



DELIVERING SUCCESS – IMPROVING LIVES

The Amateur Boxing Association of England
Annual Review 2009/10



The Amateur Boxing Association
of England Limited

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AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND

The Amateur Boxing Association of England Ltd (ABAE) is the sport's national governing body. It was formed in 1880 and is responsible for the administration, development and promotion of amateur boxing throughout England. It also represents England as a member of the Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) and the European Boxing Council (EUBC) and is a shareholder in the British Amateur Boxing Association (BABA).

The ABAE is responsible for the delivery of the Whole Sport Plan 2009-13 for amateur boxing. This aims to grow and sustain participation in the sport and create opportunities and pathways for the most talented athletes to progress to the elite level.

The ABAE is a non-profit organisation and is overseen by a board of directors and a council which is responsible for the rules and regulation of the sport. It oversees a network of 837 affiliated amateur boxing clubs and is responsible for the national schools, junior and senior championships.

The ABAE is funded by Sport England and has partnerships with the Royal Navy, adidas and Louvolite and would like to thank them for their continued support.

Mission

The ABAE continually strives to develop the sport through effective governance and strong leadership ensuring that all members can personally develop through amateur boxing. At the heart of the ABAE's business and operations lies the principle of treating everyone fairly and ethically and ensuring that amateur boxing is a sport for all.

Vision

To be a world leader in the sport of amateur boxing and enable English boxers to excel and win medals at the Olympic Games and other international competitions. To drive and sustain participation in amateur boxing through the development and provision of a club network that delivers a high quality experience.



FOREWORD

Hugh Robertson MP, Minister for Sport and the Olympics

A sporting success story with the power to deliver a legacy

Using the once in a lifetime opportunity of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games to inspire a mass participation legacy is one of my most important priorities as Minister for Sport and the Olympics.

We want more people to do more sport because we recognise it has the power to improve lives and bring demonstrable benefits across a range of areas covering health and fitness, crime, education and social cohesion.

Amateur boxing has a good track record of delivering these benefits and over the last five years it has emerged as one of Britain's most successful sports through its ability to consistently increase grassroots participation, nurture talent and provide pathways for its most outstanding athletes to achieve elite success.

Participation has risen by 16% since October 2008 and boxing club membership in England has more than doubled in the last five years. In schools the sport is flourishing through the spread of non-contact boxing.

Amateur boxing is also growing in popularity amongst women. The number of females has risen by 7% since 2008 and now accounts for 16% of all participants. Much of this is down to the excellent work of the Amateur Boxing Association of England (ABAE) which has championed the cause of female boxing and runs numerous locally based projects to bring women into the sport.

Participants in boxing are amongst the most frequent of all sport and 85% have participated in boxing on four or more occasions in the last four weeks. Participants also record a high level of satisfaction with the quality of facilities and services provided by boxing clubs.

The efficacy of amateur boxing's talent pathways mean it was one of only two sports that recorded a statistically significant increase in the number of participants entering competitions in 2009/10. At the highest level of amateur boxing, 14 of the men and all seven of the women in GB Boxing's Olympic squad came through the ABAE's system.

I know from my own experience of visiting boxing clubs and seeing the pivotal role they play in their communities that in raising participation and developing talent, the sport is delivering across a range of social agendas and addressing issues such as teenage obesity, knife crime, educational attainment, bullying and arson.

These are meaningful achievements and present a resounding endorsement of the work of the ABAE and the thousands of people and volunteers that work in the grassroots of the sport throughout England. They show the power of sport to make a positive contribution to society and illustrate why amateur boxing is at the forefront of our efforts to create a lasting sporting legacy.



A YEAR OF SUCCESS

Paul King, Chief Executive,
Amateur Boxing Association of England

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's ABAE Annual Review. This covers the first year of the new 2009-13 funding cycle and marks another very successful 12 months for amateur boxing which has reinforced its status as one of the country's most successful sports in delivering rising participation, high levels of user satisfaction and effective talent pathways.

It has built on the transformational progress made in the 2005-09 funding cycle which saw amateur boxing make huge increases across all of its key indicators and led to a 47% increase in Sport England funding for the 2009-13 cycle to £4.7 million.

This Review details how the ABAE has performed in the period April 2009 to March 2010, which has seen the sport show excellent progress against the Grow, Sustain and Excel performance indicators set out in its Whole Sport Plan.

