

COMMONWEALTH BULLETIN

With the absence of overseas Directors due to the disrupted air travel caused by a volcanic eruption in Iceland, the Spring Interim Meeting went ahead at the Guoman Charing Cross Hotel on 20th and 21st April.

The main matters discussed and decisions made were as follows:-

Eric Armit steps down as Chairman

After five years in the hot seat, and recognised as one of the leading authorities in the World on international boxers' records, Eric Armit has stepped down as CBC Chairman but will continue as both a Director of the Council and its principal advisor.

Philip Brook-Smith, QC, who had especially been invited to the Meeting, was appointed to the position as new Chairman. Mr Brook-Smith is a life-long boxing fan, a Member of Fountain Court Chambers at the Temple, a Recorder at the Crown Court, and has been appointed by the Ministry of Justice to the Tribunals Procedures Committee.

Mr Brook-Smith's appointment will be formally confirmed during the Autumn AGM.

Dominic Vea retained as Mandatory

Despite his recent loss in Australia, the Council have determined that Mr Vea's position as Mandatory Challenger to Champion Rob Norton should be maintained. Norton's defence is scheduled to take place in Australia in July at Perth. The Council's decision was based on reports of the contest, medical reports subsequently received, and a recommendation from Frank Hadley, CBC Director, on behalf of the Australian National Boxing Federation.

Obligations of Commonwealth Champions

The Commonwealth Boxing Council anticipates that its Champions are proud of their status and will exercise any opportunity to make a defence against a legitimate and eligible contender.

With an amendment agreed to Regulation 2.11 the Directors have determined that, with certain exceptions, a Champion who takes part in a contest against an eligible contender in a contest sanctioned by another Championship Authority must ensure that the Commonwealth Championship is at stake, ie. that it becomes a joint Championship contest. Thus a Commonwealth Champion who takes part in a contest for a National Championship or Continental Championship such as the EBU, NABF, OPBF, etc. against a boxer who qualifies under CBC regulations as an eligible challenger, must ensure that the Commonwealth Title is at stake. Any Champion not complying with this requirement may face the loss of the Commonwealth Title, even if he is subsequently successful in that contest.

Increase in Sanction Fees

Although the sanction fee for Championship Defences will remain at £1250 sterling, the Directors have determined that vacant Championship Contests should be set at £2000 sterling.

With the increasing cost of the manufacture of the magnificent Commonwealth Championship Belts, such an increase has proved inevitable to enable the CBC to operate. The increase is effective forthwith.

Boxer Disqualified

Akinyemi Laleye, who was contracted to challenge for Rob Norton's Cruiserweight Championship last Autumn, but withdrew from the contest immediately beforehand in what appears to be a breach of contractual obligation without any explanation to the CBC, has been disqualified from further Commonwealth Championship opportunities.

It remains open for Mr Laleye to make such representations and explanations as he wishes but until such time as any such representations have been received and considered, no sanction will be granted to any promoter for him to be given a Commonwealth Championship opportunity.

Complaint of Charles Adamu

A complaint received from Ghana Boxing Authority Chairman, Mr Samir Captan, and Manager Mr Eric Don-Arthur on behalf of Charles Adamu, was placed before the Directors and considered.

In the absence of Mr Captan, who had been scheduled to appear at the meeting but was prevented from doing so by the disruption to air travel, the GBA was represented by Advisor Al Hamilton, MBE. The Directors considered the representations of Mr Hamilton, the report of the Supervisor, Mr Steven Hiscock of Guyana, and British Boxing Board of Control Steward Mr David Roden, as well as the report from weekly trade newspaper "Boxing News". Following consideration of the nature of the complaint and of the reports it was determined there existed no over-riding reason to grant to Mr Adamu an immediate rematch, as requested, and that no further action was therefore necessary.

Ray Clarke Honoured

Former Hon Secretary and Chairman of the CBC, R. L. (Ray) Clarke, OBE. was honoured at a dinner held at The Commonwealth Club near Trafalgar Square on the evening of Tuesday 20th April.

Mr Clarke, who retired as a Director of the CBC after links going back to the formation of the body in 1954, was presented with an engraved decanter by Chairman Eric Armit in recognition of his substantial contribution to Commonwealth Championships over 55 years, such contribution unlikely to ever be exceeded.

Champions, Contenders and Defence Obligations

As per the list as attached and/or as available online at www.commboxing.com, click on "Notices".

SIMON BLOCK
Hon Secretary
Commonwealth Boxing Council