

REGULATORY AND OPERATIONAL REPORT

Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Championship

November 2026

UNIVERSAL BOXING COUNCIL (UBC)

The Universal Boxing Council (UBC) applied for membership of the APBC in 2026, due to information on file at APBC head office, the request was refused. For the following reasons.

Executive Summary

The Universal Boxing Council (UBC), founded in 2006 by Luis Bello-Diaz and headquartered out of Cartagena, Colombia, operates as a minor-tier ("alphabet soup") international sanctioning body.

While the UBC promotes itself as an elite professional sanctioning authority featuring structured world, international, and regional titles, its legal status and professional legitimacy vary significantly by country.

In certain developing boxing nations, the UBC partners with official national commissions to sanction genuine professional fights.

Conversely, in highly regulated regions like the United Kingdom, contests advertised as "UBC Championships" circumvent established professional authorities the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBofC) and the British & Irish Boxing Authority (BIBA) and operate entirely within the unlicensed sector. This dichotomy creates a significant risk of misleading local fighters, gym owners, and ticket-buying fans regarding the official athletic status of these events

Analysis of the "Misleading" Sanctioning Gray Area

The fundamental issue surrounding the UBC is its lack of structural uniformity across international borders, which enables the exploitation of promoters and athletes.

[UBC GLOBAL HO] ---> Advertises Professional Rules (12 Rounds, Anti-Doping)
|
+---> In Bangladesh/Colombia: Partnered with Official National Commissions (Pro Status)
|
+---> In the United Kingdom: Circumvents BBBofC/BIBA (**Unlicensed Status**)

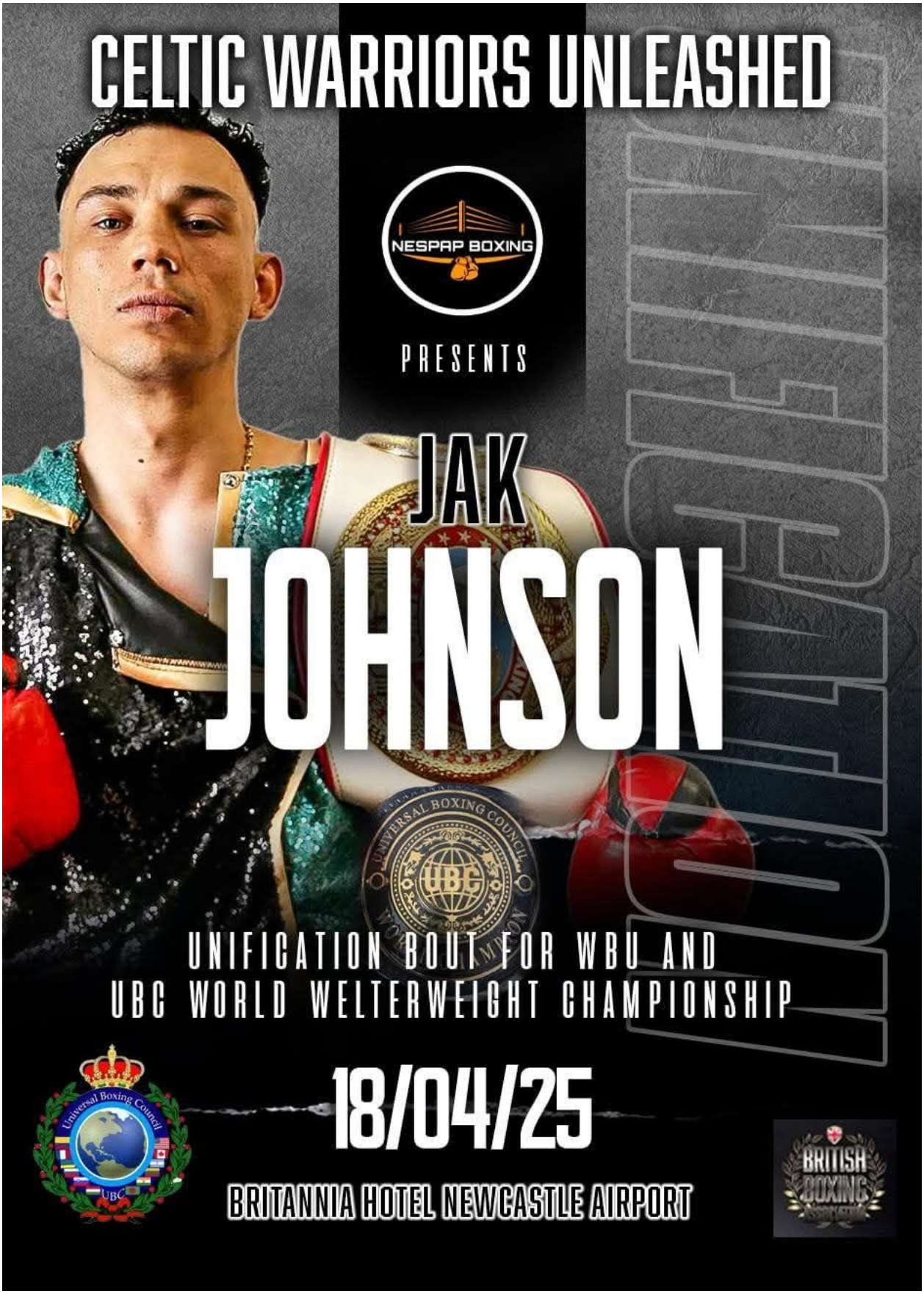
1. **The Acronym Trap:** The UBC logo and title design closely mimic major world sanctioning bodies. Unlicensed UK promoters use this branding to make a local white-collar/unlicensed event look like an elite Championship contest, including listing in one case as a "World Title Fight" to secure high ticket sales.

