

To the Point

Your monthly guide to Fencing in Great Britain
Issue 05 April 2010

Follow British Fencing on [Twitter](#)
and [Facebook](#)

If you have not received this newsletter by email we may have an out of date address for you. Please send us your new email address [here](#)

If you have any suggestions to improve *To the Point* please do not hesitate to contact us [here](#)

Latest News from British Fencing

First of all I would like to congratulate all the winners at last weekend's British Youth Championships (BYCs). It was a fantastic competition and I am pleased to see our vision to develop high quality events starting to blossom. It was great to speak to parents and fencers and good to see many of our Board members, and those of our Home Countries, not only attending but helping out. Click [here](#) for results.

I would like to thank Lloyd and Partners, an insurance company, for their sponsorship of British Fencing in the build up to London 2012. Their support has enabled us to put almost £20k towards the GB Team travelling to the Junior and Cadet World Championships in Azerbaijan. Their assistance has also helped us to support the National Academy, which will be starting this year. However, most importantly, this funding has enabled us to support those fencers who are aiming for the Olympic podium, but are not yet supported by the World Class Performance Programme. These athletes (Claire Bennett, Neil Hutchinson, Leah King and Soji Aiyenuro) will undertake an ambassador role to represent our partnership with Lloyd and Partners.

We have also been working extremely hard with our principle funders, UK Sport and Sport England, to modernise our governance and improve the way we run our sport. You may have seen the recent open recruitment for key committee positions, an example of our desire to develop transparency in our operations.

As some of you saw at the British Youth Championships, we are close to launching our new website and database in partnership with England Fencing. We have been working hard to ensure that it balances maintaining key information with innovative ways of communicating with members and those thinking of starting fencing. To make this website the best it can be, please let us know what you think of it – we will continue to develop it with you in the future.

Please contact me [here](#) with any comments on these and any other issues.

Piers Martin

Level 1 and 2 Assessment Day

British Fencing will be running an assessment day for Level 1 and 2 coaching qualifications on Saturday 15th May in North London.

If you need an assessment to complete your Level 1/2 qualification and are available on this day please contact us [here](#) to register your interest in attending.

Membership Satisfaction

My name is Addison Bonisteel. I am a study abroad student of Ithaca College, U.S.A. I have been doing an internship with British Fencing since the 19th of March.

During this time my work has been focused on looking into membership satisfaction. Using the results from a Sport England survey from last year, I set about looking into some of the areas of membership that might need improving. I formed a series of questions relating to topics, which I would discuss when contacting members. These topics included, but were not limited to, opinions on coaches, officials, the monetary value of membership and what members actually receive, as well as any other topics that came up during conversation.

Finally, since British Fencing is currently in the process of developing its new website, I felt it necessary to ask if there was anything particular that members would like to see on the home page that they had not seen previously. Choosing which members were called was done at random; that said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to offer me their insight and feedback. I came up with some truly convincing results.

Everyone at British Fencing Head Office has been working hard to make these different parts of the organisation better. If you were not contacted, but would like an opportunity to share any feedback, please feel free to send an [email](#). Your responses are much appreciated and helpful for future improvements.

Addison Bonisteel

In this issue

Academy News
Filton College News
Membership Satisfaction
U20 & U17 World Championships, Baku
Disabled Fencing News
Events
and much more...

World Class News

The senior international season re-commences this week, with our men's foil team hoping for success at the Shanghai Grand Prix, before they move on to the Seoul World Cup and Tokyo Grand Prix. Having come runner-up to Ota at the recent Melun 'Masters' event in France, Richard Kruse and his team mates will be seeking similar strong results in the Far East. The women foilists will also be out in Shanghai and Seoul, looking to build on their 11th place finish at the Marseilles Grand Prix in March. Athletes in all weapons have taken advantage of the break in the season and have trained in a series of camps over the last 4 weeks, in order to prepare for the upcoming events. The women's epee team played host to their Ukrainian counterparts at a week-long camp at Roehampton University. This proved to be a profitable week for all involved, and the GBR team only narrowly lost 45-43 in an exhibition match which was held at the end of the camp.

