



England Fencing – South West Region

AGM

Sunday 12 August 2018 11 am

Princess Royal Sports Centre

Wellington School, South Street, Wellington. TA21 9PE

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies: Sue Benney, Neil Brown, Lawrence Burr, Mike Cleary, Kirby Everett, Angela Findlay, Shaun Garley, Jane Hutchison, Nat Lewis, Nigel Manning, Tim Miles, Valerie Morrish, Kevin Nelson, Alan Payne, Joseph Pearce, Stui Scorgie, Alex Scott, Johnathan Stanbury
Present: Sue & Rob Brooks, Jane Browne (JB), Nigel Carter, Nik Hill, Ralph Mills, Jane Hutchinson, Jim Pilkington
- 2 Previous Minutes: acceptance
Matters arising from:

3 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** - Jim Pilkington

As I see it, and perhaps not unusual in life, we have had our ups and our downs.

On the ups, I feel special mention is needed of our youngsters from the Bath, Glastonbury, Plymouth and Truro Clubs who have done so well in international competitions. From my personal experience of fencing at Plymouth Club, the standard over the last 3 years has climbed tremendously. At the other end of scale, congratulations are also due to our veteran fencers who continue to excel at both local and international level.

Equally, it was rewarding to see how in the Excalibur, Devon winning in 2017, was not just a one off 'fluke'. This year it was followed by them being second and only by a narrow margin, failing to again be the champions.

These results must surely reflect the good coaching and training of our fencers.

We have also had the new national championship of the GB Cup. There has been some debate upon the qualifying conditions etc., but having listened to opinion and reflected, I feel British Fencing have it about right. This is a competition that most certainly helps fulfil that need, which I believe to be so important of strengthening fencing at the grassroots. It is only by that; can we hope to improve what happens at the top of British Fencing.

On the downside, we have lost that special facility we had of the SW Hub. Our thanks are due to those for the work and effort that was put into it over the years. Its closure, creates a new need in our region, to have an officer who focusses on training. I can visualise not just a competition calendar, but a calendar with a wider remit of training opportunities and competition. An events calendar if you like? So, I suggest we need a Training Secretary to initiate, and coordinate training in our Region and who seeks funds to subsidise the costs.

We have also sadly lost the coaching abilities and enthusiastic leadership in Dorset of Liz Williams and left us with only one active club in that county.

On matters upon which I have personal responsibility, I feel regional ranking has met with partial success, but despite good intention being expressed, Somerset have yet to hold County Championships, and Gloucestershire do not submit their results. I had wished to initiate a similar scheme at Cadet Level but by reasons of workload, have been unable to take this further.

In so far as having support from HQ, to encourage fencers to participate in competition, we have had some acknowledgment of the need to ease the requirement of full membership, but in my view, their idea of a free introductory membership with limited benefits, fails to grasp the nettle.

I believe we should be offering six months FREE membership that has all the benefits of FULL membership. From my experience in marketing, fencers would sign up to enjoy the benefits, with the proviso that at the end of six months, when their first payment would come due, they could cancel. In my estimation at six months, maybe 10% cancel, because the taste of competition was not what they expected, another 10% might intend to cancel, but do not get around to it (and possibly come to enjoy being a full member) and the remaining 80% you have gained as new members.

On a more personal matter, as I am sure you are aware, High Street retailing is in crisis and while in Totnes, where I have our business, might because of its special nature, buck the trend, it nevertheless will require, and is taking my full attention.

To my great regret at this moment, I do not have the time, to fulfil the responsibilities of this post, in the manner I believe they should be done and would welcome your proposals for someone to take over the work from me.

4 Treasurer's report – Nik Hill - attached

5 Regional reports

a. Bristol

b. Cornwall

c. Devon

d. Dorset – **Jane Browne**

Since the last AGM, Liz Williams has retired and no-one has taken over her circuit. Chris Hay has taken over from Dan Robinson coaching pentathletes at Lewiston School. Thus Sherborne Swords has closed. Dorchester FC has also closed. Bridport's junior Saturday club with Nigel Carter, continues.

e. Gloucester – **Joe Pearce** Attached

GAFU website updated.

