

Fight the good fight

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Inside the Intercontinental Hong Kong hotel ballroom on March 26, people in white collars and black ties will be fighting, instead of dancing, at the second White Collar Boxing event in Hong Kong.

Sixteen lean men and women have undergone 12 weeks of intensive training at the Vanda Boxing Club in Singapore for the event, which aims to raise money for the Children's Surgical Center in Cambodia.

The first title fight of the event will be between Budgie "Dynamite" Wright, 45, of Merrill Lynch and Jonathan "The Edge" Gurnsey, 43, from Credit Suisse in the welterweight division.

"My fighting style is still developing but it's sure unpredictable. I'm not going to outbox Wright, I just need to score more points," said Gurnsey, who lives in Hong Kong.

"My motivation to box ,and hence train, is still absolutely centred around charity, but as one gets nearer to the fight, there is an element of survival that creeps into the training!"

Meanwhile, Swede Ulrica Andersson and American Lissa Howard will stage the first sanctioned female bout in Asia.

White-collar boxing appeared when middle class started to join the sport, which had traditionally been viewed as a working-class pursuit.

The next White Collar Boxing events in Asia will be held in Singapore on April 18, Tokyo in June and Bangkok in November.

Tickets to the games and sign-up details for boxers can be found on <http://www.vandapromotions.com/events.html>

