



**BRITISH FENCING**

# **Candidates' Election Statements**

## **Election of Board Directors 2014**

Please read carefully before casting your vote.

## Grace Coulter

**Address:** 7 Mill Pond Close, London SW8 4SH

**Occupation and position held (if applicable):** Barrister

**British Fencing (BF) Membership Number:** 57903

**Standing to be elected as:** Board Director

### **Fencing Experience & BF Service:**

I have been fencing since 2004. I have represented GB as a veteran in 3 world championships.

### **Aims & plans if elected to the Board:**

1. I want to ensure that Fencing is one of the more popular sports every child wants to do at school, and that fencing is the sport every adult wants to be the best at.
2. I would like to promote sabre and bring women's sabre back to where it deserves to be on the international circuit.
3. One of the things I would like to do to achieve 2 above (and this applies to all weapons) is to promote and achieve more support for those fencers who are selected to represent GB at international competitions but do not have in place funding to enable them to participate, or continue to participate in A Grade competitions.
4. I am concerned that many fencers have stopped fencing because of 3 above. There needs to be a network of support systems to encourage them to achieve and improve to the level that they attract funding from UK Sport.
5. To this end I would suggest the following:
  - (a) whenever a fencer is selected to represent GB at international level (but is not on WCP) then an announcement is made on the BF website, together with congratulations from British Fencing for achieving a level/rank to achieve international selection;
  - (b) a 'round-robin' e-mail to all clubs to ask for ex-gratia donations towards the fencer concerned within 48 hours of selection. This will also enable donors to send messages to the fencer concerned, identifying themselves, and sending any messages of support and encouragement;
  - (c) at the end of the process (7 days) the fencer (or their parent/guardian if under 18) to be informed of the amount of donations and the names of the donors (if they wish to be identified) together with any messages as details in (b) above.
6. At the end of every A grade competition, the performance director is to provide comments on the fencer's performance and constructive proposals to improve the same.
7. I would also like to promote the Board as a more 'community-friendly' board.
8. To this end, a board member (this should be rotated amongst the board members) should be tasked to visit every fencing club, at least once a month, to see how the training sessions are progressing, to identify any strengths or weaknesses of the systems in progress, and to introduce themselves to the fencers and coaches (if they do not already know them well).
9. Finally, I want to put into place improvements to the grievance and disciplinary process, and look at the disciplinary rules to ensure that they are fair.

### **The skills and attributes that you believe you would bring to the Board if elected:**

1. I have forensic and adversarial skills as a barrister. I can therefore be of assistance, either myself or through my many contacts in the legal profession, in any questions of law which may arise from time to time.
2. I am a mother to an ex-fencer, and have considerable empathy towards fencers, particularly young fencers, and the amount of work that is required from fencers (mentally and physically) to achieve success.

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3. I believe I understand the problems and worries that beset the minds of many fencers which may cause them to abandon fencing when they have talent and should be encouraged to continue.
4. A clear and rational mind and my absolute belief that everyone should be treated fairly.

### **Names of 15 nominating members of BF:**

Sam Gibbs  
Barry Coulter  
Patricia Aiyenuro  
Aliya Itzkowitz  
Steve Pope  
Joe Nickel  
Joanna Hutchison  
Gildas Braine  
Sarah Ellis  
Helen Fairhead  
Beth Davidson  
Jack Boteler  
Nathan Potter  
Bridget Pleasant  
James Potter

## **Caryl Oliver**

**Address:** Gable Barn, Pusey Furze, Buckland, Oxon, SN7 8PY

**Occupation and position held (if applicable):** e-Director, Achievement for All

**British Fencing (BF) Membership Number:** 114 427

**Standing to be elected as:** Board Director

### **Fencing Experience & BF Service:**

#### **Fencing:**

- Active Fencer since 1964.
- British Olympic Squad Montreal 1976.
- Australian National Senior Champion Epee 1988.
- Australian Senior National Team 1988.
- Australian National Veteran Champion Epee 2008, 2009, 2010.
- Commonwealth Veteran Champion Epee Individual and Team 2009.
- Oceanic Zone Veteran Champion Epee 2010
- Australian Veteran World Championship Team Member 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- England Team for Home Internationals 2013, 2014
- Qualified for British Veteran World Championship Team 2012, 2013, 2014
- Great Britain Team for European Veteran Team Championships 2014 (captain)

