

# Daley shows he still can last pace at top

LAST weekend saw Europe's premier MMA promotion step up to a whole new level with its first ever arena show.

The Echo Arena in Liverpool was the venue for Cage Warriors 57.

Headlining the card was former UFC and Strikeforce veteran Paul Daley, who took on teak tough eastern European Lukasz Chlewicki.

Chlewicki weathered Daley's intense Muay Thai barrage throughout the whole of the first round, but the damage that the Englishman inflicted was too much for him to be allowed out for round two.

Chlewicki had sustained some big cuts to his face from the slashing elbows of Daley and one of these cuts, on the top of his head, was a deep gash and as much as he wanted to soldier on the doctors were having none of it.

Daley looked good and it was nice to see him back on the promotion that helped him on his way to the big show.

Daley is probably headed to Bellator, but it would be great to see him fight for the Cage Warriors welter-

## MMA

By BEN VICKERS

weight title and give Dubliner Cathal Pendred a run for his money.

The co-main event saw Danny Roberts, on the back of two big wins and holding a record of 9-1, take on Henry Fadipe.

Fadipe, who fights out of Dublin, took the fight on extremely short notice and boy did he put on a show.

Roberts had had multiple pull outs and may have been a bit bent out of shape by this, but he got the job done.

The two south paws started off tentatively.

Roberts was a little more active, slamming in leg kicks and body kicks, but they just served to awaken the beast in Fadipe and he started throwing back the power punches.

Roberts decided it was in his best interests to take the fight to the floor. Fadipe was not phased by being downed and worked hard for submissions from the bottom.

In the second he opened up a huge cut on the forehead of Roberts.



In action at the Battlezone MMA Fight Night, Amateur Featherweight Division, John Healy, Churchfield Thai Boxing and Jason Barry, MMA Clinic, at Neptune Stadium.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

The doctor was brought in to check the cut and the all clear was given. Much to the relief of the local fans, who were right behind their boy Roberts.

In the third Roberts took the fight straight to the ground and landed some good shots on Fadipe from mount, eventually taking his back and managing to sink in the short choke for a hard earned win.

Credit must be given to Fadipe for stepping up against a dangerous opponent at such short notice and pushing him to his limits.

Roberts proved he had the heart to overcome adversity in a fight and will have his eye on a title shot in the not too distant future.

Next up was Ronnie Mann, a british bantamweight superstar who has fought in some of the best shows all over the globe, took on Spaniard Jose Luis Zapatar a veteran of 27 fights.

Mann wasted no time in getting done with the Spaniard, cracking him whenever he wanted with crisp straight punching and great footwork.

Mann found his timing and landed a beautiful knee to the face which dropped Zapatar, then he pounced

and finished the fight on the ground with vicious punches and elbows.

Leeroy Barnes put up a valiant performance against highly rated prospect Norman Paraisy, but Paraisy dominated him in the wrestling department and although Barnes probably had the better of the stand-up, but it wasn't enough and Paraisy took the decision on all three judges scorecards.

Ali Arish pushed his winning streak to nine with a good win over veteran Jack Mason. Arish used his strong wrestling to dominate round 1 and stay away for Mason's stand-up.

In round 2 Mason had more success on the feet but moving into the final stanza Arish looked fresher and pushed through Mason's work to land the better shots.

He too took a unanimous decision win and continued his rise toward the top of the division.

Local boy Chris Fishgold kicked off a good night on the main card for the Liverpoolian's with a second round TKO victory against Marcin Wrzosek.

The show was a fantastic success and a huge step forward for the promotion who have broken all barriers

in UK and European MMA and just keep getting better and better, exciting match making, fighter safety and slick world class production cement the promotion as the number one promotion outside of the USA.

The UFC returns this weekend with UFC on Fox 8 in Seattle.

Headlining is the first ever flyweight champion Demtrious Johnson defending his belt against John Moraga.

Johnson has defended his belt on numerous occasions and is quite possibly the fastest man on the UFC roster.

Moraga is riding a seven fight win streak but is yet to get a win against top level opposition.

His last loss was against John Dodson, who pushed Johnson all the way in his last title defence.

Co-main event features two guys pushing for number one contender status in the welterweight division as the young protege Rory MacDonald lays it all on the line against Jake Ellenburger.

MacDonald is widely thought of as the next Georges St Pierre, but Ellenburger has been touted by many as a future champion. Whatever happens its going to be a great scrap.

## Testing times held little fear for me second time around

TODAY, we could if we wanted, publish an insightful preview of the Hungarian Grand Prix being held this weekend. Or, we could, if we are on the subject of cars anyway, simply discover what went wrong when I failed my driving test yesterday. For the second time.

First, a man whose name was Tony, but who I quirkily referred to as John for the duration of the test, invited me into a room.

He asked me to sign my name, which I printed in block capitals before being asked to sign again and date it. "The 24th?" I wondered aloud. "It probably still is," replied John/Tony.

I sensed he was a bit nervous, so I

attempted to engage him in a little smalltalk, but he blustered, fidgeted in his seat and pulled out a sheet of paper with road signs printed on them, some familiar, others hieroglyphic. Several of them were certainly made up to trick the unwary testee but I took a good stab at the real ones and when he sighed afterwards I could sense he was a bit irked at having failed to catch me out with the red herrings.

Next he sent a few posers my direction, which I batted back as best I could.

I named the places you should not park - near a junction, in the middle of the motorway, outside a chip shop,



even if only running in to collect a takeaway.

"Where is the only place you will see a flashing red light?" he asked next.

This stumped me at first, but I took a shot at "on a fire engine". I later found out it is also at a level crossing, but imagined he had to give me half a point.

He ploughed on: "How would you check your brake lights on your car if you were alone?"

This question seemed almost existential and held me silent for what seemed like eons, but was perhaps only 25 seconds.

"I would prop my smartphone against a stone behind the car, turn on its video recorder, sit myself into the car, test the brakes, and then check if they were working on playback."

Even I was a little stunned at my ingenuity and I sensed I had now earned my examiner's respect.

The previous examiner told me on the way over to the car that he was go-

ing to ask me to name parts of the engine, I had been thinking, 'don't they already have names?' Or would I say 'This is Eddie the Engine. And Bill the Battery' to lighten the building tension?

I had grown up a lot since that ignominious failure and was confident of passing this time.

I would not however, and it was all the pavement's fault.

**Recommendation:** Find out tomorrow how our hero clutched defeat from the steering wheel of success in part two of his meandering account. For those not interested, back Kimi Raikkonen to win at the Hungaroring at 6/1 with Boyles.