Grow

Amateur boxing continues to be one of the best performing sports in delivering growth in participation and according to Sport England's most recent Active People survey, was one of only five out of 46 sports to deliver a statistically significant increase, rising by 16% to 124,400.

This is a fantastic achievement at a time when many sports are seeing participation drop and was particularly pronounced amongst 20-24 year olds which increased by 86% from 19,900 to 37,100. Female boxing also increased to 20,500 and women now account for 16% of all participants.

Club numbers have grown from 772 to 837 and membership has increased dramatically to 33,490. This is significantly higher than the figure of 7,270 for 2009/10 and more accurately reflects participation levels as it includes the vast numbers of recreational boxers and not just those that compete.

In schools, the sport continues to thrive. Non-contact boxing is now offered in 1,931 schools and 1,528 schools have links with a boxing club, as do 17 Universities or colleges.

Every one of these exceed the performance indicators for 2009/10 in the ABAE's Whole Sport Plan and are a testament to the success of the interventions we have developed this year to increase participation.

Sustain

The success story on participation is matched by positive feedback from the users of boxing clubs, who gave an 82.7 satisfaction rating in 2009/10. Figures from Active People, showed that amateur boxing is one of the best performing sports in terms of frequency and that 84.7% of boxing participants had done four or more sessions in the last four weeks. Only two other sports scored higher.





Three of GB Boxing's top male and female athletes spoke at the House of Commons reception hosted by the ABAE and BABA.

Although this indicates that the great majority of participants are happy with the level of facilities and services provided, the ABAE has continued to drive quality in the last 12 months. The network of Boxing Development Officers (BDOs) have helped nine clubs to achieve the Clubmark quality standard.

Coaching and volunteering programmes have also exceeded targets. The number of coaches increased by 56% to 2,801 and the number of officials went up from 679 to 853.

Excel

The story on delivering support systems and creating opportunities for the most capable performers to progress to the elite level is equally positive.

Amateur boxing was one of only two sports that recorded a statistically significant rise in the number of participants entering competitions in 2009/10. It enlarged the size of the elite talent pool, from 340 to 518, against a target of 370 and enabled the percentage that represented England to nearly double by increasing the number of international tournaments it attended.

Operations

At an organizational level, the ABAE has also made a number of operational modifications in 2009/10. We have invested in a new database system which will more accurately manage information and facilitate the sharing of best practice across clubs, schools, community groups and other partners.

On a corporate level, we have recognised that an increase in public funding for the cycle 2009-13 requires us to further strengthen our governance standards and we are in the process of appointing two new non executive directors. In the current environment, governance is more important than ever and we believe that the level of detail provided in this Annual Review is a sign of our commitment to transparency.

Building meaningful relationships with key stakeholders and showcasing how amateur boxing delivers value for money and contributes positively across a range of social agendas is critical to the long term sustainability of the sport and we have increased our activities in this area last year.

A good example of this is a reception at the House of Commons hosted by the ABAE and the British Amateur Boxing Association, which showcased every aspect of the sport, from the elite programme to the grassroots, to an audience of Government Ministers, MPs, funders, sports governing bodies and more than 20 journalists. It included supportive contributions from the Sports Minister, the Minister for the Olympics and the Chairman of the international governing body and achieved extensive positive coverage in the news pages of the broadsheets and on television.

These are the bare facts of the progress that amateur boxing and the ABAE has made in 2009/10. They show how amateur boxing is continuing to deliver against all its performance indicators and why it can rightly claim to be one of the country's most successful sports.

In the course of this Annual Review, we also want to show the real impact of what these achievements mean and how amateur boxing is delivering huge benefits across a range of social issues and making demonstrable improvements to people and communities. It also intends to pay tribute to the thousands of people in boxing clubs and throughout the grassroots who make all of this possible and whose hard work and commitment is helping amateur boxing to deliver better lives.



INCREASING PARTICIPATION

Growing participation

The network of Boxing Development Officers (BDOs) is at the centre of the ABAE's strategy to grow participation in amateur boxing. In 2009/10 the number of the BDOs increased to 11 and the network covers Sheffield, Doncaster, Bradford, Manchester, Derbyshire, Bolton, Liverpool, Central and East London, the Western Counties and the Home Counties of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and North Buckinghamshire. In the forthcoming year, it plans to expand the network into Leicestershire, Suffolk, Essex and Kent.

The BDOs have worked on a diverse spectrum of projects targeting a broad range of children and adults and specific groups including people with disabilities, women, the long term unemployed, ethnic minorities and the poor and disadvantaged.

