

Boxing Scotland Newsletter

Best of 2021



Reese Lynch makes history at the 2021 AIBA World Championships

Reese Lynch carved his name into Scottish Boxing history as he secured a medal at the 2021 AIBA World Championships, the first ever Scottish boxer to do so, in November.

The Rob Roy boxer claimed three terrific victories en-route to the Semi-Finals of the competition in Belgrade, Serbia.

The Light-Welterweight (63.5kg) returned home to Fauldhouse with the Bronze medal, after missing out on a place in the Final to Turkey's Kerem Oezman.

"The Commonwealth Games is my next big goal," said the 20-year-old, with the Games set to take place next summer in Birmingham, England.

"I'd like to think I've pencilled my name in with this medal but there is no danger of me taking it for granted or slacking off.

"I still need to give it everything and prove that I deserve my place."

Reese's achievements capped what was a fantastic tournament for the Boxing Scotland team, as Matthew McHale (54kg), Fawaz Aborode (57kg), Stephen Newns (71kg) and Sam Hickey (75kg) also claimed wins against world class opposition in Serbia.

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Elgin Boxing Club coach Paul 'Ratch' Gordon wins BBC Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero Award



Congratulations from all at Boxing Scotland to Elgin Boxing Club coach Paul 'Ratch' Gordon after he won the 2021 BBC Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero award.

Ratch has been the Head Coach at the North District club for 13 years, as well as assisting Boxing Scotland with coaching as part of the Performance Pathway Programme.

"It's very rewarding seeing kids, male and female, develop with the club. It's not all about winning medals and championships," Ratch said.

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Boxing Scotland CEO awarded with Boxing has worked OBE wonders for Beath teenager

BEATH Boxing Club's Kaiden Ward has insisted the sport has made a massive difference on his life.

The 14-year-old is blind, having lost both of his eyes to cancer by the age of three.

However, despite his disability, Kaiden joined the Cowdenbeath based club a couple of years ago and has excelled since, assisting both his physical and mental health.

"It has made a massive difference," said Kaiden. "It has been amazing."

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Boxing Scotland CEO Chris Roberts said he was "overwhelmed, delighted and shocked" after being awarded an OBE.

The retired Major was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Military Division of the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to British Army Boxing.

Chris joined Boxing Scotland in February 2021 after a career in Her Majesty's Armed Forces, where he served for 30 years with the Royal Army Physical Training Corps, which included more than 20 years as a member of the Army Boxing Association Executive Committee.

In addition to this, Chris was also appointed to a prestigious international position after being named the new Chairperson of the AIBA Referee's and Judges Committee.

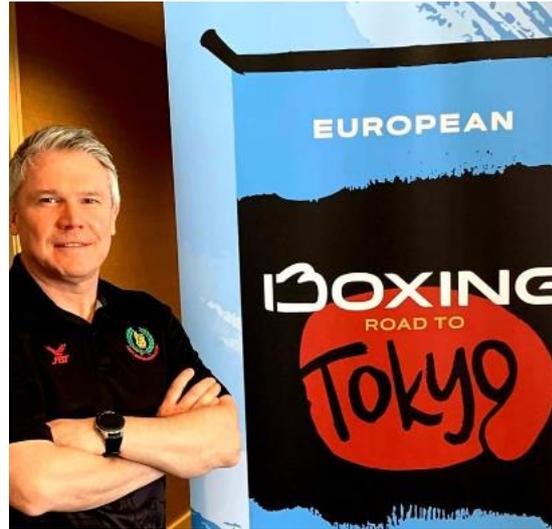
"When I got the call from Colonel AD Training Operations, my immediate



thoughts were – he’s got the wrong number,” said Chris.

“Seriously though, I am absolutely overwhelmed, delighted and shocked all at the same time.”

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Frank celebrates 45 year anniversary as a boxing coach

Frank Delaney said he has no plans of slowing down as he celebrates 45 years as a Coach with Springhill Boxing Club.

Frank helped to revive the North Lanarkshire club in August 1976, having previously boxed for them in his younger years.

Since the club's revival, the Boxing Scotland Board member has been an ever-present nurturing boxing talent in Shotts for the past five decades – in some cases including three generations of the same family.

“When I look back, I am really quite surprised to think it has been 45 years.



World No.5 Megan wants to encourage more female boxers

World Number Five ranked boxer Megan Reid is hoping her own achievements within the sport can help inspire more woman to aim for international success.

The full-time member of the British Army boxing team and Boxing Scotland's Elite Boxing Group cracked the top five of the 64kg category in the AIBA World Rankings.

“I do realise that a lot of the young girls will look up to me as I am the only female on the Elite Boxing Group competing at these levels,” said Megan.

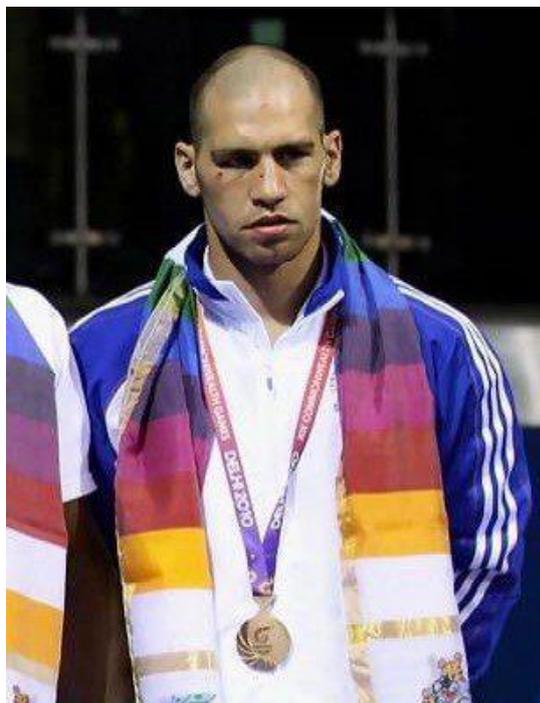
“Hopefully they look up to me and aspire to get to the same level.

