

THE SWORD

British Fencing Magazine

OCTOBER 2014

GOLD FOR
ARIANNA
ERRIGO

ALL THE ACTION AT THE SENIOR WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS - PAGES 10-14



Designed by fencers everywhere



Made in London

 **Leon Paul**
London

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Front cover image

Arianna Errigo wins Gold Medal for Women's Foil at the World Championships (photo: Augusto Bizzi)

Beazley sponsorship

Beazley has a five year partnership with British Fencing as its premier partner and official insurer. Through the sponsorship, Beazley aims to make a meaningful contribution to the continued development of the sport in Britain, both at the highest competitive level and through fencing clubs and schools throughout the country.



For up-to-date news, photos, videos and games, visit our dedicated microsite: beazleybritishfencing.com

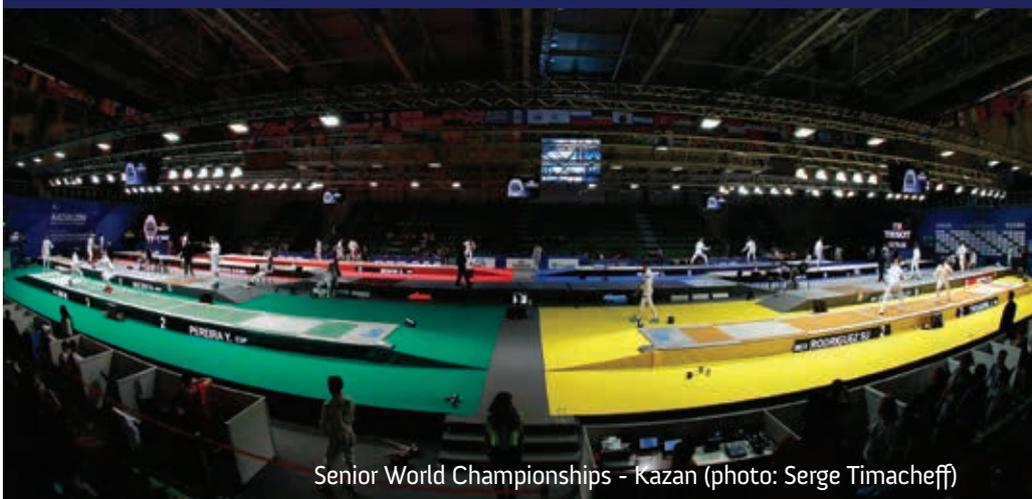
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Welcome to THE SWORD



Senior World Championships - Kazan (photo: Serge Timacheff)

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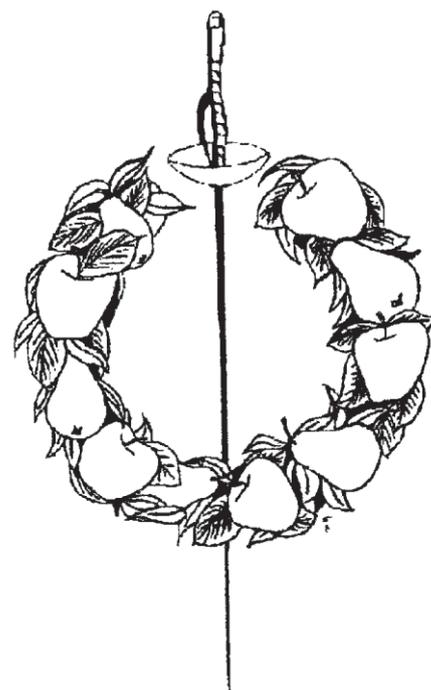
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EVENTS Latest report time

Saturday 22nd November

Men's Epée 09.00
 Women's Epée 09.30
 Women's Sabre 12.30

Sunday 23rd November

Men's Foil 09.00
 Women's Foil 09.30
 Men's Sabre 11.00

ENTRY FEE: £25 per weapon until the closing date ONLINE or by post..

CLOSING DATE: 13th November 2014 for receipt of online & postal entries.

NOTES: BFA rules (subject to organisers' discretion). BFA membership will be checked. Refreshments. Best Cadet/Junior/Veteran awards. Only one weapon may be entered per day.

Leon Paul sponsored competition (advance orders 0845 388 8132 or www.leonpaul.com).

For further information and results: see <http://www.one4all.plus.com/hwo.html>

ENTRIES ONLINE via: <http://leonpaulfencingcentre.com/comp/hw14>

POSTAL ENTRIES to: Leon Paul Fencing Centre, Unit 19 Garrick Industrial Centre, London, NW9 6AQ.

Hereford & Worcester Open 2014			
Name		BFA No.	
Club		British Ranking	
Weapon	Foil / Epee / Sabre	Telephone No.*	
Event	Men's / Women's	Email Address*	
Year of Birth		* Parent / Guardian if fencer is under 18 years of age	
Fee £25-00 (cheques payable to Leon Paul Fencing Centre)			
Fencers are personally responsible for making sure their own clothing and equipment conforms to the British Fencing rules and is in good, safe condition. Neither the organisers of the competition, Leon Paul, the referees, the officials nor British Fencing take any responsibility for these matters or for any accident, loss or damage to persons or property arising from participation in the competition. Entry fees are non refundable. I agree to these terms and wish to take part in the Hereford & Worcester Open.			
Signature*		Date	

LATE ENTRIES only accepted at the organisers' discretion by email application direct to J.C.Haynes@btinternet.com giving details as required in the POSTAL ENTRY FORM (see above) and £40 fee paid in cash at the venue at least 20 minutes before latest report time.

News

GO/FENCE IN SCHOOLS MARSHALL WINS OLDHAM AWARD

Stuart Marshall has won the prestigious Oldham Sports Coach of the Year Award 2014 (11th July 2014). This has been given in recognition of his work in schools and colleges, coaching children with disabilities, and tutoring the local sports development team so they can teach GO/FENCE in Schools. Along with fellow coaches from Marshalls Fencing Club, he is making fencing in Oldham a fun, accessible sport for all ages and abilities. He will now be shortlisted for the Greater Manchester Sports Coach of the Year Award. Good luck Stuart!



HOW TO BECOME A REFEREE

The information on the British Fencing's website on how to become a referee has been recently updated. For the latest information access the British Fencing Website: Home Page – Courses – Referee – How to Become a Referee.

SABRE GLOVES AND PLASTRONS – REMINDER

The F.I.E. is making a new specification of glove mandatory from 1st September 2014. Also, the requirement for wearing a plastron is changed from the same date. For full details access the British Fencing Website: Home page – News – Latest News.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Gabby Williams – Development Director

Gabby comes to fencing from London Sport where she delivered highly successful sports participation programmes. Throughout her distinguished career she has demonstrated the remarkable ability to work across organisational boundaries, securing funding and delivering results. Gabby has worked for many organisations including The Princess Trust and most recently London Sport – the county sports partnership for London. Her true passion lies with community sport. She also has first-hand experience of high performance sport, having represented England and British Universities at netball, playing National Super League and also captaining/coaching county netball squads. When the cold nights are upon us, you'll probably find her inside a chamber of 105 degrees Fahrenheit doing Bikram (hot) yoga!



Pierre Guichot – National Sabre Coach

Pierre is no stranger to international acclaim, having won a silver medal in team sabre for France at the 1984 Summer Olympics and a bronze in the same event at the 1992 Summer Olympics. By the time The Sword goes to press he will be in post as the new National Sabre Coach for the World Class Programme, having started on 2nd September. His first job will be to use his elite coaching experience to develop and implement a training and competition programme capable of producing medal winning athletes by 2020: a critical role as we work towards Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 - a job that he is well qualified to succeed at. Under his expert guidance he will provide the technical and tactical knowledge to further develop our men's sabre squad.



Ed Rogers – Editor of The Sword

Ed comes from Edinburgh in Scotland where he learned to fence at the local secondary school, becoming a Scottish schools fencing international early on. At this time he co-edited an alternative and at times slightly satirical version of the school magazine – his first editorial role. He is perhaps best known for writing two fencing books and is currently working on his third. He is keen to foster new writing talent in The Sword and to develop a varied and interesting content. Budding writers please take note! His first priority is to get the next issue out and the biggest challenge is coming to terms with using modern digital technology.



Wythenshawe Games 2014

Now in its third year, Wythenshawe Games has become Manchester's largest single community sports festival; taking place over seven days (26 July – 1 August) in and around Wythenshawe, centring on the beautiful historic Wythenshawe Park and Hall. A temporary 'Games Village', erected in the centre of the park, was programmed each day with drop-in sports activities. British Fencing took part for the first time as one of the 31 supporting organisations, represented by coaches and helpers from Marshall Fencing Club and Stockport Sword Club. Over this week nearly 3000 people attended this successful multi-sports event, which was free to all Wythenshawe residents.

Please note that the January, April and July issues of The Sword in 2015 will be electronically produced.

Message from the Chair

As I write this, my fourth Chair Message in 2014 – who’s counting?! – we in BF are not unoccupied. We are preparing for the October AGM, key papers for which have been posted on the website and sent to members separately; we are inducting our second Independent Director, Gill Palmer, who started on 1 September; we’re awaiting the outcome of our latest Board elections, where we have (I’m glad to say) four candidates for two Director places (we shall introduce the two successful people at the AGM); we are briefing partners and stakeholders; and the Board, management and staff are busy as ever with all the tasks necessary to make our “3G” strategy work to the high standards we and you, the members, want to see. Oh, and we are dealing with a wide range of daily messages, comments, issues and questions.

That’s a long shortlist with which to start this Message. I won’t apologise – you want us to be busy!

It’s far too early, still, to think about summing up this year. That is for December or January. But we always have a time clock running. Life is deadline based. The Board’s Annual Report elsewhere in *The Sword* feeds back on “Green, Grow, Gold” but on the last financial year – let me update that, briefly.

Our CEO Georgina and I are engaged in the 2014 Governance Audit that is a regular Autumn treat. We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors with the capabilities and focus continuously to improve governance. The standards set by our funding partners Sport England and UK Sport rise every year, as we accept they should. So, we have reviewed and improved a number of governance policies and procedures. We are confident we can meet the rising standards.

The “Grow” programme to get more people fencing demands extra special effort and creative energy. We are on a one year only deal with Sport England with some challenging award conditions. By December we are expected to deliver a new strategy

based on fresh insights into how we can recruit and retain more fencers. Georgina has been very much “on the case” and is now heartened and helped by our new and full time Development Director, Gabby Williams. I am confident that we will weather this storm and secure Sport England’s confidence into our sport’s potential to grow – particularly in the Government’s favourite target area of young people aged 16-25.

The “Gold” strategy is based on a World Class Programme well supported by UK Sport. In providing increased funding UK Sport makes clear that they see real medal potential for the future. James Davis’ European Gold was timely evidence that we are making good progress. Members will know that we have expanded our programme to include a men’s sabre squad. There is real hope for the next two Olympic Games in 2016 and 2020. But....But...we all know how hard it is to succeed at the top level. Nevertheless, our pint is and will stay half full; we believe we have talent within our system and can develop more athletes. The BF Talent Pathway is developing well and benefitting from the increased, three year funding from Sport England. We will never lack for hard work and focus in the

quest for medals or to develop talented athletes.

Sometimes, as Chair, I stop to reflect on our “3G” strategy and everything else we do. Any governing body’s brief is very, very wide. The demands are endless, often complex. It’s mine, the Board’s and Georgina’s shared duty to take an organisational view in SWOT terms. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. In British Fencing we have plenty of all four. Like any Board of Directors, we work all the time to reduce the Ws, build on our the Ss, maximize the Os and overcome or bypass the Ts. We can ever do better. Ask me again in January...



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Annual Report

British Fencing (BF) Board Annual Report 2013/14

In this year, the newly elected BF Board has concentrated its effort upon BF finances, on effective governance, on plans to grow fencing participation and further development of the World Class Programme (WCP). The Board remains committed to the “3G” strategy of Green, Grow and Gold and reports on each in this brief summary of 2013/14. This has been a year of consolidation, with further strategic and management reviews. Increases in funding from UK Sport and Sport England were achieved (although from the latter, partly on a one year provisional basis). Beazley continued to be an excellent partner, providing both invaluable resources and essential support and advice.

Given the deficit recorded last year, and the explanation given by the Board’s Chair of Audit, Governance & Risk (John Troiano) to members at the 2013 AGM, it seems important to start the report with FINANCES. The Board’s and management’s efforts to reform the finance systems and control helped bring a surplus for the year of £168,000, in contrast to the deficit last year of £216,000. The main reason for this surplus is the redemption of a BF investment. In operational terms, BF income increased by £28,000, while expenditure reduced by £188,000. There were significant cuts in head office costs; we made savings in The Sword, Board & Chair costs; we achieved improvements to our VAT recovery. The Board is clear that the previous year’s deficit was due mainly to exceptional items (eg legal and Olympic costs, debts written off, severance pay) which have not been repeated, bringing BF finances back to a “normal” operational level. So, the Board can report on strong progress made, through placing a major emphasis upon financial management.

“GREEN” for GOVERNANCE –

The Board’s continued emphasis on improving governance brought at last the “Green” approval rating, following an audit conducted by Moore Stephens on behalf of Sport England and UK Sport. This achievement is crucial to any body seeking public or lottery funding. There is no complacency; standards will continue to rise, demands on us will increase. The Board and management must take every care to ensure that our procedures, processes and standards of service stay responsive, appropriate and effective.