They do not take a 'one size fits all' approach and the type and scope of projects over the last 12 months has reflected local needs and the make-up of the areas where the BDOs operate. Most work in areas of high social deprivation and much of their work has used amateur boxing to address issues such as obesity, crime and truancy and demonstrates the sport's ability to help combat a range of social problems.

The success of BDO model in driving participation is shown by the massive 62% increase in the North West of England from 15,800 to 25,600. With three BDOs, the North West has more than any other part of England and these huge increases would not have occurred without the hard work and dedication of the BDOs and the foresight of the local authorities in Bolton, Liverpool and Manchester which support their work.

Schools

Increasing participation in schools has been one of the ABAEs biggest successes and in October 2009 the PE & Sport Survey 2008/09 published by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) showed that boxing was now offered in 1,931 schools, covering 34% of all secondary institutions. According to the 2008 Physical Education School Sports and Club Links (PESSCL) survey, 1,528 schools have links with a boxing club. This is huge step forward from the situation five years ago when only 20 schools, all in Merseyside, offered boxing.

Over the last 12 months, the BDOs have exceeded the target of 60 in the Whole Sport Plan and worked with over 200 new schools to deliver non-contact boxing programmes. The vast majority have been developed locally and a selection of highlights is listed in this Review.

On a national level, the BDO network worked with the Youth Sport Trust (YST) on its Step into Sport Programme which aims to increase the number of young volunteers in sport and enable schools and community clubs to develop young people as leaders and deploy them as active volunteers.

Projects in Tamworth, Bradford, Derbyshire, Sheffield, Bolton and South Gloucestershire were all involved in the project which was led by the Western Counties BDO. The programme brought together clubs and schools and delivered 997 non-contact boxing sessions to 3,800 young people. It established 193 young leaders and led to 175 young people becoming proactively sustained in volunteering.

The ABAE has also accredited the Boxing Awards and Contender AmBox, which both drive participation in schools and amongst young people.

The Boxing Awards is a non-contact programme delivered by qualified boxing tutors in schools, youth clubs, colleges, universities and community clubs. It has a series of levels, including a Young Leader course, and aims to use boxing to promote healthy lifestyles, fitness, education and increased self esteem.

Contender AmBox is run by the Police Community Clubs of Great Britain (PCCGB) and uses boxing as a diversionary activity to teach citizenship values and address issues affecting young people in disadvantaged communities. It is delivered through a series of modules, which are adapted to reflect the issues facing participants, and includes non-contact boxing along with sessions addressing anything from gun, knife and gang crime to truancy and bullying. All courses are delivered by qualified coaches and School Liaison Officers over a series of days or in one-hour chunks, typically as an after school club.

Following a successful pilot at 60 schools in London, Contender AmBox has been rolled-out nationally and been particularly successful in Bradford where 213 have taken the Boxing Leaders course and 2,500 young people completed the programme.



Higher and Further education

Activity to build relationships with Universities and Further Education Colleges exceeded its target for 2009/10 and 17 affiliations have been established with Universities in Essex, Cambridge, Oxford, London (Brunel), Kingston, Liverpool (John Moores and Liverpool), Nottingham, Staffordshire, Worcester, Coventry, Portsmouth, Kent and Durham, along with East Durham and Houghall College, Newcastle College and the Bradford Police and College Boxing Academy.

These have made a significant contribution to the huge growth in participation in the 20-24 year old category which increased by 86% from 19,900 to 37,100.

Working with a University typically involves the provision of non-contact boxing classes delivered by a qualified coach however some projects have successfully built deeper relationships. In Liverpool, the two affiliated University clubs have built a network of student volunteers who have combined their studies with boxing and delivered workshops to regional squads on strength and conditioning, nutrition and psychology.

“Increasing participation in schools has been one of the ABAEs biggest successes and in October 2009 the PE & Sport Survey 2008/09 published by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) showed that boxing was now offered in 1,931 schools, covering 34% of all secondary institutions.”

