

# THE SWORD

The magazine of the membership since 1948

British Fencing Magazine

APRIL 2018



REN CLAIMS EUROPEAN SILVER IN SOCHI P5

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT PP6-9



INTERNATIONAL ROUND UP PP11-15

WALES FOCUS PP24-25

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# Welcome to THE SWORD

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Photo: Augusto Bizzi

- 4 **ON THE BOARD**
- 5 **NEWS**
- 6 **SOCHI REPORT**
- 11 **INTERNATIONAL ROUND UP**
- 17 **FEATURE**  
Interview With Johnny Davis
- 19 **DEVELOPMENT**  
Parents in Sport – Pushy or Supportive?  
General Data Protection Regulation  
Case Study – Universities and Fencing Clubs  
Reading Fencing Club
- 24 **FEATURES**  
Wales Feature  
Interview with Dmitry Leus
- 29 **JOHN HOLT TRIBUTE**
- 31 **ZFW HAS GONE WIRELESS!!!**
- 32 **ROUND UP**  
BF and BDFA Collaboration  
Paul Davis Fencing Academy Wins Locals Award
- 33 **BOOK REVIEW**
- 35 **RESULTS**

# On the Board

## AN INTERVIEW WITH TOM CADMAN

We continue our series of interviews with members of the Board of British Fencing in this issue with Tom Cadman as we try to get a closer understanding of how they are serving you, the membership.

**The Sword: What is your role on the Board and how much of your time does this voluntary role take up?**

Tom: I was elected to the Board in 2013 and then had the privilege of being re-elected in 2017. I sit on the Audit, Governance and Risk Committee of the Board and also the Grow Group. As part of my work for British Fencing, I have been heavily involved in the project to ensure British Fencing complied with the requirements of the new Governance Code and those members who have attended AGMs will have heard me speak of the constitutional amendments required. On average, I am spending about 2 days a month discharging my responsibilities to British Fencing.

**The Sword: You were a competitive international fencer. Tell our readers about your accomplishments on the piste?**

Tom: I was very lucky to have been in a position to have competed both for Great Britain (at cadet, junior and senior level) and England (at Commonwealth Fencing Championships). My best result at a senior World Championships was a top 32 finish in 2001 and in 2010 I was a part of the England team that won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Melbourne.

**The Sword: How do you think your competitive experience benefits you in your current Board role?**

Tom: Whilst never a world-class fencer, I have an understanding of the sacrifices that athletes need to make if they want to compete at the highest level. I also appreciate that most people involved in fencing participate or volunteer for the love of the sport. Having competed in Opens over many years, I am in awe of the dedication that members of our community demonstrate towards the sport. Sometimes, I think we lose sight of that.

**The Sword: What are the biggest challenges you face as a Board member?**

Tom: As with many organisations, the biggest challenge is managing our resources against our objectives. This is particularly so in the post UK Sport funded era. To lose all Pathway funding was a big blow and has, no doubt, impacted on the ability of our very top athletes to perform at the highest level. That said, British Fencing exists for the benefit of all its members and there has been a refocus on the services delivered to members. With more limited income streams, there is a greater pressure on resources and how they are applied.

**The Sword: Tell us about your day job and what you do in your spare time ... if you have any?**

Tom: I am a solicitor and am currently employed as the Director of Governance and Legal Services at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. The Institute is a charity which promotes for the public benefit the use of arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution as an alternative to court proceedings. The Institute has a global membership of over 15,000 and many of our members are involved in resolving sports related conflict. I also am a trustee of a number of charities including a multi-academy trust and sit on the Legal Commission of the European Fencing Confederation. In my spare time, I try to make the most of my season ticket for Bath Rugby and enjoy the opera, ballet, theatre, travelling and spending time with my nieces and nephews.



Tom Cadman

### Correction

In the last issue we printed that Great Britain won their first Wheelchair Fencing World Championship in 60 years. We have been informed that this was incorrect given that Caz Walton won the Worlds in 1990 in the Cat B Women's Epee category. Our apologies for this mistake and thanks to former Editor of The Sword, Malcolm Fare for correcting us.

# News

## IAN REN CLAIMS 2018 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP SILVER

### REN DELIVERS EUROPEAN CADET MEN'S SABRE SILVER AFTER PROMISING SEASON

On March 2, sixteen-year-old Ian Ren claimed the cadet men's sabre European Championship silver medal on the first day of the tournament in Sochi, Russia. Hailing from Cardiff but fencing under Alex Bela at Leon Paul Sabre Club, Ren fought strongly all day until coming up against Russian attacking machine, Magamed Khalimbekov in the final, losing 15-9.



**Podium Line-Up (l to r): Ren, Yuzhakov (RUS), Kaiser (HUN), Khalimbekov (RUS)**  
(Credit: Augusto Bizzi)

He started the day ranked second for the tournament and lived up to his billing winning all six of his first round fights. Tied on victories and indicators with both Bulgarian Hristo Efimov and Russian Kirill Tyulyukov, Ren went into the incomplete tableau of 64 ranked second.

A bye through the first fight was followed by an extremely tough draw. First he beat



**Ren Stretches to land against Yuzhakov (RUS) in the semis** (Credit: Augusto Bizzi)

Giorgio Marciano of Italy, ranked fifth for the tournament, 15-7 and then he had Romanian, Rares Ailincea, ranked sixth but he beat him 15-9, to confirm his place in the quarterfinals. Next he faced another Italian, ranked ninth, Michele Gallo. He dominated the fight from the start, taking a lead into the break from which he built his 15-12 win.



**Ren – The face of victory (taken in the semis)** (Credit: Augusto Bizzi)

His semi-final against Russian Oleg Yuzhakov did not start well as Ren went down 7-2. Despite a great fight back he was 8-5 behind at the break with a lot of work to do. He came out for the second period, varying his first movement off the line, drawing level at 10-10 with a beautiful parry riposte. Ren then took the lead briefly, only for Yuzhakov to power through two attacks to lead 12-11. Again, Ren fought back with a stop-cut and two well-timed attacks, to lead 14-12 but it wasn't over. The Russian powered out two more attacks to draw level. The tight final action saw the referee consult the video, as he must at 14-14. Verdict: Yuzhakov stopped short on his attack and Ren took the victory 15-14.

Another Russian, Magamed Khalimbekov was his gold medal match opponent and again, Ren fell behind. The Russian showed attacking intent from the start to lead 2-0. A yellow card for an early start at 4-1 to



**Ren celebrates with coach Alex Bela**  
(Credit: Augusto Bizzi)

Khalimbekov, did not slow him down and he led 8-2 at the break. Ren tried to vary his actions, which proved successful in part, but every time he ventured backwards into his own half of the piste the Russian scored. Despite a short medical time-out for a knee injury, Khalimbekov took the title with a 15-9 win. Ren will be delighted with his day's work though.

Speaking shortly after coming off the piste, Ren said, "It went pretty good today. I started off the day a bit rocky but I came out and I fenced the best I've ever fenced. I'm a little bit disappointed that I didn't really fence well in the final but I would say that this is my best fencing result ever." Speaking about the upcoming World Championships, he added, "I'm definitely going to keep up the training, work hard and keep improving."

His coach, Alex Bela was delighted saying, "I think today went really well. Ian managed to use the right tactics. I felt that he was very motivated and did exactly the right things. He was concentrated and in the end a medal is very important, as it gives us confidence for the World Championships, where we also expect to do well. Of course, that is important for qualification for the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires. Overall, I'm really happy. It was a good competition – a good result – and well done!"

Full results [here](#).

Watch the semi-finals and final [here](#).

# Sochi Report

## CADET & JUNIOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018 REPORT

### REN STARS WITH SOCHI SABRE SILVER

The British team competing in Sochi, Russia, 2-11 March, boasted twenty-four cadets and twenty-four juniors covering all twelve disciplines at the European Championships. In total, nearly 900 athletes from 28 countries took to the pistes at the Black Sea resort whilst much of Europe was gripped by the "Beast from the East" – a cold snap that threatened the arrival of some of the athletes, including our very own Akira Papadopolous and Mark Alvares-Peres, who tried their hardest to rearrange flights but were unable to.

The event began with all of the cadet disciplines that were followed by the junior events.

#### Day 1 – 2 March

##### Cadet Individual Women's Epee

Eighty fencers took part in this event including three from Great Britain. Avery Louis (V6Do), Taylor Foxwell Moss (V3D3) and Eleanor Taylor (V2D3) all progressed through the first round. In the round of 64 Louis defeated Poysti (FIN) 15-11 but she was the only one to progress as Bielezsova (CZE) overcame Taylor 15-8 and Janelli (POL) eliminated Foxwell Moss 15-5. Staszulonek (POL) ended British hopes in the event beating Louis 15-9.

