



**Amateur Boxing Scotland Limited Board Meeting  
5 Nasmyth Court, Houston Industrial Estate, Livingston EH54 5EG  
27 June 2012 19:00hrs**

Present: Willie Burns (WB), Frank Delaney (FD), Richard Thomas (RT), Kevin Bell (KB), Andrew Caulfield (AC), Peter Evans (PE)

In attendance: Fraser Walker (FW), Alan Clark (ACL) **sportscotland** Partnership Manager,

**1 – Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2 - Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests.

**3 – Approval of Minutes of the ABS Ltd Board Meeting held on 14 March 2012**

WB approved and FD seconded the minutes.

**4 – Actions from ABS Ltd Board meeting held on 14 March 2012**

There were no actions.

**6 – Chairman's report**

The Chairman provided his report.

**sportscotland**

The Chairman covered the on-going investment situation with sportscotland.

When the 2011 – 2012 annual investment agreement was signed ABS was of the belief its investment would reviewed in December 2011, resulting in an increase. The review was not carried out and ABS was subsequently asked to submit a fully costed performance plan for presentation at a sportscotland Institute Mission 2014 meeting in April 2012.

With the outcome of the request for increased performance investment still unknown, ABS is now in the position of having to combine its current performance plan with the still to be completed Bridgeton business plan, produce an annual business plan and show its overall income and expenditure before it receives notification on whether it will receive increased investment.

ACL confirmed that sportscotland requires the following from ABS;

- The current performance plan should be merged with the Bridgeton business plan to become one;

- A two page business plan detailing priorities, goals, income and expenditure for the 2012 – 2013 season;
- An additional, longer term coaching development plan when a recognised coaching qualification has been produced.

ACL explained sportscotland should be in receipt of the Bridgeton business plan before it can make any investment decisions. Furthermore, once an ABS coaching qualification is a coaching strategy should be developed to request further investment to assist with its delivery. Bob Wyllie of sportscotland can assist.

The Chairman suggested that sportscotland should hold all Governing Body of Sport plans centrally in order to allow the sharing of them and to promote best practice.

The Chairman noted there had been a material change in the information ABS is now being asked to produce in order to secure increased investment.

ABS has not signed its 2012 – 2013 offer of investment award from sportscotland as it is being asked to win more than three medals at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games on existing funding levels. Mike Keane, ABS National Coach, believes this target is unachievable based on current annual performance funding total of £240,000.

ACL confirmed that;

- ABS must produce a Bridgeton performance plan and go through a KPMG fit for purpose audit before it gets notification of increased investment;
- He was prepared to go on record and say ABS will receive additional sportscotland investment for the Bridgeton high performance facility and its performance programme;
- The Glasgow 2014 medal target of winning more than three medals cannot be changed;
- ABS signs its 2012 – 2013 sportscotland investment agreement and includes a cover letter which highlights the challenging Glasgow 2014 medal target and the fact sportscotland is currently reviewing ABS performance investment as it develops a business plan for the Bridgeton High performance centre;
- A sportscotland representative will contact ABS audit procedural matters.

The Chairman suggested the most prudent course of action is not to sign the current investment agreement. It would be sensible to wait and find out what additional investment is offered by sportscotland towards the performance programme and to make Bridgeton sustainable. The whole performance plan, including Bridgeton, should receive increased investment in one lump sum.

With this in mind, the Chairman suggested the meeting continue and the investment discussion be revisited later in the meeting.

### **Bridgeton**

ABS continues to provide comprehensive design feedback to Clyde Gateway on the facility.

Staff members have attended productive meetings with the consultant employed to produce the Bridgeton business plan. The meetings have allowed ABS to elaborate on the current use of facilities for the delivery of our performance plan, the frequency of national

training activities and the costs involved. This information will be used by the consultant to identify potential options on usage and management.

It has been agreed the facility does not present many opportunities with regards to local community use unless additional staff are employed to allow this to happen. It was also noted that using facility will cost no less than at present as the main costs relating to residential training are food and accommodation.

The Chairman noted his concern that ABS will not receive the requested funding to make the facility work and financially viable. This could result in ABS members not accepting the potential financial liability.

The Chairman asked ACL to provide timescales of return and when sportscotland will reach a decision on how much it will invest in Bridgeton. In turn, this will allow ABS to inform Clyde Gateway of a realistic entry date to the Bridgeton facility should the business plan prove the facility is financially viable.

WB questioned what costs ABS will be liable for with regards to the running of Bridgeton. The Chairman explained the heads of terms has been examined by a legal expert and there was a potential liability to ABS of circa £1,000,000 over the 20 year lease. The lease remains unsigned as ABS needs comfort and financial protection against this liability.

