

Fight club on the road to success

SPORTS ARGUS SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010

BOXING

By Ian Johnson

BUY a mini-bus and get ahead. That seems to have become the vogue in amateur boxing clubs. Hall Green ABC have bought one and Small Heath have set the wheels in motion to go down the same road.

Hall Green boss Tom Chaney had only his own car to taxi his lads about and he enlisted the assistance of Iain McAllister of MAN Security to solve the problem.

Iain's Solihull-based company who do all of Frank Warren's ring-side security, agreed to chip in with £3,000 and he and Tom planned to raise the rest from a successful dinner show at the Paragon Hotel.

They hit the target and are now the proud owners of a mini-bus.

Tom said: "It has had an immediate effect ferrying people about. We have three lads, Charlie Chaney, Joe and Caine Palmer through to the ABA schoolboy championships tomorrow in Telford.

"If they get through they will be in the Midlands finals along with



Just the ticket: Fight chief Tom Chaney with bus sponsor Iain McCallister

Jack Melvin who will be defending his title, at Coventry on January 24.

"Without the mini-bus we would not have been able to do it. And now our next project is to raise enough money to repair a leaking roof.

"It is causing us a lot of problems and we hope to put on another fundraiser in April or May," he added.

Small Heath in the meantime have enlisted the help of Ken Purchase and Frank O'Sullivan to stage an England Select v an Irish Select at the ICC on February 26. They too, want to buy a mini-bus.

Ken has been brought in to "sell" the show with his particular brand of marketing (tickets start at £65 and he can be reached on 0797 6842383).

"Old hand" Frank has been asked to do the matchmaking and I understand that both team will be packed with boxers of international class.

Frank, for instance is particularly keen to have the Yafai brothers, Khalid and Gamal, in the England squad as they are both from his own Birmingham City club.

He said: "They both want to make the team for the London Olympics but so far have not had many opportunities to box in the same representative teams. Hopefully, this is a step in the right direction.

"I can promise that February 26 will be a night to remember. The quality of the boxing will be second to none," he added.