

To the Point

Your monthly guide to Fencing in Great Britain
Issue 04 March 2010

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Latest News from British Fencing

It has been another exciting month for Fencing coming off the back of the second Academy weekend, where over 200 fencers, coaches and volunteers attended sessions aimed at developing their skills across a variety of areas. Some of these included courses on refereeing, team manager training, athlete development and coach education. These were combined with the conference which was available to all members to find out more from projects such as the Academy programme to schools development as well as individual coaching sessions.

The national academy is a fantastic opportunity for all involved in fencing to develop fundamental skills and share knowledge and will offer the fencing family the right environment to meet the requirements of the next decade. Thanks to all those involved in delivering the academy Anika Ved, Neil Brown, David Kirby, Linda Strachan, Norman Randall, Saskia Blair, Phil Marshall, the weapon coaches and to everyone else who made it another great weekend.

Something of particular interest over the last couple of months are the Regional Road Shows which have been a fantastic way of communicating with the fencing community at large. It has been great to meet so many committed and enthusiastic people involved in the sport. The Road Shows are genuine opportunities for us at British Fencing to learn what is happening in the regions and to get feedback on what people in the regions want. If you are interested in attending any of the Regional Road Show meetings please look further down the newsletter for more details.

At the start of next month British Fencing will be taking over the administration for England Fencing coach development scheme. I would like to ask everyone who is involved in coach education to have some patience while the staff at British Fencing adjust to the transfer.

Ben Campion
National Development Manager

LEVEL 1 & 2 FAST TRACK COURSES ARE HAPPENING ACROSS ENGLAND THIS APRIL

They are being run on Sat
and Sun 24-25 April in

[Nottingham](#), [Cheshire](#) and
[Tunbridge Wells](#) in Foil and
Epee

Academy News

National Academy Day – 20th March

The British Fencing National Academy has now started to make an impact on our next generation of national team fencers. 75 fencers took part in a day of testing, education & training at Loughborough University.

The fencers all had a tiring but enjoyable day of activity, they had some physical testing with the input of 2 strength & conditioning coaches, core stability training with fencing's most experienced physiotherapist, fencing training & other testing to match the exercises done by our world class programme athletes.

This was run alongside British Fencing's new coach education programme for level 3 & 4 coaches. These coaches got to work with the National Academy fencers as well as take part in their own training day. [More...](#)

Coach Education News

The most significant activity during this period has been the launch of the National Academy Coach Development programme alongside the personal performance stream for cadet fencers. Headed up by Maitre David Kirby, the coach development course is designed to assist Level 2 and 3 participants to progress to the next coach award. An extensive timetable of generic coach education as well as technical blade-in-hand skills will be followed for the next six months. Delegates are studying communication and interpersonal skills, learning theory and a range of sports science topics as well as developing their technical abilities to be able to teach the full repertoire of fencing actions of blade, arm and foot. [More...](#)

Norman Randall

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World Class News

After an intense three months of competition for world class funded athletes in all weapons, the European circuit of the senior international competition programme is coming to a conclusion. After taking the silver medal in the Venice Grand Prix in 2009, the men's foil team didn't manage to defend this position in the same event in 2010, however, they did finish a commendable 5th, after narrowly losing 45-44 to China in their last 8 fight. They went on to convincingly beat Poland 45-34, the biggest margin ever enjoyed over these opponents, and Korea were defeated 42-41. In individual men's foil events, Richard Kruse, Laurence Halsted and Edward Jefferies all made the last 32 in Venice, Rhys Melia made the last 16 in the Espirito Santo world cup, and Edward Jefferies, Keith Cook, Ahmed Rosowsky and Ben Peggs all made the last 32 in Sharm El Sheikh. In the women's sabre Lamezia Terme Grand Prix both Chrystall Nicoll and Louise Bond-Williams finished in the last 16 in a strong field, whilst the women's foil and women's epee teams are continuing to consolidate their position in the world rankings and posting promising results at recent grand prix in Turin and St. Maur respectively. There is now a short break in the season before events recommence in May in some more far flung destinations, including the far-east and the Americas.

Cat Paterson

Young Officials Development News

Last month was a busy one for me. On Wednesday 17th February, I assisted at a mini-fence coach education day led by Norman Randall at Langdon Park School in Tower Hamlets. Approximately twenty young adults, only one of whom had any prior experience of fencing, were given an introductory fencing session using mini-fence and were then taught how to lead sessions themselves. The intention is that these people will then teach mini-fence in local schools, with the children from the schools then feeding into local dubs. What I find very encouraging is that this allows fencing to be exposed to a far greater range of people than ever before.

On 10th-15th March, Jake Rowley refereed at the Women's Sabre Grand Prix in Lamezia Terme, Italy. It is fantastic to see our young referees being given such opportunities at high profile competitions.

From 16th-18th March, I refereed at the Public Schools Fencing Championships in Crystal Palace. I was pleased to see a number of young referees present at the event.

Jack Boteler

Adverts

Officiating Courses

British Fencing are running officiating courses in Competition Administration at Whitgift School in Croydon and Piste Assistance, Refereeing and Armoury at Fighting Fit Fencing Club in North London, both of which are happening on the 25th April. Anyone interested in attending should contact me [here](#) or visit the [Volunteering](#) section of the British Fencing website.