Venue constraints mean the GAFU championships cannot be opened to fencers from other counties in SW?

f. Somerset – **Jane Hutchison**

There are many fencers in Somerset from youth through to veterans and from beginners through to GB Internationals. We are lucky in that the County offers clubs in all weapons mainly centred in Bath, Wellington, Taunton and Glastonbury. We are also fortunate in having experienced coaches in all weapons.

King's College, Taunton are planning to develop their Friday Night Pentathlon fencing session into an open junior club.

Wellington Swords continues on a Monday and Thursday.

Taunton Blades at Kings Hall School Taunton has thriving junior and senior Sabre sessions with Nat Lewis on Wednesdays.

Phoenix (Taunton) will no longer run from August.

Bath Sword meets on Mondays and Thursdays with a focus on junior performance on Mondays.

Sue Benny's Epee club meets at St Dunstan's, Glastonbury on Tuesdays, term time only.

Jim Pilkington has set up an excellent SW circuit of competitions and I was hoping to say Somerset has some to contribute but sadly not and I put this down to those that could organise being too busy with other competitions and teams. However, Somerset does have a number of successful and popular competitions that regularly take place each year within the county including the SW qualifiers for the BYC's and senior SW championships where the top Somerset fencer taking part receives the County trophy.

Sue Benney continues to run The Easter Egg competition as well as Dunstan Foil and Epee for all age groups in Glastonbury; always a sunny day and this year no exception!

Wellington Age groups took place in March and the Open in May.

A number of fencers from all over the County took part in teams in the Bristol Blades competition which took place at Bristol Grammar school. This was excellent for intermediate fencers and a chance for people within the region to meet each other and also to experience team fencing. Thanks to Mike Cleary for running this. Excalibur was

run by Tim Miles and his team in Bath. Six counties took part and always great fun as well as competitive. It is hoping there will be nine counties next year.

It is anticipated that Tim and the Bath team will run the first Junior Excalibur on October 20th. No details are available yet but an exciting development for the County.

Norman and Glen ran the 30th Cadet Winton at Millfield in December 2017. It was a special celebration with the trophy presented by Carole, Bobby Winton's daughter and was won by London.

6 COMPETITION REPORTS

SOUTH WEST AGE GROUPS (BYC QUALIFIERS)

These were run by Tristan Parris at Millfield. Entries were much the same as last year for epee and foil, but sabre almost 40% less. Epee: 105 Foil:104 Sabre:58. There were 109 BYC Qualifiers.

ACTION: To ensure fewer errors, there should be 2 people on presentations, trophy signatures, sweatshirt sales and BYC qualifier duty.

BRITISH YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The results were not as good as last years. A new system of each region having to provide a referee per day came into force. We opted to pay the fine rather than send a referee.

2018 Champions: U14BS: Sam Allen (Truro); U16BS: Darcy Holdsworth (Truro)

Qualifiers:

	U12B	U12G	U14B	U14G	U16B	U16G	U18B	U18G
EPEE	4	4	4	4	5	9	7	2
FOIL	8	5	4	4	3	4	4	6
SABRE	4	3	7	6	6	3	8	2

Medals:

	U12B	U12G	U14B	U14G	U16B	U16G	U18B	U18G
EPEE		1 Br=1			1	2 Br=1	2 Br=2	2 Br=2
FOIL				1 Br=1			1 Br=1	1 Br=1
SABRE	1 S=1	1	2 S=1, Br=1	3 Br=2	2 G=1			

WINTON: Cadet, Senior, Veterans

CADET WINTON 17 - Mike Cleary & Nat Lewis

Once again we were able to field a full team of young cadet fencers from around the south west, and once again they fought hard and represented our region well. The South West Finished joint 5th this year. Mike Cleary and Nat Lewis would like to express our thanks to all the fencers, parents, coaches and clubs who helped us organise teams and get the fencers to the event. We would also like to thank Elaine Dunn for volunteering her weekend to help chaperone the children. Mike would also like to thank Nat Lewis for overseeing the fencers over the weekend as he was unable to stay around at Millfield for the two days.

