



TOWARDS 2012 AND BEYOND

The Amateur Boxing Association of England
Annual Review 2010/11



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 funded by Sport England and, within this funding, 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. 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 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

KEITH WALTERS, CHAIRMAN, AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND



It is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's annual review. On behalf of the ABAE board and council, I'd like to start by thanking all of our members, the ABAE staff and Sport England, Louvolute and adidas for their continued support.

I have been thrilled with recent positive developments within the organisation. 2010/2011 has been another successful year which has seen the sport continue to grow and achieve. The success of our athletes in all categories has been particularly noteworthy, and is a reflection of the success of our talent pathway and the hard work of the England coaches.

I'd also like to highlight the work of Rob McCracken and his team in preparing our senior athletes for Olympic success; the GB Boxing programme continues to achieve outstanding results.

I am delighted to welcome our new Chief Executive Officer Mark Abberley to the organisation. I have no doubt that under Mark's leadership the ABAE will be successful in enabling the sport to flourish.

On behalf of the ABAE's members I would also like to pay special thanks to our former chief executive Paul King, who made a

very worthwhile contribution to amateur boxing through his vision, energy and drive.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the boxers, coaches, clubs, officials and volunteers whose talent and hard work have contributed to making the sport one that is sustainable, vibrant and which continues to develop and excel, and which I intend to continue to support in any way I can.



INTRODUCTION

MARK ABBERLEY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND

I write this contribution to our annual report against the background of not only considerable change but also considerable opportunity for the organisation and amateur boxing as a sport.

Having recently joined the organisation it is also significant that this commentary is provided on a year in which I was not in the role of CEO, and I believe it is appropriate to highlight and recognise the work of my predecessor, Paul King, for his contribution to the growth and development of the sport during the time he was involved.

Despite the many changes and challenges that the ABAE has faced during the twelve months from 2010 to 2011 it has continued, in some areas to thrive and prosper. Many areas of the ABAE development programme

have flourished, as highlighted below, as have the performances of England boxers at both senior and development level, both male and female, on the international stage. We have also initiated a governance structure of commissions to support, and provide informed recommendations, to our board and council.

As we move ever closer to the London 2012 Olympics the sport will have an opportunity to showcase its success at the highest level. But this is also a time when boxing must not be complacent. The sporting landscape will inevitable change post 2012 and we must look to continue to challenge ourselves as a sport and prepare for the future.

Amateur Boxing has many historical stories to tell but we must also ensure that we secure

the future of the sport for the next generation and I have taken time, towards the end of this report, to highlight the way forward for sustainable success in all parts of our organisation.

GROWING OUR SPORT – PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Amateur boxing continues to be one of the sports achieving its growth targets, 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 to 119,900. Approximately 27% of these individuals are members of boxing clubs.

Club numbers have grown from 772 to 837, which is important in order to ensure our financial sustainability going forward. In schools and education settings, the sport continues to thrive through

non-contact boxing; 2363 schools have links with a boxing club and 20 universities or colleges have established affiliated clubs. Although the sport is on track to meet growth targets, the ABAE experienced a short period of reversed participation in 2010/11 and as such is driving forward with plans to accelerate and retain growth in participation. Not all of the people either participating in competitive boxing or, alternatively, using boxing as a means to get fit or condition for another sport, are members of the ABAE. We need to ensure we sustain the organisation going forward, to grow the membership of the ABAE and to refocus our efforts to operate with a member focus and philosophy.

It is imperative that we use the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games to attract and retain more members from both within



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traditional boxing clubs and from the growing interest in boxing as both a competitive and conditioning sport. We should grow and lever this membership to support our success and our young boxers in the future.

SUSTAINING PARTICIPATION AND ENJOYMENT IN BOXING

The success story on participation is matched by the positive feedback of general participants, club members and the talent pool, who gave an 82.1 satisfaction rating in 2011.

The main driver for this satisfaction level is the exertion and fitness, and release and diversion the sport provides participants with, which is down to the activity at a grass roots level provided by coaches and volunteers.

