



THE IRISH ATHLETIC BOXING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4th DEC 2023 NATIONAL STADIUM 2.30PM

Present:

Board Attendees: Chair Tom Geraghty (TG), Ted Barry (TB), Neil Gough

Company Secretary John Nangle (JN)

Officers: Gerry O'Mahoney (GO) IABA President, Tom Ward (TW) IABA Vice President, Antoinette McClean (AM) Hon Secretary, Larry Morrison (LM) Hon Treasurer, Philip Rooney (PR) Registra

Others: Ciara Plunkett (CP) IABA Communications Officer, Larry Morrison (LM) IABA Honorary Treasurer, James Geraghty (JG) IABA Development Manager, Declan Fitzgerald (DF) NEXUS, Shay Cairns (SC) NEXUS, Ciara Fitzgerald (CF) NEXUS

Opening Remarks:

A minute silence was observed for deceased members.

The AGM was declared open by CP who introduced the members of the board present and outlined the format of the AGM.

Chairs Address

TG welcomed everyone to the 2022 AGM. It's been an unprecedented year, in and out of the ring, for the Irish Boxing family. Amy Broadhurst, Lisa O'Rourke and Clíona D'Arcy brought home World gold medals; the Women's Team became champions of Europe, and the Men's Team claimed European gold and silver – that's in addition a record-breaking performance by Team Ireland at the European Youths, claiming 8 medals. Ireland's performance at the World Youths, with 6 medals, bettered that of the storied Mexico 2008 team. The future for Irish boxing also looks very bright, given the performances of the Schools and Junior teams on the European stage, with 2 gold, 4 silver and 4 at Junior and 14 schools medals (3 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze).

Away from the ring, the election of the new Officer Board took place at an historic EGM in Roscommon, which set in motion a chain of events leading to a suspension of 15% of IABA's core funding, and the appointment of interim Chair and CEO, and the beginning of governance reform. This process, through which IABA's relationship with Sport Ireland has been strengthened, has made such progress that funding is now being restored.

Taking a moment to outline the steps which have led to his appointment as Interim Chair, and the provisions which underpin that appointment. “After the resignation of the previous Chair on September second, a election was held between the continuing Directors to appoint an interim-Chairperson, and that the interim-Chairperson should be formally recognised.

Continuing Directors fixed a quorum as 3 Directors, under exceptional circumstances - this is to allow the convening of the AGM as envisaged under the Constitution. This was done in accordance with Article 52 of the Constitution - for the express purpose, as allowed under Article 53, where it is intended that two additional Board members will be elected and appointed at the AGM.

Boardmatch took over the process of recruiting a new, permanent, Chair of the Board of Directors on November 24th; this is an open process, which IABA has profiled that process on our website and across social media; and to all clubs and units. Boardmatch is conducting this process in accordance with the Rules and under the stewardship of the Nomination and HR Committee. In addition, continuing the process of appropriate Board population, Neil Gough has joined the board as the President’s nominee in the last five weeks; Leinster President Andrew Duncan’s nominee will shortly join the board while today, two non-Executive Directors will be elected.

It would be remiss not to remark on the effect two EGMs have had on Ulster. In July, clubs voted against a technical motion to allow company meetings take place in Northern Ireland. While that motion rightly passed, unanimously, at a second EGM four weeks later, the effect of the Roscommon vote on the thousands of Ulster boxing people can’t be underestimated. Ulster’s contribution to Irish boxing is beyond measure – its clubs, coaches, boxers and officials punch, constantly, above their weight in the richness of their expression of our sport. Let there be no confusion - Ulster voices are as strong, and valued as those from any other part of the IABA and we hope that future AGMs will take place in Belfast, the city has given boxing so much over so many decades.

The Board of Directors began a consultation with clubs on their views on the IABA’s Governance Review. This consultation began on November 23rd and concludes on December 14th. The link has been emailed to all clubs and units and is available on the IABA website. To date, 1% of clubs have shared their views. Once the consultation is completed, the Board will study all of the feedback and observations shared by clubs to inform future decisions.

Not every situation is a positive one - and I want to draw attention to one of the findings of the governance review on which clubs are invited to comment - and that’s abusive behaviour, be it towards members of the Officer Board, Central Council, officials, volunteers or members of staff. In October, the Board and the Central Council jointly highlighted that bullying, intimidating and abusive behaviour has no place in Irish boxing. We are all responsible for how we behave, and anyone who engages in these behaviours is making the choice to do so. These are choices we will not tolerate. We are a membership organisation - thousands of people give of their own time, freely, to our sport, often over decades. They do not deserve to be subjected to this behaviour. Elected representatives are working for the betterment of our sport. They do not deserve to be subjected to this behaviour. Staff are working to bring our most talented boxers to the highest possible level of achievement in our sport. They do not deserve to be subjected to this behaviour. Staff are also working to enable clubs to grow and develop. They do not deserve to be subjected to this behaviour. Let there be no doubt - there is no tolerance for abusive behaviour in boxing. Mechanisms exist to deal with all complaints around this behaviour, and they will be used to their fullest, if and when warranted.

IABA does not exist for profit, it exists for boxing, for boxers and for boxing clubs. The Board will champion the culture of high standards in terms of behaviour that every member of the Irish boxing family deserves, and will accept no less.