Epee once again proved to be our strongest weapon, the men's team had a great run throughout both days and Won the overall Men's Epee. The Women, not to be outmatched by the men, nearly achieved the same, coming second overall in the women's epee. This achievement is fantastic and we hope to keep the momentum going for a third year. A very experienced team in their final year of the competition.

The foilist again put up a good fight but with the strength of foil at this age group they were unable to quite get the top prize. While we fielded a good solid team, once again it was not our "first team". The Men's Foil Team struggled with the high standard of the competition but pulled together as a team and fought hard and well and didn't give up. They improved

immeasurably as we weekend went on, but overall was a weaker part of the squad. The women fared better with more experienced fencers with international experience. They put up a good fight scoring high and being in the top 3 of the women's foil. With foil getting stronger and stronger across the whole region we have high hopes for future teams. Sabre once again followed the pattern of previous years of fielding a team that was sadly not as strong as our region could have done; men's sabre was well represented with fencers in their final year of Cadet events, and who had had experience at the highest levels of national events. The ladies, while fencing valiantly over the course of the whole weekend, were an inexperienced team of young fencers, some of who fenced foil as their primary weapon. While this is particularly disappointing given the depth of talent across the region in this weapon, my thanks and admiration go to these ladies who gave their all over the two days of tough competition.

From Nat:

I believe that now is good time to step down as sabre captain, for the next year at least: I am now involved more and more in the British Fencing Talent/DISE coaching program, and am likely to be away at the Commonwealths in the run up to the Winton this year. I think the committee would do well to take a more centralised role in the formation of the Cadet team, and attempt to spread the responsibility for organising the team outside of the Bristol/Bath region. Much as I wish it was the strongest part of our region for sabre, this is not the case, and I feel we must engage the strongest clubs possible in order to reach our full potential. I will of course remain a vocal supporter of the event, encourage my fencers to take part if they are selected, and nominate those I feel would benefit the team.

From Mike:

More and more commitments are taking up more of my time, especially during the first half of the season, with this in mind I would like to take a secondary role when it comes to this competition, it is a fantastic competition for our young fencers and provides them with great opportunity. During last year's competition I was unable to attend for the entire weekend and this year I believe I will be in the same situation. With this in mind I won't be able to stay at the event nor chaperone the children, I ask the committee to look for and appoint someone who can put that commitment in.

I will however help in any way I can with the selection process, having contacts throughout the region. If the committee would like I can pen an official selection process and a list of useful ranking lists and club contacts to help the process along. I again would also like to see one or more members of the South West committee present at some point over the Cadet Winton weekend, talking to and supporting our fencers. I believe this will help the fencers integrate more with the south west region more and spur them on to know that they are supported by the region.

Thank you and well done to all of the fencers;;

EPEE	FOIL	SABRE
Yasmin Al Wagga	Becci Curwen	Maria Balica
Yasmin Fosu	Tabitha De N'Yeurt	Katherine Brighton
Daisy Boyes-Hunter	Jade Meyer	Morgan Zaky
Katy Miles	Esme Dyer	
Ben Andrews	Sam Ewing	Gabriel Dunn
Luke Mason	Oli Goodenough	Alex Foster
Jacob Mitchel	Oscar Milton	Joel Kaufman- Hill
		Jack Stamper- Watling

ACTION: JB to find new weapon captains.

An EFSW committee member to attend each day

SENIOR WINTON 2018 Team Captain - Dan Wide

The South West team travelled up to Nottingham for the Winton Cup with a full team for the 2nd consecutive year. Clubs represented included, University of Bristol, Bath Sword, University of Bath, Truro, Bristol Fencing club, University of Exeter, Tiverton Sword and Plymouth Fencing club.

The Winton is always a strong competition, and this year was no different. This year the South West finished 5th, with very close 2 victory defeats to both Yorkshire and West Mids. Both are Men's Sabre and Women's Epee teams improved on their final positions from last year. Men's Sabre (Josh Maxwell, Nat Lewis and Joe Westhead) finished a strong 3rd behind the South East and West Mids. While are incredible Women's Epee team (Ellie Wigham, Tia Simms-Lymn and Maddy Lee) won their event in a very strong field.

