



The British Amateur Boxing Association Limited
Simpson Thacher, City Point, One Ropemaker Street, London, EC2Y 9HU
11.00 Tuesday 14th March 2017

Board meeting minutes

In attendance

Steven Esom (BABA Chairman)
Matt Holt (BABA CEO), via conference call
Rob McCracken (BABA Performance Director)
Dawn Brown (Independent)
Jason Glover (Independent)
Tony Mallin (Independent)
Caspar Hobbs (England Boxing)
John Macpherson (Boxing Scotland)
Fraser Walker (Boxing Scotland)
Laura Ross (Taking minutes)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the board and confirmed the meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Carl Pesticcio, Giorgio Brugnoli, Sara Symington and David Francis.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

4. Approval of minutes of the board meeting held on 22nd November

The board approved the minutes and the abridged minutes to be put on the website.

Matters arising

Rio Post Party

MH updated the board that this took place at the GB Championships on 8th December in Sheffield.

Assurance

MH directed the board to the paper in the board pack outlining the responsibilities of the board and management.

Independent Directors

SE updated the board that he and MH had met with the Governance team at UK Sport regarding an athlete representative on the board. The board agreed this proposal should be further considered.

Action: SE/MH

Post Rio Analysis

MH informed the board that Rebecca Edginton and Chris Connelly will present their findings to the board during this meeting.

Audit committee minutes of meeting held on 27th September

LR updated the board that the minutes had been amended.

World Series boxing

MH directed the board to the WSB documents in the board papers, which will be discussed in the CEO report.

GB Boxing championships

The board believed this was an excellent event. MH confirmed the event management of this event was successful and the new branding was used. Box Nation filmed the event and was hosted by Steve Bunce. Box Nation was pleased with the coverage.

House purchase

MH updated the board that completion is currently proposed for 24th March, with exchange a week prior to this. Furniture has been purchased off the previous owner and the remaining monies from the budgeted amount will be used to purchase additional items.

Governance

MH confirmed to the board that UK Sport have been informed of RM coaching Anthony Joshua.

Risk register

MH updated the board on outstanding payments due from GB Boxers who have left the programme.

Athlete Agreement

MH directed the board to the draft agreement included in the pack. A final version would be provided to the board.

Action: JG/MH

5. UK Sport Tokyo investment update

SE congratulated MH on behalf of the board for his hard work on the funding submission in which the programme received an increase in award. MH informed the board that this was a joint team effort with contribution from all staff on the programme. MH thanked LR for her extensive work on the budget.

MH directed the board to the paper on the proposed four year budget for Tokyo.

Action: MH/LR

MH explained to the board it has been a challenge to finalise the budget for the next cycle. Although the programme received an increase of £1m, this extra funding is to deliver two extra programmes, full time podium potential and the women's smart plan, therefore effectively BABA are delivering the existing programme on a slight reduction.

6. GB Boxing strategy update

MH directed the board to the strategy update papers in the board pack. MH provided a brief update on each strategy.

Individual Athlete Planning

MH confirmed this process is now embedded within the programme and a review process is being developed.

An effective and united board

MH requested approval from the board on the paper outlining the respective responsibilities of the board and management. JG and DB requested amendments and these were agreed.

It was also agreed that the document should reference the board's duty of care to the athlete.

These changes were agreed and MH will make these amendments and circulate with the board minutes

Action: MH

Home Nation Memorandum of Understanding

MH directed the board to the MOU in the board pack. The board requested minor amendments. England Boxing and Boxing Scotland had confirmed they were happy with the content. MH is awaiting a response from Welsh Boxing. The board approved the renewed agreement and MH would follow up with Wales.

Action: MH

Independent Directors

SE informed the board that a recruitment company had been contracted to seek applicants with the required skills in finance and broaden commercial expertise. The nominations committee will interview the candidates on 3rd/4th May. JG kindly offered the use of his offices as the location of these interviews.

Actions: Nominations committee

Food project

JG requested an update on the food project. MH informed the board that the UK Sport Elite Facilities team has been exploring creating a performance catering facility at EIS Sheffield for elite sport tenants to use. MH is awaiting this proposal before decisions are made, MH will follow up with UK Sport.