Cat Paterson

England Fencing News

England Fencing is pleased to announce the re-launch of the Tomorrow's Achievers national training days. Following recent consultation with the youth fencing community, it was clear that those involved in the past greatly valued the initiative and called for its restoration.

Tomorrow's Achievers (TA) training sessions are a chance for young fencers who have already reached a high standard in their age-groups to train together for intensive day-long sessions. These cover all aspects of fencing, including warm-up, footwork and bladework, as well as a chance to fence peers at national standard, but outside of the pressure of competition.

From time to time TA includes additional sessions on related subjects of interest to both fencers and parents, including nutrition, sports psychology, career planning, refereeing and armoury work. At every TA session there are opportunities to network with other fencing families, and to chat with senior England Youth coaches and officials about all aspects of the sport.

TA days are aimed at English fencers in the 10 – 14 yr* age bracket and are intended to act as a feeder to the newly established National Academy. Fencers should have been fencing for at least a year or two, be competing regularly and successfully, and aspire to fence at national and international level. [More...](#)

Ray Stafford

Adverts

Coaches wanted

The British Disabled Fencing Association are looking for coaches. Please contact [Dawn Newbery](#) for more details.

Coach wanted

We are looking for an experienced coach to work in our N.Yorks schools from September. There will be 3 or 4 session a week (afternoons). Applicants must have full EF coaching qualifications as well as CRB. Please contact [Mrs S. Grace](#) on 07745 483689 for more information.

If you would like to advert in *To the Point* please contact us [here](#).

Disabled Fencing News

It is an exciting time for Wheelchair Fencing as the number of people competing is rapidly rising and the best wheelchair fencers aim for international selection. The ultimate goal is a place in the GB Paralympic Team for London 2012 or Rio 2016. We need fencing clubs to welcome these wheelchair fencers and offer them a place to train and compete. We also need coaches locally to help them achieve these goals and we need accessible facilities.

BDFA would like (initially) at least one BFA affiliated club in every county to be open to wheelchair fencers. By pooling together resources, equipment, facilities and coaching expertise, we would like to work together with clubs to make this possible.

A questionnaire will be sent to all clubs shortly to

express their interest. Every week BDFA receives enquiries from new wheelchair fencers asking for details of their local club; could this be your club? In the meantime should you wish to find out more, please contact [Dawn Newbery](#) on 07787 944042.

A free Wheelchair Fencing Coaches Course is being held on 19th June at University College, Worcester, which will also coincide with a BDFA training camp. This will be an interactive and practical one day course for current BFA coaches to provide them with the skills and knowledge to coach wheelchair fencers.

For further information, please contact Caz Walton on 07803 407260. The closing date for applications is 28th May 2010. There will be limited space on the course, so it will be a first-come first-served basis.

Dawn Newbery

Coach Education News

Planning for this summer's National Academy (NA) residential coach development programme has commenced. Norman is working closely with NA Lead Tutor David Kirby on an intensive and wide-ranging timetable of practical, theoretical and applied theoretical sessions designed to enhance the skills, knowledge and behaviours of the would-be Level 4 coaches.

A second call has gone out seeking those coaches interested in studying for a Level 3 Certificate of Tutoring in Sport (CTS) and the response has been very encouraging. The CTS programme is recognised by all governing bodies of sport and is a mix of practical and taught sessions as well as guided study, equipping the holder with the skills of planning, preparing, delivering and reviewing training sessions.

Schools Fencing [Click here](#)

Filton College News

British Fencing and Filton College are pleased to announce that David Kirby has been appointed as the coach to lead this new initiative.

Fencers are now able to enroll on a course to do the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (a 2-year Level 3 qualification that can be done in conjunction with A-levels or vocational qualifications) at the college. For details of the AASE programme click [here](#).

