

Boxing



# Taylor's warrior side and love of a tear-up vital to her boxing DNA



**Johnny Watterson**  
in New York

The dedicated trainer with a simple lifestyle occasionally needs to go to war

At the 2014 World Championships in Jeju, South Korea, Katie Taylor's dad Pete, who was coaching her, was asked if it was part of her instructions to go toe to toe with Mira Potkonen, the Finnish lightweight.

His smiling face was the answer. The flying fists part of the show, that was Katie's rewrite, her script enhancement.

Seeded number one in the competition, Taylor had been given a bye and beat Potkonen in the second round.

But at one eye-catching point she stood in the middle of the ring for a "tear-up". She couldn't help herself. It went explicitly against the instructions given to her by Pete, who would usually emphasise her elusive style, speed and shot placement, far away from the brawl end of boxing.

She was cruising, landing combinations and moving away, using the ring and her left jab to pick off her opponent. Then she stopped.

She entirely abandoned a plan that had been working perfectly. For about one minute she flew solo, everything she had been told not forgotten, but cast aside. Instead, she decided on a one-minute punching match to end the round.

Taylor has been doing it her entire amateur and professional boxing career. She did it against Estelle Mossely in the final of

European Championships in Bucharest in the sixth of her successive gold medal wins. Mossely is a talented fighter and went on to win the lightweight gold medal at the Rio Olympic Games in 2016.

No matter. Towards the end of the fight, Katie stopped moving, set her feet and accepted the challenge. Those watching from the outside see the brawl sequence as her greatest vulnerability, especially against punchers like Mossely, and last Saturday, Amanda Serrano. One good connection and the final bell rings.

Yet that has never happened. Taylor has never been stopped. She has never been knocked on the canvas and she has never been injured to the extent of not being able to continue.

Professionally she did it against Viviane Obenauf in her second fight at the Manchester Arena. She did it against Nina Meinke in her fifth professional fight at Wembley Stadium and she did it against Delfine Persoon in Madison Square Garden in 2019 in the first of their two bouts, which Taylor narrowly won.

She did it twice against Serrano in the fifth round, when she was stuck in a corner and again in the final round, which was more in line with the previous times she broke protocol. It was her choice.

## Captivating climax

Taylor was winning the final round and did win it on all three of the judges' scoring cards, including the judge who scored an overall win for Serrano, yet she stood her ground in what was a captivating climax to the bout.

"She is built different," interjected her coach Ross Enamait in the press conference afterwards. "She has got balls of steel. I don't know what else to call it."

In the fifth round Serrano threw 114 punches and 44 of them landed. In the 10th round, she threw 87 punches and 32 of them landed. In response Taylor threw 44 punches in the fifth round with 14 landing and 55 in the 10th round with 33 landing.

Her answer has always been "I like a good tear-up" without any further explanation. It might be that she is the smartest

**Katie Taylor trades punches with Amanda Serrano during their world lightweight title fight at Madison Square Garden in New York.**

PHOTOGRAPH:  
SARAH STIER/GETTY IMAGES

boxer that ever traded leather and has baked brawl into her boxing cake, because at some point she knows she might need to tough out a round to survive. That is exactly what she did in the fifth round.

"I just probably stood there a bit too long myself and just made it a bit of a tear-up as always do unfortunately," she said without a hint of regret.

It might also be seen as an expression of the risk-taking side of her personality that as part of being Katie Taylor, she needs to express battle readiness and not behave like an automaton with a given set of skills to wind up and put in the ring.

She does not respond to being a programmable piece of high-tech kit that receives messages and slavishly runs through an agreed, preconfigured instruction list.

Inside, there is Taylor the dedicated trainer with a simple lifestyle, living in harmony with a defiant, single-minded athlete, who occasionally needs to go to war.

The warrior side believes in the fight piece of the sport. It can see merit in taking the challenge for challenge's sake, for rising to meet threat rather than back away.

As a strategic decision, although it might have been difficult to see through the blood from her nose and the cut beneath the hairline on the side of her head for Taylor it is self-empowering, confidence fuel. She frames it as an opportunity, not threat.

Where it comes from, sensation-seeking or impulsivity, who knows, but it comes with a message to opponents that she won't ever be intimidated.

