

ACTION UK with Mick Gill

Wembley Arena, 23 July

Well, that was fun, wasn't it. Fun and a glimpse of the future all rolled into one. Besides the undoubted entertainment value, **Tyson** **Fury's** win over **Dereck Chisora** provided some pointers on how far the new British and Commonwealth champion might progress, given that he is, at the age of 23, still only a heavyweight babe in arms.

With Channel 5 screening live, the free-swinging contest between unbeaten was a terrific reintroduction to the sport for viewers on terrestrial TV, as well as a fitting finale to an outstanding season of domestic boxing. Around three million households tuned in. With his controversy-courting, extrovert personality, Fury might be the perfect fighter to give boxing a non-satellite presence.

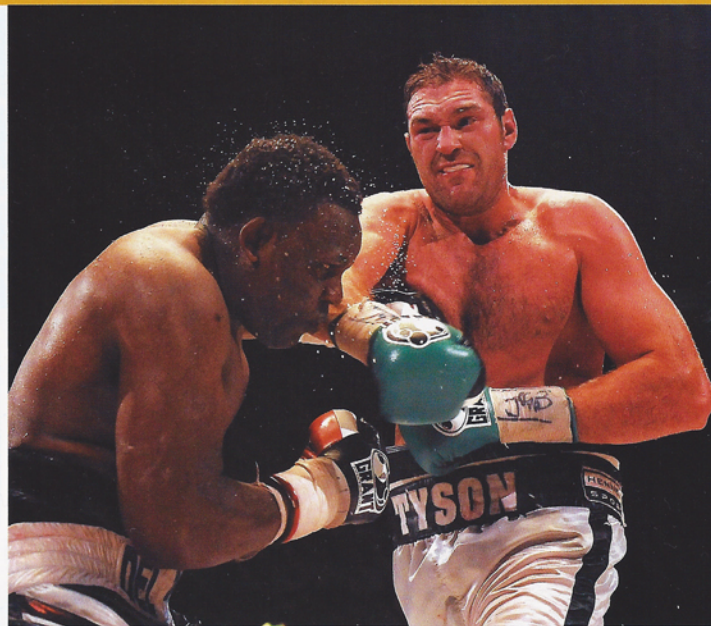
There was much to enthuse about in Fury's performance, too, especially against a seriously tough and capable opponent who has twice trained to challenge Wladimir Klitschko.

Despite his dimensions — 6ft 9ins, 18+ stones — Fury is remarkably nimble and co-ordinated, boasts quick hands and has the lateral movement to deliver smooth combinations from a variety of angles. He also seems to have curbed his love of junk food. Against Chisora, he needed to have done. The pace was frantic from opening bell to final and, in travelling past 10 rounds for the first time, he absorbed some meaty whacks.

If one were to be picky at this stage, he often resorts to arm punching rather than placing his considerable frame behind his shots. Still, nothing that can't be rectified.

One of the qualities that is most difficult to define — a good temperament — doesn't seem to be a problem. He remained calm, composed and disciplined throughout. He heeded the counsel of uncle Hugh in his corner, adhered rigidly to the game plan and, when things got feisty and he was under pressure, unleashed the natural fighter to bite down on his gumshield and blaze right back. Scores of 117-112 (twice) and 118-111 accurately reflected his supremacy.

"I'm the first Traveller to win the British and Commonwealth heavyweight titles and that will make me a hero forever within our community," said Fury.



BIG SUCCESS: Fury made a huge impact with his win over Chisora live on terrestrial TV network Channel 5

A giant leap by Fury

The titles changed hands but even more important is that victory over Chisora established Fury at the vanguard of what might be a new era in British boxing

"Afterwards, I went to Dereck's changing room and gave him a hug. I hope he can come back. We must never forget that boxing is a sport as well as our living. All credit to him, he could hit. My arms and neck are killing me.

"But I knew he couldn't beat me. I hurt both hands quite badly, but that's probably the best shape I've been in. I didn't train any harder. I just made a pledge to stay off the junk food. I could've gone 15 rounds. I beat him [with] no hands, just touching him."

Despite identical 14-0 stats, Chisora, four years older and coming off a career-best ninth-round stoppage of Sam Sexton 10 months earlier, entered as favourite. He gallantly soldiered on through severely bruised features and obvious exhaustion to exit like a true champion.

There was a question mark



OFF TV but for how long can they ignore Theophane's considerable talent?

placed against his weight — at a whopping 18st 9lbs (261lbs), he was over a stone heavier than for any of his five most recent starts. As a consequence, he was overly reliant on single shots that, even

when successful, were seldom followed up.

Trainer Don Charles talked afterwards of injuries, but Del Boy played down their significance. "I'm a true

sportsman — no excuses," he told *Boxing Monthly*.