Action: MH

Commercial strategy

MH directed the board to the commercial paper in the board.

Action: MH

MH asked the board for approval to register the gym as a film location with the potential to generate commercial funding. The programme would ensure it would only be used in a way that would not compromise programme delivery. The board approved.

Action: MH

Lonsdale

MH directed the board to the co-branding kit designs in the board papers and informed the board that boxers have been positive about the designs.

Training system

MH informed the board two international training camps are planned to prepare for the major tournaments this year. MH also informed the board a dual has been planned in Sheffield with China in November around a Chinese business congress taking place in Sheffield.

Coaching system

MH informed the board that a full time coaching role will be recruited in April to cover the new Women's Smart plan. Chris Porter will be presenting at the next board meeting in June.

Sport science and sport medicine

MH informed the board that Tom Stanton has been appointed as Head of Performance Support for boxing. Tom will review the SSSM strategy in this new role.

Pathway strategy

MH updated the board that Rob Gibson has been focusing on drafting the Women's Smart plan which is scheduled to start at the end of April. MH directed the board to this pathway diagram included in the pack.

MH updated the board that the programme is awaiting a decision by the IOC on the possible inclusion of new women's weight categories in the Olympic Games.

International relations

MH thanked JG for his help drafting and securing the WSB agreement for this season. MH informed the board that the BABA is in discussions with UK Sport and AIBA in relation to future funding of the franchise. The board would be updated on this.

MH suggested an international relations group be formed of representatives of GB Boxing and the Home Nations, to manage the international relations strategy. This was approved by the board.

MH explained to the board there is an opportunity for the home nations to partner with Lonsdale at discounted rates. MH would discuss this with the home nations.

Action: Home nations/MH

Boxer retention

MH updated the board on the retention strategy.

MH informed the board that the Sky Scholarship process has started for the next cycle and a number of athletes have applied. It is hoped boxing would receive one of these scholarships and ideally two.

Action: MH/SE/RM/CH

7. Performance Analysis Presentation

The Performance Analysts presented to the board on their Rio analysis which included profiling of medal winners, the qualification process, qualification opportunities and the significance of seeding.

The Analysts provided research on the difference in rounds scores and in punch ratio and effective shots at the Olympic finals. The research showed that 46% of gold medallists won all rounds. JG proposed it would be useful to determine what rounds were won by the 54% of gold medallists that didn't win all rounds.

Action: CC/RE

8. Performance and squad report

RM reported to the board on the current status of the squads reporting recent success at the women's European Championships with one gold medal and one bronze medal. The WSB team is performing well, winning their recent matches in Paris and London.

RM updated the board, since writing of the board report, that the following athletes would be leaving the programme;

1. Kody Davis
2. Chantelle Cameron
3. Savannah Marshall
4. Jack Bateson

RM explained to the board that an increasing number of women are now being approached to turn professional.

The board agreed this should be monitored closely with BABA being responsive to this issue.

9. Finance report

MH directed the board to the three spreadsheets contained within the board report.

The board praised MH for his efforts with the budget. In turn MH extended the thanks to LR and Mandy Seddon for their work on the budget.

10. Safeguarding

LR informed the board that the BABA are now working towards the advanced level standards with the NSPCC and LR would update on what this includes at the next board meeting.

11. Risk register

MH updated the board that the commentary on the risk register had been updated. TM suggested a risk process should be reviewed by BABA and MH would seek advice from UK Sport on best practice.

Action MH

TM enquired whether white collar boxing is still a risk to the programme. It was agreed the home nations would provide their views on this to be added to the risk register and consider how BABA continue to address this issue.

Action: Home Nations

12. Any other business

SE presented DB, TM, and JG with gifts from the BABA and thanked them for all their support and advice over their eight years as Independent Directors with this being their last board meeting. MH thanked them for their invaluable advice over the years and their support for him personally and for the organisation. RM expressed his thanks also for all their support.

All three directors expressed it had been a real privilege to work with the programme and they were sad to be leaving.