Eszter Muhari of Hungary took the title beating teammate Kinga Dekany 15-9 in the final as Karolina Staszulonek and Sara Maria Kowalczyk (ITA) shared the bronze medals.

British placings: Louis 18<sup>th</sup>, Foxwell Moss 48<sup>th</sup> & Taylor 53<sup>rd</sup>.

##### Women's Individual Epee Results

##### Cadet Individual Men's Sabre

There were three British fencers in the field of fifty-five in this event. A brilliant start by Ian Ren (V6Do) saw him claim second seed and a bye through the round of 64. Julian Richards II (V4D2) also did well enough to qualify for the elimination stages and earn a bye through the first fight. Luke Haynes (V1D5) did not make the first round cut. In the round of 32, Urban (HUN) defeated Richards II 15-10 but Ren beat Marciano (ITA) 15-7 before going on to claim the silver medal with victories over Ailincă (ROU) 15-9, Gallo (ITA) 15-12 and Yuzhakov (RUS) 15-14. He lost out 15-9 in the

final to Magamed Khalimbekov of Russia as Oleg Yuzhakov shared the bronze medals with Balazs Kaiser of Hungary.

Read the full report of Ren's silver medal winning performance on page 5 of this magazine.

British placings: Ren 2<sup>nd</sup>, Richards II 23<sup>rd</sup> & Haynes 47<sup>th</sup>.

##### Men's Individual Sabre Results

A video playlist of some of the action from day one is available [here](#).

#### Day 2 – 3 March

##### Cadet Individual Men's Epee

There were four British fencers in the field of one hundred in this event at the start of day two of the Championships. Benjamin Andrews (V5D1), Jacob Foulsham (V5D1) and Joshua Willcox (V4D2) all made it through the poule stages and earned byes through the incomplete round of 128. Steven MacPherson (V1D5) did not make the first round cut. Despite their strong starts none of the British fencers made it through the round of 64 as Andrews fell 15-10 to Brykner (CZE), Santiuste (ESP) beat Foulsham by the same score and Berkdold (AUT) defeated Willcox 15-13.

Italian, Davide Di Veroli won the European title beating Dmitriy Shvelidze of Russia 15-8 in the final as Alexander Biro of Austria and German, Paul Veltrup picked up the bronze medals.

British placings: Andrews 35<sup>th</sup>, Foulsham 37<sup>th</sup>, Willcox 47<sup>th</sup> & MacPherson 89<sup>th</sup>.

##### Men's Individual Epee Results

##### Cadet Individual Women's Foil

The field of seventy-one in this event included four from Great Britain. Amy Home (V3D3) and Phoebe Newton-Hughes (V2D3) made it through the first round poules but Bronwen Granville (V1D4) and Lucy-Belle Williamson (VoD5) did not. In the round of 64 Malickova (CZE) saw off Home 15-10 as Vasile (ROU) defeated Newton-Hughes 15-9.

Russia's Adelina Bikbulatova won the European title beating Italian Claudia Memoli 15-12 in the final as Italy's Martina Favaretto and Russian, Elena Petrova shared the bronze medal position.

British placings: Home 36<sup>th</sup>, Newton-Hughes 41<sup>st</sup>=, Granville 56<sup>th</sup>= & Williamson 67<sup>th</sup>.

##### Women's Individual Foil Results

A video playlist of some of the action from day two is available [here](#).

#### Day 3 – 4 March

##### Cadet Individual Men's Foil

There were four British entries in the field of seventy in this event. Cameron Evans (V4D2), Rafael Rhys Pollitt (V4D2) and William Lonsdale (V3D3) all progressed through the first round but Luca Plastow (VoD6) did not. Rhys Pollitt then came through the round of 64 by beating Pedro (POR) 15-9 but Lonsdale lost 15-8 to Barannikov (RUS) and Isaksson (SWE) defeated Evans 15-13. Rhys Pollitt then beat Eyupogly (TUR) 15-9 before losing 15-12 to Macchi (ITA) in the round of 16.

Filippo Macchi went on to win the European title, beating Jonas Winterberg-Poulsen of Denmark as Italian Alessio Di Tommaso shared the bronze medal position with Maciej Bem of Poland.

British placing: Rhys Pollitt 13<sup>th</sup> Evans 34<sup>th</sup>, Lonsdale 40<sup>th</sup> & Plastow 68<sup>th</sup>.

##### Men's Individual Foil Results

##### Cadet Individual Women's Sabre

The field of fifty-six in this event included four from Great Britain. Erin Corcoran (V4D2), Ellen Robbins Wilkinson (V4D2) and Hannah O'Reilly (V3D3) all made the first round cut but Maia Fashokun (V1D5) did not. Corcoran benefited from a bye through the round of 64 as Robbins Wilkinson narrowly lost 15-14 to Bondar (UKR) and Kurth (GER) defeated O'Reilly 15-11. Corcoran then went out 15-5 to Buitenhuis (NED) in the round of 32.

Russian, Darya Drozd beat Liza Pusztai of Hungary to claim this title with Nisanur Erbil of Turkey taking bronze with Benedetta Taricco of Italy.

British placings: Corcoran 23<sup>rd</sup>, Robbins Wilkinson 33<sup>rd</sup>, O'Reilly 34<sup>th</sup> & Fashokun 47<sup>th</sup>.

##### Women's Individual Sabre Results

A video playlist of some of the action from day three is available [here](#).

# Sochi Report (continued)

## Day 4 – 5 March

### Cadet Team Women's Epee

There were sixteen teams in this event including Great Britain (Taylor Foxwell Moss, Avery Louis and Eleanor Taylor with Keira Papadopoulos as reserve). They narrowly lost to Romania in the first round, 45-41 before losing by the same score to Sweden and then beating Belarus 45-42 and Finland 45-38 to finish thirteenth.

Hungary took the title beating Italy 45-43 in the final. Romania beat Israel 44-36 to secure the bronze medal.

#### Team Women's Epee Results

### Cadet Team Women's Foil

The British team (Amy Home, Bronwen Granville and Phoebe Newton-Hughes with Lucy-Belle Williamson as reserve) lined up in a field of fifteen for this event. They lost out 42-30 to Latvia in the round of 16. In the placings matches they progressed through Denmark who withdrew, lost to Ukraine 45-27 and then beat Turkey 45-34 to finish eleventh.

Italy beat Russia 45-36 to secure the gold medal whilst Romania beat Latvia 45-35 to take the bronze medal.

#### Team Women's Foil Results

### Cadet Team Men's Sabre

A field of thirteen in this event included Great Britain (Luke Haynes, Ian Ren and Julian Richards II with Mark Alvares-Peres as reserve). They beat Spain 45-38 in the first round before losing 45-26 to Russia. In the placings matches, they lost to Turkey 45-42 before beating Germany 45-38 to finish seventh.

Hungary beat Italy 45-40 to become the champions whilst Romania claimed the bronze medal by beating Russia 45-28.

#### Team Men's Sabre Results

A video playlist of some of the action from day four is available [here](#).

## Day 5 – March 6

### Cadet Team Men's Epee

A field of twenty-one included Great Britain (Benjamin Andrews, Jacob Foulsham and Joshua Willcox with Steven MacPherson as reserve). They beat Azerbaijan 45-31 in the round of 32 followed by Spain 45-41 before losing 45-42 to Ukraine. MacPherson came on in the placings matches for Foulsham but the team lost 45-36 to Poland and 45-43 to Israel to finish eighth.

Italy won the event beating Germany 45-22 in the final as Ukraine took bronze with a 45-26 victory over Austria.

#### Team Men's Epee Results

### Cadet Team Men's Foil

Thirteen teams lined up for this event including Great Britain (Cameron Evans, William Lonsdale and Rafael Rhyss Pollitt with Luca Plastow as reserve). They beat Romania 45-31 in the round of 16 before losing to Russia 45-26 – in a match where Plastow replaced Lonsdale in the seventh leg. In the placings matches, where Plastow came on for Evans in the fourth leg, GBR lost 45-32 to Germany. They went on to beat the Netherlands 45-38 so finished seventh.

Russia took the title with a 45-39 victory over Italy in the final as Poland secured the bronze medal by beating Sweden 45-43 in the play-off.

#### Team Men's Foil Results

### Cadet Team Women's Sabre

Great Britain (Maia Fashokun, Hannah O'Reilly and Ellen Robbins Wilkinson with Erin Corcoran in reserve) was part of the thirteen-strong field in the last Cadet event of the Championships. They lost 45-32 to Germany



GBR Cadet Euros Team

in the round of 16 and had a bye through the first placings match. Corcoran came in for O'Reilly as the British team went on to beat Belgium 45-44 before reverting to their original line up to beat Poland 45-37, finishing in ninth place.