The ABAE has continued to drive quality in the last 12 months. The growing network of Boxing Development Officers (BDOs) have now helped 25 clubs to achieve the Clubmark quality standard and accessed £352,913 for club and community projects in the last 12 months.

Three of Great Britain's top male and female boxers spoke at the House of Commons reception hosted by the ABAE and BABA.

The Capital Investment Programme has so far been allocated to nine clubs, providing a range of refurbishments, extensions and new build projects that will not only enhance provision for existing members but will also grow community participation.



INCREASING PARTICIPATION

GROWING PARTICIPATION

The network of Boxing Development Officers (BDOs) is at the centre of the ABAE's strategy to grow participation. In 2010/2011 the number of BDOs, thanks to our partner funders, grew to 14, covering Essex, Kent, Suffolk, Leicestershire and Rutland, Sheffield, Doncaster, Bradford, Manchester, Derbyshire, Bolton, Liverpool, Central and East London, the Western Counties and the Home Counties of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and North Buckinghamshire.

The introduction of new BDOs in the South East and East of England has seen a notable rise in participation measured through the Active People survey; once a week participation of adults (16 years +) has risen by 6,200 people in the East and by 3,000 in the South East.

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, black and minority ethnic groups and the 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 to combat a range of social problems.

EDUCATION

Increasing participation via schools, further and higher education has been one of the ABAE's biggest successes and the latest reports by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) 2363 of schools had an

established link with a boxing club.

Over the last 12 months, the BDOs have exceeded the target of 160 in the Whole Sport Plan and worked with 314 new schools to deliver non-contact boxing programmes. The main purpose of working with schools is to ensure a young person has a positive experience of the sport and can join an affiliated club as a result. Working with schools and further education establishments enables the ABAE an opportunity to recruit, train and deploy new young leaders and volunteers.

Young Leadership and Volunteering projects in Bradford, Manchester, Liverpool, Warrington, Doncaster, Luton, and South Gloucestershire delivered non-contact boxing sessions to 4361 young people by club coaches and 431 newly trained and sustained young leaders.



The work of the Boxing Development Team to increase participation:

314 schools participating in non boxing contact

431 young leaders and volunteers trained and sustained

4361 young people engaged in sessions delivered by new young leaders mentored by club coaches

20 affiliated HE / FE based clubs

112 new projects were established for 16 years + participants and 11662 new were adult participants engaged

2071 new females engaged in boxing introductory programmes

26 new clubs established

A Young Officials Development Officer (a voluntary position) was appointed in January for 42 weeks to support the Referees and Judges Commission with the piloting and establishment of a Young Officers Course and to recruit, and deploy a target of 100 new Young Officers.

Activity to build relationships and opportunities with universities and further education Colleges continues to be a priority for the ABAE and in 2010/2011 20 affiliations have been established with Universities and colleges making a significant contribution to adult participation. In addition BDOs have been

working with colleges and universities to establish new programmes. For instance the establishment of the Balby Carr Boxing Academy in Doncaster, the University of East London working with West Ham ABC to establish a new boxing scholarship scheme for boxers interested in attending UEL, and at the University of Derby, where boxing is provided as part of Active University funded activity.

INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE AGED 16 YEARS AND OVER

This age group is a priority for the ABAE development team due to the drive of Active People and the opportunities this age group provide to boost club membership and revenue for the sport.

Nationally the ABAE has developed a new studio fitness programme called BOX which includes a 2 day plus assessment training course that is REPS endorsed for level 2 gym instructors. This programme will be implemented from September and will boost participation of introductory and fitness related boxing in the leisure and fitness sector.

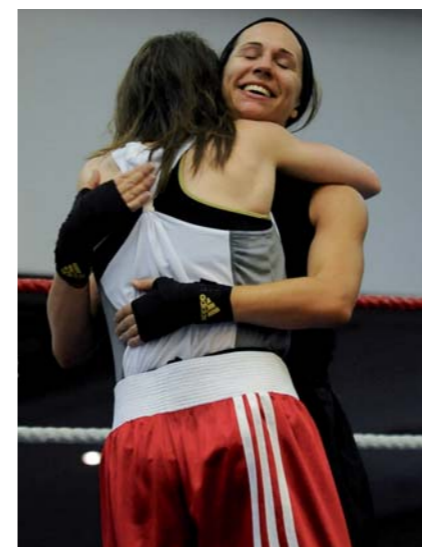
The ABAE has also joined the

national charity Olympic themed fundraising programme; the Gold Challenge. So far 45 ABAE affiliated clubs have joined the programme.