“GROW” – The Board is determined to implement an effective strategy for getting more people to fence, more often, across our three weapons. Much work has been done, including pilot projects designed to enhance our insight into why people fence and how we might persuade more beginners to stay in the sport. For further Sport England funding we are expected to deliver a step change in participation; the Board remains focused on putting an agreed programme in place; and a new Development Director has been appointed for that purpose.

“GOLD” – This was the year after the Olympics, with no such major events, but our normal fencing calendar brought its usual share of emotions – from disappointment and frustration, to success and joy – just like any sporting year. We all took pleasure in James Davis’ European Bronze medal and his place in the BOA’s Athletes of the year list; Richard Kruse’s World Combat Games title and his 100th international “cap”; our Cadet medals in Meylan – to name but a few! Andrey Klyushin’s arrival as the new Head Coach was welcomed. Our coaches, at all levels, enjoyed a very successful National Club & Coach Conference at Sandown, sponsored and organised by Beazley.

Our athletes’ talent and potential, and the progress being made in the World Class Programme (WCP), were rewarded by additional funding from UK Sport and more athletes in the programme. Overall, the Board believes a serious start has been made on the road to the Rio Games, and toward the Board’s ambitious goals for 2024 – but, we are realistic, there is a long way to go.

APPOINTMENTS – The year included three special appointments. Hilary Philbin became our new President, with responsibility for BF’s international role and effort. The Board recruited a new full time CEO (effective from 1 April 2014), Georgina Usher – BF’s first CEO with firm roots in the fencing community. We also recruited the first of two Independent Directors, in Janet Campbell. The Board believes that Hilary, Georgina and Janet will make important contributions to our sport.

The Directors face continued challenges in the coming year and beyond to retain financial stability and to deliver on the strategic vision. The Board remains fully committed to achieving real growth and success. We are fortunate in our partners – Sport England, UK Sport and Beazley in particular – without whose support our plans and objectives would surely remain unfulfilled.

Report from the president

Having been appointed by the Board in August 2013, I have now completed my first year as President of British Fencing.

As many of you will know, the role of President lay dormant for a couple of years following the re-structuring of British Fencing. With the new structure in place and bedded in, the President's role was recreated with a newly-defined set of responsibilities with the main emphasis on international relations. As this is my first report I am including a brief outline of the main responsibilities of the 'new' President.

The President's role is partly one of a figurehead for British Fencing and the sport as a whole, but largely one of international ambassador – liaising with representatives from other national fencing federations and the Executive Committees and Commissions of the FIE (Fédération Internationale d'Escrime) and the EFC (European Fencing Confederation). The role therefore includes updating the Board and the CEO on activities within the international fencing community, and advising on international policy and other matters.

Overseas

On the competition front I was pleased to be able to see our fencers in action at the World Championships in Kazan in Russia, where – along with our new CEO Georgina Usher – I hosted a reception for FIE Women & Fencing on behalf of both British Fencing and the FIE's Women & Fencing Council. The Council is committed to encouraging more women to become involved in all aspects of fencing, and we were pleased to be able to demonstrate that Great Britain is leading from the front in this respect. The event was well attended by women in a wide range of roles – national Presidents, FIE and EFC commission and council members, team managers, referees, coaches and medics – and was well-supported by the FIE Executive Committee and FIE Head Office.

However, my personal highlight of the season was being able to watch James Davis' performance in the European Championships, where he came away with a much-deserved gold medal. Congratulations James!

During the past year I have headed British delegations to the annual congresses of the FIE in Paris and the EFC in Strasbourg. These congresses offer an opportunity to look after the interests of British Fencing in a number of ways, contributing to the decision-making on a range of topics and voting on the numerous proposed rule changes (more than 140 this year). In addition it enables me to establish and strengthen relationships with like-minded nations, thus increasing our potential effectiveness and influence for future occasions.

Our wider role

It is important to remember our responsibility to look after the interests of fencing itself – rather than focussing solely on British Fencing. Great Britain is one of the nine founder members of the FIE, and there is a strong expectation in the international fencing community that Great Britain will continue to play its part in developing fencing and safeguarding its future.

The main priority of the FIE in ensuring fencing's long term future is to keep fencing in the Olympic Games. New sports are constantly battling to get in, and the IOC is adamant that it will not increase the overall number of medals awarded across all sports. Therefore, if a new sport is accepted into the Games, an existing sport must necessarily be dropped. Fencing has to work very hard indeed to maintain its place, and the FIE is constantly striving to consolidate and strengthen fencing's position.

There is a set of complicated measures which are calculated after each Games and in effect form a ranking, and this indicates which sports are vulnerable to being dropped. Increasingly nowadays, priority goes to television-friendly sports. This is reflected in the measures, which have a very strong focus on television and internet viewing figures, so the staging of fencing for these audiences is ever more important. London 2012 was recognised as the standard regarding future presentation of the sport, and I am pleased to be working with the FIE's Sport department to implement these standards more widely.

At home

At home the President's role includes representing British Fencing at formal occasions such as official functions, competition finals, gala events and sport-related seminars and presentations. It also includes attendance at the monthly Board meetings, the International Relations and Rules sub-committees, and the chairing of any meetings of the Vice-Presidents.

This season I have attended a range of events including international events such as the Beazley gala team matches in London and the international sabre event at the Copper Box, as well as domestic events at Crystal Palace, Sheffield and elsewhere. Apart from presenting medals, attending meetings and any other official duties, these occasions also enable me to speak to fencers, organisers, officials, parents and spectators, and to hear their views.

During the course of the year I have also attended UK Sport's International Leadership Programme. This consists of a number of 2-day modules aimed at supporting those who operate in the international sporting arena. These modules have a strong emphasis on international relationships – understanding the international sporting framework (this module includes a day with the IOC), working with other cultures and increasing the ability to influence – and it was useful to be working with my counterparts in national federations from other sports.

Additional activities

Apart from my role as President I am involved in a number of areas that, although not directly connected, nonetheless contribute to my ability to perform the role. These activities combine to increase my overall knowledge, strengthen my international relationships and enable me to gain a more detailed understanding of how fencing and the FIE works. The wider interests of fencing and the more specific interests of British Fencing are strongly linked.

These activities include:

- Member of the FIE Promotion Commission
- Member of the EFC Competition Commission
- Member of the FIE Foil Review Group
- FIE Chief of Protocol for major events
- Project work for the FIE Sport department
- Member of the IWF (International Wheelchair Fencing) Executive Committee
- Chair of the IWF Promotion Commission
- Technical Delegate for nominated IWF events

As you can imagine, these – along with the President's role – combine to keep me quite busy.

The coming year

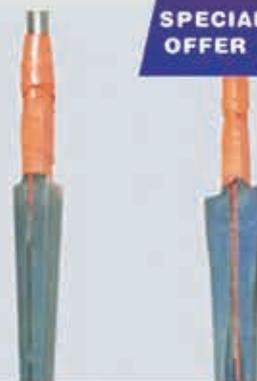
Looking ahead to next year, normal business will continue. Overseas I will be attending the congresses, commission meetings and major events, and I will be on the Directoire Technique of the World Junior Championships in Tashkent and the World Senior Championships in Moscow. At home I hope to get to as many of our National Championships as possible – senior, junior and veterans – as well as any international events on home soil. In particular I look forward to attending the Commonwealth Fencing Championships, both senior and veterans, in Largs in November. While at these UK events I usually attend a number of meetings but – if you see me standing still – please come up and talk to me!



Hilary Philbin
President, British Fencing

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Senior

World Championships 2014

with photos from Augusto Bizzi

A SPECIAL REPORT BY KARIM BASHIR

View from the Box...

My amazing and unexpected journey into fencing commentary continued in Kazan as part of what I now call the "travelling fencing circus". I still find it hard to believe that my completely accidental appearance as lead commentator at the European Championships in Sheffield has led to this but I have to say that I'm enjoying every minute of the ride.

The FIE live stream audience continues to grow and I hope that the coverage is getting better every time. There is much that goes on behind the scenes that doesn't get covered on air so when I was asked to give a little insight to the Worlds I had to think long and hard about what I'm about to write!

14th July

Today, most of the ten-strong GB team arrived in Kazan, Russia. They are joined by their support team for what will be the season finalé which starts tomorrow.

15th, 16, 17th July – Days 1, 2, 3

The first three days are taken up with those outside the top 16 competing in qualifying rounds to make the last 64 in each weapon.

18th July – Day 4 Women's Sabre

No British fencers were involved in the women's sabre event as 101 participants fought for the world title.

Jiyeon Kim (KOR) provided the biggest shock of the day going out 15-14 in an epic battle with Lucrezia Sinigaglia (ITA). Familiar names lined up for the semi-finals as Mariel Zagunis (USA) faced Yana Egorian (RUS) and Ekaterina Dyachenko (RUS) took on Olga Kharlan (UKR).

In the first semi-final, Egorian started well and went 4-2 into the lead. Better control

of distance from Zagunis meant that she drew level but after a failed video appeal Egorian went into the break with a slender 8-7 lead. Zagunis emerged from the break with a better game-plan and after levelling at 10-10 went on to win 15-12. The second semi-final was a repeat of the European Championship final and Kharlan stormed to an 8-2 lead at the break and went on to win 15-7.

As expected the final between Zagunis and Kharlan was a display of immense tactical ability mixed with fantastic athleticism. Zagunis edged the first period taking an 8-6 lead into the break. Kharlan managed to level at 9-9 before tumbling off the raised piste whilst trying to evade an attack from the American fencer. In a display of great sportsmanship, Zagunis immediately went to the aid of her opponent who fortunately was not badly hurt. The fall seemed to spur Kharlan on and employing a brave defensive approach she took the world title 15-12.

Men's Sabre

The second event of the championships was the men's sabre individual event where 122 fencers, including Soji Aiyenuro, Alex Crutchett, James Honeybone and Curtis

Miller of Great Britain fought to become the 2014 World Champion.

Aiyenuro, Crutchett and Miller all progressed through the first round earning byes through the first of two preliminary qualifying fights. James Honeybone won all of his first round matches and progressed directly to the round of 64. No other British fencer was able to join him as Vu (VIE) defeated Aiyenuro 15-12, Szatmari (HUN) beat Crutchett 15-9 and Quintero (VEN) knocked out Miller 15-10. In the round of 64 Honeybone faced Abedini (IRI) and trailed 8-6 at the break. Despite closing the gap to 10-9 down Abedini prevailed 15-10.

The first semi-final between Nikolay Kovalev (RUS) and Tiberiu Dolniceanu (ROU) took place mainly in the centre of the piste with neither fencer seemingly willing to concede much ground. Kovalev went into the break 8-6 up and went on to win 15-9 with a variety of hits including one stunning parry riposte. In the second semi-final Alexey Yakimenko (RUS) was on course for making it an all-Russian final for the second year in a row at the World Championships as he took an 8-5 lead into the break. At the start of the second period his opponent, Bongil Gu (KOR) had other ideas and began

Fair Play

Fencing is a fight. We can talk about style, technique, concentration, composure, tactics and physical fitness all day but those are now givens. The bottom line is you've got to beat your opponent. To show compassion in such moments is the sign of a true sportsman and there were two such occasions (that I witnessed) in Kazan.

To see Mariel Zagunis react the way she did when her opponent – Olga Kharlan – took a tumble from the piste in the women's sabre gold medal match was truly amazing. They are both intense fighters. They are both not satisfied with silver medals. That all disappeared as Zagunis demonstrated that Kharlan is a respected friend before anything when she was the first person to come to Kharlan's aid after what looked like a nasty fall.

Hard to top, you might think. For me, there was one story that did just that. Hungarian epeeist, Peter Somfai was competing in the first round of the men's epee when something exceptionally special happened. Somfai came on to the piste against Abdullah Al Hammadi of the United Arab Emirates. Al Hammadi, competing in his first major championships, came on to the piste in pristine whites and brand new weapons only for both of them to fail the test. At one-nil up (as a result of the cards shown) Somfai looks at his crest-fallen opponent who had no idea what to do. The Hungarian did! He walked over to the referee, asked him to wait, went to his own bag and pulled out his tool-box. He then sat on the side of the piste and showed Al Hammadi how to fix his weapons. Now that's sportsmanship on a level that I have never witnessed first-hand!

the start of what was to be a fantastic comeback. Using the full length of the piste, Gu was able to pick off his Russian opponent in attack and defence, going on to win 15-12.

With the home crowd behind him Kovalev's start to the final could not have been better. He went into the break 8-0 up with Gu looking completely frustrated and out of ideas. Despite a better performance in the second period Kovalev went on to take the title 15-7 with his fast-slow-fast attacks being a feature of the gold medal match.

19th July – Day 5

Women's Foil

Natalia Sheppard was Great Britain's sole representative in this event, joining a field of 86. Five victories out of six in the first round saw her progress directly to the round of 64 where she faced Jeszenszky (HUN). After losing the first hit Sheppard took complete control of the fight and went on to win impressively, 15-4. Innes Boubakri (TUN), the world number five was her opponent in the round of 32. The Tunisian went 6-0 up by the middle of the second period and despite an aggressive display from Sheppard, Boubakri went on to win 15-4.