Russia won the event, taking the European title with a 45-42 win against Hungary as Turkey confirmed the bronze medal by beating Italy 45-36.

#### Team Women's Sabre Results

A video playlist of some of the action from day five is available [here](#).

## Day 6 – March 7

The Junior events at the Championships in Russia began on day six with British athletes involved in every event.

### Junior Individual Women's Epee

The field of eighty-nine in this event included four from Great Britain. Daniele Lawson (V4D2), Alexandra Powell (V3D3) and Bethan Plant (V2D4) all qualified for the elimination stages but Jasmine Heaps (VoD6) did not. All three remaining British fencers were knocked out in the round of 64 as Cagnin (ITA) beat Lawson 15-6, Martensson (SWE) defeated Powell 15-8 and Plant lost 15-14 to Engdahl (SWE).

Frederica Isola of Italy won the first Junior European title of the Championships by beating Alexandra Predescu of Romania 15-6 in the final. Swede, Elvira Martensson shared the bronze medal position with Aliya Bayram of France.

British placings: Lawson 44<sup>th</sup> =, Powell 55<sup>th</sup>, Plant 64<sup>th</sup> & Heaps 87<sup>th</sup>.

#### Women's Individual Epee Results

### Junior Individual Men's Sabre

Four British fencers were amongst the field of sixty-three in the second Junior event. Jamie Craze (V4D2), George Suddards (V4D2) and James Edwards (V3D3) all made the first round cut but Barnaby Halliwell (V1D5) did not. Edwards fell 15-12 to Milassin (HUN) in the round of 64 as Craze and Suddards progressed, beating Haag (GER) 15-8 and Stanescu (ROU) 15-7, respectively. British interest in the event ended in the round of 32 as Kostenko (RUS) defeated Craze 15-6 and Patrice (FRA) beat Suddards 15-12.

Maxime Pianfetti of France claimed the gold medal beating teammate Sebastien Patrice 15-11 in the final. The bronze medals went to Russian Konstantin Lokhanov and Italian Alberto Arpino.

British placings: Suddards 26<sup>th</sup>, Craze 29<sup>th</sup>, Edwards 41<sup>st</sup> & Halliwell 56<sup>th</sup> =.

#### Men's Individual Sabre Results

A video playlist of the action from day 6 is available [here](#).

## Day 7 – March 8

### Junior Individual Men's Epee

Ninety-one fencers took part in this event including four from Britain. Billy Shepherd (V3D3), Matthew Cooper (V2D4) and George Morris (V2D4) progressed through the first round but Antoine Belot (V1D5) did not. A bye for Shepherd plus wins for George Morris 14-10 over Mueller (GER) and Copper 15-10 against Brykner (CZE) saw the remaining British fencers progress to the round of 64. There it was to end for all three as Dikov (BUL) beat Shepherd 15-9, Nagy (HUN) defeated Cooper 15-6 and Morris lost 15-4 to Jurka (CZE).

David Nagy went on to claim the silver medal, losing 15-8 to Italian Davide Di Veroli in the final. Frenchman Arthur Philippe shared the bronze medal position with Austria's Alexander Biro.

British placings: Shepherd 53<sup>rd</sup>, Cooper 61<sup>st</sup>, Morris 64<sup>th</sup> & Belot 76<sup>th</sup> =.

#### Men's Individual Epee Results

### Junior Individual Women's Foil

There were fifty-seven entries into this event including four from Great Britain. Alice Campbell (V1D5), Seville Babaeva (VoD5), Arianna Balestrieri (VoD5) and Yasmin Campbell (VoD5) did not do enough to make it through the first round.

The European title went to Martina Faveretto of Italy who just beat German Leonie Ebert 15-14 in the gold medal match. The bronze medal position was shared by two Russians, Marta Martyanova and Victoria Yusova.

British placings: A. Campbell 51<sup>st</sup>, Balestrieri 52<sup>nd</sup>, Babaeva 53<sup>rd</sup> & Y. Campbell 56<sup>th</sup>.

#### Women's Individual Foil Results

A video playlist of the action from day 7 is available [here](#).

## Day 8 – March 9

### Junior Individual Men's Foil

The seventy-six fencers in this event included another four from Great Britain. Ben Bates (V4D2), Dominic De Almeida (V4D2), Connor Head (V4D2) and Sebastian Pallier (V3D3) all qualified through the first round. In the 64, De Almeida beat Goran (ISR) 15-4, Head defeated Split (NED) 15-12 and Pallier beat teammate Bates 15-12. British progress in the event ended in the round of 32 as Head lost 15-5 to Menkuer (TUR), Rudnicki (POL) beat De Almeida 15-10 and Pallier fell 15-4 to Borodachev (RUS).

Kirill Borodachev went on to win the European title beating Davide Filippi of Italy 15-10 in the final. Dutchman Daniel Giacom and France's Wallerand Roger shared third place.

British placings: Head 18<sup>th</sup>, De Almeida 21<sup>st</sup>, Pallier 28<sup>th</sup> & Bates 39<sup>th</sup>.

#### Men's Individual Foil Results

### Junior Individual Women's Sabre

The final individual event of the Championships included a further four British fencers in field of fifty-three. Jessica Corby (V3D3) and Caitlin Maxwell (V3D3) made it through the first round but Sophia Potter (V1D5) and Maria Chart (VoD6) did not. Maxwell progressed through the round of 64 with a bye as Corby defeated Aptsiauri (GEO) 15-13 to join her in the next round. Maxwell won again, this time beating Jijieshvili (GEO) 15-10 but Corby lost 15-4 to Ilieva (BUL). Maxwell went on to beat Podpaskova (RUS) 15-13 to make the quarterfinals but then lost 15-8 to Gette (GER).

Lisa Gette went on to share the bronze medal position with Turkey's Aylin Cakir as Alina Mikhailova of Russia struck gold with a 15-8 victory over Hungary's Liza Pusztai in the final.

British placings: Maxwell 8<sup>th</sup>, Corby 28<sup>th</sup>, Potter 49<sup>th</sup> & Chart 51<sup>st</sup>.

#### Women's Individual Sabre Results

A video playlist of the action from day 8 is available [here](#).

## Day 9 – March 10

### Junior Team Women's Epee

The Junior team events began with women's epee as Jasmine Heaps, Danielle Lawson and Alexandra Powell with Bethan Plant as reserve represented Great Britain in a field of twenty. A bye through the incomplete round of 32 was followed by defeat 45-30 against Hungary – a match which saw Plant replace Heaps in the seventh leg. In the placings matches Great Britain brought on Plant again for Heaps in the fourth leg in their 45-42 victory over Finland. The same format followed in the next match but Spain beat Great Britain 45-27. In the fight-off for eleventh place Great Britain brought in Plant in place of Heaps but the team lost 45-42 against Switzerland to finish twelfth.

Italy beat Russia 45-42 to take the gold medal as France beat the Czech Republic 45-28 for the bronze medal.

#### Team Women's Epee Results

### Junior Team Women's Foil

Twelve teams took part in this event including Great Britain with a line up of Seville Babaeva, Arianna Balestrieri and Yasmin Campbell with Alice Campbell as reserve. Alice came on in the seventh leg of the round of 16 match for Babaeva but the Brits still lost 45-32 to Romania. A bye through the first placings match was followed by victories over Sweden 45-30 and the Czech Republic 45-28 to claim ninth place.

Germany beat Italy 45-43 to the title as Hungary defeated Poland 45-23 for the bronze medal.

#### Team Women's Foil Results



## Junior Team Men's Sabre

The fifteen teams in this event included Great Britain who lined up with Jamie Craze, James Edwards and George Suddards with Barnaby Halliwell in as reserve. They faced Ukraine in the round of 16 and despite Halliwell coming on in the seventh fight for Craze, Great Britain lost 45-36. Halliwell came in for Craze in the first placings match but he was replaced in the seventh leg as Britain fell 45-43 to Georgia. Craze, Halliwell and Suddards took on Slovenia in the next match, winning 45-21 and then Edwards returned – for Craze – in their 45-31 victory over Belgium. Great Britain finished in thirteenth place.

France beat Russia 45-39 to take the gold medal as Germany defeated Belarus by the same score to claim bronze.

### Team Men's Sabre Results

A video playlist of the action from day 9 is available [here](#).

## Day 10 – March 11

### Junior Team Men's Foil

Great Britain fielded a team of Ben Bates, Dominic De Almeida and Connor Head with Sebastian Pallier in reserve for this event, as a total of fourteen countries competed. In their round of 16 match against Germany, Pallier come on in the eighth leg but the team lost 45-41. In the first placings match, Bates, De Almeida and Pallier defeated Ukraine 45-31 before Head came back in for Pallier in their 45-28 victory over Serbia to finish ninth.

