

# To the Point

Your monthly guide to Fencing in Great Britain  
Issue 08 August 2010 – Reader Friendly Version

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British Fencing are running a  
[Level 1 & 2 Coaching Course in All Weapons in SE London this October](#)  
and  
[Fast Track Level 1 Coaching Course in Foil and Epee in Yorkshire this October](#)

If you wish to enroll on either of these courses please contact us [here](#) or call BF on 0208 742 3032



NATIONAL FENCING  
ACADEMY

## British Fencing Launches National Academy

British Fencing is pleased to announce the launch of its National Academy with an intensive week at Nottingham Trent University. The Academy is a new programme which will help British Fencing to deliver objectives in three key areas: Education, Talent Development and Club Development and will link the three strands together.

The Talent Development part of the week hosted some 90 athletes aged 14 to 16 years old covering all three weapons: foil, epee and sabre. This group will form the first crop of athletes to enter the Academy Talent Development programme and will eventually meet continuously at Regional Academies so that their progress can be monitored at regular intervals.

Not only will they receive world class fencing training but they will also learn about strength and conditioning training relevant to their physical development and about nutrition, psychology, planning and other areas of athlete lifestyle. This holistic education programme will provide the environment for those with the talent and desire to become successful senior athletes.

Ben Champion, National Development Manager for British Fencing, said, "We have done a tremendous amount of work developing our Long Term Athlete Development Framework for fencing which underpins the Academy. We are educating young athletes so that they understand that we must improve and develop their talent in a controlled and appropriate manner for each

individual. We can no longer rely on success at an early age as a way of identifying our talent, as more often than not it is late developers who go on to succeed at the highest level. The Academy will seek to nurture all of our athletes whether they succeed early or not. It is fundamental to our International success in the future.”

With a high staff to fencer ratio, it is clear that British Fencing is investing a lot of time and money in the first ever centrally run national training programme that covers all three weapons. Piers Martin, CEO of British Fencing, commented, “This week I have witnessed a mindset change in both the fencers and the staff around them which bodes well for the future of British fencing. We could not have achieved this ambitious goal without the funding that we get from Sport England and our sponsors, Lloyd and Partners. I’m extremely proud of everyone involved and we look forward to the roll out of our regional centres by the end of 2012. There is no doubt that the Academy will be the place where we nurture our top athletes for 2016 and beyond.”

The holistic approach taken by British Fencing has been warmly received by its membership. The week’s Academy programme included training not only for the athletes but also for team managers, armourers, referees and coaches. Private investment is very much needed for this sport to achieve all its goals and British Fencing would welcome interest from any organisation that wants title sponsorship of the Academy.

## **Filton College News**

### **ASSE in Fencing – It’s True! Get yours here!**

The fencing Advanced Apprenticeship programme, called AASE, has recently been confirmed by the government, so we are now actively recruiting for this wonderful opportunity for young fencers.

AASE in fencing is a two-year course run at Filton College, Bristol, and taught by David Kirby, the Head of Fencing at the college. If the learner is successful, the course will generate 360 UCAS points at A2 level. This is the same as three grade ‘A’ A2-Levels at 120 points each for the performance of fencing. There is also the opportunity to do other more traditional subjects at A-level in this high standard college, further adding to the UCAS total. We would expect fencers to probably do two other AS and one other A2 over the AASE programme, or more according to ability and desire.

The AASE course is a clear and straightforward route for competitive fencers to gain university entrance qualifications without compromising their academic standards or their fencing. The AASE fencing programme is ONLY available at Filton College. The programme also provides fencing training daily (free, I think) and training and competition in curriculum time. Why not ask about it?

If you know of any young fencers aged 16-19 (i.e. those who have just done their GCSEs - left Y11 at school), please get them to contact [AASE@filton.ac.uk](mailto:AASE@filton.ac.uk) and [david.kirby@filton.ac.uk](mailto:david.kirby@filton.ac.uk) immediately. If you have just completed L6 (AS levels), please also enquire. You should be able to continue any of your courses to A2 at Filton College; please ask [Jon Wyse](#), the Head of AASE. [more...](#)

## **Young Officials Development News**

Every fencer present at the National Academy received tutoring in armoury and refereeing. In addition to external candidates, there are some 94 new armourers and referees. The fencers were

taught how to look after and maintain their kit. The new refereeing exam was piloted to all fencers in a weapon-specific refereeing course. A total of 51/91 gained a refereeing qualification – considering that most were being examined for the first time, this pass-rate was encouraging. Of those who failed to gain a qualification, almost all passed either the theory or the practical, which was most encouraging. Thanks to everyone for their tireless work throughout the week.