In fact, Innes Boubakri made it through to the semi-finals where she faced Martina Batini (ITA) and the Tunisian took the initiative, quickly going 5-0 up. Batini adjusted her distance and that was enough for her to take the lead 13-12 at the first break. The Italian went on to win 15-12. In the second semi-final between two Italians, Valentina Vezzali and Arianna Errigo, the counter-attacking approach from Vezzali took her to an early 7-4 lead. Her trademark stop-hit with a front foot hop was the dominant feature of the early part of the fight. Despite showing signs of frustration Errigo opened the distance which gave her more room to land her attacks and that was enough to take a 15-10 victory.

The final between Batini and Errigo was a desperately tense affair with neither fencer seemingly keen on taking the risk of going too far behind the other. In the blink of an

Foil...Italy versus Russia

I've talked about Stefano Cerioni moving from Italy to Russia since 2012 a lot. With the incredibly humble Andrea Cipressa taking over from Cerioni, the eyes of the fencing world were always going to be on what effect this would have on the Italian and Russian foil teams. The impact on the women has been minimal. Both teams still top the charts with Italy leading the way but not without a changing of the guard. Martina Batini has emerged from the shadows as another Italian great, potentially. The real question is, will Valentina Vezzali be able to retain her place in the squad for Rio 2016? As things stand, the answer is a very resounding, YES! Since London 2012, she's had her second child and become

eye the match changed entirely and Errigo stormed to the World Championship title with a 15-7 victory.

Men's Foil

The second event of the day was the men's foil individual as 132 fencers fought for the world title including James Davis, Marcus Mepstead, Richard Kruse & Alex Tofalides. Ranked in the world's top 16, Davis did not need to qualify for the medal-day. Mepstead and Tofalides both won three of their six first round matches meaning that they earned byes directly to the second of two preliminary knockout fights. Kruse's first round performance was enough to progress directly to the round of 64. Mepstead went on to beat Santos (POR) 15-7 to join Davis and Kruse but Perez (VEN) knocked Tofalides out with a 15-14 victory.

In the round of 64, Davis beat Poscharnig (AUT) 15-11 but Mepstead lost 15-11 to Choupenitch (CZE) and Bachmann (GER) knocked Kruse out with a 15-8 win. Davis went on to beat Perrier (BRA) 15-12 and Rajski (POL) 15-10 to become Great Britain's first World Championship quarterfinalist in eleven years. There he faced world number two, Enzo Lefort (FRA), who was on amazing form all day. The French fencer controlled the fight and went into

a member of the Italian parliament. Still, she stood on the podium twice in Kazan.

The situation with the men's teams is slightly different! We can no longer simply look at Italy and Russia to see who will be at the top of the world rankings. China and Korea have shown what they can do since before the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and now we see the USA, France (more about them later) and dare I say it, Great Britain, playing a part at the end of the day. The impact of Cerioni moving to Russia has had an impact on the Italian men's foil team though. They have lost their "mojo" but there is still time for them to find it ahead of the Rio Olympics. I don't believe Andrea Cassara is done yet and that alone could be enough to turn things around for the Italians before the next Olympics.

the semi-finals with a 15-6 victory. Davis' performance ensured that he finished the season with a world ranking of six.



Italian Head Foil Coach, Andrea Cipressa consoles Andrea Baldini after his defeat to Tomer Or (ISR) in the round of 64.



Italian men's foilists (L to R), Valerio Aspromonte, Andrea Baldini and Andrea Cassara all out by the round of 16 in the individual event. Team mate, Giorgio Avola went out in the 16.

The other story of this event was the surprisingly demise of the Italian men's foilists. Valerio Aspromonte and Andrea Baldini both went out in the round of 64 to Byk (BLR) and Or (ISR) respectively. Andrea Cassara followed them out of the competition in the round of 32 losing to M. Kim (KOR).

Two spectacular semi-finals followed both including fencers from Russia. In the first Lefort dominated the early part of the fight over Alexey Cherimisinov going 4-0 up. The Russian went on the attack and stormed to a 15-8 win. In the second semi-final, world number one, Jianfei Ma (CHN) faced world number sixty, Timur Safin (RUS). After two well prepared and successful attacks, Safin sniffed his opportunity and upped the pace, quickly taking a 6-1 lead. Ma suddenly came to life and started to attack himself. He trailed 8-6 at the break but the momentum had clearly shifted to the Chinese fencer who went on to win 15-14. In the final the Russian was intent on putting in a good performance on home soil and his aggressive display saw him go 9-2 up. His tactic of following up every lunge attack with a forward recovery and continuation consistently brought up single lights in his favour. Then, without reason, he appeared to decide to change his approach and slowed the fight down. Ma started a comeback and within a minute had closed to 10-6 down. Cheremisinov, inspired by his coach, returned to his original game plan and took the title with a 15-11 win.

GB individual placings: Davis 6th, Kruse 38th, Mepstead 56th & Tofalides 81st.

20th July – Day 6 Women's Epee

Corinna Lawrence was Great Britain's only representative in this event, joining a field of 131. Winning three of her five first round matches ensured that she secured a bye through the first of two preliminary knockout fights meaning that she faced Tatiana Gudkova (RUS) – twice Junior World Champion – to make the round of 64. Lawrence, who now combines her training in London with regular trips to France for sparring, dominated the fight from the start and went through 15-8. In the round of 64 she faced Marie Florence Candassamy (FRA) and led 8-7 going into the final period. The French fencer came out with purpose and went on to win 15-10.

The top four seeds were all out by the quarterfinal stage which meant Rosella Fiamingo (ITA) faced Yana Shemyakina (UKR) in the first semi-final and Erika Kirpu (EST) took on Britta Heidemann (GER) in the second. Fiamingo adopted a patient approach throughout the fight and led 7-5 going into the last period but Shemyakina came from behind to force a priority minute with the score 12-12 at time. The Ukrainian had the priority but it was the Italian who went on to fight for the title winning in a close quarters exchange. Heidemann's experience made her the favourite for the second semi-final but Kirpu settled after a shaky start to level at 4-4 at the first break. The German seemed to be allowing the Estonian to push her to the back line but Kirpu was reluctant to do anything once she got there. Eventually Heidemann took control and led 11-5 at the second break. She went on to win 15-10.

In the final the young Italian (23 years old) had the challenge of handling Heidemann's

experience of winning multiple major Championship medals. However, Fiamingo's impressive show of patience in the first period of the gold medal match saw her level at 2-2 with Heidemann. A combination of a break in concentration and a change in tactics meant that the German led 6-4 going into the third and final period. Fiamingo's fearless approach to that final three minutes saw her dominate and she took the World title in truly aggressive style 15-11.

GB placing: Lawrence 51st.

Men's Epee

The final individual event of the day was men's epee where a massive field of 178 fencers did not include any British fencers. Despite some of the top seeds dropping fights in the first round on the preliminary day most of them made it through. However many of the top seeds fell early on the medal day, most notably Novosjolov (EST) who was knocked out 15-8 by Vuorinen (FIN) in the round of 64.

The first semi-final was an all French affair as Gautier Grumier took on Ulrich Robeiri. Grumier led 5-4 at the first break despite falling behind early on. Robeiri's effective use of a change of distance saw him take control in the second period and he led 10-6 at the second break. Much the same continued in the final period and Robeiri went on to fight for gold with a 15-11 win. The second semi-final between Kyoungdoo Park (KOR) and Enrico Garozzo (ITA) was an entirely different affair. Park started aggressively and his hard working style saw him lead 7-4 at the first break and 12-8 at the second. There was nothing that the Italian could do as Park went on to win 15-10.

In the final Park came out with intent and took an early lead but Robeiri's calm approach saw him level at 3-3 at the first break. The second period was much tighter as the French fencer's tactics appeared to slow the Korean down. At the third break it was clear that Robeiri's coach was instructing him to finish attacks and ripostes to the midriff of his opponent. He followed that instruction to the letter in the final period and quickly established an 8-6 lead. At that point and in a sign of true sportsmanship Robeiri appeared to score a point in a close quarters encounter but he immediately signalled that it wasn't a valid hit. He had in fact hit himself. With the clock showing less than half of the period was left it was all about when Park would take the risk and start attacking. He left it too late and Robeiri lifted the title with a 15-11 victory.

Return of the French

I remember saying during commentary in Strasbourg at the European's, "Attention! The French are back!" Well they are. They, for me, were the stand out team at the Worlds. Given their rankings across the weapons they out-performed by a country mile. I, for one, will be keeping a close eye on them. Ulrich Robeiri winning the men's epee title and Enzo Lefort's coming of age this season have been the showcase moments for them but watch out for the women's sabre team too. Speaking of sabre, it was a pleasure to call Germany's first ever worlds gold in the men's team sabre event. With Richard "The German Juggernaut" Hubers coming through it's probably worth keeping an eye on them too!

21th July – Day 7

Women's Sabre Team

There were twenty-two entries into the first of the team events at the 2014 World Fencing Championships but no entry from Great Britain. The biggest shock of the tournament was the French team's hugely impressive victory over the World number one team, Russia in the quarterfinals (45-41). They went on to an equally impressive victory (45-42) over Italy in the first semi-final. The other semi-final between the USA and Ukraine was an incredibly tight affair which was won by the USA 45-44.

The bronze medal match between Italy and Ukraine started well for the Ukrainians and they led 15-9 after three matches. Two strong legs from the Italians saw them seize the lead but on came Kharlan to put the Ukrainians back in charge. Bianco and Vecchi performed well in the seventh and eighth legs to put Italy 40-35 up going into the final leg. As we have come to expect Kharlan came on to anchor the Ukrainians and a typically assured display saw her take them to victory 45-42.



Nicholas Limbach anchored the German men's team to their first event sabre team World Championships title.

The USA team dominated the early stages of their gold medal match with France and despite the French taking the lead after the third and fourth legs the USA led 30-28 after the sixth. From then on the Americans pulled away and took the gold medal comfortably, 45-39.

Men's Sabre Team

Twenty-five teams took part in this event including one from Great Britain (Aiyenuro, Crutchett, Honeybone & Miller in reserve). Spain were their opponents in the incomplete round of 32 and led 30-25 after six matches. Great Britain took the narrowest of leads into the final leg at 40-39 up but Casares anchored the Spanish team home with a 45-44 victory.

Germany defeated the number one seeds Russia 45-40 in the first semi-final and Korea beat Hungary 45-32 in the second. So the Hungarians took on the Russians for the bronze medal and a very solid start saw them lead 15-11 after three legs. The lead changed hands at the end of each of the next three legs so it was the Russians that led 30-28 after six fights. Russia went into the final leg with a 40-36 lead but Hungary had reigning Olympic Champion, Szilagy, on in the anchor leg and his masterful display meant that Hungary levelled at 43-43. The Hungarians went on to win 45-44 to take the bronze medal. In an interesting aside the Hungarian team have faced the Russians three times in this event at World Championships held in Russia. They have won every time.

In the gold medal match the Koreans led the Germans 15-10 after a strong performance in the opening three legs. Limbach, Hartung and Wagner all fought well and with a great deal of determination to take Germany to a 30-27 lead after six fights. A truly gutsy performance took them to an historic 45-41 victory to secure Germany's first ever Men's team sabre World title.

21th 22nd July – Days 8-9

The final two days of the senior World Championships featured team foil and epee events for both men and women.

Women's Foil Team

There were eighteen entries into this event but Great Britain was not amongst them. The top four seeds progressed to the semi-finals with no major issues where Italy defeated Korea 45-23 and Russia beat France 45-37.



Italy's gold medal winning women's foil team, (L to R), Valentina Vezzali, Arianna Errigo, Martina Batini & Elisa Di Francisca.

That meant that France faced Korea for the bronze medal. Despite Korea taking the first leg 5-2, France took over the lead (8-7) at the end of the second period and never relinquished it. They earned their place on the third step of the podium with a 45-35 victory.

We have become accustomed to seeing Italy face Russia in gold medal matches in this discipline so it was no surprise that the match was extremely tight. Italy led 15-12 after three bouts only for Russia to steal the lead, 30-29, after six. Elisa Di Francisca's 5-2 eighth leg gave Arianna Errigo the platform to take Italy to gold with a 45-39 win.

Men's Foil Team

Twenty-six teams took part in this event including one from Great Britain (Davis, Kruse, Mepstead & Tofalides). Davis was rested for the first match against Thailand in the round of 32, which Great Britain won comfortably (45-21). A much tighter affair followed against Poland but the team edged it 45-41 with a strong overall performance. In the round of 8 they faced Italy who dominated the fight from the start of the second leg, going on to win 45-32. In the placings matches Great Britain lost 45-40 to the USA and 45-38 to Germany to finish eighth.



French Men's Foil Team stand on top of the podium. (L to R) Enzo Lefort, Vincent Simon, Erwan Le Pechoux & Julien Mertine.

The top two seeds, Italy and Russia faced each other for the bronze medal having lost to China and France respectively in the semi-finals. Looking hungrier from the start Italy cruised to a 45-29 victory. The gold medal match was also a one-sided match with France starting well and easing to a 45-25 victory over China.