Russia defeated Poland 45-26 for the title as Italy beat Germany 45-22 to claim the bronze medal.

### Team Men's Foil Results

### Junior Team Men's Epee

A total of seventeen teams took part in this event including Great Britain who lined up with Matthew Cooper, George Morris and Billy Shepherd with Antoine Belot as reserve. They lost 45-39 to Switzerland in the round of 16 pushing them into the placings matches.

There they lost 45-40 to Ukraine and 45-35 to Austria before Belot came in for Morris and they beat Estonia 45-43 to finish fifteenth.

Hungary beat Italy 34-27 to claim the gold medal as the bronze was awarded to France who beat Poland 45-37 in the play-off.

### Team Men's Epee Results

### Junior Team Women's Sabre

The final action in Sochi saw thirteen teams line up for this event including Great Britain. Maria Chart, Jessica Corby and Caitlin Maxwell with Sophia Potter in reserve beat Turkey 45-25 in the round of 16 before losing 45-41 to Italy. In the placings matches they lost 45-43 to France before beating Poland 45-39 to finish seventh.

Russia beat Italy 45-33 to claim the last gold medal of the Championships as Hungary claimed bronze with a 45-43 victory over Germany.

### Team Women's Sabre Results

A video playlist of the action from day 10 is available [here](#).



GBR Junior Euros Team

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# International Round Up

We're getting to the part of the season where countries are now looking who to pick for their zonal championship teams. Those chosen are likely to attend the World Championships too so it really is crunch-time for the athletes. Let's take a look at how they are getting on.

## Men's Epee

In December the epeeist took part in their first Grand Prix of the season in Doha. Korea's reigning Olympic Champion, Park Sangyoung beat teammate Jung Jinsun in a controversial low-scoring final. Italy's double World Champion, Paolo Pizzo shared the bronze medal position with his compatriot, Andrea Santarelli.



**Jung shows generosity in Doha loss against teammate Park**

Heidenheim was the next stop on the tour and the one that every epeeist dreams of winning. This year that honour went to Japan's Kazuyasu Minobe who beat Bogdan Nikishin of Ukraine in the final. Italy's Gabriele Cimini achieved a career-best result by claiming a bronze medal which he shared with Vadim Anokhin of Russia. Korea continued to show their strength in the team event, beating France to the gold medal as



**Men's Podium Selfie at the Doha Grand Prix**



**Nikishin Celebrates Vancouver Gold**

Switzerland overcame Russia for the bronze medal.

Bogdan Nikishin went one better at the next event in Vancouver, claiming the title with a final victory over Daniel Jerent of France. Jerent's teammate, Yannick Borel shared the bronze medal with Czech, Pavel Pitra. France continued their good form in the team event by claiming gold over Italy as Korea beat Hungary to the bronze medal.

Pizzo has a 20-point lead at the top of the World rankings and 36 points separate the next four, Nikishin, Jung, Marco Fichera (ITA) and Borel. The next eight fencers in the



**Vancouver Podium**

rankings are split by just 21 points. In the team rankings, Korea lead France by just four points with Russia another 20 points adrift. Italy complete the top four a further 38 points behind.

## Women's Epee

Romania's Ana Maria Popescu returned to her best form at the Doha Grand Prix, beating Mara Navarria of Italy in the final. Choi Injeong of Korea shared the bronze medal position with Hou Guangjuang of China who was making her first major podium appearance.



**Popescu defeats Navarria in Women's Doha Final**

The circuit moved on to the Havana World Cup and Coraline Vitalis of France struck gold for the first time at a major senior ranking event. She beat Lee Hyein in the final as the Korean claimed her first major podium finish at senior level. Hong Kong's Kong Man Wai



**Vitalis Happy in Havana**

# International Round Up (contd.)



**Doha GP 2017 Women's Podium**

Vivian and Sun Yiwen of China shared the bronze medals. Korea cruised past Russia in the final of the team event as China edged Italy for the bronze medal.

There was another debutant winner at the Barcelona World Cup as China's Zhu Mingye swept to gold over Tatyana Andryushina of Russia. Ukraine's Olena Kryvytska and Kang Young Mi of Korea claimed their first ever World Cup podium finishes with bronze. Russia edged Italy for the gold medal in the team event as the USA secured the bronze with a victory over Romania.

The top five in the World rankings are separated by just 28 points. Hungary's Emese Szasz-Kovacs leads the way from Julia Beljajeva (EST), Tatiana Gudkova (RUS), Kryvytska and Sun. The next eight in the list

are no more than 21 points further adrift. China hold on to top spot in the team rankings with Russia trailing by 10 points. Korea and Estonia complete the top four, a further 12 points adrift.

## Men's Foil

The first Grand Prix for the foilists took place in December in Turin, Italy. America's Alex Massialas took the gold medal with a top of



**Lion of Bonn - Cheremisinov**



**Alex Massialas celebrates winning the Turin Grand Prix 2017 with his father (and USA Coach) Greg**

the World rankings clash with Timur Safin of Russia. Italy's Alessio Foconi and Enzo Lefort of France shared the bronze medal position.

The next stop was the Paris World Cup and it was Italy that dominated the individual podium. Foconi turned Turin bronze into Paris gold beating teammate and reigning Olympic Champion, Daniele Garozzo in the final. The third Italian, Giorgio Avola shared bronze with Frenchman, Julien Mertine. Italy were unable to convert their individual success in the



**Barcelona Podium**



**Turin GP 2017 Men's Podium**

team event as they fell to the USA in the gold medal match. France dominated Korea in the third-place play-off to claim bronze.

Next stop on the circuit was the Bonn World Cup and Russia's Alexey Cheremisinov turned back the clock by claiming the gold medal – his first major medal on the senior circuit since winning the World Championships in 2014. Massialas had to settle for the silver as Italian youngster, Guillaume Bianchi claimed his first senior medal – a bronze which he shared with Jeremy Cadot of France. The USA made it back-to-back wins as they beat Korea in the final of the team event. France just beat Russia to the bronze medal.

# International Round Up (contd.)



## Italy Dominate in Paris

There's just five points separating Garozzo at the top of the World rankings from Massialas and GB's Richard Kruse is a further 13 points behind them in third place. Safin is just four points behind Kruse with Focconi another eight points behind in fifth. Those five have a significant lead over the rest of the field. The USA have a commanding lead in the team rankings, 96 points ahead of Italy in second place. France and Russia complete the top four. Great Britain are back in twelfth spot but crucially are just 40 points behind Germany who occupy the extra Olympic qualification spot for Europe. There is, of course, a long way to go!

## Women's Foil

Italy dominated the podium at the women's event at the Turin Grand Prix but it was Russia's reigning Olympic Champion, Inna



Turin Women's Foil Grand Prix 2017 Podium

Deriglazova who claimed the title, beating Alice Volpi in the final. Valentina De Costanzo picked up her first major podium finish with a bronze medal that she shared with Arianna Errigo.

The circuit moved on to Poland and the Katowice World Cup where Deriglazova claimed her second win in succession. She beat America's Lee Kiefer in the final as Italian Camilla Mancini and Germany's Anne Sauer claimed their first World Cup podium finishes with bronze medals. Russia beat Italy to gold in the team event as France overwhelmed Germany to take the bronze medal.



Volpi Celebrates Algiers Gold



Deriglazova scores the winning hit in the semi-finals at the Turin GP

Italy's Alice Volpi continued to add to her trophy cabinet at the next event, the Algiers World Cup. She struck gold by beating teammate Erica Cipressa in the final as Cipressa claimed her first senior medal. It was also a first senior podium finish for Hanna Lyczbinska of Poland who shared bronze with Deriglazova. Russia claimed back-to-back team wins in Algeria beating France in the final. The USA beat Italy to the bronze medal.



Russia Claim Katowice Team Gold

Deriglazova is nearly 50 points ahead of Volpi at the top of the World rankings. Kiefer and Errigo sit a further 21 and 23 points adrift in third and fourth, respectively. France's Ysaora Thibus is a further 55 points back in fifth. Italy are 48 points ahead of Russia in the team rankings but the Russians are steadily hauling them in. The USA team are 60 points back in third with a further 56 points separating them from France in fourth – who are only two points ahead of Germany.

# International Round Up *(contd.)*

## Men's Sabre

We pick up the action on the men's sabre circuit at the second event of the season, the Gyor World Cup. Korea's rising star, Oh Sanguk retained the title he won last season with victory over Russian, Veniamin Reshetnikov. Two Frenchmen shared the bronze medal position, Vincent Anstett and Bolade Apithy. Korea continued to grow as a team, taking gold over Italy. Hungary secured the bronze medal by beating Russia.

