

Andy does the business again

■ Speculation on where Andy Lee's next fight will take place goes into overdrive

DONAL O'REGAN

ANDY Lee's supporters got so excited as he fought back from two "knockdowns" against Peter Quillin that a pub owner had to hush the crowd for fear of disturbing Mass in Castleconnell Church.

But it wasn't a long Midnight Mass revellers were disturbing - it was the following Sunday.

Bradshaw's Pub in Castleconnell, home to 'Andy Lee's Corner', was packed on Sunday for a rerun of the fight.

"There was great excitement on Saturday night for the build-up. Then on Sunday we showed repeats and had a big crowd in. They couldn't wait to see it," said Padraig Power, proprietor.

"We were delighted with the result. He was knocked down twice but then to come back, knock him down and keep going - that's Andy all over. They were roaring at the TV. I had to tell them to hush up a bit or they would hear them inside in the church! He did Castleconnell proud and he will be coming home with the belt. Hopefully he will drop in and see his own corner when he is home. It is all ready for him," he added.

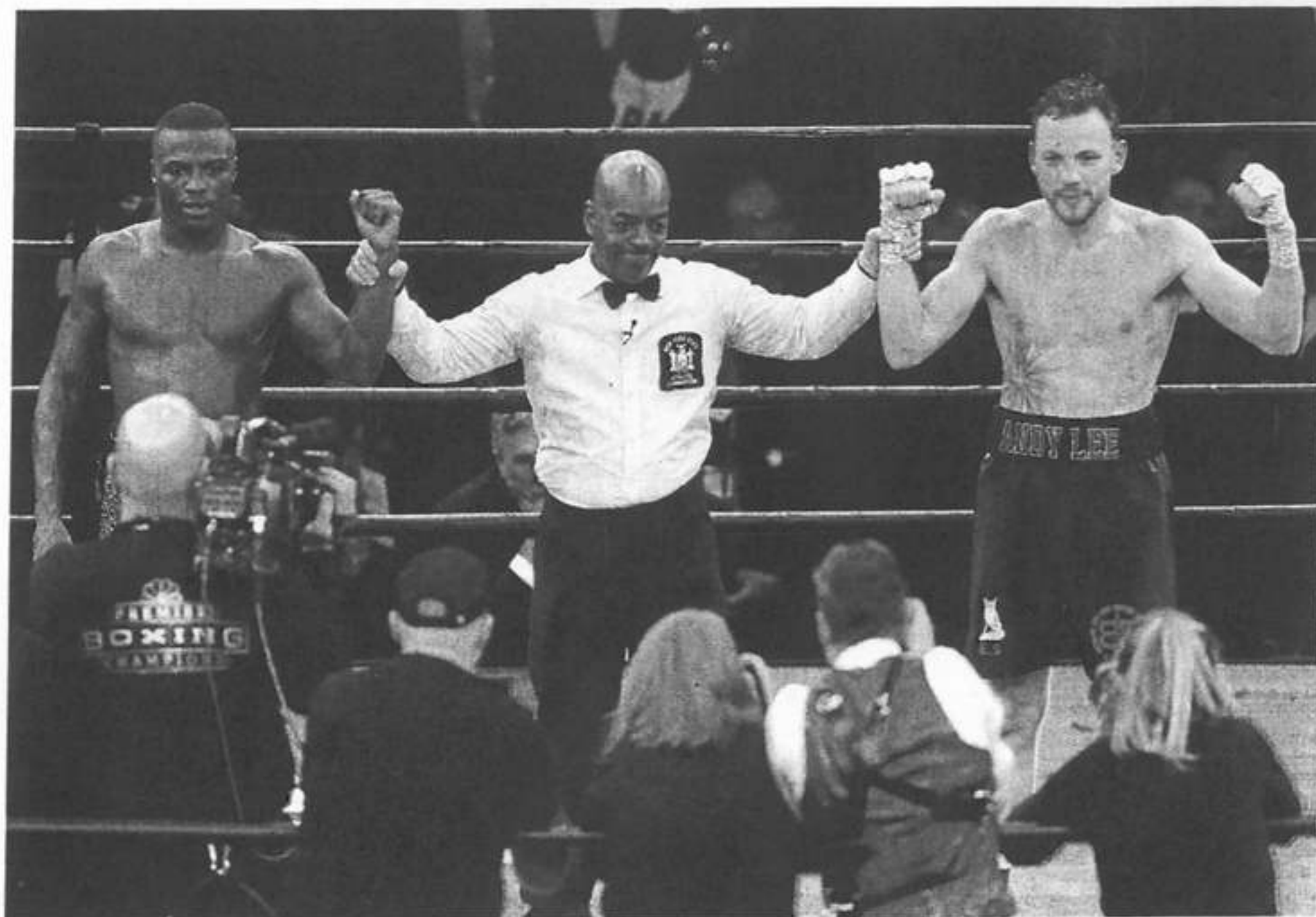
Andy flew from New York to France on Sunday. He was in Dublin on Wednesday night to appear on Second Captains Live on RTE2.