2. **Sanctioning Fee Exploitation:** The UBC charges hundreds or thousands of pounds in "sanctioning fees" to issue a physical championship belt. While local UK promoters believe they are buying into a legitimate professional network, they are actually purchasing an unregulated ornament that carries zero industrial value or athletic ranking weight within the Professional Boxing realm globally.

3. **Fighter Welfare and Safety:** By positioning themselves as a "Professional Championship" body on their official website, the UBC obscures the reality that their UK operations are entirely unregulated. Fighters are led to believe they are competing at a high professional echelon while being denied the strict, legally mandated medical protections and ringside safety standards required by genuine UK authorities such as the BBBofC and BIBA.

Examples of the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Championships Contested on unlicensed events on following pages.

1) Jak Johnson versus Unknown - 18th April 2025



Jak Johnson competed for the WBU & Universal Boxing Council (UBC) titles on the 18th August 2025 at the Britannia Hotel, Newcastle airport. The event, named “Battle of Britain Celtic Warriors Unleashed”, appears to have been promoted by Nespap Promotions in association with Johnson Boxing Gym .

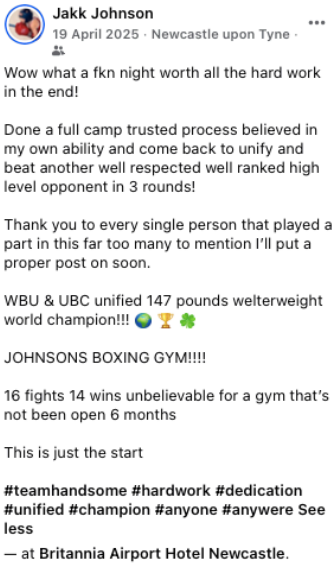
The contest was promoted as ‘Unification Bout for WBU and UBC World Welterweight Championship’ on both Johnson’s and the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Facebook pages.

UBC posted on the 15th April 2025 the poster above and on the 19th April 2025 “Jakk Johnson now becomes the unified UBC and WBU world champion.”

Please Note: there is no mention in those posts or on-line, or even on WBU and UBC websites regarding who Johnson fought or how many rounds the fight was contracted at, although do know only lasted three rounds due to Johnson’s post shown below.

The results of the contest was not recorded by either FightFax or Boxrec, as was an unlicensed contest





Jakk Johnson
19 April 2025 · Newcastle upon Tyne ·

Wow what a fkn night worth all the hard work in the end!

Done a full camp trusted process believed in my own ability and come back to unify and beat another well respected well ranked high level opponent in 3 rounds!

Thank you to every single person that played a part in this far too many to mention I’ll put a proper post on soon.