On to the first Grand Prix of the season in Cancun and Oh made it consecutive victories here, this time beating Hungary's double Olympic Champion, Aron Szilagyi. Korea and



Padua Podium



Gyor Podium



Gu Bongil Celebrates with Coach

Hungary closed out the podium as Gu Bongil and Andras Szatmari shared third place.

The Padua World Cup followed in February where Eli Dershwitz claimed his second World Cup title. Szilagyi claimed his second consecutive silver medal with teammate Szatmari claiming bronze again along with Italian Luca Curatoli. Korea won the team event, again beating Italy in the final. Hungary claimed a third consecutive bronze medal, this time beating the USA in the play-off.



Reshetnikov vs Oh in the gold medal match



**Cancun GP 2017 Men's Podium**

A couple of weeks later the circuit moved on to Warsaw and Gu claimed the individual title for Korea with victory over German, Matyas Szabo. Iran's Ali Pakdaman picked up his first World Cup medal by securing bronze, a position he shared with German, Benedikt Wagner. It was three in a row for Korea who claimed the team title, beating Iran, this time in, the final. Hungary beat Russia into the bronze medal position.



**Cancun GP 2017 Women's Podium**



**Close quarters for Oh and Szatmari in their semi-final**

Gu Bongil sits at the top of the World rankings, 42 points ahead of Luca Curatoli who is just six points clear of Oh Sanguk and eight points ahead of Andras Szatmari. Aron Szilagyi is a further eight points behind that in fifth place. Unsurprisingly, Korea top the team rankings, 60 points ahead of Italy. Hungary are a further 48 points behind in third with Russia in fourth trailing by another 32 points.

## Women's Sabre

Ukraine's reigning World Champion, Olga Kharlan confirmed her comeback from injury was complete with her second consecutive circuit victory at the Cancun Grand Prix. She beat Italy's Arianna Errigo – the foilist in her second sabre season – who beat some "big" names on the way to her first major sabre medal. Cecilia Berder of France and Russia's Olympic Champion, Yana Egorian were the bronze medallists.

The next stop was the USA and the Baltimore World Cup where Italian, Martina Criscio claimed her first major title with victory over Misaki Emura of Japan. It was Emura's first World Cup podium and at just 19 years



**Genuine mutual respect**



**Criscio win Baltimore**

old there's a lot more to come from her. In fact the younger contingent is looking very strong as 18 year old Sarah Noutcha of France claimed her first podium result at a senior event. She shared the bronze medal position with compatriot, Charlotte Lembach. France were the victors of the team event, beating China in the final as Korea overcame Hungary for the bronze medal.

Olga Kharlan is 54 points clear at the top of the World rankings leading Italy's Rosella Gregorio. The Italian leads Marton by five points and Berder by seven. Manon Brunet of France is a further 19 points back in fifth place. Italy is at the top of the team standings leading France by 56 points. Korea is a further 32 points back in third place with Russia 32 points behind them in fourth.



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# Interview with Johnny Davis

## THE SWORD INTERVIEWS BRITISH FENCING'S FOIL MANAGER, JOHNNY DAVIS

**Tell us about your history in fencing? How did you start? What were your achievements? Best/most memorable fight?**

I first started when I was 13. I moved to Belfast when my father was transferred to a new job and the school, RBAI, had a great tradition of fencing so it was by luck really. I took part in a number of different sports – soccer, hockey, athletics, cross country running – until I was about 16 when I decided to concentrate on fencing as my priority. There was no coach at the school and it was simply accepted that the older boys taught the younger ones. I also fenced all three weapons until I was 18 and I remember fencing for Northern Ireland in the Home International and fencing all 3 weapons in all 3 matches with both a foil and an epee body wire sticking out of my glove – even when I was fencing sabre as there was no time to change between matches.

Our style of fencing was far from an example of technical efficiency but it was based on basic factors which I tried to retain throughout my career – a high level of fitness, total determination, a refusal to give in, taking responsibility for the outcome of my training and what happened in competition and some cunning and guile.

There were few coaches in Northern Ireland at the time and it wasn't until just before I left school that Mike Westgate started coming to Belfast once a week and I had any real technical coaching. I only competed on one Junior International competition when I was in the Junior ranks and in this respect was a very late developer.

I then moved to study in London and was lucky enough to work with two great coaches. Firstly, with Ziemek Wojciechowski at Salle Paul and then with Tomek Walicki at Salle Boston. Moving to London felt like I had arrived on a different fencing planet and was able to train regularly with some great British fencers who at that time included Pierre Harper, Billy Gosbee, Tony Bartlett, Linda Martin, Fiona McIntosh and of course my future wife Katie Arup amongst others and every night at training was a real mental and physical battle.



**Johnny Davis**

After the Olympics in Seoul in 1988 I moved to live in Bonn, Germany and trained at and competed for Olympischer Fechtclub Bonn for the two years before the Olympics in Barcelona 1992. I also spent quite a bit of time training in Budapest, living with Pal Szekeres and training at BVSC. For the two years from 1990-1992 I was a self-funded, full time athlete training five hours a day and it was the first time that I felt I was really able to compete on anything like an equal footing with the other nations.

I represented GB at the:

- World Student Games in Edmonton 1983
- World Championships in Barcelona 1985, Lausanne 1987, Denver 1989, Lyon 1990 and Budapest
- Olympic Games Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992
- Northern Ireland in four Commonwealth Championships

My most memorable/enjoyable competition was actually in the Team Competition at the World Championships in Denver in 1989. I really enjoyed team fencing which in those days was still based on the format of sixteen fights. We fenced Italy who had an amazing team at the time – Mario Numa, Andrea Borella, Stephano Cerioni, Andrea Cipressa and Frederico Cervi – and I won four out of four fights and had one of those days when

everything, both physically and mentally, came together.

**What do you do now?**

When I was fencing I worked in the music business, primarily in TV and Radio promotion, working for a mixture of large record companies including Island Records and RCA as well as some smaller independent companies. My job was to try and secure as much exposure as possible for the various bands/artists we were representing and it was a fantastic job. I was lucky to work with a whole myriad of artists, ranging from new young artists through to world megastars like U2.

As I hadn't worked for the two years leading up to the Barcelona Olympics I reluctantly retired from international competition in 1993 and then returned to live in Belfast in 1996 where I established Pioneer Group, my own music and Sports Events and Consultancy business. Today the company focuses primarily on Sports Events Management and Consultancy and we have a portfolio of large scale international events that we manage (e.g. European Fencing Championships 2011) and those which we deliver for clients (e.g. Decathlon UK Sports Series).

I have just been lucky enough to have been appointed as Event Director for the European Modern Pentathlon Championships which will take place in Bath in 2019. It is a fantastic and stimulating way to earn a living and I am blessed to be able to spend my life amongst positive, proactive sports people.

I am married to an Olympic fencer, Katie Arup, who represented GB at all levels up to and including the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984. We have two wonderful kids, Christy who is 24 and Ella who is 21.

I am a Grade 5 Foil coach, coaching a couple of times a week in Belfast and have been lucky enough to have helped a number of our Junior and Cadet fencers to gain selection for GB squads.

A couple of years ago Katie and I started a new club, Fence Like An Olympian, and we are starting to produce some good young foilists who to date have represented a mixture of GB, Ireland and Iceland.

### What is your role and why did you take it?

I have been appointed as the Weapon Manager for Men's and Women's Foil, sharing the role with another Olympian, Sophie Troiano.

I took the role on as I feel that, post the Rio 2016 cycle, there is a need for and an opportunity to create a support structure around the foilists which will help them to achieve world class results.

Having trained and competed in an era when there was no funding I am confident that I have an empathy for and understanding of the needs of the athletes.

The objectives really are very simple – to create an environment which has the coaches and athletes at its very centre and which is 100% focused on providing a platform for everyone to achieve their full potential.

I will try to embed a culture of clarity, transparency and accountability at the heart of everything I do. It is important to remember that without the fencers and the coaches we Weapon Managers and Selectors have no role.

Developing a clear and transparent Pathway from the Junior to Senior ranks is also a focus and myself and the other selectors are working closely with Chris Galesloot on this.

### There was no funding in your time. Do you think that your experience without funding helps you guide the athletes?

When I was fencing it was accepted that you worked normal working hours/student hours and fitted your training and competitions around this. It was commonplace to get a lesson from Ziemek at the old Leon Paul shop at 6.30am, go to work until 5.30pm and then train from 6pm until 9pm. Because there was no alternative you either decided to do it or you didn't. If you wanted success enough that was the choice you made. Any time required for competitions or training camps was taken from your work holidays and most years the World Championships was your holiday.

The only level of funding I remember was based retrospectively on your results and I was honoured to be given a cheque for £25 in Paris Airport for making the DE (from L32 onwards in those days) at the Rommel A Grade!!

