



The Amateur Boxing Association
of England Limited

AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12



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AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND

The Amateur Boxing Association of England (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 funded by Sport England and, within this funding, is responsible for 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 regulations of the sport. It oversees a network of affiliated boxing clubs and is responsible for the national schools, junior and senior championships. It is also responsible for the delivery of community work and boxing fitness programmes both within boxing clubs, schools, sports venues and community settings.

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 in other international competitions. To drive and sustain participation in amateur boxing through the development and provision of a club and venue network that delivers a high quality experience.



FOREWORD

RICHARD CABORN, PRESIDENT, AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND



It is the clubs who open the doors through which our Olympians first walk, our clubs who have the links to schools from which we can develop our future champions

For most of us, this year began with the London 2012 Olympic Games on the horizon and dominating the sporting landscape. Along with the Games came the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create and develop a lasting legacy for our sport.

To make sure that the ABAE could take full advantage of the Olympic opportunities, and also address some of the concerns members were raising about the lack of communications between the ABAE as the national governing body and its members in the grass roots, the Council and Board set up a Structural Reform Group, which I have had the honour of chairing.

The group have held a wide consultation, and I want to thank all those who have taken out the time to participate in any way.

The results of the review were considered by the Structural Reform Group and, on the evidence gathered in the nationwide consultation, the group has drawn together a series of

recommendations for both the Council and the Board to consider. The Council and Board received these conclusions and after a lengthy discussion have recommended them unanimously for acceptance by the AGM.

Our membership has spoken, and I believe the basis of the changes will deliver a successful future for our sport.

Our clubs, and the people who run them and coach in them, are vital to our sport. They are vibrant, exciting places to be, with wonderful committed characters delivering great work to develop young people as competitive boxers, provide the opportunity to get fit, or work with their local communities in many, very valuable different ways.

They are the lifeblood of what we do.

I realise that in this economic and social climate, with rates, rent and utilities ever increasing, the running of a club is becoming harder for many, not easier, and

that to create and deliver a sustainable legacy from the home Games we need a strong and vibrant club base.

It is the clubs who open the doors through which our Olympians first walk, our clubs who have the links to schools from which we can develop our future champions, our clubs who have the fitness sessions on a Tuesday night to raise vital finance, and our club coaches and volunteers who work in their communities and travel the country with their boxers. So, as we continue to grow and strengthen our sport, we need to keep strengthening and feeding the roots of our clubs, working closely with them to understand their needs.

My thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the sport this year, and I look forward to working with more of you as we move to the future.

Richard Caborn



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

KEITH WALTERS, CHAIRMAN, AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND LIMITED

My annual report this year starts with thanks on behalf of the ABAE Board and Council to all our members, ABAE staff and Sport England.

This report will cover the success where performances by many individuals in the competition ring has been exemplary for the sport and other positive outcomes, however it is also prudent for me to highlight other areas of the business and sport that need action and monitoring to ensure the sport grows in all aspects and not just through the income granted through Sport England to whom we are very grateful for their continued support.

The ABAE Whole Sport Plan 2009-13 is the guiding document and template funded by Sport England, measured against 3 areas of priority and headings Grow, Sustain and Excel, each of which I will reflect upon giving a truthful

response and view of success and some concerns, which is my duty as your Chairman to be honest and pro-active, to benefit the sport.

ABAE GROW

Using the Sport England Active People Survey (APS) figures which measure participation and track levels of satisfaction our outcomes are still favourable and are on target to meet our projections from our current successful Whole Sport Plan and the sport is achieving and indeed has already achieved certain targets set in 2009. However a concern is that there has been a fall in 16-19 year old participation in Quarter 6 of the (APS) to below the Baseline of APS Quarter 2 (2006) and we should ensure actions are taken to remedy this 'new generation of potential Senior Boxers' are targeted to retain and grow their participation, however on the plus

side our own membership data suggests that broadly Senior Boxers (aged 17 to 34) has increased.

We therefore need to ensure our own information is used as much as possible to highlight what the sport is actually experiencing to our funders Sport England and Department of Culture Media and Sport. Another positive sign this year as in previous years has seen the regions increase the number of affiliated and registered clubs by 34 clubs from 837 (2010/ 11) to 871 (2011/12) nationally, this drive for 'New Clubs and Associated Clubs' must continue in the future and is crucial to the growth of the grass roots of the sport to establish long term health, increase participation and sustainability.