## World Class News

Richard Kruse and the men's foil team have enjoyed a number of successes within the last 2 months, which hopefully are a sign of things to come at the World Championships in November. At the European Championships in July in Leipzig, Germany, Richard Kruse won the bronze medal in the individual men's foil event - this was Richard's third European Championship medal in four years. The men's foil team then matched this success a few days later by also securing the bronze medal in the team event. This was the first ever major international team medal for Richard Kruse, Laurence Halsted, Edward Jefferies and Marcus Mepstead. The medal was secured after a tremendous victory over Germany in the last 8 which Great Britain won 45-41 (amazingly there were 40 hits in the last 3 minutes of the match!), followed by a loss to Russia in the semi-finals, and then victory over Poland in the bronze medal match 44-37. Elsewhere in the European Championships generally the individual and team results were disappointing; however, the women's epee team (Corinna Lawrence, Elisa Albin, Hannah Lawrence and Mary Cohen) enjoyed an outstanding victory over Russia in their event, ultimately finishing 8th - a very promising sign for this group of young athletes. The success of Leipzig continued for Richard Kruse at the beginning of August, when he won the Singapore Masters Z1 Pro Fencing event, beating Italy's Andrea Cassara in the final. This was an excellent result in a strong field, which included Joppich, Kleibrink (both Germany), Baldini (Italy) and Ota (Japan).

Cat Paterson

## Adverts

**Do you belong to a fencing club in  
Beds, Berks, Bucks, Cumbria, Herts, Oxon, Lincolnshire or Suffolk?**

**Are you in a fencing club in Scotland or Wales and your club is interested in  
promoting wheelchair fencing?**

If so please contact [Dawn](#) on 07787 944042 and be part of the recent club audit. So far 40 clubs have responded.

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

## BDFa News

At the end of January next year the French wheelchair fencing squad are coming over for a 5-day camp. We are currently looking at all possible venue options that are close to an international airport or the Eurotunnel, have a sports hall facility that can be booked out for 5 days and ideally can provide accommodation and catering.

If you have or know of a facility that could provide this, we would love to hear from you. Please call [Dawn](#) on 07787 944042.

## Championships at Sheffield

This was a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase our sport with full integration on the Saturday in particular with the staging of the finals and award ceremony.

Honours were as follows:

Epee - Mike Hanney, Olwyn Fitzgerald

Sabre - Adrian Derbyshire, Viv Mills

Foil - Simon Wilson, Suzannah Rocket

A highlight of the weekend was the challenge by recently crowned British epee champion Jon Willis to take on one of our wheelchair fencers. A duel was arranged between Jon and Simon Wilson and as word spread a crowd grew quickly around the fencers. Simon won 15 – 10!

For pictures of this and the nationals weekend please go to our [website](#).

## **VOLUNTEERING AT LONDON 2012**

Thank you to all those who have applied to be a London 2012 Games Maker since the sport specialist applications opened on 27 July.

LOCOG has advised us that applications from generalists can be made from 15 September, when they expect to receive a considerable number of applications from the general public.

If you want to apply as a sports specialist, but have not yet done so, we recommend that you complete the online application form before 15 September. Likewise, if you are part-way through your application form, you should finish it as soon as possible.

Information on how to apply is on the British Fencing [website](#).

The closing date for all applications (from sports specialists and generalists) is **27 October 2010**.

## **Coach Development News**

May, June and July were full on with exciting projects and there's no summer down-time, with August being completely focussed on preparations for the National Academy residential and for the Change4Life (C4L) fencing club initiative; at the same time arrangements are being made with our external partners for other autumn, winter and spring training activities. We are currently working on:

***UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) endorsement*** – Work continues on the task of aligning our coach development scheme with the national standards for endorsement by sportcoachUK, the national lead agency for coaching standards.