In addition local BDOs are working with local clubs to boost adult participation through innovative projects. For example in Essex a boxing roadshow was held at Chelmsford Shopping Centre. Over 50 new adults took part in a boxing activity because of it and 162 members of public had a go on a boxing judging simulator and emulated the skills required for judging competition. The outcomes of the roadshow include 20 new adults becoming members at local boxing clubs, new schemes of work with boxing being provided for hockey clubs for alternative training.

TARGET GROUPS

A huge number of projects targeting 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.





The Bolton Metropolitan Council Mobile Boxing Arena has been an excellent example of an outreach project that has taken boxing to the people and reached various new and often excluded members of the public. The Arena has engaged with the Response Juvenile Team, local Police, Youth Offending Team, local leisure and community centres, Bolton Council of Mosques, and Community Cohesion partnership.

ECONOMICALLY DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES

The Future Jobs Fund programme came to an end in the spring and the ABAE via the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure (NSA) supported.

The FJF programme provided boxing education training and 6 month work placement opportunities for the long term unemployed. In turn, the Boxing Activators provided an additional workforce in communities to increase participation. 27 young people were provided with this opportunity with 19 of them completing the 6 month opportunity and 13 have gone on to find employment or have returned to education.

Locally BDOs are responding to local community need and are working with new partners to create new opportunities. Such as the Kent BDO, who is part funded

by Kent Housing Group and Sanctuary Housing Association and is developing positive links between boxing clubs and tenants. This has included the development of community boxing project for 5 – 19 year olds and 'Dads & Lads' classes in two housing areas of high deprivation.

BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS

The ABAE has engaged with Sporting Equals to look at ways to further engage with black and minority ethnic communities. The start of this process has been to review the current work of the development team and explore good practice examples. Such as 12 young people completed the Contender AM Box programme at Clapham Islamic Centre and targeted female sessions now being developed with the Centre focused on Contender AM Box. A



link has also been established between the centre and Earlsfield ABC to ensure sustainability and pathways.

WOMEN

A number of successful projects to attract women have been delivered locally with 2071 females accessing projects. Examples are as follows:

The Manchester BDO has been active in encouraging 11 clubs to be open to females. Two key areas of support offered have been the encouragement of female coaches and the provision of the regional squad for women and girls being held regularly in Manchester. The progression in Manchester is evident in Female Championship entries from 0 in 2009 to 2 in 2010 and 6 in 2011.

In Central London all 7 boroughs have female-only introductory sessions run by female coaches with pathways into local clubs. This programme has reached 60 new female participants.

The BDO in Leicestershire and Rutland used National Women's Day to highlight women's boxing in several clubs leading to 7 more clubs now offering women's boxing evenings with 3 of the 7 having the sessions led by a female coach. Boxing programmes have been created and assistance offered to single sex schools.

DELIVERING A QUALITY EXPERIENCE



Amateur boxing's success in delivering a user satisfaction rating of 82.1 in Sport England's most recent Satisfaction 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

There are currently 2194 qualified, active and affiliated coaches providing amateur boxing at all levels of the sport but predominantly at a grass roots club level. This 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 has resulted in 207 newly qualified and retained

coaches. In addition 80 coaches have been supported with coaching bursaries from funding partners such as the National Skills Academy and London Mayor's Legacy Fund to assist them to cover the costs of coach education courses

At a national level, the development of the coach education workforce remains a priority and to date 26 coach educators have been trained and 23 have been trained as assessors.

