

# White collar boxing will help to raise money for charities



David Moore, left, and Simon Maclean are taking part in a charity boxing match at the Coal Exchange

PICTURE: Liz Pearce

## Hit squad all set to pack a punch

WITH their respectable jobs, morning commutes and corporate titles, the only punch you'd associate with the average office worker is that drunk at the Christmas party.

Yet a rising number of white-collar suits are swapping their ties and suits for gloves and boots – taking out their frustrations in the boxing ring.

It is not quite Fight Club – they are allowed to talk about it – but the fighters involved are miles away from the typical image of the street brawler.

Now a large “white-collar boxing” event is coming to South Wales in an attempt to raise money for charity.

The evening, at Cardiff Bay's Coal Exchange on November 19, is being organised by sports fitness expert Simon Harling. Those who sign up for a bout will get 10 weeks' training from professionals and enter the ring in the knowledge the money they help to raise will go to Marie Curie in South Wales.

And, of those already signed up, many come from the kind of respected professions whose employees are unlikely to be usually found in a boxing ring.

Simon Maclean, a solicitor with Geldards on Dumfries Place, Cardiff, has

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signed up for the event and even managed to rope in some of his friends.

“It's something I've always fancied doing. I saw a poster in my hairdresser's and did a Google search for an event in this area,” said Simon, from Cardiff Bay.

“I asked my mates if they wanted to do it as well but I had to coax a few of

them. I've always loved watching boxing but I'd never had a proper go of it myself so doing this is perfect as it's for a good cause, raising money for charity, it's great for fitness and there will be a big adrenalin rush on the night.”

Joining Simon will be friends Dave Rothera, 26, Chris Leeke, 30, and David Moore, 26.

David, from Roath, Cardiff, is an IP development officer for Swansea University.

He said: “I first heard of it from an e-mail from Simon and I thought it would be good to do. I'm really looking forward to the training and the buzz of going out for the fight.”

Mr Harling, who runs Elite Fitness in Fairwater, Cardiff, launched white collar boxing last year and also runs a successful amateur boxing programme for Cardiff schools.

“The white collar fight club is for Marie Curie and promises to be an entertaining evening,” he said.

“We've already had 20 boxers sign up but we're looking for companies to sponsor a bout, take a table or provide their own boxer.”

For details call Mr Harling on 02920 555272 or see [www.elitefitness.co.uk](http://www.elitefitness.co.uk)

### THE TALE OF THE TAPE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ David Moore</li> <li>■ Height: 5ft 10ins</li> <li>■ Weight: 70.5kg</li> <li>■ Job: IP development officer</li> <li>■ Shoe size: eight</li> <li>■ Married: No</li> <li>■ Children: No</li> <li>■ Boxing hero: Joe Calzaghe</li> <li>■ Pre-fight meal: Steak</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Simon Maclean</li> <li>■ Height: 6ft</li> <li>■ Weight: 89.3kg</li> <li>■ Job: Solicitor</li> <li>■ Shoe size: 10</li> <li>■ Married: No</li> <li>■ Children: No</li> <li>■ Boxing hero: Mike Tyson</li> <li>■ Pre-fight meal: Chicken</li> </ul> |
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