WBU & UBC unified 147 pounds welterweight world champion!!! 🌍🏆🍀

JOHNSONS BOXING GYM!!!!

16 fights 14 wins unbelievable for a gym that’s not been open 6 months

This is just the start

#teamhandsome #hardwork #dedication #unified #champion #anyone #anywere See less

— at **Britannia Airport Hotel Newcastle**.

Please note: Jak Johnson is not a Championship level boxer - his professional boxing record on the 11th November 2026 is negative and stands at 3-9-1

https://fightfax.com/profiles/jak-johnson-424525
https://boxrec.com/en/box-pro/755053

2) Matty Kinvig Versus Adam "Rhys" Jones 6th March 2026



The matchup between Matty Kinvig and Adam Rhys-Jones, that apparently took place , or was due to take place, in Liverpool on the 6th March 2026, appears to be a catchweight title showdown under the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) banner

It should be noted that whilst this is stated on both UBC Boxing and Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Facebook pages on the 29th January 2026 as Universal Boxing Council Championship, including the official Universal Boxing Council (UBC) logo on the poster, however the belt design shown is the Ultimate Boxing Championship (UBC) design.

Matty Kinvig:

Kinvig, who is based on the Isle of Man, competes in the Light Heavyweight and Cruiserweight divisions on the unlicensed circuit in the UK and as such does not have an active profile on FightFax or BoxRec because his career has primarily taken place in amateur boxing and semi-professional / independent fight leagues rather than the licensed professional circuit tracked by FightFax or BoxRec

Adam Rhys-Jones:

Adam Rhys-Jones has actively competed across predominately on Welsh unlicensed and white-collar boxing promotions and as such does not have an active profile on FightFax or BoxRec because his career has primarily taken place in amateur boxing and semi-professional / independent fight leagues rather than the licensed professional circuit tracked by FightFax or BoxRec

It should be noted that Rhys-Jones has primarily competed in the Welterweight / Light Welterweight divisions, with his weight recorded around 63 kg (approx. 139 lbs)

3) Viv Graham Jr Versus Carl Craig 11th April 2026

Viv Graham Jr Versus Carl Craig took place on 11th April 2026 at the Civic Centre in Newcastle. The event was promoted by co-promoted by NESPAP Promotions and Jak Johnson TINE Promotions under the banner "TINE Fight Series IV"

The contest was for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Men's Bridgerweight Championship - It should be noted that no publicity on-line states whether European, International, Intercontinental or World, however normally it would be assumed as states 'Bridgerweight championship' was for World honours - The contest was competed for over 8 x 2 Minute Rounds.

Whilst unable to find a poster for this contest, here is a link to video of the contest https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=810001435500889

Matchup Context

- **The Stakes:** The fight was heavily promoted by the event promoter and the Universal Boxing Council as a marquee title bout for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Bridgerweight strap.

- **The Rules:** according to the UBC Rules should be a 12x3 minute rounds

- **Unlicensed:** It should be noted that the contest was not sanctioned by either genuine UK professional boxing authorities, BBBofC and BIBA, as such the results of the contest was not recorded by either FightFax or Boxrec, as was an unlicensed contest

Please note: Neither Graham Jr or Carl Craig are Championship level boxers, Graham Jr has never competed in a professional boxing contest and also Craig has never competed in a professional boxing contest, however has competed in Bare Knuckle Boxing and holds a 0-1-0 record as well as competed in official Hybrid Pro contest sand his record is 2-1-0 https://boxrec.com/en/hyb-pro/1273122

It should be noted: Viv Graham Jr made his highly publicised return to the ring for this contest, following a 16 years sabbatical from the sport. Graham Jr. stopped Craig to win the vacant UBC Bridgerweight title.

Triple UBC Title Event - 22nd August 2026



4) Josephine “Jo Jo” Callaghan Versus Sophie Varley 22nd August 2026



Josephine “Jo Jo” Callaghan Versus Sophie Varley took place on 22 August 2026 at the Civic Centre in Newcastle. The event was promoted by Jak Johnson TINE Promotions under the banner "TUFF IS NOT ENOUGH".

The contest was for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Women’s EUROPEAN Flyweight Championship and was competed for over 6 x 2 Minute Rounds.