Women's Epee Team

Great Britain was not one of the twenty-eight teams competing for the penultimate gold medal of the championships. The top half of the draw went according to seeding with Russia facing Hungary in the semi-final. Russia progressed to fence for gold with a 31-24 victory. It was a different story in the bottom half of the draw as lower seeds Italy beat Romania 41-32 and Estonia beat China 31-30 in the quarterfinals. Estonia went on to fight for the gold medal beating Italy 42-32 in their semi-final. A strong start from Hungary saw them leading Italy 13-9 after three fights of the bronze medal match. The gap had grown slightly (24-19) by the end of the sixth but stunning performances from each of the Italians in the final three legs saw them go on to win 45-37.

The gold medal match was completely dominated both tactically and physically by the Russians who beat Estonia 40-29 on their way to the gold medal.

Men's Epee Team

The final event of the championships was the Men's Epee Team event which saw thirty-six teams fighting it out for the gold medal. Great Britain was not amongst them. Denmark put in a fantastic display to beat Venezuela 45-38 in the round of 16 but the Venezuelans fenced without reigning Olympic Champion, Ruben Limardo.

Both semi-finals saw the lower ranked teams go through as France defeated Switzerland 31-24 (after Max Heinzer was substituted through injury) and Korea beat Russia 45-41.

Deprived of Heinzer for the bronze medal match, Switzerland kept it tight against Russia with a number of matches being called for non-combativity. Reserve, Peter Borsky, did more than hold his own for the Swiss team and produced a stellar performance which saw them take the bronze medal with a 23-21. France and Korea put on a fitting championship final in the gold medal match. Korea edged the first three matches 13-9 but France chipped away at the Korean lead and by the end of six matches they led 25-20. Grumier, Lucenay and Robeiri rounded off a tremendous championship for the resurgent French team with a 45-39 victory.



Double gold medallist (second from left) Ulrich Robeiri, with the rest of the men's epee team celebrating their title. (L to R) Jean-Michel Lucenay, Robeiri, Gauthier Grumier and Daniel Jerent.

Professional Event Management

Put simply, I expect to see more fencing events in Kazan. They take sport very seriously and they have the facilities and staff to put on the best events the world of sport has to offer. I applaud every single one of the people on the Kazan staff. They were truly unbelievable even when things got extremely tough. Fencing will be back in Kazan, for sure.

Tit-bits

Wondered why we were missing an Olympic Champion? Since London 2012 not only has Venezuelan Olympic gold medallist, Ruben Limardo, suffered a terrible injury, he's also only just recovered from malaria. He's recovering nicely but that's why he wasn't in Kazan.

It's wedding season! Since the Worlds, Olga Kharlan has got married to Dmitry Boyko and Ines Boubarki of Tunisia has married Frenchman, Erwan Le Pechoux.

The Kazan Tennis Academy hosted a splendid tournament and the fencing world will return to Russia for next year's World Championships in Moscow.

Inter-Services Championships

THE INTER-SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

The Royal Air Force Fencing Union hosted this year's Inter-Services Fencing Championships at RAF Cosford from 14-17 July. This is the pinnacle of the Services fencing calendar and one of Britain's oldest routine fencing events.

Gray (1984, p.530) writes that 'Competitions, confined to the Army till 1905, were held from 1888, but no results recorded till 1896. The winners given from 1905 onwards are those of the combined Royal Navy and Regular Army Championships, which became the Inter-Services Championships in 1912...Epee was introduced in 1904, but though the Navy was included from 1905 it was confined to officers till 1921, there being a separate championship for other ranks from 1912 to 1920. A ladies' foil event was introduced in 1947.'

The first day consisted of the Men's and Ladies' Inter-Service Team Triangular events, each Single Service team consisting of three men and two women. In the men's event, the RAF won the Epee, but the Navy won the Foil and Sabre to retain the trophy. In the ladies' event the RAF won the Sabre, but the Army won the Foil and Epee to retain the trophy. Following the team event, the individual Service Masters and Ladies-at-Arms competed against each other over all three weapons for the Champion-at-Arms titles. The men's event was won by Wing Commander George Liston (in his final Inter-Service Championships), and the ladies' event was won by Ft. Lt. Naomi Taylor.

The standard of fencing was high in the remaining days with epee being the strongest weapon amongst all three services, and the Army benefited from the



Men's Master-at-Arms Ft. Lt. Graham Orme (left) and Ladies' Master-at-Arms Ft. Lt. Naomi Taylor (right).
(All photos courtesy of the RAF Team.)

presence of a number of Officer Training Corps (OTC) members. The Men's Master-at-Arms was won by Ft. Lt. Graham Orme, and the Ladies' Master-at-Arms was won by Ft. Lt. Naomi Taylor. In the Inter-Unit Three Man Team event, the Honourable Artillery Company fought off strong opposition from HMS Excellent and Southampton University OTC to win the title.

The standard of fencing demonstrated that despite manpower reductions, the Services retain a large number of competent

fencers, a number of whom benefit from regularly competing on the civilian circuit and training at civilian clubs. We are grateful to Wing Commander R.I. Henderson-Begg for his report on the proceedings. He wishes to express thanks to Mike Thornton and his team for providing the highly professional refereeing services.

Ref: Gray, E., 1984. *Modern British Fencing 1964-1981*. London: Amateur Fencing Association.

Marathon des Sables 2014



ME AND MY EPEE JOURNEY ACROSS THE SAHARA

1029 started, 904 finished,
I came 775th

244 km – 152 miles – 59 hours
16 minutes

The toughest foot race on earth, 150 miles across the Sahara desert, a hostile environment, fully self sufficient; carrying food, emergency kit, and everything but the daily water ration. For most, keeping the pack weight to a minimum was essential. So why did I strap an epee to my pack?

I set off into the desert to raise money for two North East of England charities. The first was the Children's Heart Unit at the Freeman Hospital. The second was Newcastle Fencing and Sports Trust, which had been set up in 2013 to provide a fencing centre large enough to hold fencing competitions, to be accessible seven days a week for training, and to provide a permanent base for Newcastle Fencing Club and its partners.

So, while most people were reducing the weight of their packs to a minimum, I was adding the extra weight of an epee, approx 380grams, with two banners for the major sponsors, approx 170 grams - a total of 550 grams. Although this does not sound a lot, this was the equivalent of a day's food ration, my sleeping bag, or some extra water. Luckily, Leon Paul had supplied me with an extremely light FIE competition epee.

During the course of this event the epee would be subjected to the same stresses and strains as the runners: 55 degrees of heat in the salt planes, the constant battering of sand, plummeting overnight temperatures and a regular dousing of sweat and water.

Unfortunately, the only place to store the epee when not running was on the sand. This was because eight people had to share the rug under our makeshift tent – essentially a black cloth suspended on sticks. My tent mates helped me strap my epee onto the pack in the mornings, to avoid accidents in the melee of the start crowd.

The epee soon became a source of conversation with the other competitors, talking about fencing and the charities

I was fundraising for. A really emotional moment happened at the end of the race. Crowds of supporters and competitors shouted from the dunes as I waved the sword above my head and crossed the finish line.

It is a testament to the workmanship of Leon Paul, that when I returned to Newcastle Fencing Club, the epee was tested and worked perfectly; even passing a weight and gauge test.

During the run the epee had been a burden, its weight unhelpful, but I had raised funds and at the same time promoted the sport of fencing to a new and very select audience. Picking it up every day had become part of the extreme challenge.

Waking up the first morning in the desert, after a pleasant breakfast provided by our hosts, we spent the day queuing, to hand in any spare kit, receive mandatory medical checks, water cards, ankle transponders, flares and salt tablets. After this we were deemed to be self sufficient, relying only on what we carried in our packs. At this point my pack weighed about 11 kg without the epee.

Stage 1 - 34km - cut off time 11hrs - completed in 8hr 55 minutes

The first day began with a routine that would happen each morning for the next seven days. Wake up, make breakfast, tape feet, drink water, pack rucksack, strap on epee, and then wander to the start line. The start was a busy, bustling experience, with an almost carnival-like atmosphere. The organisers tried to get us to dance to 'Happy', which was booming over the speakers, as we prepared ourselves to face the desert. After a long time baking in the sun, we crossed the start line to the sound of 'Highway to Hell', with helicopters, jeeps and camera-men buzzing around.

Although the scenery was spectacular, it did not take long to realise that most of the time would be spent looking at the ground, rather than the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Arriving at the next checkpoint I suffered a setback. I was very tired, not muscularly so, but rather had the feeling of wanting to lie down and sleep. Four of my tent mates got me to medical support, as I was clearly struggling with the heat. After a short nap in the shade, I pushed on across a stony valley and on to my first small jebel – these can vary in size from small hills to mountains. Luckily, this one was not a mountain. I began to have doubts about being able to finish the course and ventured into some dark places in my mind. It was only the sight of the finish line that brought me back to my senses. I jogged through this, ate, and then slept.

Stage 2 - 41km - cut off time 11hrs - completed in 9hr 41 minutes

Surprisingly rested, with no aches and pains, I awoke to watch a spectacular sunrise. It was a surreal moment, waking up next to my tent mates, as we all started our daily grind.

This day's course took us across a variety of rugged terrain, but here we were introduced to our first stony plateau. This was composed of large sharp rocks, designed to test our concentration on every step. One misplaced footfall could lead to a stumble, breaking the rhythm, which was then difficult to recover from.

At the first checkpoint, I first encountered the remarkable Doc Trotters, who gave me medical treatment. Although the first stage had been okay, I had felt a strange ache at the back of my right ankle. Removing my sand gaiter to adjust the sock, my hand came away wet and sticky. Five minutes later, the medic had trimmed the skin away from a large blister, covered it in Iodine and taped it up. This happened in quite an efficient 'blur', more like a formula one pit stop, than something happening in a medical tent.

The course slowly meandered up through stony hills towards the next checkpoint. I found myself becoming quite emotional and was tearful as I staggered across the control line, heading for one of the tents, spent of energy; laying there for some time, unable to move. I tried to get up again and again, failing to find the motivation to carry on, but could not. Eventually, somebody shouted my name and poured cold water over my head. This roused me from that dark place in my head that I had ventured into. I rose to my feet and thanked the man who had helped me. This was slightly embarrassing as I had apparently been talking to him earlier in the day, but could not remember having done so.

I knew now that the heat, dehydration and fatigue was starting to play games with my mind, and that I could not fight what was happening to me in the desert. Gradually the finish line came into view. I crossed it wondering if I would make it through the next day. The evening was spent in the medical tent, with my feet receiving treatment from Doc Trotters. Five toes were blistered, with one toenail looking dubious. I staggered back to the tent for a restless night's sleep.

Stage 3 - 37.5 km - cut off time 10.30 hrs - completed in 8hr 52 minutes

Once more the daily routine resumed, but this time I was not in good spirits; still nervous after the previously horrendous day. Knowing that I had prepared for this for almost two years was of little consolation. Over 45 entrants had already dropped out, some due to various medical issues, with one in a coma; others for failing to meet important cut-off times.

I was not 'Happy' during the repeated preamble that preceded the day's activities and set-off now into my own personal hell.

Part of the day involved a long slog through a salt plane where the temperature hit 55 degrees. I came to the aid of a fellow runner who had completely run out of water and was faced with the difficult decision of giving my spare water to someone who really needed it, or leaving them without any in case I needed it myself. I gave him half of mine in the hope that I would cover the last 1.5 km before running out. I finished this stage earlier than expected, which allowed me time for a relaxing meal and a visit to the e-mail tent to send a message home. This in itself proved to be an emotional experience, trying to fit all my thoughts to my family into 550 characters was so difficult, the keyboard not apparently responding well, due to my fatigue. This day our first tent mate dropped out through dehydration.

Stage 4 - 81.5km - cut off time 34 hrs - completed in 22hr 43 minutes

The next long stage was two marathons back-to-back, with lots of climbs and dunes. Not something to look forward to. But if it was possible to survive stage 4, then stage 5 would certainly be achievable. I decided to attack, pushing on as far as possible during the day and onward during the night to finish around sunrise. This seemed almost impossible, but I was determined to succeed.

I encountered the main jebel climb, which was tough, slogging through sand at about a 12% incline, before stretching up a rock face of loose boulders, where others were queuing to get past. Frustration set in as we baked in the sun on the side of this mountain as people strayed from the path to climb up the rock faces, causing boulders the size of footballs to come down on the runners below. A runner next to me was hit on the hand by a falling rock. After the climb there was a precipitous sandy ledge to maneuver along, with a rope to prevent from falling. Having an epee attached to my rucksack proved precarious. It caught on the rope, leaving me stuck with the sand moving under my feet. The other

The epee became a burden



competitors came to my aid and I started inching slowly along the ledge. This suddenly gave way to a steep climb which sapped my strength. After a brief rest at the summit, I pushed down the mountain side following a natural ravine. I was hot, thirsty, tired and every step hurt; skin separating from my feet, enlarging some of the smaller blisters. This went on for what seemed like an eternity.

This was the lowest point for me in the whole race. Another racer asked me if I had children, to which I replied that I had. He then said 'How disappointed do you think they will feel if their daddy fails the Marathon des Sables?' This broke me.

Tears ran down my face. I felt ashamed and could hardly go on. Stumbling onwards, I eventually made it out of the ravine and into some dunes, where a British runner called Danny Kendall ran past effortlessly across the dunes shouting words of support, which picked me up. A few minutes later at the next checkpoint I reached the medical jeep and was given a thorough check-up under the back of the jeep, which provided some shade. I was given extra water with a salt solution in it, along with a thirty minute time penalty, and allowed to go on my way.