The National Club and Coach Manager has also established a new Coaching Delivery Plan, Standards for Coaching in Schools and coaching development work with pilot County Sports Partnerships in Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

The Lead Coach Educator, he has provided 15 coaches with the senior coaching course.

VOLUNTEERING

At a national level, the national development team working with Sport England's Centre for Excellence for Volunteering and Skills Active established a new vision for the development of Volunteers and Volunteering. The main focus to start with has been the recruitment and development of volunteers at a grass roots level, supporting 281 volunteers in the last 12 months.





SUSTAINABLE CLUBS

Ensuring the long term sustainability of amateur boxing clubs is a critical objective and the progress of Clubmark in 2010/2011 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, ethnic policies and club management.

Twenty five clubs have now secured Clubmark. A review of clubs who have had clubmark for at least a year has shown benefits in increasing membership, accessing funding, having a higher profile and running a more effective club.

Boxing Development Officers have had more of a focus on club support and development over the last 12 months, which has included establishing 26 new clubs, organising 19 club development workshops, and supporting 91 clubs with development planning.

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

The new £937,417 Capital Investment Programme (CIP) funded by Sport England was launched in 2010 managed by the

National Facilities and Investment Manager supported by a Capital Investment Panel.

Round 1 and 2 projects have been committed with a further round to be allocated in the next 12 months. Projects include extensions, to refurbishments to new build projects. All projects have been required to meet a criteria including being an affiliated club, achieving Clubmark within a year, achieving growing participation targets, a development plan and match funding. The clubs benefiting from the funding so far are St Pancras ABC, Kingfisher ABC, Birtley Boxing and Young People's Club, Nemesis ABC, Berinsfield ABC, Croxteth ABC, Lewsey ABC, Oldham Boxing and Personal Development Centre, Bradford Police and College Boxing Academy.



AMATEUR BOXING CLUBS ACCREDITED WITH CLUBMARK IN 2010/2011

2010

Mickey's Boxing Academy - Yorkshire
 Y.I.P ABC - Yorkshire
 Kingfisher ABC - Eastern Counties
 Norwich Lads ABC - Eastern Counties
 Vauxhall Motors ABC - Merseyside and Cheshire
 Kirkby ABC - Merseyside and Cheshire
 Islington ABC - London
 Tamworth ABC - Midland Counties
 Gloves ABC - North West
 Halifax ABC - Yorkshire
 Merlin ABC - Midlands

2011

Newquay ABC - Western Counties
 Salisbury ABC - Merseyside and Cheshire
 Everton Red Triangle ABC - Merseyside and Cheshire
 Gemini ABC - Merseyside and Cheshire
 Berinsfield ABC - Home Counties
 Phoenix Nottingham ABC - Midlands
 Phoenix ABC - Merseyside and Cheshire
 Tom Hill ABC - Yorkshire



PERFORMANCE AND EXCELLENCE

The FE / HE sector provides an opportunity to develop boxers as athletes and as learners and in doing so retain and progress them in the sport. The newly established Amateur Boxing Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence programme is instrumental to the ABAE's investment in the new future of young adult boxers. AASE sites led by Filton College and the England Colleges ABA have been established at Filton College in Bristol. City College Brighton and Hove, The Priory School in Orpington, South Leicestershire College and Bradford College, supporting 48 boxers with potential talent in year 1 of a 2 year course. In September 2011, new recruits will start the programme across the 5 existing

centres and 2 new sites at Gateshead and Bolton Colleges.

Boxing was one of only two sports that achieved a statistically significant increase in the number of participants entering competitions and this is a credit to all the regions who work tirelessly to provide and support competitive experiences for the boxers.

THE TALENT PATHWAY

Outside the competitive framework amateur boxing has continued to create opportunities for talented athletes to move through the system and progress to the elite level.

At a national level a squad structure has started to develop for

all categories and more work will be initiated to continue to develop and improve the talent development system both in England, and alongside the Home Nations, with Great Britain.

Around these squads 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. The focus now is to work more regularly and more consistently with talent pool athletes, and their coaches, so that talent development and preparation of athletes for both England and Team GB on an international stage and within the context the format of international competition is increasingly 'world class'.