Matchup Context

- **The Stakes:** The fight was heavily promoted by the event promoter and the Universal Boxing Council as a marquee international/European title bout for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) flyweight strap.
- **The Rules:** according to the UBC Rules should be a 10x2 minute rounds
- **Unlicensed:** It should be noted that the contest was not sanctioned by either genuine UK professional boxing authorities, BBBofC and BIBA, as such the results of the contest was not recorded by either FightFax or Boxrec, as was an unlicensed contest

Please note: Neither Callaghan or Varley are Championship level boxers, Callaghan has never won a professional contest in her four professional fights and Varley has only won twice in nine professional contests.

Josephine ‘Jo Jo’ Callaghan:

Callaghan has not competed in the professional ranks since the 25th April 2026 when she lost on points to Sherrie Barnes in Wisbech UK and her professional Boxing license expired in July 2026

Callaghan’s professional record is 0-4-0
https://fightfax.com/profiles/josephine-callangahan-1064320
https://boxrec.com/en/box-pro/1388015

It should be noted that Callaghan was born and resides in Leeds in the United Kingdom, however on both FightFax and Boxrec she is listed as American and resides in Ohio.

Sophie Varley:

Varley has not competed in the professional ranks since the 31st May 2025, when she lost on points to Tamara Addison in Aberdeen, Scotland and her professional boxing license expired in October 2025.

Varley’s professional record is 2-7-0
https://fightfax.com/profiles/sophie-varley-1037504
https://boxrec.com/en/box-pro/1277523



Whilst not a particularly clear photo, the image below shows Callaghan with the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Championship belt she was presented following her victory over Sophie Varley - this image is from Callaghan's Facebook page.

5) Callie Louise Hellens Versus Frankie Franzsika 22nd August 2026



Callie Louise Hellens Versus Frankie Franzsika (name misspelt on poster, but correct on promotional posts) took place on 22 August 2026 at the Civic Centre in Newcastle. The event was promoted by Jak Johnson TINE Promotions under the banner "TUFF IS NOT ENOUGH".

The contest was for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Women's WORLD Super Featherweight Championship and was competed for over 6 x 2 Minute Rounds.

Matchup Context

- **The Stakes:** The fight was heavily promoted by the event promoter and the Universal Boxing Council as a marquee WORLD title bout for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Super Featherweight strap.
- **The Rules:** according to the UBC Rules should be a 10x2 minute rounds
- **Unlicensed:** It should be noted that the contest was not sanctioned by either genuine UK professional boxing authorities, BBBofC and BIBA, as such the results of the contest was not recorded by either FightFax or Boxrec, as was an unlicensed contest

Please note: Neither Hellens or Franzsika are Championship level boxers, Hellens has never won a professional contest in her two professional fights and Franzsika has never competed as a professional boxer.

Callie Louise Hellens:

Callie Louise Hellens, known by the ring nickname "Hell on," is a former British professional boxer. Competing out of her hometown of Newcastle, Tyne and Wear, United Kingdom, she fights primarily in the lower weight classes, including strawweight and bantamweight

Hellen's Professional Record is 0-2-0
https://fightfax.com/profiles/callie-louise-hellens-1055088
https://boxrec.com/en/box-pro/1347349

Frankie Franzsika:

Frankie Franziska is an English amateur boxer and hybrid combat sports athlete, competing primarily in amateur bouts, charity exhibitions, and hybrid fight leagues

The only record showing for Franzsika is on Tapology which shows her unconfirmed amateur record as 0-1-0
https://www.tapology.com/fightcenter/fighters/505187-devon-smith

6) Viv Graham Jr. Versus Jimmy “Gypsy Boy” McRory 22nd August 2026



Viv Graham Jr Versus Jimmy McCrory (name misspelt on poster, yet correct spelling on all social media publicity) took place on 22 August 2026 at the Civic Centre in Newcastle. The event was promoted by Jak Johnson TINE Promotions (in association with Faceless Fight Promotions) under the banner "TUFF IS NOT ENOUGH".

The contest was for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Men's Bridgerweight Championship - It should be noted that all publicity on-line does not state whether European, International, Intercontinental or World, however normally it would be assumed as states 'Bridgerweight championship' was for World honours - The contest was competed for over 8 x 2 Minute Rounds.