The number of ABAE affiliated coaches and officials grew marginally over this period of the



The hard work begins now for Rio 2016 where current and future Olympians are in our clubs working tirelessly to improve on the standard set in London

ABAE Whole Sport Plan 2011/12 and these two specific roles are central to the sport's offer and growth in all areas of participation and competition. I am pleased to reflect and inform you all that the sport has achieved the majority of the Whole Sport Plan 2009/13 as we come to the conclusion of that strategy, delivered through a wide range of stakeholder relationships which been impressive, particularly with the sport now being potentially offered and delivered in an unprecedented 2,000 schools and participation increases in boxing through universities, local authority sport networks and various agencies across our regions in England, these positive signs and relationships have been built over many years, but I must make you aware that we are a very young sport in terms of receiving Central Government investment, with the capacity to grow further and build

on our obvious success over two Whole Sport Plan Cycles, if we make the right decisions going forward.

ABAE SUSTAIN

Sport England as the main funding partner, also measure ABAE through people's long term participation, frequency and satisfaction in the sport and I am pleased to see we are on track and the sustained participation of people boxing at least 3 times per week reflects the sport's attraction, quality of our coaches and clubs whilst also offering health benefits.

To sustain membership our participants need to enjoy a good experience and this is driven by coaching which is also measured as good against satisfaction levels of APS, however the variances in quality of club facilities and equipment is variable, the sport has been successful in developing

some club facilities and this is a positive start, but a lot more needs to be done. Not just 'Big Grant' applications and awards but small injections of funding to support clubs' immediate needs and ensure their sustainability, which is a pressure for all our voluntary clubs, the opportunities are there ABAE must assist even more in the future through the regions to ensure the messages, assistance and opportunities filter down.

ABAE EXCEL

The performance programme of ABAE is essential to the long term performance pathway for every individual who reaches international standard be they male or female.

The following results and performances are a reflection of the success which has been achieved in 2011/12 and a review

POSITIVE RESULTS FROM 2011/12

Women's European Championships, Rotterdam, October 2011

Nicola Adams, Haringey ABC, London - gold

Lisa Whiteside, Larches and Savick ABC, Lancashire - silver

Natasha Jonas, Rotunda ABC, Liverpool - bronze

Savannah Marshall, Hartlepool Headland ABC - bronze

Men's World Championships, Baku, October 2011

Anthony Joshua, Finchley ABC, London - silver

Luke Campbell, St Paul's ABC, Hull - silver

Tom Stalker, Salisbury ABC, Liverpool - bronze

Women's World Championships, China, May 2012

Savannah Marshall, Hartlepool Headland ABC - gold

Nicola Adams, Haringey ABC, London - silver

Natasha Jonas, Rotunda ABC, Liverpool - bronze

Junior European Championships, Bulgaria, June 2012

Reuben Arrowsmith, Kings Heath ABC, Leicester - bronze

John Ruddick, Birtley ABC, Durham - bronze

Olympic Games, London, August 2012

Anthony Joshua, Finchley ABC, London - gold

Luke Campbell, St Paul's ABC, Hull - gold

Nicola Adams, Haringey ABC, London - gold

Anthony Ogogo, Triple A ABC, Lowestoft - bronze



of a majority of ABAE boxers' performances and achievements that have moved onto the GB Boxing programme then supported by funding from Government through UK Sport. A small number of ABAE international boxers are benefitting from the programme and all of the additional services which are provided to fulfil their personal development and potential and the boxers' success also reflects positively on our club, regional and international coaching standards within ABAE, having initially found and developed the boxers to international level, before transfer onwards to GB Boxing.

DEVELOPMENT

There have been some changes in the ABAE boxing development personnel and some of the funding partners who share these roles with ABAE have been restricted in

terms of their financial streams, due to the financial climate and their specific priorities changing. However when the new Whole Sport Plan is revealed and potentially funded by Sport England we will be in a position to review our relationships with partners and more importantly the support for regions of ABAE to plan for the future 2013/17, we await Sport England response to the submission in November 2012.

The Clubmark programme achieved the target set for the number of accredited clubs who have used the process to raise standards and gained 'new focus and improved administration and coaching provision and delivery' well done to all of those clubs and volunteers who have been successful in achieving these standards and I have been pleased to represent you at a number of these award events.



As part of the overall development umbrella, the quality and size of facilities has been a concern for the ABAE for a long time, eventually through capital funding from Sport England and Department of Culture for Media and Sport, ABAE have sourced over £1 Million (2010/13), which has started to filter to 'grass roots clubs and projects', some of which I have been proud to attend their openings after construction or refurbishment. It is in each of our clubs interests to ensure they assess the opportunities to apply for this funding not just from Sport England funding streams but also the wide spectrum of other funding agencies to support facility development and refurbishment. ABAE and regions have assisted successful applications and will do so in the future.

STAFFING

The ABAE has grown in terms of national staff positions over the last few years, now having an established full time workforce at national level and some boxing development officer cover in certain areas of the country, we must now review how the National Governing Body can filter down support and finance and assist the regions to commence building their own visions, plans and capacity, with and through Local partners and stakeholders. Thereby ensuring the growth of the whole organisation is not at the top end but also incrementally across the sport, if we fail in stabilising and building the capacity and strategies of the ABAE regions we will have missed a major opportunity in the future to deliver and achieve stronger regions and as a consequence a stronger ABAE.