Studies have shown that people who participate in high-risk sport are more associated with increased self-esteem. High-risk sport participants also have less post-activity difficulty with emotion regulation.

It's very doubtful if Taylor or any of her fans thinks of it in those terms. What they see is an ordinary woman, who can and does produce the kind of thunder and lightning that shook New York city yesterday.

It won't be the last time she trades punches. She is what her coach says she is. She is built different.

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## Briefs

### Athletics

Farah future uncertain after loss to club runner on return

Mo Farah was non-committal, said: "Your body has to be

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O'Brien points Luxembourg at Ensom

### Tennis

Murray opposes ban on Belarusian and Russian players

Andy Murray is "not support-

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### BETTING ACT 1931 REMOTE OPERATORS

I, Kevin O'Callaghan of Laurel Lodge, Glenabo Heights, Dunahoeen Road, Fermoy, Co. Cork, Ireland, P61 CP95, and representing GS Betting Limited trading as Groupstakes with a registered address of Ground Floor, 71 Lower Baginot Street, Dublin, Ireland, D02 P593 in my capacity as Director of Groupstakes hereby make application to the Minister for Justice and Equality for a Certificate of Personal Fitness to hold a Remote Bookmakers License. Under the Betting Act 1931.

Signed  
Kevin O'Callaghan

April 24 2022

#### SHOPPING & SERVICES GUIDE

##### PETS

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#### STATUTORY NOTICE



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#### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 177AE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)

In accordance with Section 177AE(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) gives notice of its intention to make an application for approval to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the following proposed development:

The proposed development will consist of permanent remedial works for a pier walkway in Coliemore Harbour which is a Protected Structure, located in Dalkey, County Dublin. The proposed development will comprise: the mobilisation and site set-up, including access to viewing platform and obstruction removal (bollards etc); removal of temporary walkway to allow access for grouting; phased grouting works of the harbour wall by gunition and/or pointing method into open joints in rock mass to improve stability and prevent grout loss followed by compensation grouting of the larger voids; installation of up to 16 rock anchors from the suspended platform via a crane located on the viewing platform; grouting of the rock anchors; headplate installation, with grey olive metal rings welded to the top of the bars; resurfacing existing walkway; and pointing and post condition works.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared as part of the application for approval in respect of the proposed development.

A copy of the NIS and project particulars (including the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report) may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours, from 05 May 2022 for a period of 6 weeks until 16 June 2022 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
- The Offices of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, 2 Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
- The website of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council at: [www.dlrco.ie/coliemore](http://www.dlrco.ie/coliemore)

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period of 6 weeks, relating to:

- i. the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area or areas concerned; and
- ii. the likely effects on the environment or adverse effects on the integrity of a European site of the proposed development, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations must be received by An Bord Pleanála not later than 5.30p.m. on 16 June 2022. Such submissions/ observations must also include the following information:

- i. the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any,
- ii. the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- iii. the subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- iv. the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full.

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by An Bord Pleanála. Submissions may be made in electronic form if An Bord Pleanála consents. After receipt of the submission or observation An Bord Pleanála will acknowledge same in writing which will be in the same format as the submission or observation itself, unless otherwise agreed.

Once a submission or observation has been received, it is not possible to elaborate on them or to make any further submissions and any communication will not be considered by An Bord Pleanála (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) refers).

An Bord Pleanála may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application.

An Bord Pleanála may make the following types of decision, under Section 177AE(4)(a) of the Planning Acts, in respect of the application:

- i. approve the proposed development, or
- ii. make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in the approval and approve the proposed development as so modified, or
- iii. approve, in part only, the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to such conditions as An Bord Pleanála considers appropriate, or
- iv. refuse to approve the proposed development.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Local Authority Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01- 8588100).

A person may question the validity of a decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) as amended, in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning Acts. Practical information on the judicial review procedure can be accessed under the heading 'Information Cases - Judicial Review of Planning Decisions' on the Board's website [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie) or on the Citizens Information website [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie).

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council,  
County Hall, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland  
Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Daí,  
Halla an Chontae, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire  
Tel: 01 205 4700 Email: [info@dlrco.ie](mailto:info@dlrco.ie) Web: [www.dlrco.ie](http://www.dlrco.ie)