

# BRITISH FENCING AGM MINUTES - UNAPPROVED

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Last Updated: 31.10.2025

**Date of Meeting** 25.10.2025

**Location** In person @ ODI Offices London, London. Also by Video Link

**Present**

**Attendance (In person) Board Directors**

- Sara Pantuliano (Chair)
- Alex O'Connell (SID)
- Jade Clarke (AGRC Chair)
- Tommy Curran Jones
- Tom Nippress (online)
- John Troiano

**President** Patricia Aiyenuro, President

**Newly elected Board Directors** – Paul Abrahams, Nick Payne

**Committee & Working Group Chairs**

- Peter Jacobs – Chair of Safety Committee, Chair of Honours Committee
- Clare Halsted – Chair of ES Working Group

**Staff**

- Georgina Usher (CEO)
- Helen Hewson (FD)
- Virginia Bailey (Participation Director)
- Abigail Dicks (Events Manager)

**Members**

Peter Jacobs, Paul Standing, Marcus Messer, Arlen Veysey, Andrew Goodier, Hilary Sahota, David Sosnov, Baldip Sahota, Alex O'Connell

## BRITISH FENCING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**In Person (Guests & Observers)** Thomas Milner, Denise Johnson, Sheryl Chiu-Sosnov

**Online**

**Directors:** Thomas Nippres, Jade Clarke, Yashmin Harun

**Members:** Jim Pilkington, Jessica Spolton, Kristin Payne, Jacqueline Esimaje-Heath, Scott Farlam, Alyn Sparkes, Lewis McInley, Paul Stanbridge, Theo Ayanwale, David Hanrahan, John Beautyman, Fran Nottingham, Patrick Dempsey, Gillian Aghajan.

**Apologies**

**Board Directors:** Brian Brittain, Mary Cohen, Chris Tidmarsh

**Members:** Cador Beautyman, Susan Ann Brooks\*, Jaimie Cook, Pete Eames\*, Megan Elliot, Charles Henderson\*, Janet Huggins, Isabella Johnson, Richard Kruse, Tristan Lumineau, Carl McNicol\*, Kim Robinson\*, Jennifer Sancroft\*, Mike Selig, Paul Standing, Amelie Tsang, Zoe Wagstaff, Steve Wallace\*

\* = proxy in place

### 1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM

The minutes of 2024 were approved. *Proposed Peter Jacobs, Seconded Lawrence Burr.*

### 3. ITEM 1 - RECEIVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Jade Clarke, Chair of AGRC, presented the Annual Accounts, published on the BF website in advance of the meeting.

The presentation included:

- Income Statement
- Income by Category
- Membership numbers (2020-2025)
- Reserves Statement
- 2025-26 Budget

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Questions were invited from the floor.

LB asked about the Home Nation split. JC & GU clarified that this was now 80/20 (BF/EF) following new agreement and remained (60/40) all other Home Nations.

PJ asked about Sponsorship. JC/SP/JT replied - BF is looking for sponsorship but the market for traditional sport sponsorship was tough. SP highlighted the goals of the new 2030 strategy to change public perception of fencing, through social impact and state school programmes to grow the sport and attract other forms of partnership income.

The accounts were accepted. Proposed by Neil Bromley, seconded by Brian Speight.

### 4. ITEM 2 - ELECTED DIRECTORS

*To note the election of Paul Abrahams and Nick Payne as Elected Directors for a term of four years with effect from the date of the Meeting.*

### 5. TO BE INFORMED OF 2026 MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEO presented the membership fees for 2026 with the following points:

- Following introduction of current Membership Scheme in 2016, agreement with Home Countries to raise prices in line with inflation
- Due to Covid membership fees were frozen for 2020 and 2021
- 2023 fees were increased by average of 5.3% (inflation had risen 14.3% compound)
- 2024 fees were increased by an average of 4.3% (inflation CPIH/CPI of 6.4/6.8)
- 2025 fees were increased by an average of 2.5% (inflation CPIH/CPI of 3.3/2.2)
- 2026 fees are proposed to increase by an average of 3.1% (inflation CPIH/CPI of 4.2/3.8)

There was a short discussion and clarification on membership types and the requirement for all participants in clubs to have membership for valid affiliation and insurance cover.

### 6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BRITISH FENCING HONOURS AWARDS

President Pat Aiyenuro presented the following awards to attendees:

**For Services to Fencing:**

**Silver Medal:** Luke Deamer, Robin Paterson, Jim Pilkington (joined online, to be presented at a later date), Adrian Speakman, Brian Speight

**Bronze Medal:** Neil Bromley, Malcom Cawton, Richard Collins, Akeela Mohammed, Nalette Tucker

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Henry Youngblood

**Award of Merit:** Alexander Scott

The following awards were announced with in person presentations to be made at a future date.

**Bronze Medal:** Robina Begum, Jane Clayton, Mike Ellis, Lyndon Martin, Jennifer Sancroft, Mike Selig

**Award of Merit:** Derek Desmond Truman

### **Results based Awards**

**Bronze Medal:** Carolina Stutchbury, Alec Brooke

**Goblet:** Sameer Sunder-Rajan, David Kelly

It was noted that there continued to be considerable performance success in particular in the Wheelchair discipline, however Honours Medals were not awarded on a repeat basis.

### **Anna Hanrahan Trophy**

The President announces that, in recognition of her contribution to supporting BF in managing and promoting GBR veteran teams, Gillian Aghajan (attending online) was awarded the Anne Hanrahan Trophy.

## **7. AOB**

The Chair thanked the senior management team for their hard work during the year and thanked the Board members.

There was no other formal business and the formal meeting closed at 12.00.

There followed an opportunity for informal discussion.

*The meeting closed at 12.00*