***Change 4 Life (C4L)*** – Training plans are now in place and C4L tutors will be trained to deliver training to the volunteers from schools choosing a C4L fencing club at the start of September. Training for volunteers will commence around the October half-term break. 317 schools have chosen to establish a fencing club and there are other schools not in the scheme that want to be part of it. We have participated in two video shoots for a promotional film about the project.

***Lead Tutors*** – The quality assurance process and protocols have been drafted and trial visits will be made over the next few months, starting with the Academy residential.

***Certificate of Tutoring in Sport (CTS)*** – The first cohort completed the introductory phase of training for the CTS and the Introduction to Assessment Practice in Sport award. Over the next 6 months members of the cohort will be monitored and observed co-delivering coach education, armoury training and refereeing programmes.

**Fencing Activity Leaders** – Despite it being the height of the summer period when holiday camps, and activity and leisure centres are at their busiest, we are still providing training services for our clients in developing their staff to deliver taster sessions.

**Sport Leaders Training** – We have been busy training more sport leaders to deliver the soft-form of our sport.

**School Sport Partnership (SSP) Conference** – We will once again have an exhibition stand at the SSP conference in October. This will be our fourth year with a presence at this popular event and each year it has been very noticeable how much higher and more positive a profile our sport has in the eyes of those working in sports delivery and sport administration in the State education sector.

**Conferences** – We held a conference of Coach Tutors (what we used to call coach ‘educators’) in June where there was some useful debate about the systems and procedures required for a more effective coach and coach tutor training process. There had been an intention to put on three mini-conferences (North, Midlands and South) for coaches and club organisers in September/October, but they were mooted before we knew of the C4L project and our attention has had to be on that for the time being. There will, of course, be a national conference again in March 2011.

Norman Randall

## Events

Event	Date
<a href="#">UK School Games</a>	2-5 Sept
<a href="#">Essex Open 6W</a>	4 Sept
<a href="#">BSC London Foil</a>	11-12 Sept
<a href="#">Hamlet Open</a>	11 Sept
<a href="#">NVA Winton</a>	11 Sept
<a href="#">BSC Hampton Epee</a>	12 Sept
<a href="#">Bristol Open 6W</a>	18-19 Sept
<a href="#">Manchester Cadet 6W</a>	18 Sept
<a href="#">Shropshire Open</a>	25-26 Sept
<a href="#">LPJS Bedford Sabre</a>	26 Sept
<a href="#">Ashton Open 6W</a>	2-3 Oct
<a href="#">Sussex Open</a>	2-3 Oct
<a href="#">U17 National Champs 6W</a>	2 Oct
<a href="#">U20 National Champs 6W</a>	3 Oct
<a href="#">LPJS Camden Foil</a>	9 Oct
<a href="#">Advalus Pro Sabre MW</a>	9 Oct
<a href="#">Uni. Of York Fencing Open</a>	9 Oct
<a href="#">Highland Open</a>	16-17 Oct
<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Allstar Cup</a>	16 – 17 Oct
<a href="#">Elite Epee Junior Series</a>	23 Oct
<a href="#">Liverpool Uni. Intermediate Epee</a>	23 Oct
<a href="#">Gateshead Junior Sabre</a>	23 Oct
<a href="#">Elite Epee Senior Mens Open</a>	24 Oct
<a href="#">Coventry Open</a>	30-31 Oct
<a href="#">Team Newcastle Int. Cadet Epee</a>	6-7 Nov

<a href="#">Leeds Open 6W</a>	6-7 Nov
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## Courses

Course	Date
<a href="#">L1/2 Foil, Epee, Sabre, SE London</a>	25-29 Oct
<a href="#">Fast Track L1 Foil, Epee, Yorks</a>	TBC

## Other News

Congratulations to Bridlington Blades Fencing Club who recently received an award from the Cash 4 Clubs grant programme. To find out more, click [here](#).

## British Fencing

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

Tel: 020 8742 3032  
Fax: 020 8742 3033  
Skype: british.fencing

[www.britishfencing.com](http://www.britishfencing.com)