Fencing is now part of the Bristol Academy of Sport at Filton. Click [here](#) for details of Filton's existing activities with 10 sports.

Applications are now sought from fencers who want to take advantage of this offer. In order to be eligible, fencers must be aged between 16 and 19 as of 31st August 2010 (born between 31/8/94 and 1/9/91) and willing to enroll on this 2-year course at Filton College, Bristol. Click [here](#) for the initial application form.

There will be some financial and practical assistance available to any fencers who live more than an hour away from the College.

Neil Brown

1 Baron's Gate, 33-35 Rothschild Road, London W4 5HT

U20 & U17 World Championships, Baku

Full results (including all score sheets) from the event are available [here](#). Results for all the British fencers including individual team match stats can be found [here](#).

Top British results over 9 days of fencing were:

Amy Radford who came 8th in the Cadet Women's Epee, has qualified for the [Youth Olympic games in Singapore](#). Alex Tofalides, Henry Walker and Leah King also made the last 16 in their respective Cadet events. Also Gareth Thomas made the last 16 of the Junior Men's Epee.

15 out of the 31 fencers representing Great Britain in the individual events reached the last 32 or better. [More...](#)

Academy News

Following successful pilot days in February and March, we are now receiving applications from fencers who wish to take part in the National Academy Summer training camp at Nottingham Trent University in August.

Click [here](#) for the expression of interest form that should be completed by all fencers (including those on the pre-selected list) on the National Academy page of the British Fencing website. This needs to be sent to the British Fencing office by the 15th May.

There are a limited number of bursaries available for fencers attending National Academy Summer camp. Details on the expression of interest form.

Summer training camp:

-The aim of the National Academy is to provide a quality environment for those with the talent and desire to succeed.

-The National Academy week will be like no other fencing training camp; **you will not just be fencing**. This course will focus on training and education for the top British fencers at all three weapons. It will include strength and conditioning training, sports psychology, nutrition, physiotherapy, fencing, referee training and other essential skills. Most importantly, it will be great fun and a memorable experience!

-There is an open invitation for any coach to attend National Academy sessions as an observer. We would like to specifically encourage coaches of those selected to be involved in the National Academy for their own development. We will require the coach to have an up to date CRB clearance and to be registered with British Fencing. Contact us [here](#) if you have any queries.

British Fencing

T: 020 8742 3032

F: 020 8742 3033

Skype: british.fencing

W: www.britishfencing.com

Events

Event	Date
British Youth Championships	1 May
LPJS Wrexham Foil	8 May
LPJS Tameside Sabre	9 May
Sheffield Open	15 May
LPJS Camden Sabre	16 May
BYCs U10 B&G Foil	23 May
City of Chichester Open	29 May
Interclyde Open	29 May
LPJS Scotland Epee	5 June
LPJS Scotland Sabre	5 June
LPJS Scotland Foil	6 June
Hertfordshire Open	6 June
The Gateshead International	12 June
Wrexham Open	12 June
IAPS Championships	12 June
London Youth Games	12 June
London Six Weapon Open	19 June
England Youth Championships	19 June
Academy Youth Cup	26 June
Cumberland Open	26 June
LPJS Arnold Epee	27 June
White Horse Team Trophy	27 June

Courses	Date
First Aid and SPC	31 July
L1 & 2 Foil and Epee	2-6,9 Aug

Coach Registration News

Following the England Fencing office move to British Fencing HQ, some of you may have noticed a slower response rate that usual to some of your Coach Education enquiries. As part of the transfer we have been implementing new administrative procedures that will help the Coach Education system function more effectively. This will result in a better service to current and future coaches. I would like to thank everyone for their patience during this period.

Those people who have done a coaching course in the recent past but have not been issued with a certificate are probably missing a piece of documentation before their qualification can be issued. Please contact me [here](#) if this is you.