



Wilde gets the verdict over Lynch.

The great fight is over, and Jimmy Wilde got the verdict.

Opinions greatly differ as to whether or not he actually deserved to win, but it would appear that he did enough to get a slight margin. The great difficulty with Wilde is that he has in the past won almost all his fights with such considerable ease, that the spectators anticipate overwhelming skill in every fight. It was pretty clear in this fight that he was not up to his best form, although it must be taken into account that he was giving away a stone in weight, and many inches in height and reach. That no doubt weighed with the referee in the decision, but probably more so that Wilde was trying hard all the way through, fighting every inch of the way, with all his power.

Another thing too which affected the issue was the fact that Lynch was continually holding in the first ten rounds, when Wilde had the margin. He was repeatedly warned, in as many as twelve rounds altogether, and this must undoubtedly weigh in the verdict, for the fact that a man clings tightly to his opponent is good proof generally that he has to to save punishment. The hugging game is a bad one from every point of view, and puts a man who indulges in it on the losing end for he must of necessity lose points, undue prolongation of a clinch being prima facie evidence of lack of real defensive ability. Clever ducking, dodging, side stepping, and blocking blows count as points to a man on the defence, but clinging tightly and often is a confession of lack of knowledge of, or faith in defence.

Lynch took the verdict like a good sportsman whilst obviously disappointed, and wants a return match over twenty rounds of three minutes' duration. Twenty rounds is the proper championship course, but that presupposes even poundage.

Wilde so far declines this, requiring Lynch to meet him at 8 st. 4 lbs., instead of 8 st. 6 lbs.

Wilde is now free to make his American trip, and there is little doubt that the boys will meet again and settle any doubts that may exist, in this, as in the Moore bout. Things generally average out in course of time, Wilde being on the lucky side this time; and the unlucky side when that decision was made in December last.

Whatever the result of his fights with Bantams, it is very clear that Wilde is far and away the best man at his weight in the game.

It was a wonderfully fine fight anyway, and Joe Lynch is certainly one of the very best. A splendid clean fight, fast and clever, and game to mix.

A full description of the fight by rounds follows:—

In the first round Wilde quickly found the head with the left and dodged the return. He again got in the left, but Lynch also managed to land the left. Watching his chance Wilde jumped in, and drove in the right to the body, and the left to the face.

They were in holds twice, the referee having called on them to break. Wilde scored again before the finish, and clearly had the best of the round. The second round saw Lynch dodging away from his man, and Wilde following. In some close work Wilde was the more effective, and directly afterwards he landed his left on the jaw. Some further close in-fighting followed, with an exchange of sharp, short punches, and then Wilde drove his opponent into a corner, but missed with a right swing to the head.

When Wilde came up for the third round his nose showed signs of having been heavily hit, but he at once went for his man and out-fought him to the ropes, where he scored with both hands. Lynch found the body more than once, but Wilde wound up the round with two lefts to the face without return. Early in the fourth Lynch got in the left, and also two rights to the body, but Wilde had the best of the out-fighting. Lynch however, got home the right to the side of the head, following it with a right to the body, and he had the pull in this round. Lynch caught Wilde to the body with the left swing in the fifth, and was called upon by the referee not to hold. Wilde pursued his man, who was boxing with skill and caution, but he received a heavy hard body blow and a nasty one to the face.

In the sixth Lynch at once scored with heavy left and right to the face, and when at close quarters the referee again had to call on Lynch not to hold. Some sharp fighting followed, with some smart dodging by both. There was another sharp rally near the ropes, blows to the head being freely exchanged. In the seventh Wilde jumped in twice and landed with the left, but immediately after Lynch got in a left swing to the head. Wilde replied with a good left, and had the best of the round.

In the eighth Wilde reached the head with the left, but Lynch twice hit his man with the right, but again held, and was cautioned by the referee. On continuing Wilde boxed the more cleverly, but just at the close Lynch hit Wilde with left and right without return, making things even on the round. Wilde was again after his opponent in the next, using his left to effect, and doing most of the leading. In one rally Lynch left his head unguarded and Wilde promptly hit him with both left and right, and had the best of the exchanges.

Both men came up strong for the tenth, and, setting about his man, Wilde drove in left and right quickly, but Lynch replied in fierce fashion, hitting Wilde heavily with both hands. These blows shook Wilde a good deal, and he finished the round boxing a trifle wildly and missing a good chance. Lynch seemed the stronger on coming up for the eleventh, and Wilde began to show signs of becoming tired. Still, he kept up the pursuit and used a straight left well. There was not much in it in this round.

The pace slackened a little in the twelfth, in which Lynch missed with his blows two or three times. Lynch scored very few points,

and Wilde finished with two good lefts and a hard right, all to the head. Lynch began the thirteenth in fierce fashion, discarding defence and striking out with both hands. Two or three of the blows landed, but Wilde soon got in an equal number of returns, and following up he twice reached with the left. Lynch, however, wound up with the right and left to the head.

The fourteenth round opened with a sharp rally, in which both men hit out freely and quickly, the exchanges being fairly even. Quieting down, there was some close fighting, and Lynch dealt Wilde a heavy welt with the right and just afterwards dealt out a left and right to the head. In the last round Lynch at once started aggressive tactics, going in and fighting hard. Wilde, however, boxed cleverly, and scored with the left, but Lynch was very determined, and clearly was hitting harder than Wilde, and was the fresher and stronger at the finish, when Wilde was announced the winner.

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Joe Beckett, the Champion of England, by virtue of his victory over Bombardier Wells, is righteously indignant at the announcement that Frank Goddard and Jack Curphey will meet for the Lonsdale Belt at the National Sporting Club, which belt carries with it the title of Champion of England.

It seems rather difficult to follow the reasoning which inspired the announcement, and the making of the match on such a basis. Behind it would appear to be a little trouble somewhere. Beckett won the fight under fair conditions and won unmistakably, therefore the public as well as "fair play" will demand that he be one of the contestants in any match for the Championship within a reasonable period.

Surely the mere awarding of a belt does not give the National Sporting Club the incontestable right to select the men and decide championships. It's a free country, and whilst everyone is quite willing to concede that the control of boxing so far as it has been effective in England by the Sporting Club has in the past been very much to the good for the sport, yet action such as this would certainly appear to be high-handed, and not playing the game.

That Goddard and Beckett must meet to settle supremacy is well admitted, first of all by Beckett himself. He is willing and ready, but why ring in a "tryer" who is hardly known, when the man who "downed" the champion is available.

If it is contended that no championships can change hands outside the Club, it is a very far-fetched theory. It may be that Beckett demanded too much money for the Club to take him on for a match with Goddard, but in any event it would be fallacious and make for a ridiculous situation to have two champions, one by virtue of the Sporting Club's dictum and blessing, and one who won by beating the holder. No doubt the little mix-up will be settled eventually.