Apart from that David McHugh, director of Line Up Sports Media Entertainment, said Andy is keen to keep a low profile and take a break.

"It's been a long 14 week camp in the build up to the Quillin fight and he needs to recover physically and mentally. It's just a time for reflection and rest and planning, but most of all Andy will benefit from a rest and some time with family and friends," said David, who is not sure when Andy will go to Limerick "but he does intend to go, with a view to spending some time with his family".

All the talk now is where the fight against the mandatory challenger - Billy Joe Saunders - for Andy's WBO middleweight world title belt will take place.

Andy's trainer Adam Booth tweeted a picture of Thomond Park on Sunday which was retweeted by Andy.



Put 'em up for the last time: The referee declares a draw between Peter Quillin and Andy Lee after their middleweight world title fight

Picture: Tim Hunger/Sportsfile

But Saunders's promoter, Frank Warren said on Monday he expects the fight to go where it makes the most money for the boxers.

"Ireland would be a big one but in England it would be really huge. You would generate more money on the gate in England because of the difference between the euro and pound at the moment. I'd be really disappointed if it did less than 30,000 in an outdoor venue," he said.

David says it is all speculation at the moment. But it is a nice position to be in and as Andy tweeted on Monday: "Exactly 1 year ago today I fought Frank Horta on a small show in the middle of nowhere. Today, I'm world champion... Don't ever give up!"

Wherever it happens Andy

will have a large fanbase to cheer him on - including his long-time friend from Castleconnell, Paul

"They were roaring at the television and this was on Sunday!"

Padraig Power
Bradshaw's proprietor

O'Donoghue. He had the best seat in the house on Saturday as he was ringside.

"It was disappointing that Quillin didn't make the weight. After the first round you didn't think it was

going to be Andy's night but he dug deep and came back to get a draw. He was unlucky that the third round knockdown wasn't really a knockdown - that could have been the difference," said Paul. Quillin stood on Andy's toe - the referee acknowledged it after the fight and said it was a mistake.

But after hitting the canvas in the first round and the unlucky break in the third, another boxer could have thrown in the towel.

"To come back from all that... Maybe a lesser fighter mightn't have come back. The doctors were checking him but another fighter might have taken an out," said Paul.

But that's not Andy Lee. Paul caught up with him for an hour in New York on Sunday.

"He was sore. He tore a muscle in his arm and he has the cut on his eye. He is probably a bit disappointed with the first round but to come back like that..." said Paul, who said there was a brilliant atmosphere in the Barclays Centre.

One man who couldn't be there was Castleconnell parish priest, Fr Brendan Kyne, who is looking forward to being at the next fight.

"I got an invitation to be there but due to a pastoral commitment I couldn't go. I watched it with friends. There was a tremendous air of excitement. Initially, we got a bit of a fright but Andy was so determined. He showed tremendous resilience and courage to persevere. He showed the class of a boxer that he really is - a world champion," summed up Fr Kyne.



John Herlihy, head of Google Ireland, Prof John Fahy, UL, and Kevin Thompstone, Shannon Chamber

'Failure should be celebrated': Google chief

LEADER REPORTER

"FAILURE should be celebrated" and firms that are not failing in some part of their business are not taking enough risk, according to John Herlihy, head of Google Ireland.

A native of Monaleen, Mr Herlihy was back in the Mid-West to give his advice to members and guests of Shannon Chamber at a lunch in Dromoland Castle this Wednesday.

This was through an on-stage interview with Prof John Fahey of the University of Limerick.

Mr Herlihy said companies should never fear failure.

"They need to establish a framework to always reach for new heights and take the knowledge they gain from any failure to bring out the best. It's better to fail and fail quickly than fail slowly and die," he said.

Technology, he said during a wide-ranging discussion, was a tool any company could use. But the key was to use premier and "not fourth division" technology because that was where increased competition could be found.

Recommending that companies leverage data, get out to customers and collaborate to a greater degree than ever before, Mr Herlihy stated that the old model of waiting

for the perfect product is a redundant model.

"Technology-driven companies tend to release products that are 50% ready and use customer feedback to perfect and release later and more perfect versions. The user is now part of the design process," he said.

Mr Herlihy pointed to an increasing dearth of technology and language skills in Ireland which he said could not be ignored.

"The market is going to prevail and there will be no excuse in five years' time if we cannot change our educational systems to the changing digital landscape and produce the type of skills we need to retain and attract technology business to Ireland."

The lunch was sponsored by VHI Healthcare and the land and agri-healthcare were cited by Mr Herlihy as other potential growth areas for the Shannon region.

"There are huge health issues related to bad diet and Ireland is well placed to play a key role in this area," he said.

Shannon Chamber CEO Helen Downes said "we have been trying to get John Herlihy to address our members for well over a year and we are so glad we persevered; his address was well worth the wait."

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