



## Cage Wars – 31<sup>st</sup> October

CAGE Wars is back with a Scotland versus the Rest of the World battle at Braehead Arena.

Top International fighters will go head-to-head with the hard-hitting Scottish team in this exciting mixed martial arts combat event, on Saturday, December 1.

More Americans now watch mixed martial arts contests on television than boxing matches.

The sport is a combination of kick boxing, wrestling and ju-jitsu and there are now tens of thousands of people practicing these forms of martial arts in the UK.

For the first time ever, Scotland's mixed martial arts fighters will take centre stage in this showcase event at Braehead Arena, near Glasgow, which will be broadcast on the internet and can be viewed live around the world.

Cage Wars spokesman Johnny Burrows said: "Scottish fighters did such an fantastic job on the last event earlier this year that we just had to come back and do an even better show this time.

"If the response from the fight fans in Scotland for the last show is anything to go by then this one will be amazing, many of the International fighters told me that the Scottish fans were fantastic and gave everyone great support, so they can't wait to perform again at Braehead."

Johnny Burrows added: "MMA is a sport that had its origins in Brazil over 100 years ago when different styles of martial arts would compete against each other, thus the origination of the name mixed martial arts."

"There are now MMA tournaments in every country in the world and this is our second visit to the Braehead this year because the sport is growing here in Scotland and the UK.

It is hard to know exact figures but there are hundreds of clubs throughout the Scotland and the UK now exclusively teaching MMA."

"It is a sport that has – largely through lack of understanding of the skill and history involved – been sensationalised in a way that has not been productive and we hope, through this event, which will be attended by a wide cross section of the public, that there will be a greater appreciation of what is involved."

"This combat sport is THE original combat sport. It was showcased in the very first Olympic Games in Athens where it was called Pankration. This was a combination of Wrestling, Boxing and Judo with submissions. Today the sports have been separated into three single events, so MMA has the deepest history of any combat sport today. In America, MMA has a large celebrity following with George Clooney, Cindy Crawford and a cross-section of top US sportspeople regularly spotted in ringside seats.

One of the features of this sport is that the fights take place in an Octagon - an eight-sided ring, adding to the theatre of the show. The show will be filmed on the night for broadcast at a later date on TWC fight on Sky TV.

Braehead Arena manager, Scott Martin said: "Cage Wars attracted a huge crowd when it was last staged at Braehead and everyone enjoyed a superb night of sporting excitement and entertainment.

"I've no doubt it will the same again on December 1."

The Braehead event kicks off at 7.30pm with tickets on sale through Ticketmaster on [www.braehead-arena.co.uk](http://www.braehead-arena.co.uk). Further information and full fight card details at [www.cagewars.co.uk](http://www.cagewars.co.uk) <<http://www.cagewars.co.uk>>.