#### **Administration:**

- LAFU Committee Member 1975-1977
- Organiser De Beaumont Cup 1974-1977
- Organiser Senior World Fencing Championships 1979
- FIE Propaganda Committee 1978-1982
- Director of Fencing Victoria 1978-1982; 2008-2010
- Director Australian Fencing Federation 1980-1982; 2008-2010

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- FIE Veterans Council since 2009
- Fencing Services Manager London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games 2010-2012
- Marketing support for European Veteran Team Championships 2016

### **Aims & plans if elected to the Board:**

- Contribute to the strategic planning and development work of the Board
- Contribute to plans and objectives to ensure the best possible outcome for all stakeholders in Fencing in Great Britain. This includes government, sponsors, administrators, coaches and participants at all levels.
- Offer ideas and initiatives that might assist in strengthening the bond between the different levels of the Sport to ensure that high level aspirations are supported while ensuring grass root growth to feed the clubs and coaches.
- Explore the integration of all bodies representing aspects of Fencing into one 'family'.
- Be an ambassador for British Fencing at club and personal level
- Articulate the priorities of British Fencing at FIE Commission level
- Encourage and support activities that enhance the growth of the sport.

### **The skills and attributes that you believe you would bring to the Board if elected:**

- Sound knowledge of governance and duties of directors
- Experience as a director of National and Regional Sporting organisations
- Experience as CEO of associations and organisations
- Government Advisory Committees
- Project Management
- Event Management
- Marketing and Communication
- Technology systems development and implementation
- Education and Training/e-learning/mobile learning
- Business growth and development (built own business)
- Active Fencer for over 40 years
- Committee member of clubs, associations and federations
- Competition organisation
- FIE Veterans Committee
- Olympic and Paralympic Games organisation

### **Names of 15 nominating members of BF:**

Gordon Hardie  
Mark Leech  
Malcolm Allton  
Sylvia Brown  
Martin Carter  
Janet Cooksey  
Mariette Mason  
Janet Huggins  
Peter Huggins  
Gillian Aghajan  
Anne Mills  
Susan Uff  
Moya McNamara  
John Crouch  
Sam Hughes

## Brian Speight

**Address:** 60, Seafield Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH6 3JF

**Occupation and position held (if applicable):** Retired

**British Fencing (BF) Membership Number:** 39883

**Standing to be elected as:** Board Director

### **Fencing Experience & BF Service:**

I have been a member of Espada Fencing Club, Bournemouth, for 43 years. During all this time I have worked to promote the interests of the club and its place in the community. I have held every position within the committee from Chair down. Over the years I have secured £20 000 from Lottery funding and undertaken numerous initiatives to introduce fencing into every sector of the community.

I have involved our local MP, Mayor and, along with local schools sought to demonstrate the sport in youth groups and clubs within the area. I was selected by Bournemouth Council to be the 'poster face' for active older people in the community campaign. I was thus seen in fencing clothing around the town on large bill boards, the back of buses and other advertising outlets. I have worked with local business and delivered fencing fun days to companies wishing to give their staff something different.

I have had the good fortune to fence at all levels and through the vets including representing GB. I was awarded the Bronze Medal by BF for services to the sport. I am currently supporting a colleague (one of my volunteers at the London Olympics) who is trying to open two new fencing clubs in South London.

I was proud to be a member of the London Olympics Fencing organising team and also worked for the Vets to present the Vets World Championships in Bath a few years ago. In addition I have worked on a variety of projects for BF over the years not least helping to organise the Centenary dinner in 2002 and acting as MC. I anticipate helping the vets with the organisation of the Vets European Championships in 2016

### **Aims & plans if elected to the Board:**

If I were elected to the board I should continue to encourage the promotion of fencing at grass roots level ensuring the widest publicity for the sport. This is fundamental; without it there is no fencing tomorrow. Also to encourage fencing on two fronts – for those who wish to fence just socially and those who wish to fence competitively.