The work of the BDOs to increase participation in schools

2,092 new school participants in Liverpool, covering 36 primary schools and 16 secondary

12 new schools in Bolton now offering boxing, through the Sport Unlimited programme

2,000 school in the Western Counties engaged with boxing through Empire ABC

14 school club links created in London

23 teachers at Burnage High School doing a Boxing Tutor course and one teacher qualified as a Level 2 coach

40 schools per term in Sheffield offer boxing as part of a school activity programme

20 schools in Bradford have sustained regular boxing sessions and 14 have regular after school clubs which have resulted in 200 new recreational club members

Every amateur boxing club in Manchester now has a link with a local school





Adults and target groups

A huge number of projects targeting adults and special interest groups have been developed across the BDO network and contributed to above target increases in across-the-board participation and amongst black, minority and ethnic (BME) groups, women, people in disadvantaged communities and those with disabilities.

More than 3,000 adults have been engaged in boxing through work delivered by the BDO in Liverpool in conjunction with Rotunda ABC. A similar project with Gemini ABC has delivered boxing sessions to more than 1,500 adults over the age of 50. In Croxteth, a 'Lads and Dads' programme now works with 75 families.

In London, the Boxing in Mosques project is working in six areas. Four clubs are now affiliated to a Mosque and two others in Fulham and Waltham Forest are being developed in schools linked to the local Mosque.

Economically deprived communities

Opportunities for the long term unemployed to use boxing to create employment opportunities have been developed through a link-up with the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure (NSA). The project, which is part of the Future Fund for Jobs (FFJ) programme, provides employability training and qualifications to long term unemployed people that will help them to secure permanent jobs in health, fitness and community sport.

The first phase of 16 apprentices have been recruited to work with BDOs in Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Bradford, Doncaster, Sheffield, London, Bristol and the South West of England. The BDOs mentor the apprentices and help them to develop a programme of work including a boxing leader course, a Level 1 coaching course and modules on child protection and safety. 10 more apprentices will be recruited in 2010/11.

Women

National level activity to grow participation among women focused on developing infrastructure and providing clubs with the support and advice to offer female friendly classes rather than pro-active marketing. A national campaign will be developed in the next 12 months to drive participation amongst women and girls.

The number of clubs that provide classes for women rose from 238 to 325 and now stands at nearly 40% of all clubs. The appointment of a new National Women's Boxing Coordinator, after the previous incumbent was appointed Head of Development, is expected to increase this even further in 2010/11.

A number of successful projects to attract women have been delivered locally and the BDOs in Liverpool and Bolton linked-up with their Primary Care Trust's to develop a female focused project called Make the Weight, which used boxing to encourage exercise and provide nutritional advice to overweight children. In Liverpool the 10-week programme of two non-contact boxing sessions per week surpassed all expectations. Of the eight children involved, seven achieved their weight making target and five joined their local boxing club. The ABAE plans to roll this project out nationally through the BDO network in 2011.





In central London, the BDO secured funding from the Mayor of London's 'Play Sport London' initiative to run an eight-week Dare2Dance Programme to encourage female students to be more active through boxing and street dance. This followed a successful Open Day at Islington College when more than 20 women attended an introductory non-contact boxing class delivered by one of England's leading female coaches, Eleanor Boden and two of its best boxers, Lesley Sackey and Rebecca Donnelly.

“The number of clubs that provided classes for women rose from 238 to 325.”

Disability participation

2009/10 has seen progress in growing participation amongst people with disabilities. A Disability Working Group has been set up to manage a national action research pilot group for people with disabilities. It will assess and examine the modifications that need to be made to methods of coaching to ensure they are able to adapt to specific needs.

Pilot programmes are underway in Bolton, Bradford and Sheffield working with individuals that have physical, learning and hearing impairment and individuals with mental health difficulties. One example of these is in Liverpool where the BDO has helped 17 year old Eddie Siner find an amateur boxing club where the coaches are equipped to deal with him being hearing impaired. Eddie is now a regular and active member of Phoenix Amateur Boxing Club in Warrington where his strength and ability to continue training when most colleagues are burnt-out has led fellow club members to nickname him 'The Machine'.



DELIVERING A QUALITY EXPERIENCE



Amateur boxing's success in delivering a user satisfaction rating of 82.7 in Sport England's most recent Active People Survey is testament to the broad range of initiatives the ABAE has implemented throughout the year to improve the quality of service and facilities available to participants.

More coaches deliver higher standards

A massive increase in the number of coaches, from 1,787 to 2,801, is one of the major achievements of the last year and reflects the excellent work done by the regional associations of the ABAE and the Boxing Development Officers (BDOs) to increase numbers and raise standards.