There is a strong spirit of collaboration and partnership between the Board of Directors, the Central Council led by President Gerry O'Mahony, and IABA staff led by interim CEO, John Nangle. The foundation of a stronger IABA are already laid - boxing returned to a full competition calendar this year, coaching and R&J education resumed, clubs were supported through measures including the footing of their affiliation fees and there have been great strides in areas including inclusive boxing and Women in Sport. We have, in recent weeks, seen what's possible when we work together.

Looking globally, there is no way to diminish the gravity of the threat to Boxing's status as a hallowed Olympic sport. This threat is created by long-standing and broadly criticised governance issues in the world governing body. Irish Boxing, as a proud member of the Common Cause Alliance, has added its voice to that criticism. The IBA has barely given lip-service to the root and branch reform of its governance and operation models required to ensure boxing is among the sports at the LA games and beyond. This cannot stand, and Irish Boxing must be ready to take decisive action, with the CCA fraternity, to protect boxing. Hard and complex choices lie ahead, and these are choices in which every IABA club and unit will have a voice. These decisions will be made, with you, in the months ahead. The first of these choices was to be laid before all clubs gathered here today - but, on reflection, the Board has rightly decided that we - the Board, the Central Council, the clubs and, yes, Senior boxers, must talk through all of the implications first. We'll begin that process in the New Year.

Members questions and discussions took place in respect of sending out hard copies of the notice of the AGM and financial reports, holding AGMs in more centralised locations, high performance, sending full Ireland teams overseas, central council selections, the costs incurred by members involved in sport dispute resolution matter, sponsorship and stadium income generating activities.

Anti-Doping Report

CP read out the report.

The past twelve months from October 2021 up to the present time, the Irish Athletic Boxing Association has slowly returned to training and boxing competition. This is a welcome change compared to the previous 18 months when no training and no competition took place. At present, there are seven boxers in the registered testing pool of the Irish Sports Council (Sport Ireland). Each quarter the boxers attached to this pool submit a whereabouts return for each quarter of the year. The returns are due in the Sports Council (Sport Ireland) office by the 15th of March, the 15th of June, the 15th of September and the 15th of December. Failure to submit the return by the due date may incur a filing failure.

Five anti-doping education workshops were held this year. The number of boxers who attended was 58. At the workshops, the members who attended were warned of the dangers of the use of performance enhancing drugs and also controlled drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977/1984. It is also explained how they can be tested at their home and International Competitions. A role play was used to detail how this happens.

At present, there are two tutors who provide anti-doping workshops attached to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association. The other tutors retired due to the lack of funding. It is important that new tutors are training by the Irish Sports Council (Sport Ireland). The preferred numbers to have is at least one tutor in each of the six regions and one in the High Performance Unit in Abbotstown and the High Performance Unit in Belfast. A total of 8 tutors.

This report was prepared by IABA Anti-Doping Officer, Larry Morrison.

Safeguarding Report

JG read out the report.

Safeguarding has seen big strides made in the last few months, from the numerous Garda Vetting & Access NI applications, club safeguarding statements and risk assessments which are signed by clubs in their affiliations each year, and in particular the Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit.

The Sport Ireland Club Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit 2021-2022 is designed to enable clubs to:

- Self-assess adherence to Safeguarding Policies and procedures
- Identify gaps and actions areas

And enable IABA to:

- Gain an overview of Safeguarding adherence
- Identify any issues of non-compliance
- Identify supports clubs may need to become compliant

The IABA will continue to support clubs through this audit in these ways:

- Providing access links to the online audit process.
- Providing a step-by-step guide to completing the audit process.
- Providing access to video resources to guide clubs through the audit completion process.
- Providing advice, support, and guidance through the IABA's Safeguarding Officer.
- 177 clubs that began the process and 166 have completed. The 11 remaining clubs will be contacted in the coming days.

Summary

Children who have positive early experiences of boxing are more likely to continue to some degree of lifelong participation. This contributes to their ongoing physical and emotional wellbeing in adulthood. Boxing, therefore, has a lot to offer children – provided it takes place in an environment that is safe, promotes enjoyment, and respects the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of each individual athlete.

This report, on the work of IABA National Safeguarding Manager, the late Declan Lynch, was prepared and delivered by National Club Development Manager.

Directors Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2021

Adoption of annual accounts

It was noted that the audited financial statements had gone in front of the Board.

CF from Nexus reported on the auditing and financials for the period 31st December 2021 which had been circulated in advanced and also available to download on the IABA website. Some members at the meeting felt that they needed to see the hard copies of the report at the meeting. Copies of audited accounts circulated to all present. TG stated that if any members had queries they should email into CP by Friday 16th December. Resolved that the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 and the reports of the Board of Directors and Auditors thereon be and are hereby received, considered and adopted. Agreed by all present.

Reappointment of Auditors

It was resolved that the Association's auditors Nexus Corporate Solutions, registered auditors, would continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014. Proposed by Anita McGovern, Setanta BC, Seconded Darren MacGavin, Moyle Park BC. Agreed by All.

Election of Non-Executive Directors by Members

SK read out the results

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Total number of ballots issued | 371 |
| Number of ballots returned | 119 |
| Total valid poll | 116 |
| Spoiled votes | 3 |

The following were the votes cast in favour of each of the candidates:

| | Number | |
|------------------|--------|-------------|
| Fiona Hennigan | 84 | Elected |
| Darren O'Neill | 81 | Elected |
| Geraldine Reilly | 60 | Not-elected |

Meeting Closed