

## **Sir Henry Cooper and Muhammad Ali reunited for the first time in over 20 years**

An Equestrian event is probably one of the most unlikely of venues for a meeting of two boxing greats to come face to face.

However the Alltech FEI European Jumping & Dressage Championships 2009 (25-30 August) is set to provide the setting for such a momentous occasion. 'The greatest of all time' Muhammad Ali and the British Boxer who put him on his back in that controversial fight at Wembley in 1963, will meet for the first time since the mid 80s, at the event on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August, in the private grounds of Windsor Castle.

Ali is attending the Championships to help raise awareness of the recently founded Alltech-Muhammad Ali Center Global Education and Charitable Fund.

Cooper couldn't pass up the chance to come face to face with his old nemesis after two fights against Ali in the 60s and will join Ali in a special VIP reception ahead of Friday's Alltech World Equestrian Games Gala Night performance.

### **History between the two**

In June 1963, Cooper fought the then named Cassius Clay, a young up-and-coming boxer at Wembley stadium. In the dying seconds of the fourth round, Cooper caught Clay with his trademark punch 'Enry's 'Ammer' – a stunning left hook that sent Ali to the canvas just seconds before the bell. Then came the controversy. Clay's trainer Angelo Dundee made worse a small tear in Clay's gloves, which had appeared at the start of the bout and decided at that point to bring it to the referee's attention, thus allowing Clay some extra time before the start of the next round.

When the 5th round finally started, Cooper realised he had missed his chance to knock out the young fighter for good, as Clay ferociously attacked Cooper's cuts. Cooper's face began streaming with blood and referee Tommy Little was forced to stop the fight in Clay's favour.

Three years later at Arsenal's Highbury stadium, when Cassius Clay was now Muhammad Ali and heavyweight champion of the world, Cooper challenge Ali to a title fight. This time the fight went to six rounds before Cooper was forced to surrender with cuts to his face once again.

The two boxing legends will be joined by other British boxing greats in the reception and will then take part in a lap of honour around the arena in an open-top Land Rover.

Sir Henry Cooper said: "I'm looking forward to seeing Ali again. We haven't met for some time and it's always good to trade memories. People always ask me if I'm bitter about that split glove back in '63 but I see it now as just part of the game. I hope my trainer would've done the same for me in similar circumstances!"

**Ticket Information:**

Tickets for the Alltech FEI European Jumping and Dressage Championships 2009 are priced between £7 and £49 (£7, £10, £16, £22, £25, £28, £35, £45, £49). The box office telephone numbers are 0871 230 1087 (UK) and + 44 115 993 4409 (International). For online ticket bookings and further information of the confirmed programme of events please visit

[www.alltechwindsoreuropeans.com](http://www.alltechwindsoreuropeans.com)

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**Notes to Editor:**

The Muhammad Ali Center

The Muhammad Ali Center is a cultural attraction and international education center that is inspired by the ideals of Muhammad Ali. Featuring an award-winning visitor experience, educational and public programming and global initiatives, the Ali Center reaches beyond its physical walls to fulfil its mission: *To preserve and share the legacy and ideals of Muhammad Ali, to promote respect, hope and understanding, and to inspire adults and children everywhere to be as great as they can be.*

Alltech-Muhammad Ali Center Global Education and Charitable Fund

The Alltech-Muhammad Ali Center Global Education and Charitable Fund, which was announced in May of this year during Alltech's International Animal Health and Nutrition Symposium, aims to further the educational and charitable goals of both institutions. Alltech and the Muhammad Ali Center are working together to produce and promote a number of charitable activities leading up to and coinciding with the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky in 2010™.

About the Organisers

The HPower Group produce, manage and promote large scale public events worldwide specialising in equestrian competitions, ceremonial events and public entertainment.

The HPower Group is the organiser of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, Olympia, The London International Horse Show and the FEI European Jumping and Dressage Championships 2009. The HPower Group has previously produced and directed All The Queen's Horses, Army 2002, and the World War 2 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Simon Brooks-Ward, managing director, was also Event Director for the Territorial Army's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Pageant on Horse Guards.

About Alltech

Alltech is a global animal health and nutrition company with over 28 years' experience in developing natural products that are scientifically proven to enhance animal health and performance. Headquartered in Kentucky, USA, Alltech trades in 113 countries and has over 1,900 employees worldwide.

Education represents the cornerstone of Alltech's endeavour to create and innovate. The company's educational focus is evident in its numerous university and primary school programs, including building science labs in schools and providing scholarships and awards to undergraduate and graduate students.

Alltech is the proud sponsor of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010™ to be held in Kentucky, USA, from the September 25 - October 10, 2010, and the Alltech FEI European Championships to be held in Windsor, United Kingdom, from August 25-30, 2009.

About UK Sport

The Alltech FEI European Jumping & Dressage Championships 2009 has been part funded by UK Sport's National Lottery-funded World Class Events Programme, which aims to secure events of strategic importance that deliver a range of lasting benefits. These include economic, social and cultural benefits as well as improving sporting performance by home athletes, encouraging participation and leaving a legacy of facilities and development initiatives. Over 120 sporting events have been staged in the UK through the programme since 1997. More at [www.uk-sport.gov.uk](http://www.uk-sport.gov.uk)

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