Effective local partnerships between the regional associations and the BDOs have been a major contributor to the growth and in 2009/10 delivered 365 coaches at Level 1, 97 at Level 2 and nine at Level 3. 18 of these participants are now attending a Continual Professional Development course through sports coach UK.

The BDOs also helped to qualify seven female coaches at Level 1 and one at Level 2. Other activities targeted at women included an Empower Your Coaching Seminar, hosted by the ABAE in October 2009, which was attended by 12 women.

The rise in coaches has also been facilitated by the spread of one day introductory coaching modules such as the Boxing Tutors Award and the Boxing Leaders Award, which have become the first step on the pathway into coaching for many people. Both have been accredited by the ABAE and have played an important role in increasing both the number of people delivering boxing and the number of coaches over the last 12 months.

At a national level, the ABAE has been working towards the creation of the UK Coaching Certificate and is committed to developing an accredited framework of coaching qualifications. Initiatives to progress coaches through the system have been led by the National Club and Coach Manager who secured National Skills Academy funding for coaching bursaries at Level 2 and 3. Working with the Lead Coach Educator, he has provided senior and advanced coaching courses to 43 senior coaches and 14 advanced coaches.

Volunteering

Initiatives to increase volunteers have been led by the BDOs who have developed a number of successful projects. The work of six BDOs with the Step Into Sport Programme helped to create 175 young volunteers in Tamworth, Bradford, Derbyshire, Sheffield, Bolton and South Gloucestershire.

In Bolton the BDO has worked with the local authority's Volunteer Coordinator to support 54 volunteers on courses. In East London a new partnership has been established with the Newham Volunteer Bureau to help local clubs recruit and train 20 volunteers. The BDO in Sheffield has worked with clubs to recruit volunteers at local events and club shows and developed courses to educate them on fitness and club funding.

At a national level, the ABAE's Head of Development is working with Sport England's Centre for Excellence for Volunteering and Skills Active on an ABAE National Volunteer Development strategy which will be launched in 2010/11.

Sustainable clubs

Ensuring the long term sustainability of amateur boxing clubs is a critical objective and the progress of Clubmark in 2009/10 represented a significant step in this direction. Clubmark is a cross-sport quality accreditation that recognises safe, effective, and child-friendly sports clubs. The ABAE Clubmark indicates that a boxing club has a junior section and meets quality standards based on Sport England criteria covering child protection, delivery of boxing programmes, ethical policies and club management.

Nine clubs secured Clubmark in 2009/10 and the fact that a further 60 have registered for accreditation next year reflects a recognition by many clubs that securing an externally verified quality standard can benefit funding applications, increase membership, improve profile and drive school club links.



The growth in Clubmark applications also reflects the advice and assistance provided by the BDOs who have provided a range of services to help clubs navigate the accreditation process. Examples of good practice are in Central and East London where the BDOs delivered a series of funding and Clubmark workshops and helped to put in place procedures and monitoring methods in a number of clubs on membership forms and assessing the training needs of club volunteers.

Investing in infrastructure

In 2009/10, the ABAE completed more than £1 million of expenditure on 184 capital improvement projects as part of the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP). This included four major projects at Salisbury ABC in Liverpool, Crawley Boxing Club, East Durham and Houghall Community College and the National Smelting Company ABC in Bristol.

In April 2010, CCDP will be replaced by the new Capital Improvement Programme (CIP) following a successful ABAE funding bid to Sport England. A National Facilities and Investment Manager has been appointed to oversee the programme which will invest £1.1 million from 2010-13 in the refurbishment of existing facilities and contribute to the building of new ones.

The CIP will provide match-funding for projects that meet specific eligibility criteria and contribute to the delivery of the Whole Sport Plan for amateur boxing. The key criteria are raising and sustaining participation, engaging priority audiences and working towards Clubmark accreditation.

“Ensuring the long term sustainability of amateur boxing clubs is a critical objective and the progress of Clubmark in 2009/10 represented a significant step in this direction.”

Amateur Boxing Clubs accredited with Clubmark

2008/09

Lydney ABC, Gloucestershire

Carlisle Villa ABC, Carlisle

Thames Valley ABC, Berkshire

2009/10

Bolton Lads & Girls Club, Bolton

Y.I.P ABC, Doncaster

Huyton Boxing Club, Liverpool

Kingfisher Boxing Club, Great Yarmouth

Mickey's Boxing Academy, York

Norwich Lads Clubs, Norwich

St John's ABC, Manchester

Vauxhall Motors ABC, Liverpool

Windrush Valley ABC



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

In the last 12 months amateur boxing has continued to create opportunities for talented athletes to move through the system and progress to the elite level and was one of only two sports that achieved a statistically significant increase in the number of participants entering competitions.

