

SPORT

SPEEDWAY

Crump in talks

BELLE Vue have given Poole Pirates' permission to speak to Jason Crump in their bid to entice the world champion to Wimborne Road.

Aces owner Tony Mole received a written transfer request by email via the British Speedway Promoters' Association at lunchtime yesterday.

That meant Mole, who had been waiting for the request from Crump, was prepared to allow Poole RIAS chief Matt Ford and his co-promoter Mike Golding to begin talks with the Australian to try and get him back in Dorset next year.

Crump, currently on holiday Down Under, began his British career with Poole in 1991 and spent three seasons with the club before being sold to Peterborough for £35,000 in 1996.

Belle Vue will probably want to receive a fee of about £30,000 for the 31-year-old this time, if the transfer from the Aces to Pirates goes through.

Bjarne Pedersen, however, will definitely not be used as a bartering tool as he has just been named captain of Pirates for 2007.

RACING

Thornton eyes The Listener

ANDREW Thornton is set to return to the saddle on Wednesday after recovering from a broken jaw.

Thornton fell from Honest Abe at Market Rasen on November 5 and had expected to be out for a month – but has already been given the all-clear.

The experienced rider is keen to ride useful novice chaser My World, engaged to run at Plumpton on Wednesday, for his boss Robert Alner and is also looking forward to the return of The Listener in the John Smith's Future Stars Chase at Sandown on Friday.

"I've just had the all-clear from Doctor (Michael) Turners that's a major result," said Thornton.

"It's three weeks today since I had the operation but there's been no real pain from day one and I'm looking forward to getting back into it.

"Robert Alner runs My World on the 29th so that should be a good starting point.

"I'll hopefully then be okay to ride The Listener on Friday.

"Touch wood, he's in real good form and Robert's happy with him.

"He's come on quite a bit and it looks a good opportunity – although it will be a hotter race if Star De Mohaison runs. There's no such thing as an easy race but things are in place for a good run."

DORSET WATCH

THERE are no Dorset-trained horses running today.

ECHOMAN'S TIPS

TODAY'S NAP

Hardyback

(Hereford 2.40)

NEXT BEST

Nenuphar Collonges

(Hereford 3.10)

BOXING: England v USA International



LOCAL PRIDE: Weymouth's Colum Siddons (red) and Tony White from Portland give their all in the opening bout at the Weymouth Pavilion

Picture: BRIAN JUNG/bj2622

Weymouth delivers a knockout

ENGLAND beat the USA 4-2 in a first-class show of international amateur boxing before a 350-strong sell-out audience at Weymouth Pavilion.

Both squads were drummed into the ring by sea cadets from TS Boscawen and the national anthems were sung by local lead soprano Stella Brading.

Pennants and gifts were exchanged before south Dorset boxers Colum Siddons from Weymouth ABC and Portland's Tony White provided an all-action grand opener to the tournament.

Welterweight Siddons used his left jab effectively and worked well at

By PHIL RYAN

close-quarters against the more direct White as the judges awarded him the verdict, 13-5.

Weymouth ABA chairman David Nelmes said: "Colum used his left hand well and that was probably the difference between the boxers over the four rounds.

"As for the international, it was as good as it gets. Weymouth won't see a better display of boxing than this and we have received a lot of praise from the ABA.

"The Americans would like to thank the staff at the Hotel Rembrandt for their kind service and they and the England team were amazed at the facilities and cleanli-



CAUGHT: Portland's Tony White takes a left hook from Weymouth's Colum Siddons

Picture: BRIAN JUNG/bj2622



PARADE: Soprano Stella Brading leads the singing of the national anthems

Picture: BRIAN JUNG/bj2622

ness of our gym where they trained."

Nelmes was presented with an England vest signed by the England team which he will put on permanent display at the Hardwick Street gym.

The club staged two raffles to raise around £1,800 and the hot tub draw was won by Mr J Smith of Camp Road, Weymouth.

Afterwards England ABA member Jim Smart, who was instrumental in bringing the show to Weymouth, said: "We have been promising Weymouth a show like this for three years and we're glad to be able to deliver.

"We should be taking this type of show around the country to encourage amateur boxing and help clubs raise money and to put some of the ABA money into the clubs.

"Weymouth has put on a fantastic tournament in a first-class facility. The Pavilion is just the type of place for this kind of show."

The international began with England's Ashley Sexton from London finding USA's Qa'id Muhammad difficult to cope with during a 51kg bout and by the end of four rounds Muhammad had racked up the points to earn 21-16 decision.

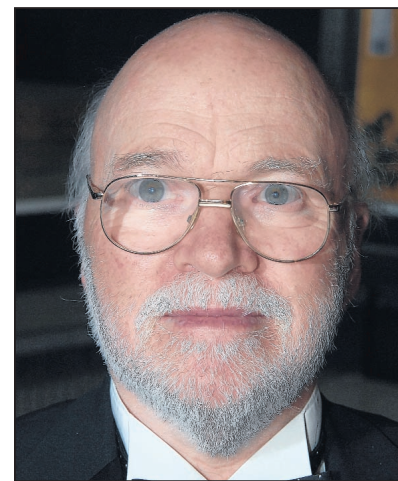
Manchester's Kallum D'eath relied on his reactions and counter punching to overcome Robert Marroquin and win a 54kg bout 18-14.

Joe Murray, also from Manchester, endured a nine-hour journey to Weymouth but put in a fine performance to beat Jorge Diaz Junior.

Hit and move Murray peppered his smaller opponent with jabs throughout the bout to win 20-9.

England's straight-punching Bradley Skeete from London and USA's big hooker David de la Cruz provided the crowd with an all-action bout.

Keete was unlucky to lose but de la



'FANTASTIC TOURNAMENT': ABA member Jim Smart

Picture: BRIAN JUNG/bj2622

Cruz caught the judges' eyes to win 17-12.

Next up was England's Commonwealth and Four Nations welterweight champion Jamie Cox who earned his England boxer of the night award with a superb display against William Jackson.

Southpaw Cox from Swindon upped his workrate in the second round and proved too good for the game American, winning 30-14.

The final bout saw James DeGale from London and Edwin Rodriguez become embroiled in a roughhouse of a 75kg fight with Rodriguez taking a standing count in the third round. DeGale took the bout, winning 22-6.

Best bout of the night went to Jamie Cox against William Jackson and the best American boxer of the night award was given to David de la Cruz.