



THE IRISH ATHLETIC BOXING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20th DEC 2021 VIA ZOOM 7.00PM

The meeting went live at 7.00pm and Moderator Ciara Plunkett, IABA Communication Officer explained the housekeeping rules and use of the virtual platform to all attendees, clarifying the format of the meeting and functions used during the AGM. Ciara advised attendees that the meeting would be recorded.

Present:

Board Attendees: Chair Ciaran Kirwan (CK), Tom Geraghty (TG), Kevin Duffy (KD), Ted Barry (TB), Dominic O'Rourke (DO) Andrew Duncan (AD)

Company Secretary John Nangle (JN)

Others: Fergal Carruth (FC) IABA Chief Executive, Ciara Plunkett (CP) IABA Communications Officer, Declan Lynch (DL) IABA Safeguarding Manager, Larry Morrison (LM) IABA Honorary Treasurer, James Geraghty (JG) IABA Development Manager, Declan Fitzgerald (DF) BKRM, Shay Cairns (SC) BKRM.

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 which was being facilitated through a digital platform as permitted by the companies miscellaneous provisions Covid-19 Act.

Chairs Address

CK welcomed everyone to the 2021 AGM, it is a great pleasure to welcome all clubs as members of the company, expressing his best wishes for Stephen McMullan during this time.

This evening meeting will not deal with the elections of Central Council or Board positions as there is currently an appeal in process with Sport Dispute Solution Ireland (SDSI). It would not be appropriate to comment any further as this matter is an independent process, stating that on conclusion he would make himself available to all parties.

There is also a matter of a Sport Ireland commissioned Governance review of the organisation currently being undertaken which will have a huge bearing on how we conduct our business into the future. That review will hopefully be finalised this side of Christmas and we look forward to its outcome and recommendations.

Therefore in reality today's meeting is to deal primarily with the business end of the organisation, in effect laying out of the accounts and appointment of the company's auditors for the coming year and

all other matters such as the elections and other updates will be put back to an EGM hopefully early in the new year covid permitting.

However, despite the current situation that exists within the organisation at Central Council and Board level, I feel it would be remiss of me as Chairperson not to acknowledge the fantastic achievements of the organisation in 2021.

I would like to publicly congratulate the High-Performance team for their brilliant performance and results at this years Games in Tokyo. To Aidan Walsh I wholeheartedly congratulate you on your brilliant bronze medal and look forward to seeing you back in the ring soon. You have joined a very exclusive club and have contributed to keeping our wonderful sport at the top of the Olympic medal table worldwide. To Kellie Harrington, I also congratulate you on your magnificent journey to dominating the 60kg division as World Champion and now very fittingly Olympic Gold medallist you also join a very exclusive club. The whole teams performance at the Games was remarkable in terms of the positivity and cohesion they showed as a team and respect and gratitude shown to the HP Coaching staff along with their coaches at home. It was a pleasure to watch and something we in the IABA should be extremely proud of. I salute the staff and boxers within our HP program and you the clubs because you are the people that make the success possible in the first instance. If you were not there to accept these boxers in on their first fight night or continue to turn up and coach nurture and develop these aspiring athletes there simply would be no podium finishes or indeed a team to marvel at. I know it is often said but it is fitting that it is, our clubs are the life blood of our sport and all success achieved by our sport starts with you.

In the last quarter of 2020, the IABA were awarded €725,000 through Sport Ireland's Covid-19 Resilience Grant Scheme. There were two streams of this scheme, namely club resilience scheme under which the IABA secured funding of €500,000 and the NGB scheme under which the IABA secured €225,000.

After securing this funding the IABA's Board of Directors established a subcommittee to oversee the distribution of these funds. The subcommittee decided that the most equitable approach was to spread the funding as far as possible amongst our clubs by making it available to all eligible clubs who were affiliated to the organisation in season 2019/20 (256 clubs ROI, 136-Leinster, 55 Munster, 41 Connacht, 20 Ulster and four state services).

In total €399,699 was distributed amongst 201 units (clubs, county boards and provincial councils) with a further €317,152 being used to pay for last season's insurance costs. €225, 000 season 20/21 and also to contribute to this seasons insurance and affiliation fee last season and were able to secure insurance and affiliation to the company for a greatly reduced price of €250.

Sport Ireland's Covid resilience fund was greatly welcomed and well received by the club network and the organisation. We will be delivering further good news re additional Sport Ireland funding for clubs in the coming weeks.

Along with our fantastic clubs and our extremely committed volunteers the IABA is also blessed to have a very talented and dedicated team of professional staff. On behalf of myself and the Board I would like to acknowledge and thank the CEO and his team of staff who out in a huge shift every year and played a vital part in the professionalisation and modernisation of how the IABA is governed. They have ensured that all governance metrics under their control, have been met and exceeded and that the organisation is in a position to meet all the requirements set out in the legislation and by our funders. So to the staff I would like to say a very big thank you and wish you all a very happy Christmas.

To you all here tonight I also wish you a very happy Christmas, I also welcome you to tonight's meeting and look forward to inviting you to an AGM in the new year which hopefully can be face to face and hope that many of the areas of the sport that needs to be ironed out can be at that meeting and people within the sport can concentrate on making our sport even greater into the future.

Adoption of Minutes 2020 AGM

Which were circulated in advance and available for download. Proposed by Robert Redmond **Portmarnock**. Seconded by James McCarron **Carrigart ABC**

Safeguarding

DL read out his report. The past 18 months have been extremely difficult for the Boxing community and society in general. The challenges keep coming even as we reopen our sport in the new normal.

