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Meeting Information

Purpose:	Assessment Committee (concerning protest)
Dates:	2011-05-09 -- 2011-05-27
Participants:	Bobby Rehman, Chairman Ulf Silverbern, Member Waldo Zapata, Member

Ruling Protocol

Concerning the protest in the match between Paul Reed and Martin Svensson.

Match:

Paul Reed vs Martin Svensson (title bout) (66 kg, 145 lbs).

Place and Time:

Lisebergshallen, Göteborg. 2011-05-07. (Event: The Zone FC 9)

Acting referee and judges:

Kristian Hacklou (referee), Jim Bergman (judge), Tony Larsson, (judge), Jesper Gunnarson (judge).

Judges' scores:

Judge:	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	TOTAL	WINNER
	Reed - Svensson	Reed - Svensson	Reed - Svensson	Reed - Svensson	
Jim Bergman	10 – 9	9 – 10	10 – 10	29 – 29	DRAW (Reed) ¹
Tony Larsson	9 – 10	9 – 10	10 – 9	28 – 29	Svensson
Jesper Gunnarson	9 – 10	9 – 10	10 – 9	28 – 29	Svensson

Winner: Martin Svensson; split decision 2 - 1.

¹ If the total score for the two contestants is the same after full time the judges must pick a winner according to the criteria's in the SMMAF rule set § 30.2. The name of the winner should be clearly marked on the judges' score card.

Protest argumentation sent to SMMAF:

(Received: May 8th 2011 at 03:02)

It is with regret that we feel it necessary to lodge an official protest after the Paul Reed v Martin Svensson fight at The Zone FC May 7th.

After the fight we as a team all felt that Paul Reed had done enough to secure at least 2 rounds so when the result was revealed it was received with great shock to all.

The fight as we saw was close but cage control was gained and maintained in every round with Paul gaining top position and landing ground and pound shots as well as take downs and submission attempts in every round.

The only round we feel could possibly have been viewed in favour of Martin would be the first with the obvious knock down but with Pauls quick recovery and positively gaining dominant position and inflicting damage later in the round it is our opinion that round 1 be a draw, Subsequently round 2 and 3 were very much the same as each other with

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Paul securing take downs in each and being the only fighter to impose any ground and pound damage.

We feel Paul won the fight and deserved the victory and so it is with that in mind that we lodge the protest and hope for a fair resolution.

Regards

Wez Murch

Answer from George Sallfeldt; SMMAF President:

(Sent: May 9th 2011 at 10:45)

Dear Mr. Murch,

I hereby confirm that the Swedish MMA Federation (SMMAF) has received your protest concerning the match between Paul Reed and Martin Svensson that was held at the Lisebergshallen Arena in Gothenburg, Sweden, during the event The Zone FC 9 on the 7th of May 2011.

Your protest has promptly, this day, been sent to the chairman of the SMMAF Assessment Committee. The SMMAF Assessment Committee has a processing period of two weeks from the day of receipt of the protest.

Here is the SMMAF's formal procedure concerning the handling of protests:

§ 32 Protest

32.1 If a contestant or his/her seconds finds the result of a match to be incorrect then a protest can be handed in to the event coordinator within 48 hours upon conclusion of the match.

32.2 A protest must be submitted from the contestant's association (Swedish athletes) or from the contestant's club/team or manager (foreign athletes), not from the contestant personally.

32.3 The protest shall contain information regarding which match it concerns, what the protest is in regards to, reasons for protesting, how one finds that the match should be judged as well as complete contact information.

32.4 The results of a match shall only be changed if an obvious mistake has been uncovered, one that had an effect on the outcome of the match and was made by the referee, judges or another official.

The decision of the SMMAF Assessment Committee shall be provided to you via e-mail no later than the 29th of May 2011.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

George Sallfeldt
President, Swedish MMA Federation

(Received: May 9th 2011 at 22:58)

Hi George

We have recently discovered that 1 of the four judges on the night was Jasper and as we understand he works with The Zone FC and as Martin has fought on the show so often will have an affiliation of sorts with him and also has trained at Gladius MMA in Sweden with many fighters, In this matter we do not as a Team feel it was appropriate for him to be judging on the show.

This is a point we wish to raise, Thank you again for your help.

Regards

Wez Murch

Answer from George Sallfeldt; SMMAF President:

(Sent: May 10th 2011 at 09:15)

Mr. Murch,

Thank you for this additional piece of information.

I will attach your email text to your official protest text and send an update to the Assessment Committee.