London 2012 provides a platform to further focus our efforts and commitment on the talent of the future and prepare for both a successful and high profile Commonwealth Games in Scotland and identify the next set of athletes who can compete for places at Rio 2016 and beyond.

The ambition must be for excellence in all we do.

OPPORTUNITIES TO COMPETE INTERNATIONALLY

England's boxers in all age groups have continued to perform at an exceptional level, securing 18 medals in major international competitions:

AIBA WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, SEPTEMBER 2010, BARBADOS

Silver:
Nicola Adams, Haringey ABC
Savannah Marshall, Hartlepool
Headland ABC

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, OCTOBER 2010, DELHI

Gold:
Tom Stalker, Salisbury ABC
Simon Vallily, South Bank ABC
Silver:
Bradley Saunders, South Durham ABC
Callum Smith, Rotunda ABC
Anthony Ogogo, Triple A ABC

AIBA WOMEN'S YOUTH AND JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, MAY 2011, TURKEY

Silver:
Charley Davison, Triple A ABC



WOMEN'S EU CHAMPIONSHIPS, JUNE 2011, POLAND

Gold:
Natasha Jonas, Rotunda ABC
Nicola Adams, Haringey ABC
Bronze:
Chantelle Cameron, King's Heath ABC

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, JUNE 2011, TURKEY

Silver:
Tom Stalker, Salisbury ABC
Bronze:
Charlie Edwards, Lynn ABC

JUNIOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, JUNE 2011, HUNGARY

Gold:
Isaac Macleod, Sunderland ABC
Pat McCormack, Birtley ABC
Silver:
Luke McCormack, Birtley ABC

AIBA JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, KAZAKHSTAN, AUGUST 2011

Gold:
Pat McCormack, Birtley ABC
Silver:
Isaac Macleod, Sunderland ABC

As a commitment to the long term development of athletes in England, the ABAE has introduced talent development camps for both male and female athletes. Two initial camps have already taken place and were a huge success.

The camps, which will become a regular fixture, are aimed at identifying and developing potential boxing talent in preparation for international success, resulting in a robust talent pathway.



BUILDING ON SUCCESS

BUILDING ON GROWTH IN PARTICIPATION

The ABAE is currently completing a plan to accelerate and retain growth focusing on the 16 plus age category with a target of an additional 12,000 new participants over the next 18 months. This will be achieved via:

- Establishing and developing growth programmes linked with clubs with the capacity to grow and succeed in priority areas.
- Implementing and expanding BOX; the official fitness boxing programme of the ABAE.
- Developing fitness and conditioning boxing for other sports / in other sport settings with particular emphasis on football and rugby.
- Developing the boxing workforce to enable growth capacity and high quality experiences ensuring retention.
- Expanding on the Mobile Boxing Arena concept to reach into targeted communities "Urban Box" and also provide a "Roaming Rings Boxing Roadshow" to reach the mass population.
- Utilising the further and higher education sector to retain existing boxers and develop new environments for growth.
- Improving facilities for increasing and retaining participation.

Raising the number of young people taking part in amateur boxing remains a priority for clubs and therefore it is a priority for the ABAE too. Nationally a new curriculum approach to boxing in schools will be created and the school coaching workforce will be developed to meet the needs of schools. Via BDOs school to club links will continue to be developed along with leadership and volunteering programmes.

SUSTAINING PARTICIPATION THROUGH A QUALITY EXPERIENCE

The recruitment of volunteers will be driven through the Volunteer Development strategy via Boxing Development Officers and greater support will be given to key volunteers at regional level with the valuable roles they undertake.

The Capital Investment Programme will make more than £307,417 available to amateur boxing clubs next year to improve and refurbish facilities. The ABAE will launch the National Facilities Strategy providing a clear direction on the development and investment priorities of boxing facilities.

A further 15 clubs will be supported to gain the Club Mark accreditation, and a focused club development piece of work will take place helping targeting clubs to achieve their goals whether it be to be a performance club or a growing community development club.

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE

The roll-out of the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) will continue to 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 programme will expand in future years. The programme will aim to offer 120 new places in September across 7 centres.

