boxing Federation title, was promoted to WBA 'super' champion.

So now there were two WBA super-bantam champions, right? Why not make it three? OK, Thailand's Pongsawat Kratingdaengym has been declared WBA 'interim' champion after a victory last month.

Funny, most of us thought an interim champion was a sort of 'caretaker' until an incapacitated champion recovered. But neither Caballero nor Dunne was injured, so that dispensed with that theory.

Now there's talk of Caballero moving up to

featherweight, and if that happens it should confirm Dunne as outright WBA champion. Except there's still the matter of dealing with Pongsawat's his name!

The heavyweight situation is equally absurd, to the exasperation of both Nikolai Valuev and Ruslan Chagaev, who were due to battle it out in Helsinki, Finland, tonight to decide who is the true WBA champion.

The fight was called off yesterday after Chagaev was unable to fulfil the Finnish Boxing Federation's medical requirements. Finnish law prevents disclosures, but it has been consistently rumoured that Chagaev had contracted Hepatitis B.

TOOK ILL

Chagaev had won the WBA title by beating the previously undefeated Valuev on a majority decision two years ago. They were due to meet again later that year when Chagaev took ill.

He then suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon, forcing another postponement, so the WBA declared Chagaev 'champion in recess' while recognising Valuev as champion after beating John Ruiz last August.

"It made me very angry that when I was injured, Valuev simply got my world championship," Chagaev complained earlier this week.

"Normally a boxer is named interim champion until a champion is fit, but that didn't happen."

The Uzbekistan fighter returned to the ring in February to defeat Carl Davis Drummond and showed his displeasure at the situation by having 'The Real Champion' printed on the back of his t-shirt.

He had predicted of tonight's scheduled fight: "I have beaten Valuev once and I will beat him again. I am the champion."

Valuev, the tallest fighter in the world at 7ft, had boasted that he would show he was the real champion. He felt he had improved a lot since the first fight.

The possibility of finding a late replacement for Chagaev was explored, with Kali Meehan or Lamon Brewster lined up, but there simply wasn't enough time to complete the arrangements. The entire show was called off.

US promoter Don King, who was due to fly in to Helsinki today, has now demanded that the WBA declare Valuev the undisputed champion.

"Nikolai has been patient in waiting for Chagaev to become medically fit to fight," said King.

"We applaud the WBA for making every effort to allow Chagaev to return, but it is clear now we must move on."