

ELECTION CANDIDATE DETAILS - FRANCIS WILKINSON

Please describe your Fencing Experience & BF Service:

A foilist, I began fencing at 18 years old when I was at University and became chair of the University Fencing club as well as a member of the university team in my final year.

Since then I have fenced on and off as work allowed. Whilst living in the USA I belonged to the Orlando Fencing Club and regularly competed in club competitions around central Florida.

I currently fence at Wimbledon Fencing Club, and this year joined the graduate fencing team at the University of Surrey "Grad Sports" day (graduates v current students).

I have served as an appointed director of British Fencing since October 2021, and am currently chair of the Audit, Governance, Risk Committee (AGRC).

I liaise regularly with the Finance Director of British Fencing to ensure that he feels supported, as well as maintaining my own understanding of the financial situation of BF at any given time, and helping to provide reassurance to the board around financial oversight.

Please describe your Governance/Company Director/Board level Experience: (This can be in private or public sector, sport or non-sporting capacity.)

A CIMA qualified accountant, I received my letters and full membership to CIMA in 2003. The qualification requires a good understanding of corporate governance.

I am an experienced finance director, and have worked as part of the Senior Management Team in a number of roles. The nature of the finance role requires ensuring good governance within the organisations that I work.

I have served as a Non-Executive director of British Fencing since October 2021 and as chair of the AGRC I have shared responsibility for the governance of BF.

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I have also served as a treasurer for a group of Methodist churches.

How would you support the strategic objectives of British Fencing (1. A performance pathway to international success, 2. A stronger, empowered community of 30,000 fencers, volunteers, coaches and supporters, 3. Accessible inclusive swordplay opportunities delivered via partnership programmes, 4. A sustainable future supported by high quality governance and infrastructure that is financially resilient, 5. Maximise the wider benefits of fencing and the positive impact it can have on people's lives) **if elected to the Board:**

I listen to the views of others and share my own opinions when the board considers its strategic direction, and ensure that I understand in advance the subjects being discussed (either from board papers or other resources). I believe it's important for the board to provide clear direction in relation to the strategic objectives in order to give clarity to the executive team.

I would support the executive team in delivering strategic objectives (which may be allowing them to get on and deliver, or to be available for them as required).

I believe a key part of the role is providing sufficient oversight to ensure that the organisation is acting properly and in the interests of its members.

I have attended BF events in my capacity as an appointed director, I believe visibility between the board and the membership is vital.

Please indicate and describe your current qualifications and practice experience in relation to those sought by the Board.

Summary:

Area		Description of qualification/experience
Fundraising/Accessing funds - in the public and not for profit, health and education sector	Y/N	<i>Limited experience gained in industry</i>
Commercial/Procurement in the education sector	Y/N	
Financial Management/Accountancy/Corporate Finance	Y/N	<i>Associate of the Chartered institute of Management Accountants, experienced Finance Director</i>

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Experience of delivering Disability Sport Programmes	Y/N	
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Further Details:

I am an experienced finance director, and whilst I have worked predominantly in the travel industry I did have a 2 year stint working for a government contractor in the education sector during which time I assisted with bid costings (for grant funding), prepared returns for local government and oversaw a local authority audit.

Please indicate whether you are an active fencer aged 18 to 35

Y/N

Please describe any additional skills and attributes that you believe you would bring to the Board if elected.

As a senior finance professional having worked in both large organisations and SME's I understand the balance between ensuring good governance and the limited resources available to smaller organisations.

Working in SME's my role is not confined to finance, and in various organisations I have held responsibility for IT strategy and for HR (having acquired a reasonable understanding of HR law).

I am an active member of the "grass roots" fencing community, fencing regularly at the club where I am a member.

I have strong interpersonal skills.

Nominations

1. James Hamilton
2. Alexander Roper
3. Alan Grafton
4. Mark Richardson
5. Andrew Harvey
6. Matthew Edward Sparrowhawk
7. Francesca Eve Sparrowhawk
8. Simon White

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9. Jean Li-Kam-Tin
10. Jill Farmer
11. Derek Mortimer
12. Miriam Berriochoa
13. Ben Widdecombe
14. Matthew David
15. Tommy Curran Jones