This next round of Whole Sport Plan Funding 2013/17 from Sport England will support this major opportunity to fulfil the regions potential to drive the sport further through integrated links and relationships at a local level,





ensuring the sport grows from grass roots upwards as opposed to a top down approach, which can create dis-connect and fracture. The sport is built upon and has survived on strong local links and partnerships throughout the country, we need now to enable the people in the Regions and locality to be supported and deliver for the benefit of the sports long term future building further on strong foundations of volunteers and clubs through other organisations and potential stakeholders.

FINANCE

The current financial and economic climate is bringing us all problems and concerns and ABAE need as any other business to be prudent and ensure continued growth. We now need to ensure we increase our external revenue income particularly in sponsorship and build on our magnificent

London Olympic results by England boxers. Then further develop an England international boxing calendar of events across the country showcasing all age groups both men and women whilst expanding the services and support to our members, partners and all stakeholders in the regions. Whilst raising the issue of finance, special emphasis particularly by ABAE and also the regions must be given to developing and sustaining clubs, which is a long term risk to the sport in these economically challenging times.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

ABAE had for a number of years targeted and gained generous sponsorship from a wide range of companies and organisations which allowed the sport to extend opportunities for our members, however recently sponsorship has been non-existent at national

ABAE level and without this extra element of essential external funding now and in the future we will be weaker in delivering our targets we need to aggressively amend this weak position immediately. Therefore an immediate action is for a working party of ABAE driven by staff, needs to focus on commercial strategies for ABAE whilst also attracting and engaging external professionals, to resolve this weakness and indeed grow this area of the sport using the 'Bandwagon of Success from London'. If there is any delay we will potentially miss this prime opportunity.

NEW STRUCTURE OF ABAE

The Board and Council, have throughout the year commenced a review of how the sport functions in terms of national representation and management, we are about to



complete the process in January 2013. When the sport has resolved the changes and delivered the democratic and structural changes the sport requires, I am sure your regional representatives will keep you up to date with all developments and decisions.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Another area of concern and a risk to the future of our potential International standard boxers is the current lack of home based and also international exchange matches and tournaments, which if allowed to continue, we will fail to meet the aspirations and opportunities that many of our boxers both male and female require and deserve to complete their personal development and reach the highest performance levels.

ABAE nationally must now also seek to put together with the regions and other potential partners a very strong and regular international programme showcasing our national talent around the country and develop a vibrant international programme to deliver experience, increase potential and be used as a platform to European, World and Olympic success, as delivered in London, we need to do more.

SUMMARY

Although this Annual Report has a cut-off date as April 2012, it would be foolish of me not to focus on the last couple of months and the ultimate success of our boxers from England who represented Great Britain and England so admirably in the London Olympic Games. The gold medals of Nicola Adams (First woman in a modern Olympics), Anthony Joshua and

Luke Campbell and Anthony Ogogo who won a bronze medal, all of these successes were fantastic personal achievements and a credit to their families, clubs and coaches who have steered them forward through adversity at





times in the developmental period and onto the Olympic stage itself. I would on behalf of ABAE take this opportunity to praise the other England boxers who achieved so much in gaining the ultimate accolade of Olympian Status which is only earned by the very best in world sport. We therefore also applaud your achievements Tom Stalker, Natasha Jonas and Savannah Marshall.

The new funding of UK Sport over this Olympic cycle has been the catalyst for providing, the first ever Four Year Olympic Cycle full time programme for our boxers, which met their individual needs with a strong support services team back-up which is required to further develop and deliver a World Class boxer and Olympian. This funding in conjunction with the excellent support services and the GB Coaching team, all deserve the upmost respect in gaining the best

Olympic medal return since Melbourne 1956.

The hard work begins now for Rio 2016 and those current and future Olympians are out in our clubs now working tirelessly to succeed and improvements are still required to maintain the London standards through to Rio de Janeiro 2016, where competition will again be fierce.

The Olympic Games is however an opportunity afforded and earned by only a miniscule percentage of boxers and it is the growth of recreation and competitive boxers and membership in all roles of the ABAE and regions, we wish to see grow now and in the future and together we can achieve our aims and objectives at all levels, our sport is for the masses and we need to push on further and build on the reputation the sport has developed over many years

through the unique offer we make and the iconic individuals you the clubs have created in all roles.

Potential success and development both as boxers and people is only possible through the ABAE clubs, partners, stakeholders and regions supported by their club coaches, families, officials and volunteers who support and provide opportunity and a duty of care to all our members and I wish in closing to place on record a sincere thank you, for all you do both in our communities and throughout England.

Your time, passion, endeavour, commitment and voluntary service is recognised and appreciated!



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