

HASKINS SAILING INTO STORMY WATERS IN BELFAST

SAN DIEGO (JUNE 7, 2017) -Lee Haskins gets over his first major hurdle in defending his IBF Bantamweight title against Ryan Burnett in Belfast on Saturday – by taking the ferry today due to his fear of flying.

Haskins puts his crown on the line for the third time at the SSE Arena Belfast, live on AWE–A A Wealth of Entertainment at 3 PM ET / 12 PM Noon PT and the Bristolian knows he's in for a hostile reception as he tries to hand Burnett his first pro defeat in front of the passionate Belfast fans.

'Playboy' says that the hometown support won't be a problem as it's nothing he hasn't experienced before – but knows the fight will be far from plain sailing against the unbeaten hometown star.

"I'm not the greatest on planes so we chose to get the ferry over," said Haskins. "My family and I decided to go a bit earlier and make more of a trip about it.

"It's not too far so it gives me and the kids a bit of time to catch-up and it's something different, rather than just jumping off a plane straight into the hotel. Now we get to have a little detour and have a little adventure.

"It's going to be a hostile crowd but truthfully it doesn't bother me. I've boxed away time and time again so I know what's coming. I've boxed in Monaco, Belgium and Morocco and in plenty of backyards in the UK. It doesn't bother me, a ring is a ring.

"I hope the Belfast fans don't give me too much of a hard time! I'm really looking forward to fighting in front of such a knowledgeable crowd and of course to my own fans, I'm always

grateful for your continued backing.

“I am very excited – I’m more excited for this one than I have been for a long, long time. I’m happy and content going into this fight and I’m looking forward to visiting Belfast.”

Haskins’ clash with Burnett is part of a huge day of action in Belfast where Paul Hyland Jr faces Adam Dingsdale for his first pro title with the IBF European Lightweight strap on the line.

James Tennyson tackles Ryan Doyle for the WBA International Super-Featherweight belt, Ian Tims and Luke Watkins meet for the Irish Cruiserweight title, there’s the Cruiserweight debut of Mike Perez, and local favorites Paddy Gallagher, Matthew Wilton, Feargal McCrory and Tyrone McCullagh.

Photos By : Jamie McPhilimey

About AWE LIVE BOXING

AWE LIVE Boxing features live world title championship and elimination bouts showcasing today’s most exciting fighters. Since the inception of AWE’s live boxing events in 2011, AWE has featured over 50 world title fights.

AWE has brought boxing fans some of the most exciting and controversial bouts, including the matchup of Ricky Burns against Ray Beltran for the world title. AWE featured live and exclusively the crowning of American Terence Crawford over Ricky Burns. AWE fans have witnessed the explosive power of undefeated heavyweight Tyson Fury multiple times on the network, including Fury’s victory over Kevin Johnson. In 2017, AWE was the exclusive United States television provider of the historic matchup between legendary British heavyweight David Haye and Tony Bellew.

About AWE – A Wealth of Entertainment

A Wealth of Entertainment (“AWE”) features a wide range of

lifestyles and entertainment programming from exotic travel and outrageous homes to live world championship boxing. AWE is available on over a hundred cable systems, including AT&T U-Verse, ch 147 and 1147 in HD, Verizon FiOS TV, ch 169 and 669 in HD. and DirecTV, ch 387.

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