The elite talent pool increased from 340 athletes to 518 and more opportunities were created for the best male and female boxers to test themselves internationally and compete for England.

Responsibility for coaching the most talented male athletes that are expected to represent Great Britain and England in major international competitions was handed to the British Amateur Boxing Association (BABA) in November 2008, however the make-up of the GB Boxing squad in April 2010 highlighted the success of the ABAE's talent development systems and included 14 English men and seven women.

This is a glowing testament to the quality of the talent pathways delivered by amateur boxing clubs and the ABAE and has cemented its status as a sport with a proven track record of delivering excellence and enabling young people to maximise their talent and progress through the system.

Talent pathways

The national championship structure is the cornerstone of the ABAE's pathway and is the main method for identifying and progressing talent. It covers schools, juniors and male and female seniors and in 2009/10 created an opportunity for more than 1,000 children, youths and adults to test themselves in competition.

The ABAE National Elite Championship Finals for men in May 2009 were held at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield and televised live on Setanta. The women's National Elite Championship was in held in the newly developed Manchester Boxing Centre of Excellence in Gorton in June 2009.

In addition to the national championship, the ABAE regional associations and Boxing Development Officers (BDOs) have worked at a local and county level to deliver additional pathways and opportunities to compete.

This has been particularly successful in the North West. In Liverpool, a monthly development tournament at Walton Lifestyles Centre offers skill bouts and competitions for 160 juniors aged 11-16 and more than 300 young people attended a series of summer camps to provide out-of-season contests. New competitions have also been established in Bolton and Manchester.

On a national level, the ABAE has linked-up with the England Colleges Amateur Boxing Association to develop a new qualification that will enhance talent pathways by creating an opportunity for 120 amateur boxers, aged 16-19, to receive full-time training whilst gaining an educational qualification.

The Advanced Apprenticeships in Sporting Excellence (AASE) will be launched in 2010/11 and be delivered through six high performance boxing centres at colleges in Brighton, Solihull, Gateshead, Kent, South Gloucestershire and Bradford.

Opportunities to compete internationally

At a national level a squad structure now exists for all categories covering schoolboys, junior boys, youth boys and senior men and women. The talent pool is made-up of 140 athletes nationally and 518 at a regional level.

In 2009/10, the ABAE attended an increased number of international competitions and created opportunities for 110 athletes (not including those in the GB Boxing squad) to box for England and test themselves against overseas competition. This included a series of duals, round robins and multi-nation tournaments as well as the European and World Championships.

The squads delivered excellent performances at all levels and secured five medals at the European Schoolboy Championships in Russia in October 2009 and gold and silver at the European Youth Championships in Poland in August 2009.

The highlight for the women was the EU Championships in Bulgaria in June 2009 when all five won a medal as England returned with three gold and two silver.



England's top male boxers, which are managed by BABA as part of the World Class Performance Programme (WCPP), secured 16 medals in four major international competitions.

Pioneering excellence in women's boxing

The ABAE has been a longstanding advocate of female boxing and the decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in August 2009 to include a women's programme at London 2012 was one of the highlights of the year.

The decision reflected the huge improvements that have been made in the sport globally to increase the quality of competition and was a reward for all of the ABAE's work domestically and its foresight in February 2008 when it appointed a National Women's Boxing Development Manager with responsibility for increasing participation and developing female talent.

Following the IOC's announcement, the ABAE ran a series of assessment camps to identify talent and worked with BABA to establish the women's WCPP which will be funded by a £950,000 award from UK Sport. BABA formally took over the management of the women's WCPP in April 2010. All seven members of the elite squad have developed through the ABAE's systems and provide a resounding endorsement of the organisation's pioneering work to drive participation and develop female talent.

"This is a glowing testament to the quality of the talent pathways delivered by amateur boxing clubs and the ABAE and has cemented its status as a sport with a proven track record of delivering excellence and enabling young people to maximise their talent and progress through the system."