OPERATIONS

At an organisational level, the ABAE has also made a number of operational modifications in

2010/11. 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.

It is now of utmost importance that we use this database to capture the right information in the right way thus enabling us to attract and retain more members through communication and information.

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 must continue forward with a renewed commitment to ethical management and operations, transparency of communication and robust decision making.

Structurally our governance model includes a board, with independent non executive expertise, our council and our commissions. It is important that, to meet the challenges of the future and maximise the opportunities that this future may present, all these governance structures and the people within them are committed to best practice on decision making, their roles, their responsibilities and the decision making that will take the sport forward.

We must operate as one organisation and work more closely and more consistently across all our functions and all our regions to secure our long term and sustainable future.



THE WAY FORWARD

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. 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.

Much of the message around London 2012 and the hosting of the games was the 'Singapore promise' that the games would impact on the lives of young people. 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 and, if they have the ability, the desire and the commitment can, through boxing, change their lives.

Our challenge is to continue to build on that and firmly establish boxing as one of the country's biggest sporting success stories that is helping to deliver a lasting sporting legacy for the nation and we should use the opportunity to grow, develop and diversify the sport into new areas to fund and support the young people to whom our sport is so important.

During the next two years – London 2012 will dominate the

landscape and, as an organisation we need to perform well in all areas to prove our capabilities for the post 2012 period, where the pressure on funding and achieving results will be ever greater.

I have spent some time reviewing the work we have done in the last two years, from 2009 -2013, and have also taken the opportunity to talk and engage with our boxing people including boxers, coaches and key volunteers about what is 'happening' in our sport.

Emerging out of this have been some key themes for the organisation that we will need to focus on going forward and that will underpin our success. These are:

CLUBS

We will look to work in a closer and more strategic way with our ABA clubs and, through our clubs, with the boxers, coaches, volunteers and communities that they have within and around them.

To continue to investigate means by which we can create a

sustainable network of clubs and venues for all our participants and members to engage with boxing, to compete, to train and to perform.

GOVERNANCE

Sports governance is increasingly under the spotlight and we must strive to show best practice within the ABAE and across our member associations and clubs. The international landscape for boxing also continues to change and we must both prepare and contribute to this future.

We will work towards consistency, transparency and quality within the way that we manage and govern all aspects and elements of the sport.

TALENT

We must use the platform that has been created by London 2012 to continue to develop a truly world class talent pathway and performance programme for English Boxers.

GB Boxing and the BABA have raised the 'bar' in the preparation of athletes and medal hauls in recent international competition and it is imperative that, as England, we look for continual improvement and best practice in all areas and that we continually develop excellence in all we do.

GROWTH

The ABAE must continue to grow and both define and diversify to ensure its success and sustainability in the future. We must recognise that the world in which amateur boxing exists is increasingly competitive and that future participants have both lifestyle and economic pressures that will pull them away from our sport. We must, in order to grow, be prepared to recognise, reflect and respond to these changes around us.

We must consolidate and grow our membership and give people the opportunity to be part of our organisation and participate in, and follow, boxing as a competitor and a volunteer.

We must look to grow our pool of competitive, carded boxers and provide meaningful competitive opportunities for them both domestically and internationally.

We must also recognise that boxing has a wide appeal as a training and conditioning sport. I have seen many non carded, non competitive boxers in our clubs around the country. We must find ways that these members can both enjoy our sport and help us support our young people. We must grow and develop new ways

for communities and individuals to engage with 'boxing' and utilise this strategy to secure and develop our future.

Amateur boxing can have real impact and can deliver huge benefits across a range of social issues and making demonstrable improvements to people and communities. There are many 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. We must look to develop this volunteer 'workforce' for the future.

It remains for me to thank all of these volunteers and staff that have contributed to this year under review. There have been many challenges and many successes and, as we move towards and beyond the first Olympic Games on these shores for many years, we must commit with renewed purpose and rigour to securing and developing our own 'legacy' and future.

Mark Abberley
Chief Executive Officer, ABAE



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