### **GB Programme and Scottish Championships**

The Chairman congratulated Josh Taylor on his 2012 Team GB Olympic selection – The first Scottish boxer to qualify for the Olympics in 20 years. This was a remarkable achievement for Josh at lightweight given qualification is now so exhaustive and difficult. Credit must also go to the Terry McCormack of Lochend ABC and Mike Keane for their work over the years with Josh.

The Chairman informed the Board of the current strength and depth Scotland has in the 60kg weight category with Josh Taylor, Charlie Flynn – current GB senior champion, Robbie McKechnie – GB Development squad boxer, Mark McKeown 1994 born GB youth champion and Sam Ball 1995 born GB youth champion.

Following concerns over the running of 2011 GB Senior Championships, The Chairman was appointed as Technical Delegate for the 2012 event in May, in London. A number of ABS R&J ably assisted in ensuring the event was properly run. The Chairman thanked Willie Arbuckle who was invaluable as the computer operation and the others from ABS in attendance. Our boxers performed well and won two gold medals which was an improvement on last year.

Since the last Board meeting, the Youth finals, Schoolboy and Championships and Senior finals have been held which have seen 61 (10, 42 and 9) new champions crowned. The GB Juniors in June was also a huge success. ABS has been commended on the delivery of all of its championships this year which is testament to our Chief Operating Officer and his team's growing experience and professionalism along with the invaluable contribution our volunteers and officials continue to make.

### **Cashback**

The Chairman was pleased to report that the delivery of the Cashback programme continues to go extremely well.

Glasgow MSP Humza Yousaf accepted an invite to two Cashback sessions in May to witness work of beneficiary clubs first hand. He was left suitably impressed and commented on the excellent work ABS is doing delivering its Cashback programme and how boxing clubs in socially and economically deprived areas are immeasurably important.

### **Official Development**

The Chairman was pleased to announce ABS has received circa £18,000 from Glasgow 2014 to allow it to deliver a national official development programme with an overriding objective to have more international referees by 2014.

ABS plans to hold an R&J training weekend later in the year which will focus on such areas as draw commission training, field of play workshops and technical Delegate training. This will provide some much needed training for our officials.

A request has gone out to every affiliated club in Scotland to provide at least one registered working official within the next twelve months as we progress towards the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

### **AIBA**

The Chairman has recently returned from the AIBA offices in Switzerland where discussions were held on World Series Boxing (WSB) and AIBA Professional Boxing (APB). These variants now have 66 Olympic qualifying places from circa 250 hence it becomes very important that ABS considers their existence very seriously.

There could also be considerable changes to the sport as we know it with the removal of head guards and a return to 10-9 scoring being proposed. At this stage, all proposals are subject to approval by the AIBA executive.

### **Investment Re-visited**

The Chairman asked fellow directors for their opinions on the sportscotland investment situation.

KB recommended the board should refrain from signing the 2012 – 2013 investment agreement and await a definitive answer on a collective Bridgeton investment and increased performance.

PE concurred and stated it would be prudent to wait for the completion of the Bridgeton business plan.

WB felt more accurate timescales were required in relation to the completion of the Bridgeton business plan before a decision could be taken.

FD was of the belief sportscotland has made the investment process overly protracted and ABS should wait.

The Chairman asked ACL to clarify exactly what plans sportscotland required from ABS to progress matters.

ACL clarified;

- A two page annual operating plan

- Marry together the Bridgeton business and ABS performance plan

The Chairman sought further explanation on the roles of the sportscotland Senior Management Team (SMT) and its Board, what their roles are and who decides funding levels for sports within sportscotland.

**ACTION** ACL to provide absolute clarity on the sportscotland investment process and the roles its SMT and Board play in making funding decisions.

The Chairman concluded by explaining because the 2012 – 2013 investment agreement remained unsigned, ABS could face a serious cash flow problem which could result in a restructuring of the organisation and posts being made redundant.

## **7 – Operational Report**

### **Legal**

There are no on-going legal matters at present.

### **Performance**

FW provided an operational summary on the Performance programme.

- Well attended, regular training sessions are now the norm for ABS Elite Youth and Senior boxers.
- Planned residential camps and tournaments detailed in the performance plan have not materialised because the 2012 – 2013 investment agreement remains unsigned. Camps and tournaments have been cancelled as a result.
- The situation is having a detrimental effect on boxer's morale and is becoming critical. The National Coach is struggling to deliver an effective performance programme with very limited human and financial resources.
- Since the March Board meeting, ABS boxers have attended the Belgrade Winners tournament, an England v Scotland dual match in London and the GB Senior Championships. There were some encouraging performances at the dual match and in the GB Seniors. The Belgrade Winner tournament was the first international ABS boxers had attended for six months.
- sportscotland Institute support has commenced with 15 supported boxers now able to access various additional support services which will be a great help for our Boxers.

