

To the Point

Your monthly guide to Fencing in Great Britain
Issue 05 April 2010 – Reader Friendly Version

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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.

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 Hutchison, 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 principal 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

Academy News

Following successful pilot days in February & 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 web site. 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 & education for the top British fencers at all 3 weapons. It will include strength & conditioning training, sports psychology, nutrition, physiotherapy, fencing, referee training and other essential skills. Most importantly it will be a 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.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the Summer camp or the application process.

Filton College News

British Fencing & 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 enrol 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 at 31st August 2010, (born between 31/8/94 and 1/9/91) and willing to enrol on this 2-year course at Filton College in 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

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 & 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...](#)

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 the 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 your membership and what members actually receive as well as any other topics that came up throughout conversation.

Finally, since British Fencing is currently in the process of developing their 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, and with that said I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that 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 organization 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

Coach Education News

April was an active month for coach education with Fast Track Level 1 programmes happening in Nottingham, Surrey, Newcastle and Ashton. Level 2 programmes are now being planned for the autumn and dates will be published shortly.

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.

Norman Randall

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 wish to place an advert in *To the Point* please contact us [here](#)

Schools News [Click here](#)

Courses News

This month British Fencing ran 3 Level 1 Fast Track courses across England. We would like to thank all that those that attended and we hoped you enjoy the course. However, we would like to remind those candidates that they need to show proof of their CRB, First Aid and SPC certificates in order to be issued their coaching certificate.

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 aiming 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 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 of 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 also being held on June 19th at the University College, Worcester which will also co-incide with a BDFa training camp. This will be an interactive and practical one day course for current BFA Fencing Coaches to provide them with

the skills and knowledge to coach Wheelchair Fencers. For further information please contact Caz Walton on 0780 3407260. 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 serve basis.

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's 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 trained in a series of camps over the last 4 weeks, in order to prepare for the upcoming events. The women's épée 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.

TA days are aimed at English fencers in the 10 – 14 yr* age bracket, and it is 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

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
British Youth Championships 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
Wxreham 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 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 and result in a better service to current and future coaches. I would like to thank everyone for their patience during this period.

Also I would like to make aware to people who have done a coaching course in the recent past but have not been issued a certificate, that they are probably missing a piece of documentation before there qualification can be issued. Please contact me [here](#) if this is you.

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