

Title : Mr

Forename : Nick

Surname : Payne

Occupation and position held (if applicable): : Director - Sword Fighting International

MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Tom Payne, Kristin Payne, Paul Wedge, Tony Bartlett, Gerry Gajadharsingh, Emmanuel Therond, Nicola Hull, Marg Oniye, Jane Clayton, Caroline Martin, Alexander Roper, Jane Hutchinson, Russell Gregory, Lisa Drage, Jenny Morris

Please describe your Fencing Experience & BF Service :

Fencing Career Highlights:

Accomplished international fencer, former British No.1, England Captain and Commonwealth bronze medalist. Recently restarted competitive fencing at Veteran level and Won Commonwealth Team Gold for England and Silver Medalist in Veterans World Champs in Daytona 2023.

Over 30 years as FIE ref including Olympic Referee at London 2012 Olympics and reffed World Final in U20 World Champs. I was on the REF COM for about 5 years.

Coaching and Club Development: Founder of Epsom Fencing Club (and satellite clubs Epsom College Fencing Club and Surrey Swords Fencing Club). I have set up or worked in over 15 school clubs both private and state schools including coaching, managing fencing clubs and managing other coaches. Also organising events and taster sessions for over 18 years showcases my commitment to grassroots fencing and athlete development and demonstrates a deep knowledge and passion for the sport.

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

Following a career working in Business Information, Anti-Money Laundering and Risk Management with some of the world's largest financial organisations, I founded Corporate Team Building company Sword Fighting International as company director in Melbourne, Australia. This expanded to the UK on my return to Epsom Surrey. I have wide experience in all areas of fencing and how this can develop focus, help set precise goals and improve team work in a Corporate environment.

This corporate career for 15 years and then entrepreneurial career for 20 years covers various corporate governance areas. Also skilled in sponsorship management (for example setting up the Wilkinson Sword deal for British Fencing), marketing, and communication and covers a well-rounded understanding of different aspects of sports governance. Also a good understanding of political manoeuvring within the FIE from working as an FIE ref from multiple World Championships and the London Olympics.

I have been on the Surrey County Fencing Union Committee for over 10 years.

How would you support the strategic objectives of British Fencing (Grow Participation,

Create a Sustainable Future, Deliver GBR Success, Support Women and Girls, Deliver Positive Social Impact) if elected to the Board:

With over 20 years experience setting up and running local fencing clubs I have a lot of experience of what works and what does not in building a local community.

I have a number of projects including working with SabreX and developing a new concept of Beach Fencing to help create a sustainable future for World Fencing. At GBR level I am working towards my L4 coaching certificate and run L1 and L2 coach education courses and used to run Referee Courses. I was a GBR team selector for many years including during the controversial London 2012 Olympic selections.

I have worked with Muslim boys and girls at Al Khair School in Croydon following a partnership with Archery for All and Teachsport.

My demonstrated resilience, leadership, and ability to build relationships align with the desired behavioral competencies for the role. With an exceptional fencing career, coaching experience, personal qualities, and familiarity with governance areas make me a strong candidate for the BF Board Director position.

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

Delivery/Oversight of World Class Performance Programmes in Paralympic Sport :

I have worked with Para Athletes at Epsom Fencing Club including Jim Parsons who competed at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Having lived in Paris training at Racing Club with Maitre Menon coach to 2004 Olympic Champion Brice Guyart, and with good connections with other coaches around the world, I could leverage those connections to help enhance our WCPP, however have not directly been involved in setting up our current program.

Private sector fundraising/commercial activities to support British Fencing strategic priorities :

As highlighted above, I have specialised in providing fencing and sword fighting (including LED Sabre) to Corporate Clients and have worked closely with British Fencing to attract sponsorship from a variety of sources.

Swordfighting International clients include Merrill Lynch (now BlackRock), Melbourne Storm, Victorian Olympic Committee, BT Financial (Westpac Group), Fitness2Live, EBAY, GSK, Pfizer, BT, BP. Skilled in sales and digital marketing and confident in dealing with multi-level stakeholders. UK TV and film work includes Made in Chelsea, Channel 5 'Murder at the Manor', BBC Strictly Come Dancing, London 2012 Olympic bid and Kenneth Branagh's Hamlet.

I was marketing manager for Salle Paul Fencing Club from Sept 92 to April 05, including setting up their first website and getting sponsors.

I can help review the current priorities and work with BF to meet and exceed their current targets and focus on their strategic priorities.

Sport/activity procurement in the education sector (primary/secondary) : As outlined above I have extensive experience working with multiple private schools including Epsom College and Dulwich Coach (as Head Coach managing a team of coaches) and local state schools. Also experience working with universities (including Head Coach at Queen Mary University and Imperial College).

HR : As an entrepreneur running multiple businesses and handling numerous projects I know some of the issues of HR. Having worked for RELX selling a product called XperthHR and then Complinet (now Thomson Reuters) selling Complinet HR I am familiar with many HR issues.

Please indicate whether you fall into the following under-represented categories

Disabled people : No

Ethnic minorities : No

Females : No

Please describe any additional skills and attributes that you believe you would bring to the Board if elected. Please study the job description for a Board Director on the British Fencing website. : With my parents having met at Unilever Fencing Club and starting fencing at 10 years old, I feel I am well connected in the fencing community in the UK and around the World. With future projects such as Corporate Fencing League (CFL:LON), SabreX and Beach Fencing 2036 I am invested in the future of Fencing and believe that many projects can be more successful if we try and work in alliance with the NGB. I believe Fencing Coaches are underpaid in this country and need more support, and we need more clubs, coaches and fencers. My thesis in French after living in Paris for a year tried to compare the systems in France and GBR following clubmate Philippe Omnes winning Olympic Gold Medal in Barcelona 1992 - some of the points highlighted then are similar now and more members might solve some of these problems - I believe I am well positioned to help with this problem.