



**Amateur Boxing Scotland Ltd
Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Amateur Boxing Scotland (ABS) Ltd
John Logie Baird Suite, Strathclyde Hilton, Bellshill, ML4 3QJ
Sunday 26 August 2012 1:00pm**

1 Roll Call and Apologies:

There were 25 Member Clubs present:

1314, Aberdeen, Alloa, Barrhead, Bathgate, Bellahouston, Blantyre Miners, Cambusnethan, Cardenden, Claymores, Cleland Miners, Dundee, Four Isles, Irvine Vineburgh, Kelty, Kingdom, Kinross, Lochaber Phoenix, Madison, Newarthill, Renfrewshire, Robert Gordon University, Sparta, Wellmeadow and Zetland.

Apologies were received from:

Jeannie Robertson-Frazier, Kevin Seaton and Stuart Anderson of Craigmillar, Brian Howett of Lochee Boys, Nicola Little of Nith Valley and Paul Smith of Springhill.

ABS Ltd Chairman, Mr Richard Thomas, opened the meeting and welcomed two co-opted directors who had joined the board in the last year – Mr Peter Evans, a child protection expert and Mr Kevin Bell, a legal expert.

2 Minutes of the previous AGM held on Sunday 28 August 2011

The minutes of the Annual General meeting on Sunday 28 August 2011 were proposed by correct by Mr David Cowan (Dundee ABC) and seconded by Mr Adam Scott (1314 ABC).

3 2011/2012 Presentation

A presentation was made to members which covered the following:

3.1 Performance

- 3.1.1 Josh Taylor achieved Team GB London 2012 Olympic Selection – the first Scottish boxer to do so in 20 years;
- 3.1.2 Mark McKeown won a bronze medal in the 2011 European Youth Championships in Dublin, Ireland;
- 3.1.3 Scotland won 3 silver and a Bronze medal from five boxers in the 2011 Isle of Man Commonwealth Youth Games;
- 3.1.4 A total of 4 medals, 2 gold and 2 silver, were won at the 2012 GB Seniors;

- 3.1.5 60kg gold medal success for Sam Ball and Mark McKeown in the 2012 GB youth Championships;
- 3.1.6 15 boxers supported by the **sportscotland** Institute for the first time;
- 3.1.7 A general increase in performance programme activity with 27 training sessions held and 14 European competitions attended;
- 3.1.8 Production of the first ever ABS performance plan;
- 3.1.9 A medal target of winning more than 3 medals in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games;
- 3.1.10 A request for a significant performance investment increase has been submitted to **sportscotland** and negotiations are ongoing to secure investment for a sustainable and cost neutral high performance centre.

3.2 Talent ID

- 3.2.1 Talent ID (Junior and Schoolboys) received a significant level of investment of £95,000 in 2011/2012.
- 3.2.2 34 training sessions have taken place including 5 residential camps. Boxers have attended a total of 133 competitions including 4 home internationals v Ireland and 3 v England.
- 3.2.3 Main Talent ID achievements were winning eight gold and ten silver at the 2012 GB Junior championships and 4 gold and 10 silver at the 2012 GB Schoolboy championships.

3.3 Coach Development

- 3.3.1 Three ITC courses have been held and a total of 101 registered coaches have achieved the ITC qualification, which equates to 27% of our total registered coaches.
- 3.3.2 We currently have 205 coaches fully registered from a total of 370 ABS coaches which equates to 55% of all ABS affiliated clubs.

3.4 Club Development

- 3.4.1 21 clubs have received their ABS Club Focus visit and all clubs visited so far have met ABS minimum operating requirements.
- 3.4.2 The Chairman enquired if there are members requiring assistance with any funding applications and advised members to speak to the ABS club development officer who can arrange a Club Focus visit. Feedback on the effectiveness of club visits would be appreciated.

3.5 Governance

- 3.5.1 Further to a recent KPMG governance audit we are improving a number of internal systems and processes which will help with our future development.
- 3.5.2 A new and improved club pack has been issued to all member clubs which will provide our affiliated clubs with useful membership information.
- 3.5.3 Regular Joint District and ABS meetings are now held. The Chairman invited Mr Douglas Pinkett to say a few words and he advised the members present the meetings were useful. They allow the clubs to better feedback and provide comments directly to the ABS Board. There is now a better understanding of each other and improved mutual trust.