At the other end of the fencing scale to work with colleagues on producing fencing champions. We have had great success this year with James Davies but we need more and to develop systems and a culture which produce champions. We have seen in other sports such as cycling, athletics and gymnastics that success breeds success.

I want that for fencing. I not only want to support my colleagues who are currently working hard to generate success but I also want to develop all that goes with winning. I do not want our success in Europe this year to be a one-off, but the start of continued success, continued winners, British fencers on the podium on a regular basis. I shall try to play my part in helping the board to expand this climate of motivation and self-belief to achieve this!

### **The skills and attributes that you believe you would bring to the Board if elected:**

It has been suggested I have strong motivational and man management skills. I worked as a freelance occupational psychologist for 30 years around the world for both national and international business; operating from the UK and USA on business development projects, improving standards, service/product awareness and creating a competitive edge; on HR issues, employment practice and encouraging managers to think like leaders and see part of their job as a team coach. Regardless of their level or industry.

I have good marketing and promotional awareness skills. In addition I have strong determination and achieve my goals. I am always looking to move forward, to find a way to be positive in thinking. When the door is closed to find a way to open it and above all generate action!

### Names of 15 nominating members of BF:

Richard Bonehill  
Janet Cooksey  
Keith Smith  
Ray Stafford  
Allan Jay  
Lorenzo Molfese  
David Cake  
Malcolm Fare  
Cedric Af Geijersstam  
Carol Walton  
Colin Chinsky  
Graham Reid  
Jill Ireland  
Christopher Clarke  
Corrado D'Arrigo

## Paul Wedge

**Address:** Park House, Shillinglee Park Road, Shillinglee GU8 4TA

**Occupation and position held (if applicable):** Retired

**British Fencing (BF) Membership Number:** 124194

**Standing to be elected as:** Board Director

### Fencing Experience & BF Service:

Former Under 20 International fencer.  
Won British Under 20's foil two years in succession (1973/74)  
Represented GB in World under 20's in Istanbul and Mexico  
National Foil Champion

University Foil champion three years running  
Represented GB in World Student Games

Represented GB in senior foil events

Left fencing in 1980 and resumed fencing after the London Olympics in 2013

Won National age veteran group qualifiers in 2014 (50-60 year olds).

Representing GB veterans foil team in Hungary in October 2014.

Won West Midlands veterans Open foil and have competed in a few open foil competitions this year with a 9th place in Portsmouth Foil Open.

### Aims & plans if elected to the Board:

British fencing has enjoyed success both in running the London Olympics and international results with a number of our British fencers. However, there are many challenges for BF not only on growing and developing the sport but ensuring there is sufficient funding and backup to deliver the success we are aiming for. I hope by joining the board of BF I am able to contribute in some way in that process.

### The skills and attributes that you believe you would bring to the Board if elected:

I graduated from Manchester University with a first in Chemistry and Business studies. I worked 8 years in Shell Chemicals before moving to stockbroking in the City. My City experience is in quoted small and mid capital companies (typically market caps of £50 to £1bn) arena. This was in raising finance, stock market listing and

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providing broking services to both City institutions (pension funds, unit trusts etc) as well as the companies and its directors.

I was a main board PLC director of a £200m quoted market cap company, Collins Stewart, and have held senior positions in a number of stockbroking companies. I co founded a broking company, Singer & Frielander, where I was main board director. I have held board and senior positions as Head of Research, Head of Sales and Head of Corporate Broking.

### **Names of 15 nominating members of BF:**

Eitan Alon  
Amy Church  
Richard Sage  
Ben Peggs  
John Troiano  
Anthony Bartlett  
Stephen Haley  
Max Schulte  
Michael Chew  
Richard Morris  
Peter Barwell  
Charlie St John  
Jon Willis  
David Standen  
Stephen Steinberg



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