



Hi British, is fencing more than just a sport?

In 2016, British Fencing and Maslaha formed a partnership that would see the creation of Muslim Girls Fence. A project that would lead to challenge misperceptions of and raise aspirations among young Muslim women, in the light of the complex discrimination experienced by this group on the basis of both faith and gender.

We know fencing is a sport that builds confidence, resilience and self-worth. Ibtihaj Muhammad's mentor, former Olympic medalist Peter Westbrook, describes the strong potential of fencing as 'a springboard to go to higher heights'.

Fencing has also been shown to attract young people who may not typically be involved in sports. Young women fencers in particular tend to have creative interests that set them aside from their peers. This offers an interesting opportunity to open doors for participation in physical activity to young women who may dislike other sports.

Virginia Bailey, Participation Programme Manager at British Fencing has written a short article which explains what the Muslim Girls Fence Project means to two female coaches that deliver the project in Doncaster and London.



By reading this article, it will provide an opportunity for all clubs to increase their knowledge on how to make the sport accessible and make informed decisions when creating partnerships within the local community.

To find out more about Muslim Girls Fence [click here](#).

If you have any questions, [contact us here](#).

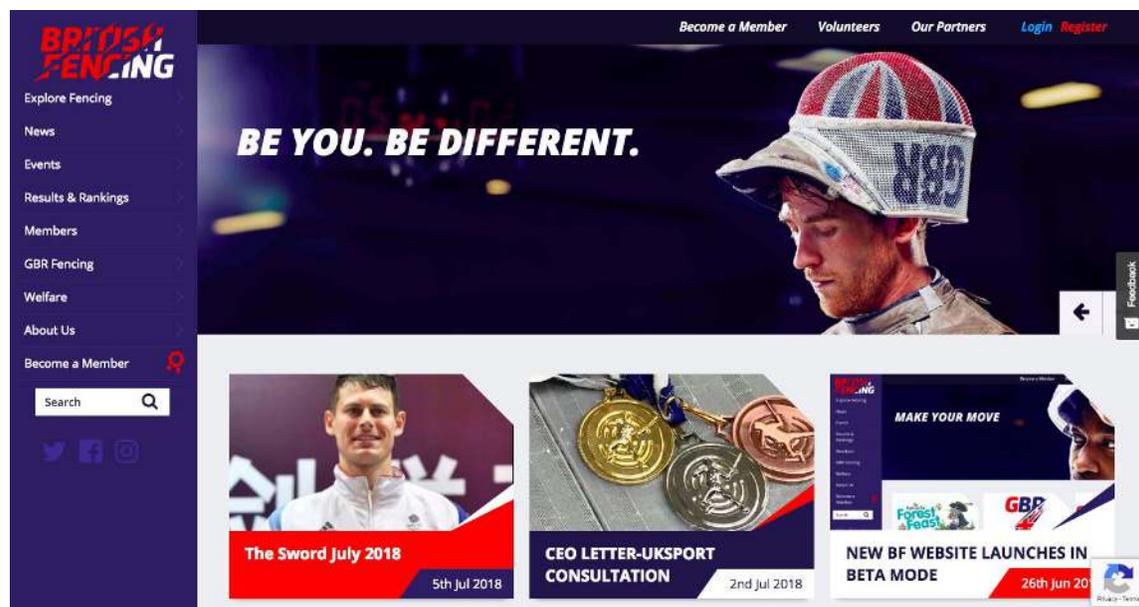
NEW BF WEBSITE

British Fencing is delighted to reveal the new our website...

As part of the branding project in 2016, our creative agency WeLaunch created a bold new vision for the BF website. Since then the BF team have been working hard (alongside the day jobs!) with Excalibur, our technical specialists, to turn this vision into a reality.

Our goal was to create a website that promotes the sport of fencing and provides our existing and future members of our community with all the information they need in an easy to use and accessible way. There is a designated Club Zone specifically to support clubs in a number of different areas!