The Chairman advised that the sport belongs to the members and the joint District and ABS meetings are a way for club members to communicate their views to the board.

- 3.5.4 We have improved our Equality rating by achieving the Equality foundation standard. A new equality policy was produced as a result of this work which has been approved by the board ensuring any inequalities are being addressed.
- 3.5.5 Communication has been sent to all clubs regarding White Collar Boxing involvement or association of any member with such activity will not be tolerated or condoned.

Mr David Cowan of Dundee ABS stated that it can be difficult to police involvement as clubs are not always aware of boxer records outwith ABS. Can ABS communicate this message directly to boxers as they do not always listen to their clubs secretaries and coaches.

3.6 Child Protection

- 3.6.1 The ABS Child Protection policy and procedures have underwent a very comprehensive review following legislative changes. ABS now has two fully qualified Safeguarding and Protecting Children Tutors, Joe Brannan and Paul O'Connor and 6 S&PC workshops have been delivered to 80 coaches.
- 3.6.2 The PVG Scheme went live on 28 February 2011 and we now have 125 adults PVG scheme certified. Our current signatories are: East – Jimmy Dunn, James Docherty, Willie Burns, Callum Colquhoun,; North – Abby

Hills, Norman Watt, David Cowan, Andrew Caulfield; West – Douglas Pinkett, Tommy Slaven, Margaret Hughes.

3.7 Officiating

3.7.1 The development of officials is now critical due to the lack of working officials within the organisation. There are 118 affiliated clubs yet only circa 60 working officials across Scotland.

We have secured £18,000 additional investment to deliver a development programme for officials which will ultimately result in ABS having more AIBA starred R&J. The Chairman advised that the £18,000 is public money and is to be used specifically for the development of international officials.

The Chairman informed the meeting that new AIBA rules on the scoring system and removal of headgear have been discussed internally but the details are still to be finalised.

Mr Jim Greig of Sparta ABC asked what defines a working official and whether this should be determined by the amount of shows an official works in a season.

The Chairman did not have an answer as this still had to be decided on and will be communicated in due course through the District Executives.

There is a need to reflect on the number of people attending the AGM as we have 118 clubs with 6 apologies and only 26 members present. The biggest threat to our sport is the lack of officials attending shows. There are many clubs without delegates which in turn results in a lack of officials.

3.8 Cashback for Communities

3.8.1 The Cashback programme has made significant progress since it started in January 2012, targeting clubs in socially and economically deprived areas to provide diversionary activities to young people aged 10-19.

Notable statistics and outcomes in line with the six programme aims are:

Aim 1 – to provide opportunities and diversionary activities for young people, particularly in areas of social and economic deprivation. ABS operates a non-exclusion policy whereby everyone is given an equal opportunity to partake in a “sport for all”:

- Upward of 16 clubs are set to deliver sessions from August 2012.

- No fewer than 73% of clubs currently delivering sessions fall within the 5% of most deprived areas.
- 22% of the average weekly attendances are females.
- Currently in communication to create stronger links with the Asian Community along with varying ethnic groups (Poland, Pakistan and Latvia).

Aim 2 – increase boxing participation numbers and provide a pathway via affiliated clubs for those who aspire to compete at a higher level:

- Average weekly attendance of 287 young people, set to grow significantly when the additional clubs start in August 2012.
- 4 distinct pathways available to all Academy boxers once graduated on completion of phase 2, including registering to compete or stepping into an assistants role.
- Average of 43% of Phase 2 graduated Academy boxers are set to register to compete via their club for the coming 2012-13 season.

Aim 3 – to promote wellbeing, fitness, health, nutritional awareness and a positive attitude towards behaviour and discipline in young people:

- Monitoring the weight of boxers during the Phase 1 block with an average 3.5 stone weight loss per club
- Educational time-outs form the nucleus for the promotion of wellbeing and discipline etc. Due to the nature of the sport with regards to weight making for contest and competitions, all the coaches have a sound knowledge of health and nutrition with which to pass on to the Academy boxers.
- The Cashback programme, "boot camp" targeted boxers within the clubs of whom would benefit the most from the disciplined environment the camp provided.