### **Talent ID**

FW provided an operational update on the Talent ID programme.

- National and Regional sessions continue to be very well attended with seven sessions held since the March Board meeting.
- Talent ID Boxers have attended home internationals in Liverpool against England and in Cork versus Ireland. Both were very closely contested against quality opposition and provided a great workout for our boxers.
- The 2012 GB Junior Championships was a fantastically well run event which saw a total of 63 bouts contested over the two days with some outstanding boxing from all teams. The Scottish team was very well prepared and looking to exceed its medal target of 6 gold and 10 silver medals from the 2011 GB Juniors. As expected, England provided the toughest opposition but Scotland produced some outstanding performances and exceeded last year's medal haul with 8 gold and 7 silver medals.
- Disappointingly, because of the uncertainty surrounding future performance investment, ABS was unable to send its best Junior boxers to the 2012 European Juniors in Bulgaria. There are circa ten Talent ID volunteer coaches helping deliver the programme that get paid nothing but petrol expenses.

If situations such as these keep occurring, our volunteer coaches will simply walk away and we will lose circa £250,000 of irreplaceable volunteer coaching time from our very successful development talent ID programme. The programme is so vital to our performance pathway and begins with schoolboys and feeds our best junior boxers into youth then senior ranks.

## **Coach and Club Development**

### **Cashback**

FW provided an overview on the Cashback Programme.

- The Cashback Amateur Boxing Academy has witnessed significant growth since the March Board meeting. 14 clubs are delivering Cashback sessions with another 8 clubs provisionally registered to start after the summer school holidays. Weekly attendance figures have risen from an average of 180 to 250.

Coach involvement has also increased, with an average of two coaches delivering sessions per club and 26 coaches participating.

- Assessments have been held within each district, with significant club representation at each assessment. The first phase assessment details were as follows:

Date	District	Location	Participating Clubs	Academy Boxers Assessed	Spectators
19 March 12	Northern	Kinlochleven	Nether Lochaber ABC	24	60
20 March 12	Northern	Fort William	Lochaber Phoenix ABC	30	100
21 March 12	Northern	Aberdeen	Byron ABC Peterhead ABC	48	90
23 March 12	Eastern	Meadowbank	Argo ABC Duries ABC Greenock ABC Meadowbank ABC Zetland ABC	82	120
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>184</b>	<b>370</b>

- Several key educational / sports development personnel have been invited to attend the Ravenscraig assessment on Saturday 09<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The aspiration at this stage is to promote the Cashback Academy model to get boxing back into schools, both primary and secondary. Glasgow Life and several schools in Glasgow have provisionally stated they would like to introduce the Cashback model. In addition, schools in Fife have also expressed a keen interest in the venture.

ABS will use Glasgow and Fife local authorities to pilot the introduction of boxing back into schools. On completion of a 6 month delivery period, a review will be carried out to ensure the model is robust enough to increase the amount of local authorities involved.

- The Cashback Boot Camp is confirmed to take place in Kinlochleven (Highlands) from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012. The aim is to provide the opportunity for 28 young people aged 13 – 16 years to take part in outdoor activities as well as receiving non-contact boxing tuition during the week long camp.

- Ten Cashback clubs have been issued new equipment to assist in their session delivery. Each club has been rewarded with four heavy duty punch bags, 20 pairs of 12oz boxing gloves, four pairs of curved coach pads and 10 skipping ropes. Remaining participants will receive their equipment during assessments & club visits during the summer.
- Growth of club and coach participation is the primary aim in order to increase Cashback participation.

The use of the second phase assessments to advertise the Cashback programme to Educational / Sports figures will be critical.

Future boot camps will provide an exciting and rewarding product to the Academy boxers.

Finally, a 'mobile' Cashback delivery product is currently being investigated.

### **Child Protection/PVG**

FW provided an operational overview and there were no key issues noted.

PE enquired whether he could attend an ABS child protection course and would contact Dougie Arneill of Safeguarding in Sport to arrange training for the child protection officers of ABS affiliated clubs.

### **Finance**

FW provided a narrative on the attached financial report which detailed expenditure to 30 April 2012.

### **Equality**

FW provided an operational overview and it was noted there are no key issues. Work will commence on achieving the Equality Preliminary level in September.

The Chairman asked ACL to inform the Board on whether sportscotland analyse the social and economic backgrounds of the sports it invests in. ACL answered that ABS had received significant Cashback investment to address social and economic inequalities.

### **8 – AOCB**

The Chairman tabled a letter relating to a possible dispute resolution meeting in connection to the current management of the British Amateur Boxing Association (BABA).

The Board unanimously endorsed the newly developed Child Protection policy which contains the new Safeguarding in Sport 10 Steps guide. This document will be issued to all ABS affiliated clubs.

### **9 – Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was provisionally agreed for 26 September 2012