As the sun set the course got even harder, the line of glow sticks ahead, yellow

on competitors and green to mark the routes, stretched into the distance. The next 10km had climbs of 30%, which in the dark were pretty brutal, climbing up sand dunes and over rocks with only a head torch to find the way. The darkness seemed to wrap around the light patch cast on the ground in an eerie fashion, which was strangely comforting.

After the final checkpoint we suddenly dropped into a dried-up riverbed and the sun rose. It was like a scene from a horror film, bodies lurching and stumbling through the soft sand. I crossed the finish line hand-in-hand with another competitor, broken in so many ways.

Stage 5 - 42.2km - cut off time 12hrs - completed in 9hr 03 minutes

This was the final stage, a marathon in length and I had already run 120 miles, or 4.75 marathons, across the Sahara. Over 115 people had abandoned the race since the start. I had tried to avoid painkillers, but this morning I resorted to some paracetamol to take the edge away. Each step felt like someone sticking a hot knife into my sore ankle. I staggered across the sand and stone, trying to find some motivation to go on. As I moved forward other runners passed me.

The pain began to numb. I grabbed the walking poles from my rucksack and started to dig in. Now there was no energy left to waste on tears. As I neared the finish line, I struggled to unfasten the epee from my rucksack and jogged towards the line, where I saw tent mate Ollie waving. Cheers erupted around me as I thrust the sword into the air and crossed the finish line.

We could now take it easy until the charity fun run the next morning.

My efforts in the desert taught me a lot about myself and in particular about how others' attitudes can influence me, both in a positive and a negative way. I pushed myself to the limits and managed to raise over £9000 for the charities I represented.

This was a truly unforgettable experience.

are you / your children u.11/u.13 ?

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We also offer reduced subscriptions to non City students, and for cadets & juniors.

GO/FENCE South Yorkshire

We know that there are areas of the country that are crying out for a fencing club so when we heard what James and Jon had done in South Yorkshire we had to share it with you.

Already working for a sports coaching company, James Swallow-Grant and Jon Cotterill-Bolsover qualified as GO/FENCE Leaders through a British Fencing course, used their experience in obtaining local grants for equipment and started offering free taster sessions.

Using their own GO/FENCE equipment, James and Jon, began voluntarily delivering free taster sessions to primary school children in Barnsley. In a very short space of time over 3,000 children experienced the sport which is astonishing!

Knowing that these young people had nowhere to go if they wanted to carry on would be considered as an insurmountable problem. Not for James and Jon. They set-up ActivU Hoyland Harriers Fencing Club which is one of the very first GO/FENCE only clubs in the country – if not the first.

Implementing the GO/FENCE and Mini-Swords awards schemes has been the foundation of the development path the club is taking. Speaking about their project, Jon said; “We are hopeful that some of the youngsters - some as young as 5 on our mini swords scheme - will go on to move onto full metal fencing as they get older. However GO/FENCE has been a great introduction. There are three levels of award - bronze, silver and gold - they work on basic skills, leadership and etiquette for ages 8 plus while the Mini-Sword scheme for ages 5,6 and 7 which works on agility, balance and co-ordination through the yellow, blue and green badge scheme.”

Incredibly, they now run a club with 25 members, 12 of whom are already preparing to take their bronze awards.

Speaking about the project, Board Director, Clare Halsted, who was involved in the creation of the new awards schemes said; “The passion, commitment, drive and determination that James and Jon have shown is the best example of how to make the most of these relatively new schemes. Congratulations to them both.”

I won't go into it here but they have impressive plans for growth too including their own coach development programme and an offering for wheelchair fencing. This is a brilliant example of how to make the most of GO/FENCE and our awards schemes.

Summing things up, Jon added: “We try to keep it as cheap as possible and try to get grants to cover equipment costs. The scheme has been so successful that we are in talks with South Yorkshire Sport about extending it into secondary schools.”

Head Coach, James added; “We wanted to establish the fencing in Barnsley, South Yorkshire and we are now working with the local County Sports Partnership to increase participation not only in fencing but also in a healthy lifestyle.”

The club and meets on Wednesday nights at Rockingham Community Centre at Hoyland Common 5.15 - 6.30.

Charlie Miller

GO/FENCE



For advertising, please contact Karim Bashir in the first instance at British Fencing. Advertising rates for April 2015 onwards are under review, but the rates for the next issue are as follows:

1/3 page standard competition entry black and white - £84.00 + VAT

1/2 page colour - £200.00 + VAT

1/2 page black and white - £144.00 + VAT

Full Page black and white - £180.00 + VAT

Full Page colour - £360.00 + VAT

Interview with James Davis

AN INTERVIEW WITH EUROPEAN CHAMPION JAMES DAVIS



James Davis – Senior European Foil Champion

It's early on Friday evening and I've just finished an enthralling Skype interview with James Davis who was in San Francisco. Despite suffering from what looked like a nasty cold he was as chirpy as ever and in his usual open and friendly form.

He has been in the USA for nearly a year now training at the Massialas Foundation and I started the conversation by asking him about last season. Moving to the USA from the safety of the GB set up in Lee Valley was a big move but one that started with a baby step.

Reasons to move to the USA

"Having worked with Ziemek for the past twelve years, his commitment has helped me reach the World top 16 for the past two seasons but I felt that I needed more people to fence at the top level. San Francisco was a no-brainer for me but I was surprised by how good the US set-up is. Even the younger fencers are a challenge out here. The great thing is my move hasn't affected the dynamic in the GB team. When we're together it's like I've never been away. Moving away has worked for me but that's not to say it's for everyone. Although I now live in San Francisco, I will continue working with Ziemek in training and competition with the WCP providing funding for this support."

"It was my first time training abroad and initially it was only for two months. But knowing I had the full support and backing of the World Class Programme (WCP) helped along by a great pre-season and I fell in love with the place," was a confident opening gambit for the World number 6 men's foilist. The early signs were good. A top 8 finish in Paris was his best result at that particular event, where he eventually went out to the then joint World number 1 and now club mate, Gerek Meinhardt. He then went into a period where he had a lot of points to defend and admits to feeling the pressure. Looking at the results that he achieved straight after Paris it would

be easy to say that the pressure had got to him, but he managed to stay in the top 16 in the World rankings after making the quarter-finals in Venice, which he then equaled in Bonn.

On GB's World Class Programme

"Thanks to the funding we receive from UK Sport, the WCP is able to provide a number of resources to help improve our fencing such as more sparring partners, a more professional set up than a club can provide with S&C, medical support, psychology and nutrition whilst providing stability; but most of all the ability to support us financially and not have to go and get a job to fund tournaments so that we can train full time. Thankfully, British Fencing is also privately sponsored by Beazley, a partnership that has been running for the past few years which supplements the funding from UK Sport. Only being funded at Podium Potential Level, this has enabled us to receive additional benefits and provides some support for me being out here in the States. They are also great in supporting the development of our sport at the grass roots."

With the early season results, at his review meeting it was agreed with the WCP that training in the USA was working for him and he returned. This time though things were different as he began working more closely with the coaches there. "It's always hard to change your routine and approach but I was confident that the change would work for me." Three rounds of 64 eliminations in a row followed and that would faze most people, but James told me that he could feel that he was on the verge of something good. "It's hard travelling all the way to Asia for two events and then Havana with no victories. But I did feel confident that the M team system I had been training in would pay off." That change? "More fluid footwork and the reading of the game slightly differently."

Clearly he could sense that a good result was coming: And boy, what a time to deliver it. A European title was something that had evaded every British fencer before him, but James went to Strasbourg with the bit between his teeth. Not used to fencing in the first round of events any more, the European Championships are a challenge to those that top the World rankings, as there are no byes. James dropped a fight to Julian Mertine (FRA) having been 4-0 up. "I'm not fussed what the target score is. It's only hits at the end of the day and I was 4-0 up against Mertine. He beat me but I was ranked 7th after the first round." He went on to make the final, beating Peter Joppich (GER) in the semis, in what he describes as "the best fight" of his life. A stunning comeback in the final against Alexander Cheremisinov (RUS) took him to his and Britain's first ever fencing European title. "It was so special to win that tournament



James Davis in action

and to be the first Brit made it even more so. I don't remember much about the last two fights that day and I can't bring myself to watch them." That probably says more about my commentary than anything else!

It speaks volumes about the development of elite fencing in the UK when I heard James describe his World Championship finish of 6th as "a disappointment". The way in which he talked about his performance in a cold and analytical manner suggested to me that he'll be back to set

the record straight. "One round away from a medal, so it sucks!" Clearly living in San Francisco is not just having an effect on his fencing!

Looking ahead to next season and the new Grand Prix season, James became slightly more tight-lipped. The answers sounded more like that of a seasoned athlete. "Hard to say until we experience it.....looks more professional.....same for everybody." No bad thing in my book. Being an elite athlete in any sport means dealing with media attention. There was, however a little glint in his eye when he talked about his first event (in San Francisco) being "what is my home competition now".

James describes winning the World Championships as "what it's all about", but he also talks about "winning everything". The season ahead starts to "hot up", as he puts it, in St. Petersburg. With Olympic selection happening from halfway through next season it's the results from that event in Russia that start counting towards automatic qualification for Rio. Acutely aware of the situation he says, "It's ten percent more pressure from then until Olympic selection."

James is just at the start of what promises to be a fruitful career at the top of international fencing.

Three tips for fencers

"The first thing is to enjoy it. You won't get the best out of training if you're not enjoying the sport. Next you have to constantly question what you are doing with your coach. "Don't question their authority, but do push them for answers." "How can I do this?", "Why did I get hit then?" If you do that you can grow with your coach and be successful. The final thing is to love the competition. If you feel the pressure then you won't perform. It should be like a game, fun!"

Karim Bashir

Photos from Augusto Bizzi

Round-up

COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR COMMONWEALTH FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

Scotland is continuing its year of sporting passion as Largs, North Ayrshire, prepares to welcome over 350 athletes from 30 countries, competing in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships 2014.

Kicking off on Monday 10th November, the six day event will see some of the world's most talented fencers fighting for Commonwealth glory.

Run by Scottish Fencing on behalf of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation, the Championships is welcoming full teams from countries including Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Australia and Canada as well as Singapore and India. In addition, smaller entries have been confirmed from Jamaica, Malaysia and Barbados, amongst many others.

Taking place at sportscotland Inverclyde National Centre in Largs matches will be taking place from 9am throughout each day with the finals and medal matches starting at 6pm. Even if fans and supporters can't make it along in person, they can still catch the action which will be live streamed on the official Commonwealth Fencing Championship website from early afternoon onwards.

Event Director, Chris Hyde, welcomed the event to Scotland. He said: "This is a fantastic occasion for both the sport and for Scotland to demonstrate what each has to offer. Fencing is continuing to grow with increased participation numbers throughout the Commonwealth and this is something we're keen to encourage more of.

"Located just 30 miles from Glasgow and under an hour away by train, Largs is a popular seaside destination, renowned for its beach and friendly atmosphere. We can't think of a better location for an event that can be a day out for anyone – whether they have an interest in fencing or not."

Over the course of the tournament there will be opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get tips and advice from the

experts as well as a host of family-friendly activities. There will also be the chance to sample and buy some of Scotland's finest delicacies, showcased at the food market running especially for the event.

Part of Homecoming Scotland 2014, this event is a unique opportunity to experience this visually stunning and exciting sport at its highest level within an event that offers a fantastic family experience.

For spectators entry will be free all day and the medal matches starting in the evening around 5pm will be ticketed at £10 per adult/ £5 per child or £50/ £25 for all six medal matches. Tickets are available online at www.cfc2014.org.

Elaine Fleming



Francesca Summers (R) and her coach Matthew Haynes (L)

NANJING 2014 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

Francesca Summers made a piece of history by becoming the first British pentathlete to win a Youth Olympic Games medal – silver, at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games. Speaking about her fencing performance, she said:

'My fencing was really good and it went really well...Winning the medal has given me loads of experience for the future and who knows, maybe Rio next, we will see.'

Steve Ballinger

CHILWELL BLADES FENCING CLUB

Chilwell Blades Fencing Club celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. In 1974, one Sarah Jackson approached a friendly fencing enthusiast, Malcolm Cawton, to ask if he would teach her to fence. After training for some sessions in a garage, their skills and confidence grew and 'Malc' took steps to create a fencing club in the newly opened Chilwell Olympia sports centre.

It is a tribute to the commitment of many that the club continues to thrive. Malc, Ian Degville and Richard Collins have been stalwart fencers and coaches at the club for many years, introducing many others to the sport. In recent years, Chilwell Blades has gone from strength to strength, with numbers growing steadily, an increasing uptake in the beginners' courses and a growing junior section.

In 2010, three members competed in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships and in 2013 two veterans represented Great Britain at the European Championships, Malcolm Cawton taking silver in the over-70s foil. And at the World Championships, he became the over-70s World Men's Sabre Champion and finished runner-up in the foil.

Chilwell has always been a social club, holding garden parties, bowling evenings, cinema visits and an annual dinner. To celebrate the Olympics in 2012, it ran a 'one night only Olympics', whereby teams of fencers across all three weapons battled

it out for the title – surely the only contest where Australia, China and Japan took the top three places, whilst Gambia, Botswana and Tonga enjoyed participating.