A couple of special mentions. Thank you to Nat Lewis and Will Germany for helping sort out the Men's Sabre and Epee teams.

Special mention to Katie Little who was on stand by for us should we have a last min drop out but who also graciously agreed to fence for Southern when they were missing a women's foilist.

Thank you to Ira De N'Yeurt for getting half of the team actually to the competition.

A particular well done to Tabby De N'Yeurt for a very mature and impressive performance in the women's foil team. At 14 Tabby was the youngest fencer on the team and most likely one of (if not the) youngest fencers at the competition. Well done Tabby!

There was a moment over the course of the weekend when a senior fencer in a completely different weapon gave advice to one of our lesser experienced team members. This sums up why multi weapon team events are still relevant and enjoyable for fencers across the region. It's a chance to meet people form different weapons and age groups who you likely would not cross paths with otherwise, and makes for a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

The Winton is booked in for 6/7th of July 2019 and I will again be looking to field a team to win the event. I am happy to take any early expressions of interest- if interested please message me.

Full South West team below:

MS Josh Maxwell Dan Wide Nathaniel Lewis (C) Joe Westhead	ME: Will Germany (C) Alessandro Giovannone James Male Keith Barnett	MF: Rob Williams (C) Charles Mita Edgar Kursiss Daniel Povey
WS: Jane Hutchison (C) Michele Narey Sofie Emms	WE: Ellie Wigham (C) Tia Serendipity Simms-Lymn Maddy Lee	WF: Tabby De N'Yeurt Polina Popova (C) Joanne Cornish Fliss Grazebrook

VETERAN WINTON 2017 –Johnathan Stanbury

This was the tenth time that this event had taken place, we won the first several. There are now 10 Sections involved.

There is always a difficulty in knowing who is available from the SW but so far the individual team captains have done a superb job - we have never finished below 2nd. A request however to all club organisers to keep their fencers, especially the older ones, aware that this event takes place annually in September.

The teams were

EPEE		FOIL		SABRE	
Sue Brooks Angela Findlay Valerie Young Sue Uff	W:6 L: 3	Astrid Merrick Caron Hale Ann Dawkins	W: 7 L:2	Jane Hutchison Sue Benney Michelle Narey	W:9 L: 0
Jonathan Stanbury Keith Barnett Leslie Macdonald	W: 8 L: 1	Austen Rose Matthew Rose Jon Dawkins	W: 5 L: 4	Keith Rogerson Andy Bornemisza Chris Prevett Pete Hutton	W:8 L:1

We only lost overall to one Section and that was the South East.
 The whole team performed brilliantly and there is always very good support to those who are fencing from those who are “resting”.
 As team manager, could I please take this opportunity to thank all the team captains for the effort they put in each year to assemble their teams.

SW SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Foil and Sabre were held at Millfield. Numbers are increasing. We may have to consider splitting the events over 2 days.
 Epee was in Wellington. There was a slight dip in numbers this year.
 The winners of these events have automatic selection to Senior Winton teams. It is suggested that the same occurs for the GB CUP.
 The top Somerset Fencer in each category is the Somerset Champion.
 The South West Master-at-Arms trophy has resurfaced – Alex Scott has it
ACTION: Master-at-ARMS needs to be presented for 2017 onwards.

GB CUP

This was its inaugural year! The concept being that each region sends 2 fencers per weapon. As some regions didn’t fulfil their complement, spare places were offered to the regions. Each region had to provide a referee - Tim Miles refereed for us.
 There were a few teething problems with the computer side and running schedules. It was enjoyed by most who fenced.
 As this is intended as an intermediate level competition for over 16’s, there are specific exclusion criteria. We opted to use our regional ranking as the basis of our selection. Jane found that the top ranked fencers were excluded by the criteria so we were looking at fencers down as far as 10th on the ranking. Many of our better fencers do not participate in local competitions.
 The women did well with Sarah (WE) winning Silver, Polina (WF) and Sofie (WS) taking third.