Women's EU Championship, Bulgaria, June 2009

Gold

Sharon Holford, Aspire ABC
Natasha Jonas, Rotunda ABC
Savannah Marshall, Hartlepool Headland

Bronze

Lucy O'Connor, Royal Navy
Hannah Beharry, Haringey Police ABC

European Youths Championships, Poland, August 2009

Gold

Martin Ward, Repton Boys

Silver

Mark Heffron, Boarshaw ABC

European Schoolboy Championships, Russia, September 2009

Silver

Hassan Mahood, Bury ABC
Archie Sharpe, Bodyshots ABC

Bronze

Patrick McCann, Kettering SOB
Dean Rooney, Furs ABC
Ben Bendall, Woking ABC



BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Keith Walters, Chairman, Amateur Boxing Association of England
Richard Caborn, President, Amateur Boxing Association of England

It has been another successful year which has seen amateur boxing cement its position as one of the country's most successful sports. Looking back just five years, it is hard to believe how far the sport has come in such a relatively short period of time however this is no time for complacency and the ABAE's overriding priority in 2010/11 is to maintain momentum and continue to deliver against the targets in our Whole Sport Plan.

Building on growth in participation

Raising the number of young people taking part in amateur boxing through school is a priority and we plan to expand the scope of our work with Step Into Sport. The Boxing Development Officers (BDOs) will continue to build school club links at a local level and the addition of BDOs in Leicestershire, Suffolk, Essex and Kent will improve the geographical spread of this work.

On a national level, we will be running more campaigns to raise awareness of opportunities to participate in amateur boxing. We are developing a relationship with the Fitness Industry Association (FIA) and have signed-up for the Gold Challenge, which will introduce amateur boxing to 184,000 participants. A branded campaign to target women is planned and the ABAE is keen to secure a commercial partner for this initiative.

Sustaining participation through a quality experience

Although the network of 837 boxing clubs delivers high levels of satisfaction, our own research has identified a requirement to update facilities and increase the number of volunteers as factors that will influence the sport's ability to meet future increases in participation.

The recruitment of volunteers will be driven through the Volunteer Development strategy which is being developed with Sport England's Centre for Excellence for Volunteering and Skills Active and will be launched in 2010/11.

The Capital Investment Programme will make more than £330,000 available to amateur boxing clubs next year to improve and refurbish facilities. The spread of Clubmark will enhance quality and contribute to the long term sustainability of the amateur boxing club network. 60 clubs are working towards accreditation and we expect further applications in 2010/11.

Delivering excellence

The roll-out of the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) will be a major priority in the next 12 months and will significantly enhance the pathways available to talented young athletes. The idea of using sporting excellence to drive personal development, which sits at the heart of AASE, is central to what the ABAE stands for as an organisation and we hope this legacy programme will expand in future years.

The Commonwealth Games in October 2010 will be the most high profile international tournament of the year and we are confident that English boxers will continue their track record of delivering medals and world class performances in this competition.

We also have the newly created GB Amateur Boxing Championship to look forward to in November 2010. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the top male and female talent from England to compete against the best from Scotland, Wales and the GB Boxing squad.

Developing the role of the governing body

As an organisation, we will continue to look at our own operations and ways we can improve. In the current economic climate, public spending is under intense scrutiny so we need to ensure that we continually showcase how the sport delivers value for money and contributes positively across a range of policy agendas to stakeholders in Government and local authorities.

As the build up to 2012 continues to shine a light on the role of sport in society we want to ensure that boxing is at the forefront. The achievements of recent years have shown that it has the ability to surpass its policy targets and, in doing so, deliver real social benefits to people and communities.

Through the work of the ABAE, the pathways are in place to progress talent from the grassroots to the elite level and means that a young person who walks into a gym tomorrow can get the support they need to become an Olympic contender if they have the ability and desire to make it.

Our challenge is to continue to build on this and ensure amateur boxing is widely recognised as one of the country's biggest sporting success stories that is helping to deliver a lasting sporting legacy.

ABAE ORGANISATION CHART

Board

Keith Walters Chairman	Chris Andrews	Ted Goreham
Paul King Company Secretary	Ray Scott	Shaun McHugh
	Alan Lynch	Derek Mapp
	David Cockell	

Council

Keith Walters Chairman	Saphire Lee	Eric Hoyland	Keith Sessions
	Faz Keyani	Ron Harvey	Steve Brooks
	Jack Danbury	John Hallam	Darren Chappel
	John Donnelly	Paul Angus	Derek Rulten

Paul King
Chief Executive

Diane Barnard
Operations Manager

Barry Jones
National Child
Protection & Equity
Manager

Mick Gannon
England/National
Coach

Rebecca Gibson
Head Of Development

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