Matchup Context

- **The Stakes:** The fight was heavily promoted by the event promoter and the Universal Boxing Council as a marquee title bout for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Bridgerweight strap.
- **The Rules:** according to the UBC Rules should be a 12x3 minute rounds
- **Unlicensed:** It should be noted that the contest was not sanctioned by either genuine UK professional boxing authorities, BBBofC and BIBA, as such the results of the contest was not recorded by either FightFax or Boxrec, as was an unlicensed contest

Please note: Neither Graham Jr or McCrory are Championship level boxers, Graham Jr has never competed in a professional boxing contest and McCrory has never competed in a professional boxing contest, however has competed in Bare Knuckle Boxing and holds a 7-1-2 record as well as competed in an official Hybrid Pro contest and his record is 1-0-0 https://boxrec.com/en/hyb-pro/942943

The Fight Outcome:

- **The Winner:** Jimmy McCrory won the bout via points decision

Video of the contest: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2258296614904914

Viv Graham Jr:

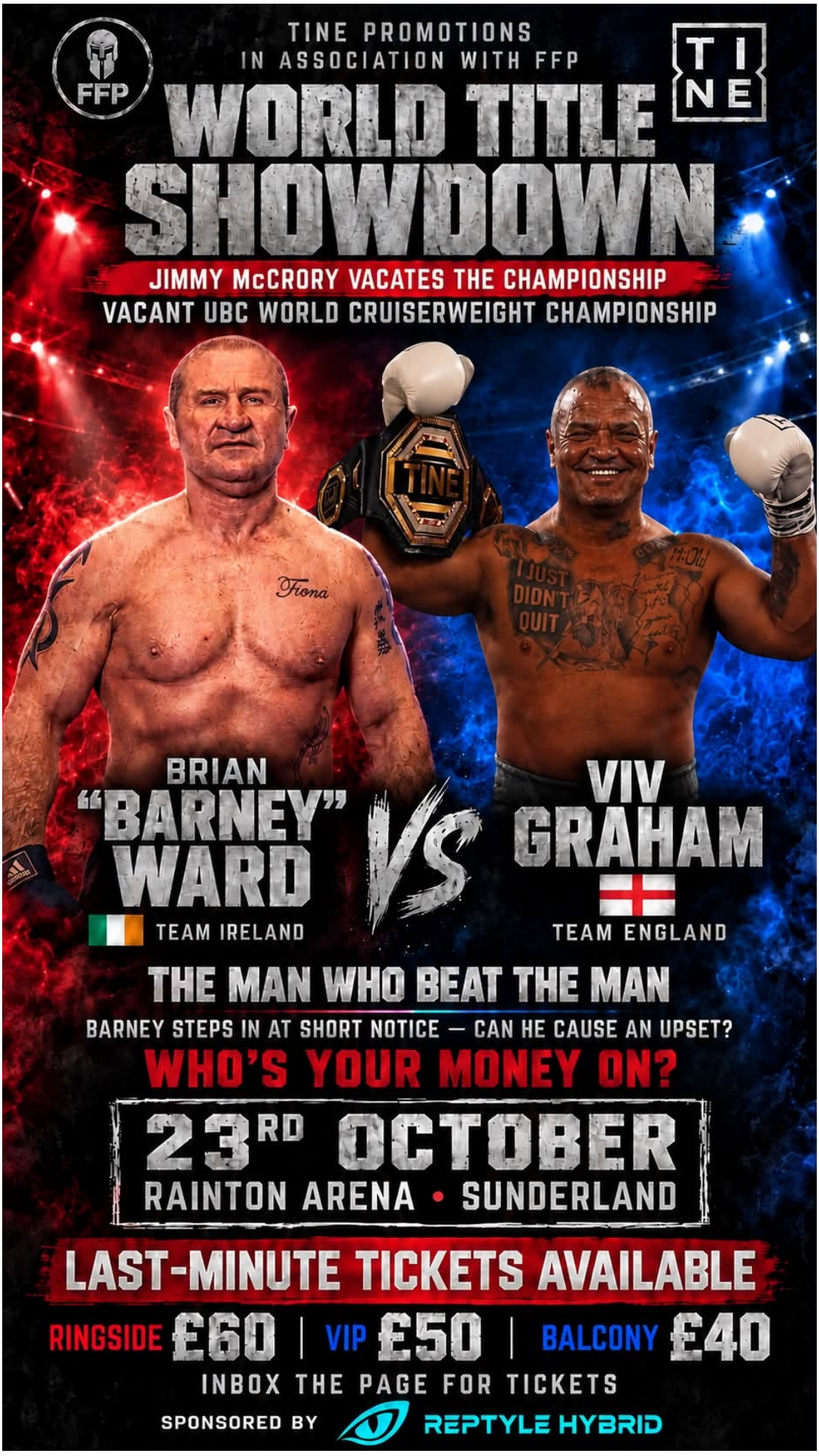
Graham Jr made a highly publicised return to the ring on the 11th April 2026 **after 16 years away from the sport**. Graham Jr. defeated Carl Craig to win the vacant UBC Bridgerweight title.