To celebrate 40 years, the club organised a variety of social events and fencing activities. A limited edition T-Shirt with a celebratory logo was designed by Nickola Beck (club website manager). During a social afternoon that took place in Southwell, 40 members gathered for good food, conversation and a few friendly games of pétanque. Malc Cawton and club chairman, Dave Stroud said a few words that summed up all that makes Chilwell Blades a success:

"This club is about you slightly odd, quirky people who turn up regularly or now and then to practice our favourite and fascinating sport. It makes fencing available to people of all levels of interest from socialites, who go to chat and enjoy the occasional bout, to serious competitive fencers. There is something for everyone here, and that is cause for celebration."

The club continues to meet at Chilwell Olympia Leisure Centre on Wednesday evenings between 7 and 10 pm during school term times (7.30 – 9.30 during summer holidays). In addition, Tuesday nights has evolved into a fight night exclusively for social fencing. Full details can be found at www.chilwellblades.co.uk.

Karen Morral

START OF SEASON

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I recently learned that there will be no British fencing championships this year (i.e. the senior championships, not the veterans or the juniors). In the last few seasons, the senior championships have been pushed later and later in the year, until in 2013 they were held in December, with a cap on the number of entries, so that, to make it work financially, the entry fee was raised to £40. Now we are told that the competitions will be held in April 2015, in theory still part of the 2014-5 fencing season.

The championships have been held every year bar 1915-19 and 1940-46, starting with men's foil and sabre in 1898, men's epee in 1904, and women's foil in 1907.

It took two world wars to stop these events taking place. The championships should be held in the chronological year, not held over by some specious reasoning about 'the fencing season,' whatever that is held to be. And if the championships are indeed not held at all in 2014, can we be sure that they will be held twice in 2015?

It is not too late for the championships to be held this year, as they should be -- even if it means reverting to the days when each weapon held its national championships on separate weekends.

Yours sincerely
Richard Cohen

Response from British Fencing:

The senior national championships are being held in April 2015 to enable athletes from the World Class Programme to compete. It was challenging to find dates that would work for our fencers who compete internationally. With the new and extended FIE calendar being run in such a way that there is a competition every weekend rotating around the weapons, April was the best compromise available.



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A referee's lament

Oh please let there be only one light
 Yes I do look for priority during the fight
 And notice when you step off the piste.
 I try to make sense of your current renewals,
 Renewals of renewals of renewals of renewals
 And then when you parry and riposte at last
 Everything changes and happens so fast,
 Was it a parry or was it a beat,
 I really can't tell and where were your feet.
 Arms that are bent, attacks that are short,
 Time that is broken, they can all come to nought
 Then there's the fencer who thinks, he, knows it all
 The mask is pushed up as he argues the rule.
 But it's not his opinion that matters it's mine
 So stay within the rules on priority and time
 And when the fights over don't forget to salute
 Your opponent, the referee and those in the stands
 And then finally remember than you have to shake hands.
 Win or lose, it's only a game
 And the result for the ref is always the same.

Ivan Ward
 2014

START OF SEASON



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Les Jones Retires

LES JONES RETIRES AFTER 64 YEARS OF COACHING

In the 1940s, Latsi Salamon, a Hungarian fencer from Budapest, emigrated to the UK and settled in Tameside, finding work at the same company where Les Jones was a young planning engineer. Salamon was invited to coach fencing to members of the staff. An imposing figure, he insisted on a classical style and instilled a determination to win in his pupils. After the first year, Les suggested forming a private club and in 1951 Ashton Fencing Club was established. When Les passed the AFA coaching exams in foil and sabre, national coach Roger Crosnier made him north-west region sabre coach.

In 1956 Salamon moved on to Canada, by which time Les had been selected to fence for England. Before he left, he asked Les to take on the senior coaching position at the

club and handed him his fencing equipment. Les continued to compete in regional events, winning the championships several times and becoming the only fencer to win the foil, epee and sabre titles in the same season.

His first coaching decision was to arrange for the age limit on joining the club to be reduced from 16 to eight. One of the first to join the new children's class was 11-year-old Marilyn Holmes, who was to become one of the most successful young foilists of her time. She won the British U16, U18 and U20 Championships in 1965, the invitation Felix Cup and the international U20 Perigal Cup in 1966, the British U20 title again in 1967 and two years later was runner-up to the formidable Janet Wardell-Yerburgh in the Senior British Championship. She was selected for the World Youth Championships four times and represented Britain at the Senior World Championships once.

Marilyn's initial success was the spur to other young schoolgirls taking up fencing. Les increased the number of training evenings to three, plus weekend training once a month, and stopped competitive fencing to concentrate on coaching.

Results were impressive: the club won the junior schoolgirls' championship nine times, the senior schoolgirls four times and the British U20 Championships seven times. Janet Yates, Janice Deakin, Susan Blanchard, Colette Bailey, Janet Jones, Brenda Hewitt, Jane Popland and Caroline Hall were among the notable performers. It wasn't just girls winning events. Alex Rawlings won the junior schoolboys championship and was selected for the world cadet team; Austin Royle won the U20 Foil Championship twice and was selected for World Youth Championships three times. Two of Les's daughters achieved success, Janet winning the junior and senior schoolgirls' championships, plus the British U20 Championship, and Hilary captaining the England women's foil team in the Quadrangular tournament.

Following the success of his young fencers, Les was appointed coach to the national U20 women's squad and later joint coach to the women's senior squad. It was at the 1988 World Junior Championships in South Bend, Indiana, that a significant result was achieved. Janet Yates trained by Les and Sue Wrigglesworth trained by Ziemek Wojciechowski reached the semi-finals, with Sue going on to take fifth place in the final.

The first to follow Marilyn was Susan Green, who became Ashton's most successful fencer, winning the U20 Championship twice, and the senior championship in 1968 at the age of 17, the Desprez Open three times, and the de Beaumont international event twice, as well as representing Britain at three Olympics Games and five World Championships. Les also coached a few wheelchair fencers, Howard Wardle winning a bronze medal at the 1976 Paralympics and Margaret Bone and Deborah Mabbett winning medals at the World Wheelchair Championships.

Les continued to take every opportunity to take lessons from Roger Crosnier and Bob Anderson. As the club grew in size, Les had to take on a good deal of committee work both in the north-west as regional secretary, subsequently chairman, and on various committees in London.



From left Hilary Lewis, Amanda Baxendale, LJ, Jan Garside (photo Paul Garside)

He was supported by hard-working coaches, including Frank Lord, John Siddall, Tom Etchells and Bernard Hallam, plus an excellent committee. By now he was also a senior manager with a major international engineering group.

The club success continued, the women winning the British Team Championship twice, the only club outside of London to win the event in the 1970s, and coming sixth in the Coupé d'Europe. In 1960 the club was the first to take fencers by minibus to U20 events on the continent. These trips became so popular that Les filled 42-seater coaches to Duisburg, Gelsenkirchen and Duren several times each year.

In 1953 he organised the first Ashton Open Tournament attended later by many of the leading fencers in the country, including Olympic gold medal winner Gillian Sheen, world epee champion Bill Hoskyns and the Paul brothers Graham and Barry.

It was in 1992 that Les achieved perhaps his most notable success, when two pupils were selected for the Olympic team, Amanda Ferguson twice Women's U18 Foil Champion and Gary Fletcher Junior and Senior Men's Sabre Champion. Les drove down to Barcelona with his wife Winifred at his own expense and was given coaching accreditation to support his pupils.

Two more notable fencers were foilist Shelagh Baines, who represented Britain at the 1993 World Championships, and epeeist Megan Lomas, who was selected for the Commonwealth Games; when she reached the semi-finals of the 2008 Women's Epee Championship and lost 14-15, she became close to winning Ashton's third weapon national championship.

Les has now exchanged swords for golf clubs after a lifetime as a volunteer fencing coach, so he can spend more time at Ashton-under-Lyne Golf Club where he is the oldest playing member at 86.

“Les continued to take every opportunity to take lessons from Roger Crosnier and Bob Anderson.”

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Obituaries



MARGARET EVE SLINGSBY BRACEGIRDLE NEE BETHELL (1915-2014)

Eve Bracegirdle, who has died on 4th July 2014 at Kingsland House, Shoreham came from a quite remarkable and talented family background. Eve died shortly before her 99th birthday and was born of the Bethell Family, being a descendant of Lord Westbury. Eve's mother, Margery Gladys Farnell married Llwyn Slingsby Bethell, who was a much-respected classist and schoolteacher at Eton College and locally in Brighton and Hove. From him, Eve derived her love of sport, particularly fencing. He taught her the many romance and classical languages that Eve spoke fluently.

Eve saw little of her father as he served in East Africa in 1916. Margery then joined him in West Africa and so it was not until about 1920 that Eve was re-united with her parents, aged 5. From 1929 until 1933, Eve was enrolled at St Swithun's Winchester and under the pupilage of her devoted and erudite father became a stellar student. As a teenager she was enrolled as a fencing pupil under the guidance of the Sergeant Major at Winchester College. She had to be smuggled in to the boy's College. One day, a Maitre-D from Paris came to watch the fencing and he stated, "That boy with the pigtail shows promise". He was amazed when she took off her fighting helmet. Of course this gave rise to positions in the Ladies Foil Fencing Team and she became a pupil to Lucien Merignac at the Sorbonne

30 THE SWORD OCTOBER 2014

in Paris and also in London. In 1939, she was a finalist in the Ladies Amateur Foil Championships and was selected to fence for Great Britain in the World Championships, which sadly were cancelled owing to the War. (Her other sports were following beagles and swimming; she swam at Brighton beach until she was almost 90.)

After graduating, she studied Journalism at Kings College and thereafter undertook many PR and Marketing assignments with Colman, Prentice & Varley, Dorlands, Harris Tweed and the Milk Marketing Board. She also created advertising for Crawfords and then for Red Cross appeals later in life. She became a very useful member of the YWCA and also worked for the United Nations. A glowing CV indeed! War beckoned and a whirlwind romance with a dashing Australian Gunnery Officer followed. Their engagement was announced with a drum roll at a dance in Portsmouth but Warwick Bracegirdle had not asked his Fiancé beforehand! He had many long hours placating Eve's father who was completely incandescent.

However, in June 1939, Warwick and Eve married at Greenwich and spent a honeymoon in St Mawes, which she adored (especially for the clipper ships). Eve followed HMAS PERTH through the West Indies during 1939 and was startled when the CO of PERTH whispered to her in Jamaica, "Take a boat to Panama". A few days later, the Quartermaster spoke to Warwick "Your wife is on the Jetty, Sir!" (No-one was supposed to know that PERTH was under orders for Sydney.) Eve followed across the Pacific in tramp steamers and arrived in Sydney to set up in lodgings in the then "notorious" King's Cross. Pregnant with Simon, she was surprised to find notes pushed under her door "What are your charges?". She replied forcefully - "My Husband is an RAN Gunnery Officer and he will give you a right seeing to!" Eve supported Warwick throughout the War, whilst HMAS PERTH fought her way out of Crete. Warwick was blown up in Piraeus harbour and was lucky to be alive. In July 1944, a second son was born and in October, Warwick as the Gunnery Officer of HMAS SHROPSHIRE took part in the greatest gunnery battle of all time. He

was lucky to return to Sydney and ended WW2 with a third child, a daughter. After the Korean War Warwick was one of the most highly decorated RAN officers. Eve had distinguished herself as the PRO in the NSW Red Cross throughout his absence.

She returned to England in the mid 1950s and made a home for their 3 children in Hayward's Heath, Sussex. Warwick followed as part of the RAN Contingent in Australia House but soon was de-mobbed and took a job with the National Iranian Oil Company. Eve followed her husband and taught Iranian Students to read and write in proficient English. In 1960 with her first son, Eve travelled extensively to Iran and to Greece and Turkey through the very wild roads in Montenegro. It was a memorable 6,000 mile round trip through 9 countries. With all children grown-up, she excelled at teaching both privately and at Cuckfield Park Finishing School. Elocution and poise were her subjects! She was one of the first foreign visitors to China in the late 1960s and travelled extensively, especially to Corfu. She acquired a myriad of international friends from these journeys. In her later years, she looked after her mother in Hove and excelled at gardening and a little more teaching.

Her retirement was spent in Portslade, where she enjoyed entertaining her contacts. She documented all of her extensive trips by a huge collection of stories. She was interviewed by the BBC about some of these. She was very quick witted with a remarkable memory, had a great love of literature and the most amazing up to date knowledge of the world around her. This is when she could hardly see and was well into her 90's. She was genuinely interested in everyone she met, always ready to help in any way. Even when the body was failing her, her mind was not. The Nursing Home carers noted this fondly and she became one of their "star" patients.

Eve is remembered by her huge circle of friends and many relations including three children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was an inspiration to us all over the 98 years and 11 months of her life.

NICOLAS BRACEGIRDLE MBE



DOM PHILIP JEBB (1933-2014)

Dom Philip Jebb, who has died aged 81, was a joyous and enabling figure, and during the 1960s one of the most successful masters of school fencing in the UK. Known throughout the south-west as “the Fighting Monk,” he presided over Downside’s remarkable run of successes for over a decade. The school, run by Benedictine monks, produced such fencers as Rocco Forte (semi-finalist in the national sabre), William Nicholson (U15 championship runner-up at foil), Terence Mugliston (second in the Junior Public Schools foil, and whose son fenced for Britain), and James Noel (four times epee reserve to the national team at world championships and bronze medallist at the prestigious Monal international in Paris).

