MOTION CALLING ON BOXING TO BE BANNED IS DEFEATED BY THREE TO ONE

Congress floors call for a ban on boxing

THE RCN will not be joining doctors in demands for boxing to be banned after a motion calling for the sport to be outlawed was thrown out.

Attacking the motion, Mike Hayward (Portsmouth) said: 'It is not our place to be self-righteous in our policies and it's not our place to be sanctimonious.

'This is an issue of choice, individual choice, a choice entered into by two consenting adults who both know the risks they are taking.'

In any case, other pursuits, such as squash, are arguably more dangerous, Mr Hayward argued. 'How many fat, out of condition business executives drop dead of heart attacks on the squash court?' he asked.

'Do we therefore ban squash?'

Earlier Brian Kay (chair of the society of learning disabilities), proposing the motion, highlighted ethical and moral arguments.

'Is it really acceptable in a modern civilised society to promote and idolise one individual for his ability to perpetrate a violent assault on his opponent? Is this really the kind of role model we wish to portray to our children?' he asked.

Ethel Corduff (Croydon) said her nephew was about to embark on a professional boxing career, despite suffering a hand injury in the ring as an amateur. She was worried he would now suffer more permanent damage.

Sue Jones (RCN paediatric nursing society) said the College should lobby to stop young men boxing until the age of consent, when they would be better able to make an informed choice.

But the motion was defeated by a margin of three to one.

‘Bring back matrons and aprons’

MATRONS and aprons should return to nursing if patients say that is what they want, Congress was told.

Linda Bailey (Parkside) said it was no use asking the public what they wanted unless nurses were prepared to respond to their wishes.

'If we give the public a real role in the future of health care they will by default be responsible for nurses in the future,' she argued.

‘And if they really want to return to matron, I am sorry but we will just have to fall in with their wishes: be truly patient-led, bring back lamps and aprons, and even get rid of grey suits.’

Ms Bailey, speaking during a matter for discussion on how to involve the public in the debate on nursing in the future, explained that she was a local councillor in south London, with responsibility for social services.

Committee meetings were held in public and local people had the chance to have their say. This was a model nursing would do well to mimic, she told Congress.

'Surely having open, accountable, democratically elected local people responsible for health services and setting local priorities is better than the current secretive, competitive world of Sainsbury's managers, ex-army majors and freemasons.'