Jimmy McCrory later vacated the championship, paving the way for Graham's next steps on the North East circuit

Double UBC Title Event - 23rd October 2026

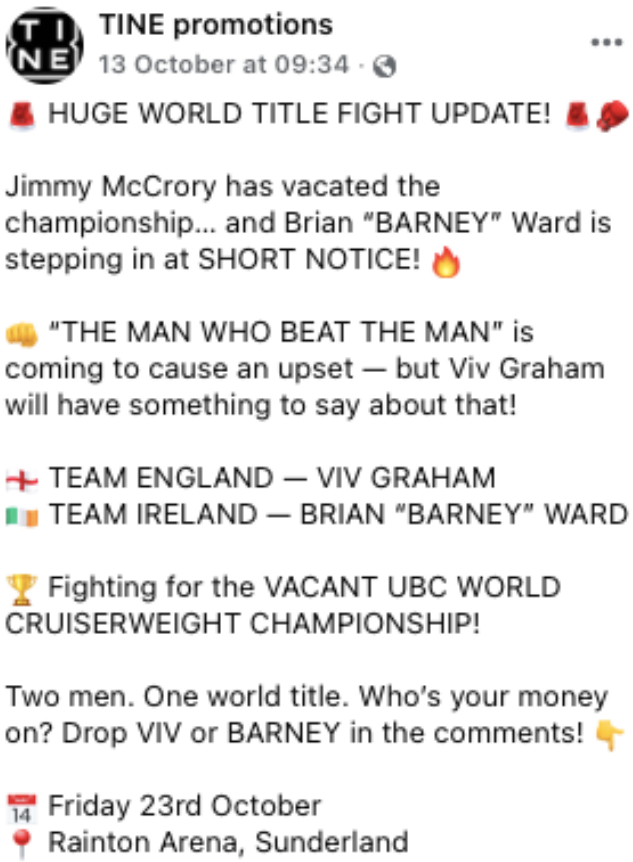


7) Viv Graham Jr Versus Brian "Barney" Ward 23rd October 2026



Viv Graham Jr Versus Brian Ward took place on 23rd October 2026 at the Rainton Arena, Sunderland. The event was co-promoted by Faceless Fight Promotions and Jak Johnson TINE Promotions under the banner "Faceless Fight Night 1".

The contest was for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Men's Cruisereight 'World' Championship. The contest was competed for over 8 x 2 Minute Rounds.



Matchup Context

- **The Stakes:** The fight was heavily promoted by the event promoter and the Universal Boxing Council as a Cruiserweight title bout for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC).

