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## +1 Former World-Champion Boxer Nigel Benn Unveiled As BMMA Ambassador

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BMMA offers martial arts syllabus – including boxing, karate, Kung-fu, Tae Kwon Do, Ju-jitsu and MMA – with fun and structured sessions, for adults and children.

British Military Martial Arts August 17, 2011

Two-time world champion boxer Nigel Benn has been unveiled as an ambassador for British Military Martial Arts.

Franchisees and coaches from BMMA centres across the UK attended an event to mark the occasion, with Nigel taking part in a session and giving the gathered youngsters tips and advice.

Nigel won the WBO middleweight and WBC super-middleweight titles during a glittering career and is widely regarded as one of the best boxers to have

emerged from the UK. Since hanging up his gloves, he has also appeared in I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! among numerous media roles, and published an acclaimed autobiography in 1999 titled 'Dark Destroyer'.

Prior to entering the world of boxing – and crucially in relation to the [British Military Martial Arts](#) – Nigel served in the British army, which was also where his interest in the sport was borne.

Lee Matthews founded BMMA in 2008 and it has since grown to over 50 centres around the UK. The organisation enlists some of the most highly-trained individuals who have served with the British military forces in order to combine the martial arts syllabus – including boxing, karate, Kung-fu, Tae Kwon Do, Ju-jitsu and MMA – with fun and structured sessions, aiming to encourage former servicemen and woman to use their experience to inspire adults and children.

Matthews – one of the best-known martial artists in the UK for his success as a competitor – is a six-time WAKO British champion and one-time WAKO Pro-European champion. Having received training from the likes of former boxing world champion Richie Woodhall, Brazilian Ju-jitsu world champion Bralio Estima, and world kickboxing champions Drew Neal and the Winsper Family, Matthews has gone on to become 4th Dan in Sport Karate, 4th Dan in Kickboxing and 1st Dan in Karate.

The 34-year old spent seven years in the [3rd Battalion of the Parachute regiment](#), undertaking operations in Northern Ireland and Kosovo and training and working as a physical training instructor, and in the West Midlands alone Lee's organisation teaches over 1000 students as well as tutoring nine world champions.

Each BMMA centre offers sessions for Little Soldiers (4-7 years), Cadets (8-11 years), Ladies Only and Adult sessions, and are now operating in cities such as Leeds, Crewe, Derby and Portsmouth and Sutton Coldfield. BMMA has also begun to venture into Scotland with bases in Glasgow, Arbroath and Dumfries.

On undertaking the role, Nigel said: "I felt extremely honoured when Lee asked me to become an ambassador for the BMMA. It's a fantastic project which encourages discipline, respect, values, confidence, fitness and martial arts training, and it gets them off the streets. Coming here today was such a great pleasure, as I saw the students' dedication and how much fun they were having, and I really hope that more ex-servicemen and women take the opportunity and set up schools of their own."

Lee Matthews, founder of BMMA, said: 'All of us at BMMA are delighted to have Nigel on board to help us publicise the organisation. Nigel really buys into what we are trying to do here, what with his military and martial arts background, and is really supportive in our quest to give local children and adults something positive to focus on and keep them off the streets, whilst also increasing fitness levels. It was also great for the students and coaches from across the UK to meet an inspirational man such as Nigel – it was a great day had by all.'

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