In 1965, under Philip’s watchful eye, Downside pushed aside the powerhouses of Brentwood and St. Paul’s to win the Pearson Trophy for best results at the Public Schoolboys Championships. But success was not confined to school level. Many boys while still at Downside represented Somerset, and some even the south-west, alongside such luminaries as Bill Hoskyns (who sent his son to the school), Philip Redhead, Denis Hunt (who teaches fencing there even now) and many others. Hoskyns’s coach, John Sanders, came three times a week to give lessons.

One summer day John Sanders, who was a keen photographer, persuaded us to practice horizontal fleches, then captured the results on film, one of his photos winning a major prize in the Amateur Photographer. People would later ask how we all finished up, and wasn’t it ungainly – or very painful? But it was easy, really – we just landed on our

right shoulders and cascaded into a forward roll. A sequence showing this appeared in *The Sword of Spring* 1977, with Philip looking benignly on. But he too had a go – memorably.

Dom Philip was the son of a former nun and a prep-school teacher who had won the MC for gallantry during the First World War. He himself attended Downside from the age of ten, then read classics at Cambridge, where he was a keen member of the university second fencing team, christened “The Cutthroats”. He had many interests, including archaeology, medieval manuscripts, canoeing (he once paddled the length of the Grand Union Canal), astronomy, pilgrimages to Lourdes, the monastery library (which he almost single-handedly reorganised), and visiting relatives in Sussex (home of his maternal grandfather, the Catholic writer Hilaire Belloc, where Philip would collect fossils and Roman pottery). On minibus journeys to competitions or matches he would preside over lusty renderings of pop favourites, first among which was Petula Clark’s *Downtown*, its title suitably altered.

At training sessions he would appear dressed in a black motorcycling jacket, instead of the normal fencing gear, while at competitions, during the inevitable lulls, he would demonstrate a facility for falling asleep at will, taking naps for 20 minutes or so before awakening completely refreshed.

He was almost preternaturally sensitive, and even engaged with out-of-body experiences, which again he could do at will, at such times feeling, as he said, close to great good but also to great evil. On one such occasion, walking on his own in the Somerset countryside, he “went out” then realized with horror that he could not get back into his body, which he saw growing cold on the hillside. He eventually managed to do so, but thereafter never sought an out-of-body experience again.

He was a charismatic headmaster of Downside from 1980 till 1991, then prior of the adjoining abbey till 2001. During the time of his headmastership, monks – house- and headmaster both – were expected to beat boys for serious

“He was a charismatic headmaster of Downside from 1980 till 1991, then prior of the adjoining abbey till 2001.”

misdemeanors. One day Philip was about to cane a boy in his study when his phone rang. He picked up, to hear the voice of his younger brother, Julian. The two could hardly have been more dissimilar – Julian, a filmmaker for the BBC, was ardently leftwing and anti-private education. He said, “Anthony [Philip’s baptismal name], are you about to beat a boy?” Philip, understandably taken aback, just said, “Well, actually.... yes.” “Don’t,” said Julian abruptly, and rang off. Philip put down the receiver and told the boy to pull up his trousers. He was free to go. The boy left, and Philip returned to his papers.

After some minutes passed, there was a knock on the door. The boy’s head appeared. “I wondered, sir...” he began, “whether that phone call had anything to do with your letting me off.” Philip told him what his brother had said. The boy then asked, “Could I have your brother’s address, Sir? I’d like to write and thank him.” Philip scribbled down his brother’s details, then handed the note over, plus some money. “Buy 20 Gitanes – they’re his favourites,” he explained. “They can go with your letter.”

Philip reached out to an extraordinary range of people. Among the parishioners he used to visit was the First World War poet Siegfried Sassoon, who lived close to the school and was also to die aged 81, only in 1967. That very year Philip promised to come to his nursing home, but arrived late, explaining he had been delayed because a fencing competition had overrun. Sassoon looked up from his bed, and said, “Ah, fencing. Good for the soul”. Then he turned on his side and went to sleep.

May Dom Philip, beloved of so many, rest as peacefully.

RICHARD COHEN

Obituaries



JOHN HARDING (1926-2014)

John was an enormous influence on my life and on fencing in my home county of Worcestershire. Through his students, he will continue to influence the lives and careers of young fencers across the world for a long time to come.

I first knew him as the fencing coach of Malvern Classic Foil Club, which was his labour of love for many years. We changed venue many times from church hall to school to sports centre and back again. John kept the club running, almost certainly at a loss, and through it taught his own special ideology of fencing and sport in general.

It was at his club (where electric scoring apparatus was not allowed) that I learned to fence, to referee and in no small way how to coach. He had a contagious enthusiasm and was a perfectionist who relished the journey far more than the destination.

I am told that long before my time John was a successful competitive coach by intention. He continued to be so as a side effect for many more years after his attention shifted to the artistry and skills

of fencing above the medals. His last competitively successful fencer was Alex Lloyd who started fencing in Worcester after John had to stop coaching in Malvern when he stopped driving.

I remember bringing in a small number of medals at local events, but the picture of me in the newspaper "wasn't a very good lunge" and that was what John cared about. Unfortunately despite his best efforts, it still isn't that great, but I do take extra care to ensure my students learn it the way John taught it and not the way I perform it!

I did not realise it at the time, but John had nailed down the ideas made famous by Gladwell (10,000 hours of practice) and Coyle (deliberate practice) and in many respects was therefore the best coach any young fencer could wish for. The qualities of a true master coach are defined as specific knowledge, the ability to convey that knowledge effectively and an ability to ignite (inspire or enthuse) athletes. John certainly possessed all of these along with a wicked sense of humour and a penchant for stopping mid-training session so everyone could have tea and biscuits and a chat.

Malvern Classic Foil Club was where I first developed my passion for the sport, where my father first started fencing and where I met many of the people who are still coaching in Malvern today, including John Rees and Simon Webb. The modern Malvern Hills Fencing Club owes a great deal to the era when we all first met and were inspired by John and his love for the sport.

John's legacy is greater than the sum of his achievements in that it is the ideas and enthusiasm that he passed on to me and so many others over the years. It was a real pleasure to introduce John (at the Birmingham International) to Amy Radford as GB's first fencing Youth Olympian, knowing what a huge part he played in my development and therefore hers (lucky for me he did not look too closely at her lunge!).

More recently, one of my students here in China has been training with Ziemek in London where he met and was greatly inspired by John's last great student Alex Lloyd. I am confident that John and his wonderful approach to the sport of fencing will continue to have influence for many

more years. I will certainly treasure both my memories of him as a person and the many lessons that he taught me more than two decades ago that still impact on my life today.

MATT HAYNES

John Harding has greatly influenced my fencing journey, given that he was my first coach. Aged seven, I attended my first fencing class and it was not until after six months of Saturday afternoon sessions that I was allowed to hold a proper foil during the class. Another three months passed before I was ready to actually hit someone! Keeping a seven-year-old boy entertained for this long while only learning body and hand positions, plus the importance of using your fingers to control the point, is to John's credit. I doubt many other coaches would be daring enough to use these techniques to teach the next generations of fencers.

This foundation of fundamental technique has helped me, and I'm sure many of John's other pupils, enormously over the years. Although John never did forgive me for moving from his distinctive handles (Harding handles as I call them) to pistol grip, he ensured that I continued to feel my point through my fingers. Very often he would give me lessons in the front room of his house (between the sofas, cat and television) and, if he was not happy with how I performed an action, I would have to repeat it again and again until it was perfect. I am sure that Matt, among the many other coaches and fencers who crossed blades with John, will be passing on what they were taught to their pupils, whether that be in the UK or China.

In 2010, John received a Bronze medal from British Fencing. He was very proud that he and his fencing achievements had been acknowledged. I believe that John was well connected in the fencing community, even playing host to Ziemek Wojciechowski when he first arrived in the UK. When I told John that Ziemek had taken me on as his pupil, he was ecstatic and knew that his work with me was now in safe hands. John was a gentleman, and his death is a great loss to fencing in this country.

ALEX LLOYD

“The modern Malvern Hills Fencing Club owes a great deal to the era when we all first met and were inspired by John and his love for the sport.”

BILL CUMMING

The following statement has been issued by N.I. Fencing.

It is with great sadness that NI Fencing Ltd announces the passing of Bill Cumming. Bill was for many years the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Fencing Union and a very active Coach. (Peter Hazlett)

Bill was a talented teacher and much loved fencing coach for both junior and senior fencers in Northern Ireland and a dear friend who gave 100% to his students at school and supported many fencers in their quest to win tournaments across UK, Ireland and Europe. He was an extremely generous man who gave of his time freely and coached in many of our schools including – Kelvin, Victoria, Methody, RBAI, BRA, Campbell College, Strathearn, Wellington College, Grosvenor, Ballee High & Cambridge House in Ballymena and in many of our leisure centres – Maysfield, Antrim Forum, Carrickfergus, Craigavon, Queens and of course Avoniel. He spent most of his coaching years supporting the girls at Victoria College and Kelvin Secondary School and it is with these students where he will be remembered the most. Bill had no family of his own – we were his family – he is survived by his brother, sisters and nephews and nieces. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

LORRAINE CAMPBELL

GEOFF GRIFFIN

The following statement has been issued by Crawley Sword Club.

It is with great sadness that we learned that Geoff Griffin died peacefully in his sleep early this morning. He had been ill for some time. Geoff founded Crawley Sword Club 60 years ago and was still coaching from his hospice bed as recently as Sunday. He passed on his passion for fencing to many, inspiring generations of fencers – from the novice to the elite. He was the real driving force behind fencing at Crawley, placing emphasis on etiquette, discipline and ultimately fun for all. He will be greatly missed.

Results

DOMESTIC SENIOR

INVERCLYDE OPEN 19TH-20TH JULY

MEN'S FOIL

1. WILLIAMS, Alex (SALLH)
2. ARBELET, Alexandre (SALLH)
- 3= ALDERMAN, Shaun (SHETFC)
- 3= BROUGHTON, Charlie (SALLH)

MEN'S EPEE

1. JOHNSTON, Calum (WALL)
2. HOFFMANN, Tom (DINGF) GBR
- 3= WYNN, Tim (ABERC)
- 3= MACFADYEN, Duncan GBR

MEN'S SABRE

1. GHOSH, Julian (EFC)
2. MCELLELLAN, Sam (SALLO)
- 3= CARTER, Toby (SALLO)
- 3= FERGUSON, Stephen (STRA) GBR

WOMEN'S FOIL

1. DICKSON, Chloe (EFC) GBR
2. MCKENZIE, LISA (EDINFC)
- 3= GIFFORD, Mhairi (SHET)
- 3= ANDERSON, SHEILA (BELL)

WOMEN'S EPEE

1. TAIT, Maggie (ORKN)
2. GIFFORD, Mhairi (SHET)
- 3= DAYKIN, Kate (SALLO) GBR
- 3= GRANT, Karen (WFFC)

WOMEN'S SABRE

1. DAYKIN, Kate (SALLO) GBR
2. CORBY, Jessica (SALLO) GBR
- 3= HAMPSON, Sarah-Jane (SALLO)
- 3= CARSON, Victoria (SALEO)

NORFOLK OPEN 2014 19TH-20TH JULY

MEN'S FOIL

1. JACK, Watson (AFFONDO) GB
2. SAM, Brougham (LOUTH) GB
- 3= ANDREW, Chu (LOUTH) GB
- 3= RICHARD, Sage (vet) (LANSDOWNE) (VET) GB

MEN'S EPEE

1. DUDLEY, Tredger (CRAWLEY) GB
2. AARON, Gardner (CRAWLEY) GB
- 3= ALEXANDER, Henson (NORFOLK FENCING CLUB) GB
- 3= KRIS, Sales (UEA) GB

MEN'S SABRE

1. NICK, Williams (NORTH LONDON SABRE CLUB) GB
2. MICHAEL, Bales (CADS) GB
- 3= JIM, Crawford (AFFONDO) GB
- 3= RICHARD, Hornbrey (GT.YARMOOUTH AND WAVENEY) GB

WOMEN'S FOIL

1. MCDERMOTT, Chiara (SALLE BOSTON)
2. CSERNY, Erika (ST PAULS)
- 3= COATES, Tracey (HUNTINGDONSHIRE FC)
- 3= REGNART-BUTLER, Eleanor (WREXHAM)

WOMEN'S EPEE

1. REDDING, Megan (CADS)
2. HENSON, Julie (NORFOLK FC)
- 3= EARL, Silvia (BEDFORDSHIRE FC)
- 3= MASON, Mariette (CADS)

WOMEN'S SABRE

1. MICHEL, Zoe (CADS)
2. WEIJER, Eva (S.V.PALLOS)
- 3= LANGLEY, Karen (NORFOLK F C)
- 3= RUSSEN, Tracy (AFFONDO)

THE LONDON OPEN 2014

WOMEN'S EPEE

1. COHEN, Mary BEAUVAIS GBR
2. RADFORD, Amy (MALVERN) GBR
- 3= SMITH, Katrina (TRURO) GBR
- 3= TUCCI, Ludovica (ASD PARTENOPE) ITA