I think that those fencers competing at the moment do face a big challenge with funding having been withdrawn so dramatically post Rio. As with many things in life you don't really appreciate it until it has gone and those who were receiving funding have had to make major adjustments and those who were expecting to receive it have had to reconfigure their plans. This applies not only to the fencers but also their coaches and parents/guardians who continue to make great sacrifices.

As Richard Kruse has shown so well in winning Cairo (earlier this season) it is clearly possible to be a World Class fencer but as he has also shown it takes a lot of sacrifice and I think this is the challenge facing all of our fencers. In facing the challenge it will take a huge amount of resolve, dedication and sacrifice

together with an acceptance that for the moment this is the reality. I believe that by being able to accept this situation and by building a strong supportive team around each fencer (coach, parents, college, work, relationships etc) it will develop within each fencer a deep resolve, focus and determination which, if channelled correctly, can be a huge asset on the road to international success. It won't be easy but by being clever and resourceful, with strategic decision making regarding training and competition and with the right support team success is possible.

I have been hugely encouraged by the positive attitude amongst both the fencers and coaches I have spoken to and there is a real sense of everyone being prepared to work together for the greater good. This needs to happen if we are to have success.

### When do you think it's realistic for us to expect a World/Olympic medal for GB?

Given how close both the Men's Foil Team collectively and Richard Kruse individually came to winning medals in Rio I think we have to believe that it is possible to win medals at the top level. The history of British Fencing would contradict that thought but I believe that there is within British Fencing a wealth of knowledge that can be better utilised in order to achieve this ambition.

Previously it was difficult to gain an insight into what other nations were doing in order to achieve their success but with the open access to information provided by social media/modern technology and the movement of coaches and their ideas between nations it is now easy to gather and learn from all of this information.

Fencers and coaches need to be hungry for information and improvement and to learn, to look at best practice in both their own sport and other sports and to see where percentage improvements can be made.

I think that two of the key areas where the withdrawal of the UK Sport funding will have

a major impact on is (1) the opportunity for our athletes to train regularly with other nations and (2) access to video analysis .

I believe that we need to address these two issues as a priority.

The support of Leon Paul who are continuing to provide access to the Leon Paul Centre despite the loss of UK Sport funding, which has blown a huge hole in their budget, is invaluable and we should all be grateful for the opportunities it provides.

Hopefully we will be able to develop a process and system which will attract more International Teams to pass through London and train with our fencers.

I believe that the fencers and their coaches need to prioritise the amount of energy and time they devote to filming and reviewing their training and competition.

Fencing is such a highly technical sport and I think that this process is something which is undervalued and underused. The usual reason is that everyone has a limited amount of time available but I would argue that any time reviewing performance – both in training and in competition – is time well used.

There will be no success unless our athletes are prepared to make big sacrifices from an early age but as someone who had a hugely enjoyable and successful career I can tell them that it will be worth it. I would ask that they don't waste the talent they have been given and look back with regret in later life.

Our fencers need to be fencing a minimum of four times per week plus having individual lessons and separate strength and conditioning and cardio sessions. Look at the commitment of other athletes – we need to ensure that our fencers are matching or surpassing what they are doing if we are to achieve success.

*As Alexander Suvorov said  
"Train hard, fight easy".*



With the team

# Parents in Sport – Pushy or Supportive?

- Sport participation should be enjoyable for all concerned.
- Coaches, officials and managers should feel fulfilled and recognised for their contributions.
- Participants should enjoy the on-going challenge and fun with healthy interactions with their peers and others within the sporting landscape.
- Parents / guardians should gain happiness and deep satisfaction as the major drivers and supporters of their child's development and participation in youth sport.

However, the reality is not always this way.

Coaches regularly cite 'working with parents' as one of the most challenging aspect of their role. This is the case at most levels of sport with the possible exception of the player managers at the highest levels of professional sport. Young people often mention parental behaviour as a major factor in their discontinuation in sport.

The exact nature of parental engagement varies widely amongst families, this often depending on the stage of child's development in sport. It is the years around the talent identification stage (typically 13-18) that conflict can commonly arise between the parents and coach as transitions between sporting goals are negotiated.

Typically, this is the phase where the young person begins to specialise and become more committed to training and competition. It is also often a time where parental support moves from early instruction and hands-on involvement to being more about transport and time management, with the athlete developing their organisational skills and the coach taking over more of the participant's development aspects.

Understanding and valuing the role each person plays in the development of the young person is necessary for effective communication and hence the positive relationships between interested parties.

Research\* suggests providing a rationale for coaching decisions makes them more meaningful for the listener (e.g. parent/athlete), subsequently increasing the likelihood that they will be taken on board. This approach can also help shift the focus to the goals of the activity rather than the results, which is often a source of tension.

## Possible actions:

**Set expectations.** There are many common sources of tension between parents and coaches. An example of this could be the number of individual lessons allocated to a fencer compared to their training partners and the resulting perception of the fencer's position in the club hierarchy.

In most cases, tension can be minimised or removed by coaches being explicit about how training and competitions will be run. **Could you include parents in club addresses at the beginning of your time together so that everyone knows what is expected?** Some coaches even have this as a regular feature at the start of each training session and competition. Parents are then clear about what is expected.

**Make use of parental resources.** Not all parents want to be involved (and of course this can be a source of frustration for coaches too). But for those who want to be involved, **can you delegate meaningful tasks to the parents of your fencers?** Perhaps certain parents could take some statistics from the fights that will support your coaching approach (e.g. In matches where hits are scored, in training how much of the session fencers are active vs listening vs waiting.)

**Inform yourself.** With competitions and overseas trips, do you know the guidelines and policy documents from your sport about the conduct of junior training and competitions? Perhaps you can talk to other coaches and parents regarding how you are going and what approaches others use?

What should also be kept in mind, no matter what the extent of poor behaviour, parents want the best for their children. Troublingly, at times some parents do not have the right skills to constructively deal with any feelings of confusion, anger or embarrassment they may be experiencing in relation to their child's involvement in sport. This can lead to clashes and outbursts that impact greatly on coaches and most importantly, children. By being proactive and seeking positive engagements with parents there is a greater likelihood that everyone coaches, parents, officials, and young people will enjoy their time in sport.

Below is a list provided to use by a local fencing coach:

*One of my friends asked "Why do you pay so much money and spend so much time running around for your son to fence?" Well I have a confession to make: I don't pay for my son's training or his kit. Or even for the hundreds of miles we travel.*

*So, if I am not paying for fencing, what am I paying for?*

- *I pay for those moments when my child becomes so tired he feels like quitting but doesn't..*
- *I pay for the opportunity that my child can have and will have to make life-long friendships.*
- *I pay for the chance that he may have amazing coaches that will teach him that fencing is not just about game plans but about life.*
- *I pay for my child to learn to be disciplined.*
- *I pay for my child to learn to take care of his body.*
- *I pay for my son to learn to work with others and to be a proud, supportive, kind and respectful team member.*
- *I pay for my child to learn to deal with disappointment, when he doesn't get that result he hoped for, or missed the hit despite having practiced a thousand times, but still gets up and is determined to do his BEST next time...*
- *I pay for my son to learn to make and accomplish goals.*
- *I pay for my son to learn that it takes hours and hours and hours and hours of hard work and practice to create a champion and that success does not happen overnight.*
- *I pay so that my son can be on the piste instead of in front of a screen...*

*I could go on but, to be short, I don't pay for fencing; I pay for the opportunities that fencing provides my child to develop attributes that will serve him well throughout his life and give him the opportunity to bless the lives of others. From what I have seen for many years, I think it is a great investment!*

\*Mageau, G.A. and Vallerand, R.J., The Coach-Athlete Relationship: A Motivational Model, Journal of Sports Sciences, 2003, 21, 883-904

# General Data Protection Regulation

## UPDATE FOR CLUBS

On the 25th May 2018 the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force.

If you are collecting, storing or managing personal data outside of the Sport:80 management system as part of club activities, then you will be affected by the new legislation. [GDPR: A new reality for the sport and leisure industry](#) rounds up the support available and sign posts you to information your club needs!

There are three sources of guidance documents available from DataHub, Sport and Recreation Alliance and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). It is important to read all the documents in full to understand GDPR, your responsibilities and how to become compliant.

Follow the links below for industry recognised GDPR support:



[GDPR Factsheet.](#)

[Your Guide to GDPR.](#)

[GDPR: 12 steps to take now.](#)

After reading all of the guidance documents, your head will be full of GDPR information and you may have a number of important questions you would like answered. British Fencing **strongly recommend** contacting the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) directly with all your questions via their online chat, telephone helpline or email services by clicking the link below or alternately seeking your own expert legal advice.