- **The Rules:** according to the UBC Rules should be 12x3 minute rounds

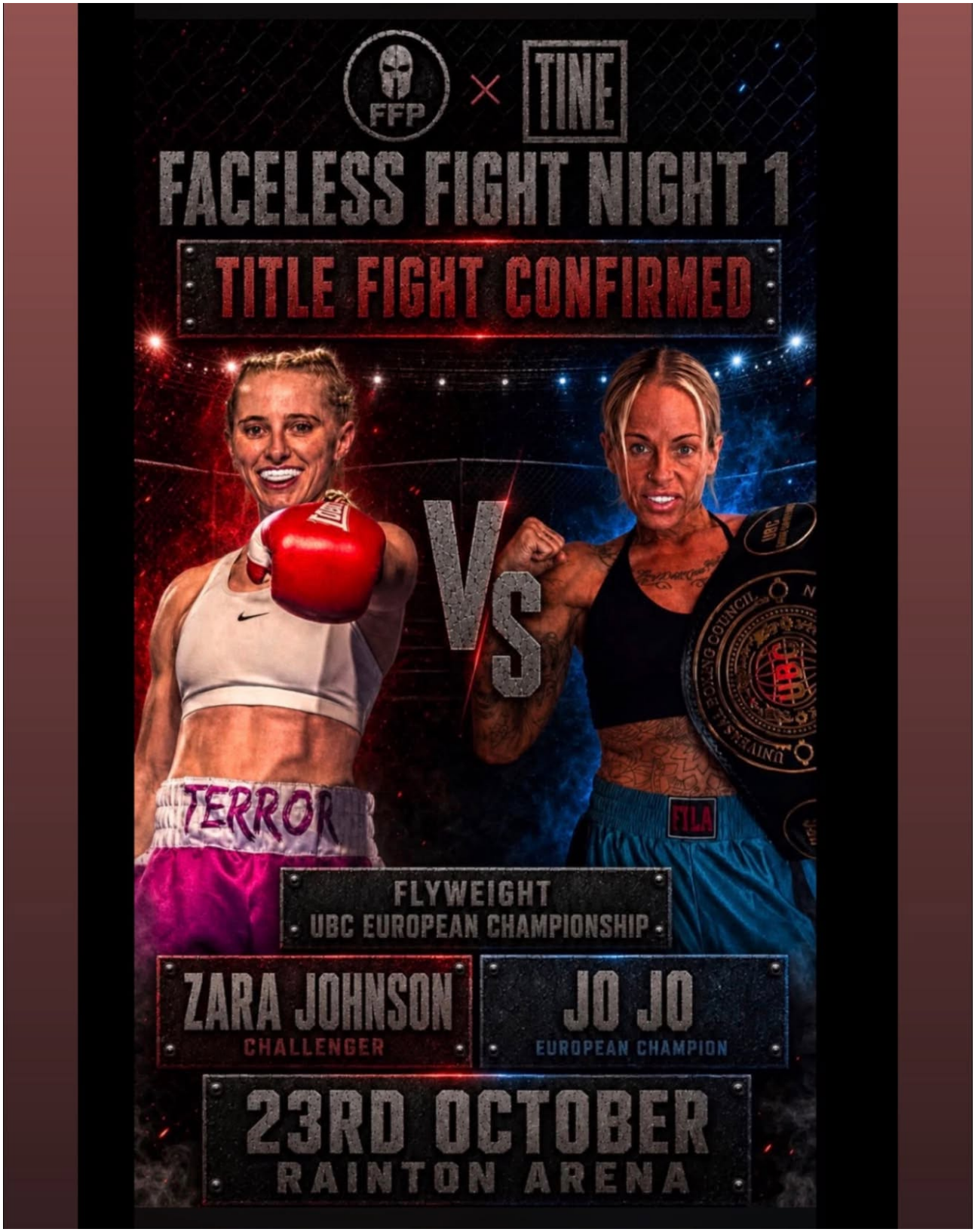
- **Unlicensed:** It should be noted that the contest was not sanctioned by either genuine UK professional boxing authorities, BBBofC and BIBA, as such the results of the contest was not recorded by either FightFax or Boxrec, as was an unlicensed contest

Please note: Neither Graham Jr or Ward are Championship level boxers, Graham Jr has never competed in a professional boxing contest and Ward has fought just once as a licensed professional boxer against Craig Sprigg in Worksop, UK on the 27th June 2026. Sprigg won the four round contest on points.

https://fightfax.com/profiles/brian-ward-1078520

Below is a link to video of the weigh-in which includes the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) belt
https://www.facebook.com/reel/1075193175517898/

8) Josephine ‘Jo Jo’ Callaghan Versus Zara Johnson 23rd October 2026



Josephine “Jo Jo” Callaghan Versus Zara Johnson took place on 23rd October 2026 at the Rainton Arena, Sunderland. The event was co-promoted by Faceless Fight Promotions and Jak Johnson TINE Promotions under the banner "Faceless Fight Night 1"

The contest was for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) Women’s EUROPEAN Flyweight Championship and was competed for over 6 x 2 Minute Rounds.