"My mojo wasn't there, but the kid boxed a good fight and won fair and square. I hope the British public enjoyed it. I'll be back."

There will be a lot of anticipation over Fury's next fight, scheduled for 17 September, again on Channel 5, with Ireland-based Cuban Mike Perez, an impressive winner of the last heavyweight Prizefighter tournament, mooted as the opponent for the Belfast bout at time of going to press. That match should be another corker.

Fury revealed: "I need a hand on then need to strengthen my position by keeping active and clearing up the British and Irish scene. Winning the Irish title is particularly important to me... I'm very proud of my dual heritage.

"Anyway, a Klitschko fight will take at least a year to set up. I'm ready now, but they'll want to fight in Germany, give me nothing and try to commit me to options.

"All in good time. I'm on my way to becoming heavyweight champion of the world."

Great to see boxing back on terrestrial TV. Next time, how about some undercard coverage as well? That's us boxing fans — seldom satisfied. We were denied the opportunity to watch an excellent main support that could have given West London's **Ashley Theophane** the exposure he both needs and merits.

In his first defence of the British light-welterweight title he acquired by outpointing Lenny Daws in February, Theophane remained calm during a sprightly start from **Jason Cook** and overcame a docked point for straying low in the fifth to knock out the former European lightweight champion 43 seconds into round 10.

"I thought that was world-class boxing," said Theophane, who advances to 30-4-1 (eight stoppages). "Since amateur, I've always started slowly, had a look, work[ed] out a strategy, identify their mistakes.

"Jason was as expected. [He] came out swinging big bombs, but they were counter productive and he just tired himself, did my job for me. I picked him off nicely with the jab, tapped his body and

castle Leisure Centre, Bury, 23 July

Quigg's a hit on YouTube



ELIMINATED: Varela was taken out in the seventh round by British boxing's 'best kept secret' Quigg

With the Fury-Chisora fight, boxing returned to its once-traditional heartland of terrestrial TV. But technology is also opening up other exciting possibilities. Hatton Promotions saw that the word needed spreading about super bantamweight **Scott Quigg**, so they harnessed the power of the internet and screened the latest fight of arguably British boxing's best-kept secret live on YouTube.

Quigg made it a showcase to remember with an impressive seventh-round stoppage of Venezuela's **Franklin Varela** in an official WBA eliminator that doubled as Quigg's second defence of that sanctioning body's Inter-Continental strap.

Out of action for eight months and starting with ex-European light-welter king Pat "Black Flash" Barrett as his lead trainer for the first time, Quigg needed a few rounds to rediscover his radar, but he then ruthlessly worked over the 33-year-old visitor (now 19-6) before a single savage left hook under the ribs ended matters.

Quigg, still only 22, raised his record to 22-0 (15 quick). The Hatton-style bodysnatcher now holds high rankings with both the WBA and the IBF.

"Given the break, I was very pleased with my performance and there's been a lot of very positive feedback on Facebook and the websites from YouTube's coverage," Quigg told *Boxing Monthly*.

"Obviously, you want as many as possible to catch on to your potential. Anyone around the world could access it and the exposure's priceless — exactly what I need at this stage of my career."

Promoter Ray Hatton added: "It's enabling us to keep our lads busy and provide global exposure for those who we can't fit onto our TV dates.

"It is expensive at this stage because we've a full 16-18-man production team, but YouTube are very pleased with the quality of our pictures and production plus the hits we've received. Even HBO congratulated us after our YouTube debut for [Lee] Purdy-[Craig] Watson [the welterweight rematch a week before Quigg's fight]. Look, we're having a go and one or two are starting to consider us for advertising."

Next for Quigg is a challenge to British champion Jason Booth in October.

"Time's on my side and it's about making the push at the right time," said Quigg.

"Booth's fought at world level. I'm confident, but how well I beat him will provide a yardstick as to how far off I am."

gradually broke him down. I had Lenny Daws over twice in the ninth and proved again I hit hard in the later rounds."

With gym experience gained over here and in America, Theophane has the all-round game needed to succeed. What he doesn't have — he turned 31 at the end of August — is a surfeit of time.

"I want to fight the best in the world and I'll commit to whoever can deliver that quickest," he said.

"I'd love Tim Bradley and I've had emails from a top U.S. promoter interested in cutting a deal. But I'm happy being in Britain, chasing the Lonsdale [Belt] and the European.

"Now I've got the belt, all those who once shunned me want to fight me. Nigel Wright will probably be next and, after him, the winner of Steve Williams against Karl Place, but I can't see anyone, including Mr Frankie Gavin, beating me at the minute. This is the pro game and I'd take his head off."

Boxing: Christopher Hanlon Promotions