[https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/?inf\\_contact\\_key=c196042a91394edc92b34cb8coa14ad3637f2a549f2c9fce307a5d1c29f12791](https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/?inf_contact_key=c196042a91394edc92b34cb8coa14ad3637f2a549f2c9fce307a5d1c29f12791)

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# Case Study

## UNIVERSITIES AND FENCING CLUBS

By Ian Stewart (Participation Programme Manager – Education)

Clubs up and down the country are working hard and doing an excellent job in offering fencing experiences to new people who decide that they are interested in our sport. It has long been known that this journey often starts at an early age, the latest British Fencing research suggests that over 50% of fencers had their first experience before the age of 14. Youth classes continue to be vitally important in developing the growth of fencing, however, my recent conversation with representatives from the Norfolk Fencing Club highlights that there may be another under tapped resource available for community fencing clubs. The next spike in numbers of people taking up fencing occurs around the age of 18 (over 30%) so university students present a great opportunity for clubs to help grow the sport and their memberships.

There has long been a long running relationship between Norfolk Fencing Club and the local University in East Anglia (UEA). When the University of East Anglia completed

the construction of its Sportspark in 2001, Norfolk took the opportunity to move their sessions to a new multimillion pound facility and began to develop a lasting partnership with the university fencing club. This has since proved to be an arrangement that has provided multiple benefits for the university club and for NFC too. Below you'll find short insights into the benefits from both clubs point of views.

### Norfolk Fencing Club



NFC has really embraced the annual influx of new university students. Minutes Secretary, Peter Gallop says, "They enhance our club considerably. We look forward to when the students are there and miss them when they are not." Peter goes on to explain how the

arrangement between the two clubs works. UEAFC have their own scheduled sessions for the students, but they also pay NFC a set fee each year that allows the students the chance to access their sessions too. They generally have up to 10 students attending a session where they receive additional coaching and opportunities to fence a wider variety of opponents.

For NFC, this provides a yearly source of income but the benefits go much further than this. The steady influx of new and different fencers from the university means the club has been able to advance in other areas. Peter recalls, "We've always been a good epee club but having different sabreurs coming through has helped us to develop in that weapon." The UEAFC fencers also bring a different social dynamic to the club, with many attending the NFC Christmas meal and other social events, like bowling and quizzes. The impact of this is clear as at the end of an academic year, Peter says, "We are always disappointed when

### THE NORFOLK OPEN – 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

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#### Events

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Latest Report Time
Men's Foil	10.00
Women's Foil	11:00
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	
Men's Epee	10:00
Women's Epee	10:30
Men's Sabre	11:00
Women's Sabre	11:00

**Entry Fee** – £25 per weapon or £45 for two. Late entries £5 extra per weapon.

**Early bird fee** – £20 per weapon or £40 for two. (For entries received before 31<sup>st</sup> May)

Only entries with fees will be accepted.

Entry form can be found on club website – [www.norfolkfencingclub.co.uk](http://www.norfolkfencingclub.co.uk)

Entry can be paid by cheque (payable to Norfolk Fencing Club) or by bank transfer.

Any questions feel free to email [open@norfolkfencingclub.co.uk](mailto:open@norfolkfencingclub.co.uk)

**Closing date:** – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018

# Case Study (continued)

students who have been involved in the club then graduate but always hopeful for some good new ones to come.”

## Key Benefits to NFC

1. Access to university facilities for training and events
2. Increased membership
3. Annual financial arrangement
4. Larger variety of training partners
5. Shared access to coaching and refereeing courses
6. Partner for friendly competitions
7. Source of new ideas for the club

## University of East Anglia Fencing Club



University of East Anglia

This has been a very useful arrangement for UEAFC. With new students to train they run beginner sessions each year but with all the other sports offered by the university they often lack the facility space to provide their more experienced members with the training time they require. With both a Men's and Women's team competing in the British Universities and Colleges Sports leagues, Ben Bone, current Club President, sees this as the perfect opportunity to “allow students to meet and fence against fencers of a variety of experiences and abilities”, so his team fencers get to face very different opponents and hopefully learn a few tricks that they can take back to their BUCS league fixtures.

The beginning of the year also brings a challenge to Ben when UEAFC are out recruiting new members from the latest ‘freshers’ intake. To entice students in to a sport they probably haven't tried before, free ‘taster’ sessions are held and with a student population of over 15,000 these are in high demand. Hosting these sessions wouldn't be conceivable for UEAFC without an annual loan of equipment from NFC. Giving new students a taste of fencing with full kit helps to spark their new passion for swordplay and drives

membership for UEAFC. This means the club can be sustainable and later benefits NFC through the membership arrangement.

Working so closely with a community fencing club has helped UEAFC “break out of the student bubble”. Ben says, “We do lots of club outreach and try to be involved in community as much as possible. We hold taster sessions for summer camps at UEA and work with Norfolk County Fencing on ideas to combat drop in memberships in other community clubs, schools and seniors tasters, to see if they can help to boost numbers.” There is a real sense of students that care about the fencing community at UEA. Ben is proud that, “a lot of graduating students from UEA stay in fencing.” Rob Johnson is a great example of this, as the current Great Yarmouth & Waverly Fencing Club Chairman.

Ben looks favourably on the partnership. He says, “It's not just a business arrangement. There is definitely a connection. UEAFC are involved in the community and want things to grow.” His club gets to add so much value to the initial experience in fencing that students receive because of the partnership with NFC and this in turn, is helping to inspire a new generation of fencers who are passionate about the sport.

## Tips on Forming a Partnership

There are over 60 Universities up and down the country that currently offer fencing activity. This ranges from small participation programmes to complete competitive clubs. The rule of thumb is that no two institutions are the same. Equally, community fencing clubs come in many shapes and sizes. Every partnership is going to be different. Therefore approaching a club, whether community or university, needs to be with an open mind, adaptability and commitment to creating a long-term partnership. If you are thinking of creating a partnership with a local University, please get in touch. Contact details follow:

**Josef Thomas**, Development Officer – Clubs and Regions (England)

**Ian Stewart**, Participation Programme Manager (Education)

“We are very appreciative of student involvement and enjoy the youth, experience and vitality that they bring to the club. We would hope that the university would see us as a useful aspect too.”

**Peter, NFC.**

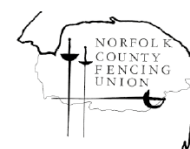
“It might be different and the students might have different ideas but it can be mutually beneficial. University clubs bring lots of new people who may be new but will bring lots of new ideas”

**Rob, GYWFC.**

“It's great idea which has financial benefit but can also gain access to facilities and equipment, and a pool of adults who could compete for your club. There aren't many losses to having an arrangement”

**Ben, UEAFC.**

British Fencing would like to thank all the contributors to this case study and are able to share the following links should you want to get in touch with NFC, GYWFC, Norfolk County Union or UEAFC.



# Reading Fencing Club

## MINIFENCE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

By Alain Barbasiewicz, Club Chairmain



British Fencing have a national partnership with the Scout Association and have trained over 200 Scout leaders across the country.

Over the past year, Reading Fencing Club have been involved with some outreach work with Cub, Scout and Explorer groups in their local area – providing taster sessions to children from 8 to 18 years of age.

The campaign came to be after I saw a number of articles in the press about Scouting which highlighted the organisation's resurgence in recent years, its shortage of volunteers and the associated waiting lists. The offer of free taster sessions went out across Berkshire and the response to the club has been extremely positive.

RFC has since extended its offer to girl-guiding groups and a number of local youth clubs and primary schools have also been in touch. Volunteers from the Club have attended 22 events since May – including one Scout and two girl-guiding camps – that have in total involved nearly 922 leaders, children, and even parents.

Taster sessions have been run across the year with more planned in 2018. By the end of 2017, approximately a thousand young people will have been introduced to the sport.

The volunteers use MiniFence – plastic swords and masks – with sessions lasting anywhere from 35 minutes to 2 hours covering a safety brief, an introduction to basic foot-work and blade-work techniques, a round robin and finishing with a number of games which always prove popular to fully engaged young people.

Both my brother and I were Scouts when we were younger and I think that, like fencing or any other sport, it's a great way to help kids develop and be active. We have a very healthy club, both in terms of membership numbers and finances, so I feel it's important to give back to the community where possible. I've been really pleased with the amount of support we have had from Club members that have volunteered their time to help me run each of the sessions. They are a great way of giving a taste of the sport, in a really fun way, to lots of youngsters and when you get to play Roundheads and Cavaliers, it really doesn't feel like you're giving up your evening.

Reading already runs highly popular beginner courses, with three intakes a year and has had some good interest in future courses resulting from the taster sessions we have held. The next beginners course is already planned.