Matchup Context

- **The Stakes:** The fight was heavily promoted by the event promoter and the Universal Boxing Council as a marquee international/European title bout for the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) flyweight strap.

- **The Rules:** according to the UBC Rules should be a 10x2 minute rounds.

- **Unlicensed:** It should be noted that the contest was not sanctioned by either genuine UK professional boxing authorities, BBBofC and BIBA, as such the results of the contest was not recorded by either FightFax or Boxrec, as was an unlicensed contest

Please note: Callaghan is not a Championship level boxer, Callaghan has never won a professional contest in her four professional fights.

Josephine ‘Jo Jo’ Callaghan:

Callaghan has not competed in the professional ranks since the 25th April 2026 when she lost on points to Sherrie Barnes in Wisbech UK and her professional Boxing license expired in July 2026

Callaghan’s professional record is 0-4-0
https://fightfax.com/profiles/josephine-callangahan-1064320
https://boxrec.com/en/box-pro/1388015

It should be noted that Callaghan was born and resides in Leeds in the United Kingdom, however on both FightFax and Boxrec she is listed as American and resides in Ohio. These details should be corrected by both FightFax and Boxrec.

Zara Johnson:

Johnson is a former professional boxer as well as a former professional boxing Champion, having won the WIBA International title on the 18th November 2023 with a points victory over Nicole Goldsmith Ryan. Johnson has not fought as a professional boxer since the 6th April 2024 when she beat Sophie Varley on points. Johnson’s professional boxing license expired in on 1st April 2025.

Johnson’s professional record is 4-0-0
https://fightfax.com/profiles/zara-johnson-821398
Boxrec only have a few of Johnson’s Amateur fights listed.

9) Jak Johnson Versus Arron Wales - 23rd October 2026



Whilst not listed as a Universal Boxing Council championship contest the major issue of allowing unlicensed contests to be authorised by the Universal Boxing Council and World Boxing Union (German Version), mislead boxing fans but is also an insult to the genuine prospects that earned their pro rankings, as well as belittles genuine champions magnificent achievements.

Please note: Neither Jak Johnson or Arron Wales are Championship level boxers

Jak Johnson's professional boxing record on the 11th November 2026 is negative and stands at 3-9-1

https://fightfax.com/profiles/jak-johnson-424525
https://boxrec.com/en/box-pro/755053

Arron Wales' is not and has never been a licensed professional boxer, however has competed at BKB and MMA, **his** professional BKB record is 0-1-0 and MMA Amateur record is 0-1-0 on the 11th November 2026

https://boxrec.com/en/bk-pro/1291664

Conclusion

The evidence compiled in this report demonstrates a systemic pattern in which the Universal Boxing Council (UBC) operates outside legitimate regulatory frameworks both within the United Kingdom and across the broader international professional boxing landscape. While the UBC presents itself globally as an elite professional sanctioning authority, its activities consistently bypass established governing bodies—specifically the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBofC) and the British & Irish Boxing Authority (BIBA) in the UK, alongside recognised national commissions internationally—to sanction unlicensed bouts under the guise of "World" and "European" championships.

Across the documented events between April 2025 and October 2026, the UBC has repeatedly disregarded its own published championship regulations—such as authorising 6-round and 8-round contests with 2-minute rounds for titles that require 10-round or 12-round championship formats.

Furthermore, these belts have been contested by competitors who either lack professional boxing licences altogether, compete with expired licences, or hold non-championship and negative professional records. Because these contests occur within the unregulated sector, their outcomes are excluded from official boxing registries such as BoxRec and FightFax, and participants are deprived of the mandatory medical oversight and ringside safety protocols enforced by recognised commissions.

Ultimately, the commercialisation of unregulated championship belts undermines the integrity of legitimate professional boxing, misleads ticket-buying spectators, and compromises fighter welfare.

On the basis of these operational discrepancies, lack of regulatory compliance, and the sanctioning of non-professional contests as official championships, the Association of Professional Boxing Commissions (APBC) upholds its decision to refuse the Universal Boxing Council's application for membership and does not recognise UBC titles as valid professional boxing championships.