WOMEN'S FOIL 2014

1. VAN ERVEN GARCIA, Saskia (SCHERMCENTRUM AMSTERDAM) COL
2. DUCARME, Florence (PARIS TA) FRA
- 3= CHART, Yvonne (TRURO) GBR
- 3= CLARKE, Ruth (EDINBURGH FC) GBR

WOMEN'S SABRE

1. HENDRA, Katie (TRURO) GBR
2. PLEASANT, Bridget (UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN) GBR
- 3= NG, Elizabeth (UNIVERSITY OF SURREY) GBR
- 3= SOSNOWSKA, Izabela (WELLINGTON SWORDS) GBR

MEN'S EPEE

1. VERWIJLEN, Bas (SCHERMCLUB DEN BOSCH) NED
2. PERRY, Nick (HAVERSTOCK) GBR
- 3= SANCHEZ-LETHEM, Paul (BRIXTON) GBR
- 3= SZWALBE, Rafał (LEGIA WARSAW) POL

MEN'S FOIL

1. GROS, Xavier (RUEIL MALMAISON) FRA
2. TOFALIDES, Alex (SALLE PAUL) GBR
- 3= LEUNG, Sing-Ho (HKSFU) HKG
- 3= SAMANDI, Mohamed (NATIONAL TEAM) TUN

MEN'S SABRE

1. AIYENURO, Soji (CAMDEN) GBR
2. MILLER, Curtis (CAMDEN) GBR
- 3= FOTHERBY, Will (OXFORD FC) GBR
- 3= POTTER, James (CAMDEN) GBR

LEON PAUL SUMMER OPEN SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST 2014

MEN'S FOIL

1. BARWELL, Peter (ZFW) GBR
2. BROSNAN, James (SALLE PAUL) GBR
- 3= MORRIS, Richard (CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY) GBR
- 3= STOPPONI, Lapo (CLUB SCHERMA FIRENZE) ITA

MEN'S EPEE

1. NICHOLS, Harrison (REDHILL & REIGATE) GBR
2. SCRIMSHAW, Jason (REDHILL & REIGATE) GBR
- 3= AVIS, Anthony (DURHAM UNI) GBR
- 3= MORRIS, George (STOCKPORT) GBR

WOMEN'S FOIL

1. ROWLAND, Jade (PREMIER FENCING CLUB) USA
2. FIBOSY, Ayesha (SALLE BOSTON) GBR
- 3= BEAVER, Elizabeth (CADS) GBR
- 3= SPEER, Joanna (CHICHESTER) GBR

WOMEN'S EPEE

1. SICA, Susan Maria (S.S. LAZIO SCHERMA ARICCIA) ITA
2. HARVIE, Eleanor (CRAWLEY SWORD CLUB) GBR
- 3= DONAGHY, Laura (PLYMOUTH FENCING CLUB) IRL
- 3= HILLIER, Verity (READING) GBR

BRISTOL OPEN 2014

SENIOR MENS SABRE

1. CRUTCHETT, Alexander (BRENTWOOD)
2. RATNESWARAN, Maiyuran (IMPERIAL)
- 3= CLARKE, Michael (TRURO)
- 3= JENNINGS, Patrick (RIVINGTON PARK FC)

WOMENS SABRE

1. RUJAU, Emily (RIVINGTON)
2. HENDRA, Katie (TRURO)
- 3= WILLIAMS, Sophie (TRURO)
- 3= WATSON, Alice (CAMDEN)

SENIOR MENS SABRE

1. COOK, Keith (HOLYROOD)
2. PEGGS, Ben (ZFW)
- 3= BARWELL, Peter (ZFW)
- 3= ROSOWSKY, Husayn (SUSSEX HS)

SENIOR WOMENS FOIL 2014

1. COOK, Catherine (UNATTACHED)
2. MCKENZIE, Lisa (EDINBURGH)
- 3= HANNA, Georgia (BRISTOL FC)
- 3= SZOKOLOVICS, Dominique (SUSSEX HS)

WOMENS EPEE 2014

1. USHER, Georgina (LANSDOWNE)
2. COHEN, Mary (UNATTACHED)
- 3= MCGEEVER, Jenny (PENT IERLAND)
- 3= RADFORD, Amy (MALVERN)

SENIOR MENS EPEE 2014

1. MARSH, Philip (BATH SW)
2. HAY, Chris (EXETER)
3. RETTER, Jason (HAVERSTOCK)
3. SANCHEZ-LETHEM, Paul (BRIXTON)

DOMESTIC AGE GROUP

LEON PAUL BSC JUNIOR EPEE 5TH JULY 2014

MEN'S JUNIOR EPEE

1. PELOW, Laurence (KRFC) GBR
2. NICHOLS, Harrison (REDHILL & REIGATE) GBR
- 3= GREALEY, William (PHIT FENCING) GBR
- 3= WORMAN, Craig (MILLFIELD) GBR

LEON PAUL BSC JUNIOR EPEE 6TH JULY 2014

WOMEN'S JUNIOR EPEE

1. MCCARTHY, Medora (CARDINAL FENCING CLUB) GBR
2. GUNDRY, Jessica (TRURO) GBR
- 3= GREETHAM, Sadie (HARROGATE) GBR
- 3= STANIER, Lydia (FECHTCLUB FYRTH) GBR

MILLFIELD BSC BOY'S SABRE 13TH JULY 2014

BOY'S SABRE

1. AMSALEM, Rubin (Camden)
2. WEBB, JJ (Camden)
- 3= DEARY, William (Truro)
- 3= VAN HOFFELEN, Rafael (Camden)

MILLFIELD BSC GIRL'S SABRE 13TH JULY 2014

GIRL'S SABRE

1. CHART, Maria (Truro)
2. MAXWELL, Catlin (Truro)
- 3= DAYKIN, Kate (Salle Ossian)
- 3= GLADDISH, Laura (Mx)

LEON PAUL BSC MEN'S JUNIOR SABRE 31ST AUGUST 2014

MEN'S JUNIOR SABRE

1. WEBB, Jonathan (CAMDEN) GBR
2. DEARY, William (TRURO) GBR
- 3= WATT, Caspian (SHAKESPEARES SWORDS) GBR
- 3= WILLIAMS, Nick (NLSC) GBR

LEON PAUL BSC WOMEN'S JUNIOR SABRE 31ST AUGUST 2014

WOMEN'S JUNIOR SABRE

1. MAXWELL, Caitlin (TRURO) GBR
2. TURNBULL, Isabel (MX FENCING) GBR
- 3= CHART, Maria (TRURO) GBR
- 3= CORBY, Jessica (SALLE OSSIAN) GBR

YOUNG HOSKYN'S BOY'S EPEE 30TH AUGUST 2014

1. ANDREWS, Benjamin (PLYMOUTH)
2. ASHFORTH, Myles (CADS)
- 3= GIBSON, Harry (CHESHIRE)
- 3= TOOGOOD, Luke (ACTIVE8)

YOUNG HOSKYN'S GIRLS' EPEE 30TH AUGUST 2014

1. PARMAR, Ellie (REDHILL REIGATE)
2. TAYLOR, Eleanor (OPS)
- 3= ASHBY, Taylor (PLYMOUTH)
- 3= MCCORMACK, Maisie (OPS)

LEON PAUL BSC MEN'S JUNIOR FOIL 30TH AUGUST 2014

1. BAILEY, George (NEWHAM SWORDS) GBR
2. BIRCH, Jai (NEWHAM SWORDS) GBR
- 3= DEAMER, Euan (CRAWLEY SWORD CLUB) GBR
- 3= KISS, Daniel (SALLE KISS FENCING CLUB) GBR

SAINSBURY'S UK SCHOOL GAMES 4-7TH SEPTEMBER 2014

BOY'S EPEE

1. SINCLAIR, Aml ENG
2. NICHOLS, Harrison ENG
- 3= CAFARO, Jack WAL
- 3= HOFFMANN, Thomas SCO

BOY'S FOIL

1. KISS, Daniel ENG
2. BRYANT, Lyle ENG
- 3= BROWN, Stephen NIR
- 3= RIDSDALE, Ethan WAL

BOY'S SABRE

1. WEBB, Jj ENG
2. HALLIWELL, Will ENG
- 3= HAMILTON, Zachary ENG
- 3= POTTER, Nathan WAL

NOTE TO COMPETITION ORGANISERS

Some results are sent to the BFA website in non-HTML format, such as pdf files. These are fine for reading, but do not allow copying and editing for publication in The Sword. For the sake of archived records, it would be appreciated if results could always be sent in HTML, otherwise they will not be published.

GIRL'S EPEE

1. STANIER, Lydia ENG
2. GUNDRY, Jess ENG
- 3= CORMACK, Ellie ENG
- 3= NESBITT, Hannah ENG

GIRL'S FOIL

1. FIHOSY, Ayseha ENG
2. SMITH, Katie SCO
- 3= CAMPBELL, Yasmin ENG
- 3= CLARKE, Jade ENG

GIRL'S SABRE

1. DAYKIN, Kate SCO
2. CORBY, Jessica SCO
- 3= BANKS, Paisley ENG
- 3= HAMPSON, Sarah-Jane SCO

MIXED WHEELCHAIR EPEE

1. COUTYA, Dimitri ENG
2. PUCKEY, Daniel ENG
- 3= PASZKOWSKI, Kasjan ENG
- 3= PUCKEY, Rebecca ENG

MIXED WHEELCHAIR FOIL

1. COUTYA, Dimitri ENG
2. PUCKEY, Daniel ENG
- 3= PASZKOWSKI, Kasjan ENG
- 3= PUCKEY, Rebecca ENG

MIXED WHEELCHAIR SABRE

1. PUCKEY, Daniel ENG
2. COUTYA, Dimitri ENG
- 3= PASZKOWSKI, Kasjan ENG
- 3= PUCKEY, Rebecca ENG

MEN'S TEAM EPEE

1. ENGLAND
2. WALES
3. NORTHERN IRELAND
4. SCOTLAND

MEN'S TEAM FOIL

1. ENGLAND
2. WALES
3. NORTHERN IRELAND
4. SCOTLAND

MEN'S TEAM SABRE

1. ENGLAND
2. WALES
3. SCOTLAND
4. NORTHERN IRELAND

WOMEN'S EPEE TEAM

1. ENGLAND
2. SCOTLAND
3. WALES
4. NORTHERN IRELAND

WOMEN'S FOIL TEAM

1. ENGLAND
2. SCOTLAND
3. NORTHERN IRELAND
4. WALES

WOMEN'S SABRE TEAM

1. SCOTLAND
2. ENGLAND
3. WALES

INTERNATIONALS**2014 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 15TH-23RD JULY 2014****SENIOR MEN'S FOIL**

1. CHEREMISINOV, Alexey RUS
2. MA, Jianfei CHN
- 3= LEFORT, Enzo (PARIS LPR) FRA
- 3= SAFIN, Timur (National team) RUS

SENIOR MEN'S EPEE

1. ROBEIRI, Ulrich FRA
2. PARK, Kyoungdoon KOR
- 3= GAROZZO, Enrico ITA
- 3= GRUMIER, Gauthier FRA

SENIOR MEN'S SABRE

1. KOVALEV, Nikolay RUS
2. GU, Bongil KOR
- 3= DOLNICEANU, Tiberiu (CSM IASI) ROU
- 3= YAKIMENKO, Alexey RUS

SENIOR WOMEN'S FOIL

1. ERRIGO, Arianna ITA
2. BATINI, Martina (Fed. Italiana Scherma) ITA
- 3= VEZZALI, Valentina ITA
- 3= BOUBAKRI, Ines (BOURG LA REINE) TUN

SENIOR WOMEN'S EPEE

1. FIAMINGO, Rossella (Fed. Italiana Scherma) ITA
2. HEIDEMANN, Britta (TSV Bayer Leverkusen) GER
- 3= KIRPU, Erika (Tartu Kalev) EST
- 3= SHEMYAKINA, Yana (Lviv) UKR

SENIOR WOMEN'S SABRE

1. KHARLAN, Olga UKR
2. ZAGUNIS, Mariel USA
- 3= DYACHENKO, Ekaterina RUS
- 3= EGORIAN, Yana RUS (National team)

SENIOR MEN'S TEAM FOIL

1. FRANCE
2. CHINA
3. ITALY
4. RUSSIA

SENIOR MEN'S TEAM EPEE

- 1. VIETNAM
1. FRANCE
2. KOREA
3. SWITZERLAND

SENIOR MEN'S TEAM SABRE

- 1. VIETNAM
1. GERMANY
2. KOREA
3. HUNGARY

SENIOR WOMEN'S TEAM FOIL

1. ITALY
2. RUSSIA
3. FRANCE
4. KOREA

SENIOR WOMEN'S TEAM EPEE

- 1. UZBEKISTAN
1. RUSSIA
2. ESTONIA
3. ITALY

SENIOR WOMEN'S TEAM SABRE

- 1. VIETNAM
1. USA
2. FRANCE
3. UKRAINE

MEN'S SABRE

- HONEYBONE 35TH
- MILLER 69TH
- AIYENURO 72ND
- CRUTCHETT 74TH

WOMEN'S FOIL

- SHEPPARD 26TH

MEN'S FOIL

- DAVIS 6TH
- KRUSE 38TH
- MEPSTEAD 56TH
- TOFALIDES 81ST

WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

- LAWRENCE 51ST

MEN'S SABRE TEAM

- GB 19TH

MEN'S FOIL TEAM

- GB 8TH

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