In times like these, much of society's focus primarily shifts towards economic and public health outcomes. This is understandable, as negative economic and public health outcomes, in turn, have a detrimental impact on all of society. However, as an organisation where 76% of our membership is under the age of eighteen, it is imperative that we remain cognisant of the emotional impact this pandemic has had and continues to have on our underage members. These children for the most part, have been denied the opportunity to train in their local clubs and to partake in the sport that they love for over 18 months by this deadly virus. The net impact of which has seen an increase in the reporting of anxiety, depression and social isolation amongst teenagers and children. It is important that all children within our clubs are given appropriate support by the adult members and afforded the time to readjust to the 'new norms' as we reopen. The spirit of care and support is alive and flourishing as can be witnessed in the "High 5 Programme" which was recently launched in several clubs in Dublin. The energy and enthusiasm of the coaches and parents is testament to the collective caring for our young boxers which is evident on a regular basis in clubs the length and breadth of Ireland.

Despite the disruption caused by Covid-19, safeguarding within the IABA has seen positive progression during 2020. In the last 12 months we have processed close to 600 Garda Vetting and Access NI vetting applications. There will be an ongoing improvement in the vetting process to make it more user friendly and efficient.

In terms of Safeguarding, we are consistently reviewing our practices and updating when necessary and those members of the IABA who undertake the roles of children's officers, coaches and administrators must be open to change and development to ensure an environment of security and enjoyment for our young members and vulnerable adults. The process of providing a safe and secure environment for our young people and vulnerable adults is a priority and I would like to thank all those clubs I have spoken to since taking up my position for their support and assistance. And to those I haven't yet met I look forward to working with you.

As this is my first report since taking up the role as National Safeguarding Manager, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor David Britton for his diligent and professional approach which I can assure you made the transition seamless.

As always, I am available to assist with all Safeguarding matters and will be glad to help.

Anti-Doping Report

LM read out his report. The past nineteen months from 2020 up to the present time has been one of the most challenging periods for the Irish Athletic Boxing Association. Boxers, Coaches, Clubs and the whole of the Irish Athletic Boxing Association has been on a compulsory lockdown due to the COVID 19 pandemic. It is difficult to imagine this lockdown ever happening. As the Association since its formation in 1911 has gone through the formation of the Irish State, a Civil war and two world wars not to mention other serious world changing incidents since then. Through the resilience, hard work and determination of the volunteer members without their support we would have no Association. We have come out at the other end as the most successful Olympic sport in Ireland.

For the season September 2020 up to September 2021 15 boxers were tested by Sport Ireland Anti-Doping panel. The tests carried out on male and female boxers who are attached to the High-Performance Unit based in Abbottstown. The tests were carried out by the panel of members who are attached to the Anti-Doping Unit based at the Sport Ireland campus. The tests took place at the boxer's home addresses or in the training unit. No competition had taken place up to August 2021.

A total of 58 tests were carried out during this time on 15 boxers. The good news is all tests on boxers proved negative. One boxer was tested on 7 separate occasions. During the year all boxers who are in the Sport Ireland registered testing pool submit a whereabouts return four times a year. The whereabouts returns are required in the Irish Sports Council office on the 15th of March, the 15th of June, the 15th of September and the 15th of December of each year.

The whereabouts return states the location of the boxer during the three-month period. If they are at home, at work, in the gym, in competition, are out of the country on holidays. If there is a change of locations on a specific day or days, Sport Ireland must be notified. Failure to notify Sport Ireland of a change of location, and if the Anti-Doping officer calls to carry out a test and the boxer is not present at the stated time and date, they may incur a filing failure. Three filing failures in a 12-month period may constitute an Anti-Doping rule violation. This may lead to a disciplinary hearing if proved to be correct, a ban in competition in boxing may be imposed on the boxer. Fortunately, no filing failures were recorded against any of the boxers.

Due to the effect of the pandemic on social gatherings five Anti-Doping Education workshops were held during the year. The Anti-Doping workshops were held for boxers attached to the High-Performance Unit. Normally workshops are held for Boxers, Coaches and Parents who are attached to clubs. Due to restrictions imposed by Government legislation on social distancing it was impossible to hold face to face workshops. The face-to-face workshops have proved very successful in the past. Persons attending can ask questions on any issue they are not familiar with.

In June of this year Anti-Doping tutors took in a one-hour programme ran over five Wednesdays by the International testing agency, I.T.A. The agenda from I.T.A. covered (1) an overview of the Anti-Doping system, rights and responsibilities rule violation (2) Doping control process (3) Prohibited list, medication, supplements and T.U.E. therapeutic use exemption (4) out of competition testing (5) principles and values of clean sport, consequences of doping.

**DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st
December 2020**

It was noted that the Audited Financial Statements had gone in front of the Board.

CP introduced DF BKRM who reported on the auditing work and companies financials for the period. The Annual Report, Auditors Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31st December 2020 were circulated in advance and available to download. Queries on the Financial Statements 2020 had been invited in advance of the meeting, but none had been received.

It was resolved that the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 as now submitted to this Meeting be received adopted.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Company's auditors, BKRM Corporate Services, Registered Auditors, would continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014. 92% of Club voted in favour.

CLOSE

There being no other business the meeting then concluded.