

To the Point

Your monthly guide to Fencing in Great Britain
Issue 10 2010

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WCPP Restructuring News

Following on from the 2010 Fencing World Championships in Paris in November and UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme (WCPP) funding review in December, the Board of Directors of British Fencing have voted unanimously to bring substantial changes to our elite fencing programme in preparation for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Effective immediately, the WCPP will be overseen by a Performance Management Group working in concert with UK Sport to bring state-of-the-art performance management tools and processes to ensure we field the strongest possible fencing team as the April start to the Olympic qualifying period approaches.

The WCPP will be joined by a full-time Performance Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Olympic squad.

Graham Watts, who has served as Performance Director over a ten-year period – as a volunteer and as a paid, part-time contractor – will step down from his position with immediate effect. British Fencing thanks Mr Watts for his efforts to advance elite fencing in Great Britain during his tenure.

Coaches and support staff will remain in place, as an immediate financial and performance review will determine future needs.

World Championships

The 2010 season for all WCPP athletes culminated in the World Championships which were held in the Grand Palais in Paris in November. This spectacular setting saw thousands of spectators turn out on a daily basis and gave the athletes involved a feel for the kind of support that they can probably expect in London in 2012. There were mixed results for the 22 athletes in the British team. In the individual events Martina Emanuel (Women's Foil), Chrystall Nicoll and Joanna Hutchison (both Women's Sabre) reached the last 32 stage and both Nicoll and Hutchison lost their fights 14-15. There was more success across the board in the team events where the women's foil team, the men's foil team and the women's sabre team all finished above their world ranking. The men foilists (who were missing their number one fencer Richard Kruse through injury) secured a final position of 8th place, after a

COACHING COURSE COMING SOON

London

(L1/2 Foil or Epee)

Please click [here](#) for an application form.

strong victory over the USA in the L16 stage saw them go on to have close losses to France and Korea. With the 2011 season just around the corner, all athletes are now in a programme of season preparation and training camps to ensure that they are in the best shape possible for the start of the Olympic qualifying period.

British Fencing National Academy

The first National Academy regional session took place in Birmingham on the 21st Nov. The plans and timetable for the regional delivery of the National Academy programme are all available on the British Fencing [website](#), together with some video resources showing items developed following the National Academy residential training in August.

70 fencers took part in this session which had support from five Birmingham University staff and volunteers from the West Midlands region. The fencing coaches were Peter Cormack, Glen Golding and Peter Rome. Also in attendance was Anthony Turner, the lead S&C coach from the Summer who has been responsible for setting the testing & exercise programme for the National Academy fencers. Thanks to Lynne Melia & Sam Stockley for managing this.

At this training day Warren Melia gave a talk explaining how the principles of Long Term Athlete Development should apply to academy-age fencers. Click [here](#) for more details of the British Fencing LTAD strategy.

The National Academy will start in the North East next, with British Fencing Academy, SUNE (Sports Universities North East England) being led by Beth Davidson and Iain Aberdeen. Fencers are invited to apply to attend this session or the next Birmingham session on the 28th Dec. Click [here](#) for more details and applications.

Referee training

The next British Fencing Academy, Birmingham session on the 28th Dec will include a referee

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
Year from everyone
at British Fencing*

training seminar; please apply using the [form](#).

For any questions, please contact [Neil Brown](#).

For the full Academy Calendar with a list of dates and locations for both Regional and National, please click [here](#).

Neil Brown

Change4Life News

The Change 4 Life programme has proved to be difficult to organise for a number of reasons; however, it is slowly but surely starting to come together. All schools with a Change 4 Life fencing club have been invited to host courses that will train teachers and leaders to deliver the fencing Change 4 Life programme. So far, the following courses have been arranged (9.00 am – 4.30 pm unless stated):

Wednesday 5th January 2011: St Clere's School, Butts Lane, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex SS17 0NW.

Friday 7th January 2011: Sittingbourne Community College, Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL.

Thursday 10th February 2011: Colchester Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex CO1 1SN.

Places on the above courses can be booked via the Youth Sport Trust's [online booking system](#). If you would like to host a course at your school, please [email](#).

Officiating & Leadership

British Fencing are working towards creating an Officiating & Leadership programme that is self-sustaining, affordable, standardised and all-encompassing. Training will take place through the Academy, meaning that all fencers will have regular access to local courses.

Anyone who wishes to organise a course at their own venue can do so by emailing [Jack Boteler](#).

Jack Boteler

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Apology

British Fencing would like to make a formal apology regarding a communication we sent out to members recently. We are currently in the process of testing our electronic communication system, which includes working with our official suppliers, such as Leon Paul, to create greater value for our members and reduced costs to the sport as a whole. We have been using Charlie Miller's email account to save costs while we test out a new communications delivery system. In the future a dedicated email for varying communications will be established, in which members will be able to choose whether they wish to receive such messages.

It is our intention to develop effective electronic communication with our members as part of our Terms and Conditions; whilst we develop these options, we have clearly added the section at the bottom which includes unsubscribing.

We would once again like to extend our sincerest apologies if the recent communication caused any offence to our members.