Best regards,

George Sallfeldt

President, Swedish MMA Federation

Assessment Committee protest handling:

The Assessment Committee has received the protest text as well as recorded video material of the match. The Assessment Committee concludes that no obvious mistakes were committed such as, for example, missed point deductions, erroneous round lengths etc. The Assessment Committee remaining task is therefore to evaluate if any obvious mistakes were made during the scoring of the match.

Bobby Rehman

Name of contestants	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Svensson	10	10	9	29
Reed	9	9	10	28

Comments Round 1

The round goes clearly to Svensson since he scored a knockdown. Reed delivered some strikes from top position but didn't do enough to win the round.

Comments Round 2

Svensson opens the round with offensive striking, defends takedown and gets a dominant position. Reed scrambles to top position but doesn't accomplish much. Svensson retakes dominant position (back mount) and Reed, again, scrambles to top. Round goes to Svensson.

Comments Round 3

Reed goes for a throw and gets a hold around Svenssons neck. Svensson lies down on his back to defend against the guillotine. Svensson gets a takedown against the cage but Reed turns and takes top. Close round that goes to Reed.

Summarized Comments:

A close match that goes to Svensson since he won the first two rounds. The last round is close and goes to Reed but it could also have been 10-10.

Ulf Silverbern

Name of contestants	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Svensson	10	10	9	29
Reed	10	9	10	29

Comments Round 1

Svensson connects with some good punches and Reed goes to the ground. Svensson works very passively and mostly lets time pass. He creates no problems for Reed in the ground and pound. Reed evens out the round with a takedown and some good strikes on the ground. I see the round ending 10-10.

Comments Round 2

Svensson starts out in a high tempo, in a similar fashion as he did in the first round; he connects with a punch-knee combination. In this round Svensson is more active on the ground with good positions and more strikes. I see the round ending 10-9 to Svensson.

Comments Round 3

In the third round Reed is more active and shows a lot of routine. Reed gets a good guillotine try and good positions and strikes on the ground. Svensson is inactive and mostly waits for the opportunity to get a submission. I see the round ending 9-10 to Reed.

Summarized Comments:

A rather dull match where Svensson has a slight advantage due to being close to ending the match twice. However there was intensity lacking from Svensson when it comes to the ground game. Reed mostly fought on routine and never really put Svensson under any pressure. Reed was somewhat fiercer in the ground and pound and connected with some strikes however the strikes didn't really pose any threat to Svensson. There weren't any errors committed in this match. The match was close and there is nothing to support the protest from Reed.

Waldo Zapata

Name of contestants	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Svensson	10	10	9	29
Reed	9	9	10	28

Comments Round 1

Svensson opens with a good attack from standing and knocks Reed down clearly. He takes top position directly and keeps it without really accomplishing anything significant. This results in the referee standing them up. Reed takes Svensson down at the end of the round and connects with some good strikes while in Svenssons guard. However Reed also gets to defend against Svenssons submission attempts. The round goes 10-9 to

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Svensson due to the knockdown. Reed couldn't "catch up" with his short ground and pound at the end of the round.

Comments Round 2

The round goes to Svensson since he was the "driving force" in all aspects. Svensson forces the takedown attempt with his striking, he counters it and takes the back directly. The times that Reed got top position he didn't really deliver anything of significance, neither grappling wise nor with the ground and pound. Svensson, however, worked effectively back to position control and attempted submissions several times. The round goes 10-9 to Svensson.

Comments Round 3

This is Reeds round. Very good combination attack; takedown - guillotine. Svensson didn't really get anything special done in this round. The takedown he got was countered directly by Reed and cannot be counted. The round goes 10-9 to Reed.

Summarized Comments:

I see no errors connected to the result in this match and believe it should stand.

Ruling:

The Assessment Committee rules that the original decision shall stand, with Martin Svensson as the winner.

The Assessment Committee believes that this protest was unfortunate since it concerned a match that was very even but without any obvious errors made by the officials. MMA is a sport where sometimes judgment calls are needed, such is the nature of the sport. Even if the Assessment Committee would have scored the match differently than the original judges the original decision would stand since no obvious errors were committed.

The Assessment Committee finds the comment of an alleged affiliation between the judge Jesper Gunnarsson and the participant Martin Svensson to be groundless. Martin Svensson is connected to the organization Frontier MMA in the city of Malmö whereas Jesper Gunnarsson is connected to the organization Shooters in the city of Gothenburg.

Stockholm May 27th 2011

**Bobby Rehman
Ulf Silverbern
Waldo Zapata**