2018 GB CUP: SOUTH WEST TEAM

MEN'S EPEE	Seb Lee - Wellington	Nathan Miller - Truro	
WOMEN'S EPEE	Joanna Cornsiah - Exeter Uni	Sarah Budden Plymouth	
MEN'S FOIL	Ira De N'Yuert - Bristol FC	Bryan Hughes - Tiverton	
WOMEN'S FOIL	Polina Popova - Exeter Uni	Phoebe Griffiths - Exeter City	
MEN'S SABRE	Richard Foster - Exeter	Leon Cauchois - Tiverton	Jason Ball - Tiverton
WOMEN'S SABRE	Sofie Emmens - Tiverton	Anna Grodent - White eagles (w/d)	

ACTION: Future selections to come only from those on regions ranking list..

7. SW HUB REPROT

The hub has changed formats a few times since its inception and funding by BF. Last year there was only 1 training day was run in Taunton: included fencing, armoury and referee sessions.
 The region needs to rebrand it’s training days and decide where tie resources are best used. There are now 6 training camps running in the region over the year. Tim Miles is still keen to be involved in training.

ACTIONS:

**Training Officer to be found. To take on planning of fencing days, CPD and courses for referee, coach, armoury, welfare training sessions etc
 JB to establish what is happened re HUB twitter. Use to advertise new events.**

8. COMMUNICATION

8.1 Use of Facebook

This has increased but still needs more input from clubs and regions.

8.2 Our Website

Front page needs updating – current news, training, events etc

The website has been updated to include Training, GB Cup and Winton Sections.

ACTION: Update webpage. Ralph Mills

Add BF Club Digest JB

8.3 email address: following now active

secretary : secretary@swfencing.co.uk

welfare: welfare@swfencing.co.uk

9. COACH & REFEREE TRAINING

There have been a number of training sessions over the year.

9.1 COACHES:

IntroTo Coaching Fencing: Bristol & completed, I= ill. There is a L2 Sabre for this group planned for September 2018.

There is also a ITFC course planned for October 2018 at Exeter University.

There has been a request for updates on current techniques for Foil and Sabre. We hope to run something in this year at Truro.

9.2 REFEREES:

Plymouth FC: L1&2

EFSW: 15 x L2 AND 5-6 x L1 across all 3 weapons.

Ann and Jon Dawkins and Andy Lines are our regional assessors for foil and sabre.

Chris Farren came down to do the sabre and other assessments at the Wellington Open, Mike Garrity completed the practical part of the L1 sabre assessment started on Bristol in 2017.

Thank you to Andy Lines who leaves the region to start a military career in September.

The region will miss him!

10. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2018/19

Proposer Second Vote

			Proposer	Second	Vote
<u>Chairman:</u>	Ira De N'Yeurt	iriedn@yahoo.co.uk	JH	JB	None
	Until 31 Oct: Jim Pilkington	swordsman@salago.net	JB	NH	unan
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr Nik Hill	nik.d.hill@btinternet.com	JB	SB	unan
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mrs Jane Browne	fencingjb@gmail.com	JH	NC	unan
BYC Officer:	Mrs J. Hutchison	jane.s.hutchison@btinternet.com			
Welfare Officer:	Tina Black	welfare@swfencing.co.uk			
Regional Reps					
Bristol	Mr Jon Dawkins	jonathandawkins.jd@gmail.com			
Cornwall					
Devon	Mr Jason Ball	jasonpball@yahoo.co.uk			
Dorset	Mr Nigel Carter	nigelcar94@gmail.com			
Gloucester	Mr Joe Pearce	joseph.s.pearce@gmail.com			
Somerset	Mrs Jane Hutchison	jane.s.hutchison@btinternet.com			

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Coach training: discussed above

11.2 Promotion of sport: BF and local was raised by email. See communication.

The region and BF need to do more to promote fencing

Bath Sw did a promotional event at the Bath&West in 2017 – surprisingly did not increase uptake.

Matthew Gale does some excellent promotional work which goes on local TV and newspapers.

Scouts have been very active in promoting fencing.

ACTIONS: Contact County Sports Partnerships.

Find someone to do promotional work.

12. Date, time and venue of next AGM: 13 or 14 July 2019.