If you have any further questions on this issue please contact Piers Martin at piers.martin@britishfencing.com.

Wheelchair Fencing World Championships, Paris 2010

The Wheelchair World Championships were held alongside the able-bodied World Championships in the magnificent venue of the Grand Palais in the centre of Paris. There were 138 competitors (restricted entry) and 25 nations in attendance

Our two best performances came in the sabre where both fencers finished above their world ranking going into the event

Tom Hall-Butcher (ranked 14th) fenced particularly well to beat former Paralympic medallist Stacruz in the poule. His overall placing of 12th is his best competition result to date given the class of the opposition. This should really give Tom confidence in his abilities and make him realise that he can not only qualify for London 2012 but push towards a semi-final place if he really puts the work in.

Vivien Mills (ranked 10th) fenced well in sabre too and almost beat Burdon (the overall runner-up) in her poule. In the quarter-final, Viv lost to Trigilia (ITA) 6-15. 7th place in her first World Championships is a very good result (she has been fencing less than 2 years). Unfortunately, Viv will now have to drop her favourite weapon and switch to foil as there will be no women's sabre event in the London 2012 Paralympics.

For the other fencers competition was tough! British final placings were as follows:

- Tom Hall Butcher - sabre 12th, foil 26th
- Simon Wilson - foil 22nd, epee 26th
- Viv Mills - sabre 7th, epee 22nd
- Suzannah Rockett - foil (no direct elimination stage), epee 22nd
- Justine Moore - foil 18th, epee 19th
- Women's Epee Team - 10th

For more detailed results click [here](#).

For more information contact [Dawn Newbery](#) on 07787 944042. [More..](#)

Coach Survey 2010 Results

Earlier this year we asked our registered coaches to complete an online survey on the coach education system and coaching in general.

We were delighted with the response we received and would like to thank all the coaches that took part. We are now acting on the feedback we collected to improve the coaching education system and the service we offer to coaches.

For more information on the results including the executive summary, please click [here](#).

Filton College News

The AASE Apprentices' Programme at Filton College, the Bristol Academy of Fencing, received a boost last week, when the new sports hall was given planning approval in principle. The hall is a massive 70 x 40m and should be on-line and open by the end of the summer term 2011.

The exciting part of this is that fencing is planned to get its own dedicated space – an area that would make Filton College one of the world's best fencing training venues. We are now into detailed planning – working out the lighting levels, the number and spacing of the pistes and the requirements for storage. There's no doubt we will end up with permanently installed aluminium pistes for accurate foil and epee training, and good grip for all weapons.

We are planning on an international standard of sprung floor over which we'll run the pistes and the top-class sports vinyl wearing surface. What a facility for the athletes training here!

The building is a modular construction and the time to build is estimated at 6 weeks – as long as it's not under feet of snow and ice, of course. Naturally, it will take twice as long to do the fitting out once the shell is up, but even so it should be well in time for the start of the new year and our new cohort of apprentices.

Anyone wanting more information or to tell Filton they might be interested (no obligation or commitment) should email [David Kirby](#). There will be a maximum of 17 places across all six weapons, so if you think you might like to come, you'd do well to contact [David Kirby](#) on 07970 642967.

Members Regional Affiliation

Following requests from several regions at last year's AGM, England Fencing have carried out a wide-ranging consultation and review into how the regions are structured and managed.

A number of changes will be introduced over the next year

or so. One change that will be noticed from later this year is that members will be asked to affiliate to a specific region, in addition to the current system of affiliating to a Home Country.

This affiliation will define the region for which they may fence in representative teams (i.e. Winton Cup and Cadet Winton), as well as the region in which they can enter regional competitions, such as BYC qualifiers or regional senior championships

There is no qualifying criteria – it is simply a matter for the fencer to choose for [More...](#)

Events

Course Name	Date
Aldershot Open	8-9 Jan
Scottish Open 6W	8-9 Jan
Cambridge Winter Tournament	15-16 Jan
Northern Ireland Open 6W	15-16 Jan
Kenilworth LPJS Foil	16 Jan
National Academy Regional Day	23 Jan
GLL Camden Int.Cadet Sabre	29-30 Jan
BSC Foil, Gateshead	29 Jan
North West Junior Series FES	30 Jan
Slough Open 2011 6W	5-6 Feb
Hants Open 2011 6W	12-13 Feb
Merseyside Open 6W	19-20 Feb
Elite Epee Junior Series	19 Feb
National Academy Training Day	19 Feb
England Trophy WS	25-26 Feb
Ashton LPJS FE	26-27 Feb
WS Team World Cup	27 Feb
Dundee Duel	5 Mar
LPJS Eton Foil	12-13 Mar
British School Team Champs	12-13 Mar
Christopherson Holdsworth Cup	13 Mar
Invicta Open	19-20 Mar
National Academy Training Day	19 Mar
World U20 & U17 Champs	20 Mar
Public Schools Fencing Champs	22-24 Mar

Courses

Course	Date
Fast Track L1 Foil, Epee, Yorks	Postponed
L1/2 Foil or Epee, N London	21-27 Feb

[Coach Education Application Form](#)