It doesn't feel as long as that," Frank said.

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"I had never put on a pair of gloves before I was 23, and look where I am now."

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Jim Stirling appointed Chair of new Officials Committee

Boxing Scotland was delighted to appoint Hamilton Boxing Club's Jim Stirling as the Chair of the new Officials Committee.

The new committee will be responsible for leading and driving the new Officials Pathway.

Jim Stirling said: "Within Scotland we have a really good group of working officials who give up their time for the love of the sport, but we should all take the opportunity that has been presented to us with the new pathway

Stephen Simmons Coaching Futures Programme Update

Boxing Scotland was delighted to share an update on Stephen Simmons' progress as Apprentice Coach.

The former Commonwealth Games bronze medalist began his new role with the Governing Body in March 2021 as part of the **sportscotland** Coaching Futures programme.

In that time, Stephen has been providing coaching support to both the

to get better at our chosen discipline whether it is judging, refereeing, technical delegate, etc.

“A structured approach will help deliver this.”

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Boxing Scotland Elite Boxer Group and Performance Pathway Programme.

“It has been great and I have been learning a lot from the other coaches,” Stephen said.

Former three-weight World Champion Ricky Burns has also been assisting to coach the Performance boxers in the past few months.

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North District Judge Des Colhoun passes 4,000 bout mark

North District Working Official Des Colhoun has said he would “go daft” without boxing as he celebrated having judged more than 4,000 amateur contests.

The Kincorth Boxing Club judge has now sat ringside for 4,017 amateur boxing bouts since starting 21 years ago.

Des said: “I think I would go daft if I didn’t have any shows to go to, I just love going – it is a great night out.”

For Full Story - [CLICK HERE](#)

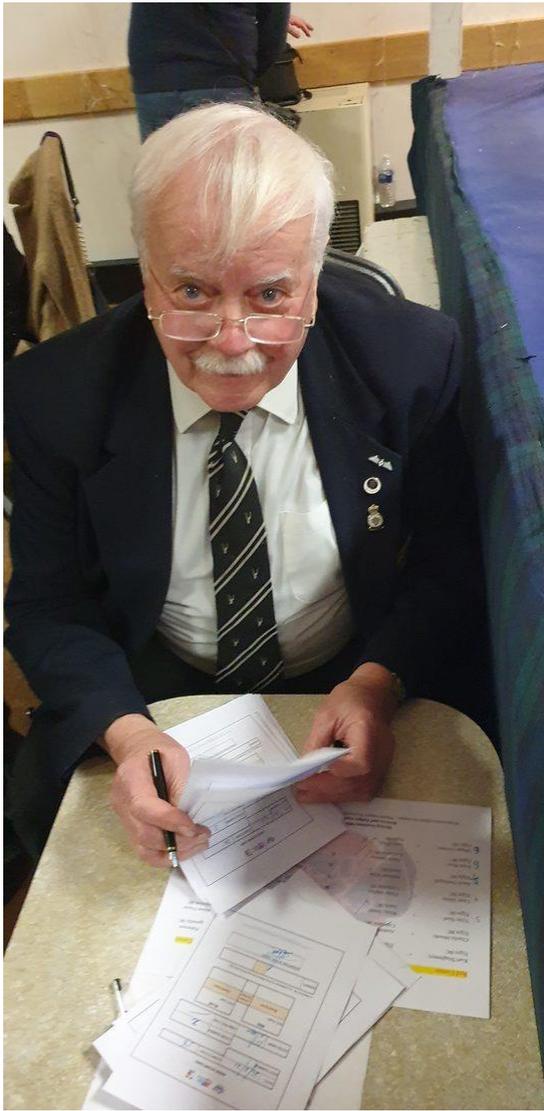
Woman and Girls Fund Project participant Sarai continues rapid rise

Inverness teenager Sarai Grant admits she has surprised herself at how much she has progressed in the sport so far - after the 15-year-old Highland Boxing Academy boxer took Gold at the MTK Global Lonsdale Box Cup in Penrith, England.

Sarai only took up the sport in May 2019 when HBA Head Coach Liam Foy stopped her in the corridor of Inverness High School and encouraged her to come along to a free female boxing class, as part of Boxing Scotland’s Woman and Girls Fund Project.

Just nine months on from throwing her first punch as part of the project, Sarai became Scottish champion at the School and Junior Championships in February 2020 – and now she has added an international competition victory to her growing list of achievements.

“It is a surprise to me how far I have got in such a small space of time,” Sarai said.



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Anthony Joshua helps keep the lights on after donation to Boxing Scotland clubs

Boxing Scotland were delighted to help distribute money from the one-off Anthony Joshua Fund, after receiving a donation from the former World Heavyweight Champion.

The 2012 Olympic Gold medalist provided a donation to Boxing Scotland, in addition to Boxing Governing Bodies in England and Wales, to help clubs survive amid the ongoing pandemic.

An agreement was in place with AJ that all funding was ring-fenced and that 100% of the money would go to the clubs in greatest need of support.

The Fund received 23 applications from clubs, which requested more than four times the amount that was available to distribute, with ultimately 10 clubs deemed in greatest need of support receiving a one-off grant.

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