Aim 4 – change the public perception of amateur boxing in Scotland and ABS affiliated clubs:

- Assessments have provided an excellent platform for changing the public perception associated with amateur boxing.
- The assessment demonstrates everything from technical aspect of the sport to the discipline installed during every session of amateur boxing.
- During the regional assessments the ABS Cashback Co-ordinator commentates continuously through the assessment providing the spectators with a greater insight into all aspects associated with the sport.
- Reports and photographs from every assessment is then published via the ABS social media sites to capture a larger public audience and the ABS family itself.

Aim 5 – encourage life-long participation in amateur boxing through progression to coaching, officiating and other voluntary involvement:

- As previously stated each Cashback boxer has a choice of progressing onto one of the four pathways.

Aim 6 – to help build better citizens:

- This is carried out the moment any young person steps foot into one of the Cashback Programme/ ABS affiliated clubs.

An average of 43% increase on club registered boxers for those ABS affiliated clubs taking part in the Cashback Programme

The key future development areas for the Cashback programme are

- To continue growth of club and coach participation
- Assessments held at regular intervals
- Further boot camps
- 'Mobile' amateur boxing academy sessions – currently being investigated.

The Chairman opened the floor to questions.

Mr Adam Scott of 1314 ABC said he thought it was a high quality presentation and congratulated Mr Andy Caulfield on his involvement in the 2012 London Olympics. He asked when ABS would deliver R&J development courses. The Chairman advised that there were plans to stage R&J training but there were soon to be implemented AIBA rule changes to also consider.

Mr Jim Greig of Sparta ABC noted the current shortage of Officials in the East District. The Chairman concurred and noted that we all need to encourage more officials into the sport.

Mr Colin Bryce of Alloa ABC stated it is the clubs responsibility to source officials but it is difficult to get anyone to commit the necessary time. The Chairman noted this point and suggested an advert was put out to attract more officials. Working officials also need to attend the district meetings however we need to ensure that District meetings are accessible with a good welcoming environment.

Mr Chris Robison, in attendance from **sportscotland**, suggested it may be worth speaking to other sports to see how they deal with the issue of recruiting officials.

Mr Paul O'Connor of Renfrewshire ABC noted the generic improvements ABS had made since the abandonment of the 2009 AGM. He then enquired whether there will be an opportunity to sit AIBA exams to progress internationally as an official. The Chairman advised the award of £18,000 will allow ABS to bring qualified examiners to Scotland. The new funding should act as a catalyst to help ABS build its own examination.

Mr Tom Brown of Irvine Vineburgh ABC said it was a first class presentation and he wished more members had attended.

Mr William Sharkey of Robert Gordon's University advised that the University boxing now extends to colleges. If there are more university boxers there will be a problem as no officials turn up to university shows. The Chairman thanked Mr Sharkey for highlighting this and explained ABS desire to support the universities.

4 Financial Report

The Chief Operating officer enquired if any member had any questions relating to the financial report.

Mr Douglas Pinkett asked what motor vehicles ABS had. The Chief Operating Officer provided an explanation.

Mr Pinkett also asked about the reserve being up. He was subsequently advised by the Chief Operating Officer that this was due to Cashback Investment being paid on a different timescale to the core investment.

Mr Pinkett highlighted that development boxers did not attend a European Championship event – the Chief Operating Officer explained that Cashback investment was ring fenced to deliver specific outcomes and activities. It could not be spent on such items as the Talent ID programme. Mr Pinkett then asked if ABS can get more investment for development and the Chief Operating Officer informed the meeting that negotiations were ongoing with **sportscotland** with regards to increased performance investment.

5 Election of Honorary Presidents and President

The Chairman expressed his pleasure in welcoming Mr Dick McTaggart and Mr John McDermott.

It is an honour for ABS to have two gentlemen who have given their life to boxing and achieved so much. Dick famously won Olympic gold in the 1956 Olympics and then went to Rome four years later and claimed a further bronze. To this day, he remains the only British boxer ever to be awarded the Val Barker trophy for the best boxer of the Olympics. John McDermott, after winning the commonwealth featherweight title in 1962, has produced many great boxers as a coach in the Blantyre area.

We are glad to honour both and hope they will be happy to act as official ambassadors for ABS when required during the boxing seasons and at functions.

Mr John McDermott MBE and Mr Dick McTaggart MBE were both elected as Honorary Presidents and Life Members.

Mr Tom Brown, of the Western District, was elected as 2012/2013 ABS president.

6 AOCB

There was no other competent business.