## 主場出撃 傲立擂台 泰拳慈善夜圓滿落幕

## Youths stood proudly in the ring with Muay Thai enthusiasts for a charity cause



With a sound of the bell, the exciting thrill was over and everyone turned quiet. The entire audience held their breath for the moment when the winner was announced – who, once informed of his victory, roared with his arms in the air, accepted his rival's congratulations, and thanked each other for having an awesome match. Meanwhile, there was a particular ardency in the spectators' applause, as they knew it wasn't just any ordinary Thai boxing competition, but a charity event to encourage teenagers to stretch their limits and rediscover themselves.

致力協助邊緣青年重返正軌的協青社聯同香港女律師協會,於九月四日在青少年中心「蒲吧」首次搭建正式擂台舉辦「泰拳慈善夜」,除了透過機構贊助及門票收入籌集善款,以支持協青社的青少年工作之外,更加提供一個平台讓幾位蒲吧泰拳班的年青學員初次上陣,與一眾熱愛泰拳運動的有心人切磋武藝,一起展示操練成果、大顯身手。

比賽當日場內氣氛高漲,台上拳來拳往、賣力拚搏,台下觀眾看得投入,不時傳來低聲驚呼、高聲叫喊的打氣

As an organization to support at-risk youth to get their life back on track, Youth Outreach (YO) was joined by The Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) to hold the charity Muay Thai competition "Elite Challengers" at the youth centre "The Hang Out", where an official boxing ring was set up unprecedentedly on 4th September. Besides being a fundraiser to support the youth programmes of YO, the event also provided a great platform to allow several youngsters from YO's Elite Boxing Class to participate in a match for the first time, competing with other Thai boxing enthusiasts and showcasing their hard work in training.

聲,甚至呼喚台上選手的名字,為其加油。當日共設有 五場賽事,其中有三位蒲吧學員上場比賽,更加在三場 賽事中大獲全勝!同場亦設有示範環節,由蒲吧學員、 義務教練以及其他泰拳愛好者即席表演泰拳招式。活動 得到政商界、法律界以及各界專業人士鼎力支持,可謂 「專業撑青年」。



特別嘉賓「神奇小子」曹星如及父親曹樹仁均是拳擊高手,曹樹仁更曾是七屆 君業餘拳擊冠軍及香港亞運代表。

"Wonder Kid" Rex Tso and his father Tso Shu-Yan are both preeminent boxers, as Father Tso used to be a seven-time Hong Kong amateur boxing champion and the Hong Kong representative for Asian Olympics.



大會請來獨立樂隊Zpecial擔任表演嘉賓,令現場氣氛更加熾熱。 Indie band Zpecial was invited as the guest performer to heat up the scene.



五場賽事的十位選手全力以赴爭取勝利,在觀眾面前大顯身手。 The ten contestants gave their best shots in the five matches to showcase their skills in front of the audience.

The matches offered a thrilling spectacle, as the contestants in the ring gave their best shots most devotedly. Meanwhile the audience was also highly engaged in it, often filling the venue with gasps of amazement and loud cheers, as well as calling out the names of the boxers supportively. Three among the five matches of the night were fought by YO students individually, who all won in their fight. The event also featured demonstration sessions of Thai boxing techniques performed by YO students, volunteer coach and fellow enthusiasts in the sport. What's more, the event received wide support from not only professionals of various industries, but also some prominent figures in political, business and legal sectors.

One of the special quests was Rex Tso, aka "Wonder Kid", the first professional boxer in Hong Kong with an unbeaten record of 18 matches by now. Scoring zero in his HKCEE, he confessed that he once felt aimless as a teen too, but eventually figured out his purpose in life via the sport of boxing. He encouraged teenagers to hold on to their dreams resolutely and keep on improving themselves. In fact, many youngsters from YO have also experienced their personal growth via Thai boxing. For example, one student used to have a bad temper and often end up fighting in the street. However after learning Muay Thai, his patience has much improved because of the coaches' disciplinary training and respectful attitude of martial arts. Now he would consider the consequence first before making any impulsive action. In addition, some teenagers are hired as the programme assistants of "The Hang Out", where they can utilize their interests to help other youths as a job, building their self-esteem on a positive track of life; suitable students can also work as coaching assistants, or even take official exams for the certifications as a professional Thai boxing coach. Currently the Thai boxing classes are held at "The Hang Out" every Friday night, while an array of activities including skateboarding, street dance, rock climbing, abseiling and band shows are also regularly available for youngsters aged between 6 and 24 for free. For more details, please visit the website of YO at www.YO.org.hk.