

FIGHTING CHANCE

General information

Parties involved

Frankie Burrows Enterprises plc, represented by Boxing Manager, Frankie Burrows.
Lightning Roberts, Boxer.

Background

Lightning Roberts is the European Middleweight Boxing Champion and has been one of several successful fighters in the Frankie Burrows Enterprises plc (FBE) stable. Frankie signed Lightning three years ago when he was an amateur of some reputation, and groomed and guided him into what is now a very successful career. In his last fight, Lightning, a stylish boxer rather than a heavy punching fighter, outpointed the then European Champion and stands a good chance of winning a world title in his next fight.

The dispute

There are three areas of dispute:

- 1 Lightning is tied to a contract with Frankie which set out the 'purses' (financial return) for the first ten fights. The world title will be the sixth fight and Lightning, or rather his sibling Buzz, is very unhappy about the 'low' pay for the world title fight. Buzz wants to break the contract and Edwards (their lawyer) argues breach of contract by FBE.
- 2 Buzz wants to be Lightning's manager. If there is a legal way of breaking the contract, Buzz can deal direct with promoters and negotiate huge purses for big fights.
- 3 Lightning feels he is not treated the same way, or given the same status or rewards, as other boxers (particularly the heavyweights) in Frankie's stable.

Unfortunately, Lightning was involved in a car accident two nights ago and is suffering from severe whiplash. He will not be attending the mediation as he is undergoing intensive treatment in preparation for the training regime leading up to the world title fight (likely to be in two months' time). He has stated that he has absolute confidence in Buzz attending the mediation in his absence and will 'sign up' to whatever agreement Buzz feels is appropriate.

Attending the mediation

Frankie Burrows (FBE)
Frankies lawyer

Buzz Roberts
Lawyer
Mediator

Note: This mediation has been arranged at short notice and summaries have not been exchanged. The above information with the attached extract from the management contract is all that is currently known about the dispute.

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EXTRACT FROM CONTRACT

Clause 10 (a)

“... the following purses will apply to this ten-bout contract between Frankie Burrows Enterprises plc (the Manager) and Lightning Roberts (the Boxer):

Bout	1	£50,000
	2	£50,000
	3	£100,000
	4	£130,000
	5	£200,000
	6	£300,000
	7	£300,000
	8	£400,000
	9	£500,000
	10	£700,000

b) Should the Boxer lose two consecutive bouts, the above terms may be renegotiated or the contract made void.

c) Should the Manager fail to obtain a world title fight for the Boxer before bout 8, the above terms may be renegotiated or the contract made void.

Clause 11

The sums listed in Clause 10 (a) shall be subject to deductions by the Manager of the percentage noted in Appendix (1a) to cover training facilities and expenses, transport, advertising and other direct costs incurred on behalf of the Boxer.”