There is much work still to be done (especially on the mobile phone version) but we have taken the decision to launch early in 'beta testing mode'. [Read the full announcement here...](#)



#FUNDFENCING

Friends, coaches, fencers and fans, earlier this month was the official launch of Give Us the Power, part of our #FundFencing campaign mission to make GB fencing athletes' dreams come true...

This short film (available on the left) was



produced by Celine Ramseyer and directed by Helen Uleksin, Bachelor students studying at University of the Arts London.

It represents how the loss of UK Sport funding after Rio 2016 impacted our fencers' ability to win by flickering the fencer's equipment on and off, removing his ability to fence. Look out for the moment when Jonathon 'JJ' Webb keeps his focus against Curtis Miller, even as the distraction of buzzing, disappearing kit threatens to derail his concentration. When we support our athletes, we give them the power to succeed.

#FundFencing is more than just a video. It's a cause, a call to arms, a mission. With your support, British fencers will be able to enter competitions all over the world to ensure they qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Our support will help fund entry fees, travel costs, training fees and accommodation but more importantly #FundFencing will allow fencers to concentrate on being athletes, reducing the worry of sourcing funding, enabling them to train for longer and be the best fencers they can be!

We're looking forward to sharing some fun ways you can help #FundFencing. Today, share 'Give Us the Power' and join the journey towards Tokyo 2020.

[Donate Here](#)

UK SPORT CONSULTATION

Open Letter from Georgina Usher (CEO) regarding UK Sport Funding...

"As UK Sport looks ahead to Paris 2024 with a new public consultation, the athletes within the sports, including fencing, cast aside by UK Sport's current investment policy have little hope for change.

At the London 2012 Games, UK Sport invested the public's Lottery money into 70% of Olympic and Paralympic sports. At Rio 2016 this figure reduced to 64% and in Tokyo 2020, the investment is likely to be in the region of just 48%. With less lottery investment predicted post 2020, UK Sport's policy is fast becoming an exclusive club with fewer and fewer members allowed in.

This approach has to end and I am writing to you to urge you to have your say on how you want the future investment into the British elite sports system to be used. Should the current policy

continue, the implications for fencing are huge because our sport is not one where the income from membership is sufficient to cover any costs of our elite athletes, and financial support from other sources (Sponsorship, Charity donations) is limited." [Read the full letter here...](#)

CLUB ADVICE

Fencers Club London have recently been working very closely with us on a number of different projects, most recently, hosting the rearranged British School Team Championships in Rickmansworth!

FCL are very keen to share a key message with all clubs up and down the country about the ever important subject of communication. James Joy, Logistics Officer, explains how they successfully communicate with their current, future and potential members in the modern world we live in today.

Now beyond May 25th 2018, 'GDPR Day', James goes on to explain how the club are compliant with the new laws in the best way that suits them (reduced admin time, organisation and functionality of their system) and their members (easy access, mobile friendly and engaging content).

Positive communication to everyone involved at your club from coaches, volunteers, parents, members and those running the club can lead to higher retention rates, happier members and increased reach to attract new members. You can find lots of helpful information on [Effective Communication by clicking this link.](#)

You can read the article by clicking below! British Fencing would like to thank Fencers Club London and James for submitting this article! If you club has something to share, please [contact us here.](#)

Fencers Club London
Est. 2015
Raising The Game

[Communication Article](#)

J&C COMMONWEALTH



Still chance to volunteer...

The events team is still needing volunteers to help set up, assist teams and support areas during the championships! Many of these roles will have training on the day!

Do not miss your chance to volunteer at an international event. [To learn more and register, please click here...](#)

Want to watch?

An international fencing tournament for under 17 (cadet) and under 20 (junior) individuals and teams held in the fantastic Sport Central in Newcastle upon Tyne. This 8 day event will feature teams from across the Commonwealth including England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, India, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Nigeria, South Africa , Guernsey and Jersey.

[Click here to buy your tickets...](#)



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