Referees needed

British Fencing are looking for referees at the British Youth Championships on 1st-3rd May. Volunteers will have their hotel provided and all reasonable expenses reimbursed in accordance with the British Fencing Volunteer Expenses Policy. Competitors aged 16 and over are encouraged to referee on the days they are not fencing. Referees will also be given the opportunity to take Level 4 and 3 exams. [Email](#) me for more details.

England Youth Fencing Championships

The 2010 EYCs will be held on 19th (Epee/Sabre) and 20th (Foil) June 2010 at the Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hatfield. Download details and an entry form [here](#) or enter online [here](#).

Please get your entries in early – each section is capped, and every year we have to turn away disappointed fencers.

Referees needed

If you are able to help by refereeing at the EYCs, England Fencing will meet your travel expenses, and provide hotel accommodation and food. Please contact [Ray Stafford](#) or [Duncan Rowlands](#).

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

National Academy Summer Training Camp

Watch this space for the application forms for fencers who want to attend the National Academy training camp, this is for fencers born 94-96. 15 fencers at each weapon will be selected from the ranking lists & there will also be some places available by application.

Neil Brown

Regional Road Show News

The 2nd British Fencing regional road show was held in the South West on the 25th March, was attended by representatives from local clubs & Wesport County Sport Partnership. These events are your chance to learn & ask questions about the new developments British Fencing are working on. The next one is 16th April in Nottingham. Click [here](#) for further details on the Regional Road Show.

North East News

The first of a series of BFA Regional Roadshows took place at Durham University sports centre for those who have an interest in fencing in the North East. This was an opportunity to discuss with the National Development Manager Ben Campion, how British Fencing and England Fencing can assist fencing in the region.

Facilitated by North East Regional Development Officer, Beth Davidson, the programme was split with focused discussions in the first half with Durham, Newcastle and Northumbria universities, local County Sport Partnerships and sport development teams. The latter half was for clubs and coaches.

The North East is currently a year and a half into their regional development plan, with greatest gains being seen in local participation. In anticipation of

Regional Fencing Academies in the autumn, attendees were able to see the purpose and the structure and able to discuss how their organisation could be a development partners.

The dub forum raised many issues that affect clubs and made the following recommendations:

Communication

-A Regional e-mail newsletter to fencers, clubs, coaches and parents.

-A method for the regional fencing community to post information on a public site to share news and seek help

School Development

-Offer a clear business package of what fencing could offer a school in terms of financial and personnel resources

-Highlight models of good practice that can be replicated [more...](#)

Beth Davidson

England Fencing News

On March 25th and 26th an England Youth Squad consisting of 22 U15 epeeists will be battling it out at an international event in Wroclaw, Poland. Live results should be available [here](#).

For future events, Eileen Buist has been appointed Team Manager for the 2010 UK School Games, and Beth Davidson has been appointed Team Manager for the Senior 5 Nations and the Senior Commonwealths. Fencer selections for the UKSG should be announced very soon, and selections for the two senior events will be announced in May.

If you are interested in helping as an England Fencing Team official, please visit the England website, and download an application for [here](#).

Office Move

At the end of March, the England Fencing office will close with our administrative functions moving to British Fencing at Chiswick. On behalf of the board of EF and the membership, I would like to thank Jan Jukes for her hard work as EF administrator over past few years.

The existing phone number can still be used for a while, and administrative queries can still be sent to [England Fencing](#).

Ray Stafford

Schools News

We have been busy delivering teacher and sports leader training to increase the size of the workforce that is able to develop mini-fencing schemes in their SSPs – programmes have been held in London (North and East), Hampshire, Durham and Notts, with more planned for the coming months.

The one-day Mini-Fencing Teacher training workshop has proved very popular with PLTs and SSCos as they are quick to see the fantastic potential of the soft form of the game which is easily resourced, immediate [More...](#)

Norman Randall

Events

Event	Date
Birmingham International	3 Apr
Glasgow Open	10 Apr
Winton Cup	10 Apr
Regional Club Road Show – East Midlands	16 Apr
Elite Epee Junior Series Final	17 Apr
Elite Epee – Senior ME	18 Apr
Academy Youth Cup	24 Apr
LPJS Warwick Epee	24 Apr
Ridley Martin Sabre	25 Apr
British Youth Championships	1 May
LPJS Wrexham Foil	8 May
LPJS Tameside Sabre	9 May
Regional Club Road Show – South East	14 May
Sheffield Open	15 May
LPJS Camden Sabre	16 May
British Youth Championships U10 B&G Foil	23 May
City of Chichester Open	29 May
Interdyde Open	29 May

Course	Date
L1&2 Fast Track FE, Nottingham	24/25 Apr
L1&2 Fast Track FE, Cheshire	24/25 Apr
L1&2 Fast Track FE, Tunbridge Wells	24/25 Apr

Other News

Congratulations to British Fencing employee Charlie Miller who on behalf of BF has raised £154 for Sport Relief. Charlie ran 3 miles in full fencing kit earlier this month.

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