It is unreasonable to expect an instant take-up of fencing on the strength of a fun taster session. We must understand that we are effectively competing to attract young people into the sport when there are many other sports and pastimes, such as Scouts and Guides to choose from. Additionally, young people (and/or their parents) have a limited amount of both time and money to devote to non-curricular activities. Therefore, to improve fencing's attraction we have to strive to make it not only fun but affordable. Reading Fencing Club's membership is consistently comprised of approximately 50% under-18s so we feel we have struck the correct balance on pricing. We hope that RFC and indeed other local clubs will start to see some discernible increase in youngsters expressing an interest in our sport over the coming months as a result of similar outreach programmes.

British Fencing will be supporting the club to ensure that the sessions RFC have delivered are sustainable by offering Scout leaders in the Berkshire district with the opportunity to become core coaches in order to deliver 8 weeks blocks of activity to their Scout groups! By doing this, we will allow the Scouts to achieve their *Master of Arms* and bronze award!

**Contact:** [readingfencingclub@gmail.com](mailto:readingfencingclub@gmail.com)

## BRITISH FENCING HONOURS AND AWARDS 2018

You will have seen from the British Fencing website and social media that the Honours Committee are once again asking for nominations from the membership for those amongst us whom you feel have really made a difference to your fencing environment whether at local, regional, national or international level. So now is the time to get your thinking caps on and nominate a deserving person for an award.

At the end of April, a notice will be posted on the British Fencing website in 'Latest News' asking for final nominations for British Fencing Honours to be sent to the British Fencing Honours Committee for adjudication, to be submitted "on line" using the links that will be provided.

The Honours Committee is responsible for making recommendations for British Fencing awards (responsibility for recommendations for Queen's or State Honours remains with British Fencing's Nominations Committee). This system focuses entirely on the membership with all nominations coming direct from members - the committee, in effect, acts as selectors. British Fencing members aged 18 and over can make nominations.

Awards are made each year and announced and presented at the British Fencing AGM.

These awards are one way in which British Fencing can recognise and thank those members across the whole spectrum of fencing activity in the UK who have worked for many years, sometimes unrecognised by the majority of members, for the benefit of our sport.

So, please think about whether you might wish to nominate someone and keep your eyes open for the posting of the notice later this month.

# Wales Feature



## WELSH FENCING

### O'SULLIVAN CUP – 2018 BY MICHAEL CLEMITSON

Well done to William Meredith-Davies (Swansea University) on winning the 29th O'Sullivan Cup!

A storming performance from William, who – as well as being the first to enter – led the competition from the get-go, taking an immediate lead in the opening round. This was accompanied by a closely fought contest for second place between former cup holders Adrian Stoneman (Cardiff) and Rupert Nute (Whitchurch), both making up ground on William, who nevertheless held onto his early lead, finishing with 35 points, ahead of Adrian (33) and Rupert (31).

Making progress quietly and effectively throughout the competition were Darren Hulton (Celtic Swords) in 4th place and ladies Catherine Fisher & Catherine Bowd, who were jointly awarded the Highest Place Opposite Sex and highest-placed Vet prizes.

A welcome return to competitive fencing for Neil Bowd after a spell of ill-health and well done also to recent beginners Hanyu Cheng (Whitchurch) & David Lewis (Whitchurch) on their first competitive outing.

Thanks also to Simon Corcoran for his armoury services and last but not least, to Peter Russell for the use of [Cardiff Academy of Fencing](#).

**Format :** Poule unique, *"Very little downtime, continuous fencing - excellent!"* – feedback from one competitor.

#### Results:

Winner :	William Meredith-Davies	(Swansea Uni.)
Second :	Adrian Stoneman	(Cardiff)
Third :	Rupert Nute	(Whitchurch)







## About the O'Sullivan Cup

The cup is one of the few remaining independent competitions on the Welsh Fencing fixture list. It originates from a donation to the Whitchurch Fencing Club by David O'Sullivan, father-in-law of a club member in 1989, as the club was finding its feet, just having started running independently of a former evening class.

The competition, based on a one-hit format (bouts of 3 hits), is run as a poule unique, with allocation to 'teams' handled by *SullCalc* (after *SuperCalc*, a predecessor of Excel), a bespoke application written by a club member.

## All change – other Welsh Fencing competitions...

With the advent of the GB Cup, a new annual National tournament for intermediate Regional fencers, Welsh Fencing have decided to, in effect, resuscitate their series of Intermediate Events, each named after a fencing notable of previous years. **How many names do you recognise?**

Fencers will qualify through the Welsh Qualifiers for the National Final with the two highest placed fencers in each weapon being selected to represent Wales at the National Finals and the winners of each event, as well as winning a place in the GB Cup finals, will also be awarded with:



- Emrys Lloyd plate for Men's Foil
- Charles Adams Cup for Women's Foil
- Turner Cup for Men's Epee
- Kingston Cup for Women's Epee
- Norfolk Cup for Men's Sabre
- Slater Cup for Women's Sabre

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# Interview with Dmitry Leus

## A PASSION FOR FENCING FOLLOWS DMITRY LEUS FROM ASHKHABAD TO LONDON VIA MOSCOW (by Jennifer Morgan)

I interviewed entrepreneur and banking professional Dmitry Leus about his lifelong love of fencing, from his first lesson growing up in Turkmenistan, his love of the sport as an adult in Moscow and how fencing helped him settle into his new life in the UK.



Dmitry

### How old were you when you began fencing?

I was 12 or 13 years old, growing up in Ashkhabad in Turkmenistan. Like many children, I tried out different sports such as judo and swimming, but never quite felt they were for me. My father was a judge in international fencing and a well-known, respected trainer. So there was always that feeling I should try it for myself. It was actually my mum who suggested that I go to the fencing club and try it out. I was hooked! The venue was quite far from my home and so after school I had to take a packed, peak time bus for one hour.

### Tell us more about the tradition of fencing in your family.

As a child I spent a lot of time at fencing competitions. When I visited my father at his workplace, I met other trainers and competitors. I would accompany him to training camps and fencing gatherings. At a young age I got a great insight into the life of an athlete.

### What are your best memories of fencing?

I entered my first competition just six months after I began the sport. There was a senior and junior group competing together. I remember the exact prizes on offer. There was an Olympic ball, a sword hilt and a less inspiring vase. The winner would get first choice from the prizes, followed by the second and third place competitors. I came second, surprisingly, given there were seniors there. I clearly remember the strong and sensational feelings of the fight for first place. Everybody was watching and I lost to an impressive opponent. I really wanted that sword hilt and when I came second, I worried that I wouldn't get it. But fortunately, the winner chose the Olympic ball. I fenced with the sword hilt that I won for many years afterwards.

### Did it become more serious for you as you got older?

At some point, while I was still a teenager, I realised the joy and fulfillment the sport brought me and decided to devote myself to it. Training became more serious and I enjoyed my first successes. That sensation of winning, you remember your whole life. My love of the sport stayed with me into adulthood in Moscow and here today in London.

### What are some memorable competitions that you have participated in?

Usually the times I won, as that feeling is incomparable. The intensity is amplified by the fact that you prepare for a long time, making sacrifices. This dedication to training made my childhood rather different from most. It was common before big competitions for children to attend a training camp away from home so they could fully concentrate. This was a glimpse of an independent life of some sort, young people supervised by a trainer. Every morning we'd have an exercise session, followed by the first proper training after breakfast and in the evening a second session. Then regardless of our long, intensive day, being young and full of energy and excitement, we would sneak out at to go dancing. And the next day the cycle would repeat without even feeling tired.

### Is there a strong fencing tradition in Turkmenistan and Russia or were you unusual in choosing this sport?

I always liked French competitors the best. They are so skillful, natural and graceful. German fencers are also well-regarded, but their style is harsher, more rough and sudden.

The Russian fencing school is considered to be among the best. Growing up in this region, sport provided a rare opportunity for young people to see the world beyond their borders and inspired them to work hard at it. I travelled around the then Soviet Union and spent time in the states that are independent countries today. This ignited my curiosity about the world.

### What differences do you notice in the sport now you are in the UK? Does a sport like this help you integrate into a new country?

When someone is introduced to this sport, it becomes a lifelong passion. The first thing I did when I came to the UK was find a fencing club at the Lansdowne. A sport allows smoother integration, as you find like-minded people who share the same passion with you regardless of background.

The difference I see is that normally in Russia, people devote themselves fully and really give their all. Anyone I know who achieved something in sports, they were fanatics about what they did. I noticed in Europe in general, people are slightly more relaxed about it. A bit softer, dare I say, in the sense they are more careful. Perhaps in the business world too.

### Are there lessons or skills from the sport that have helped you in your business life?

I think one of the main attributes that this sport gave me is the ability to focus on the solution of any problem, to put one's mind to it. There is a saying in Russian "to gather all the strength in a fist". Later on it really helped me in life, as I had to do exactly that. It was much later that I realised that life prepares you so that you can handle any challenges coming your way.

At this stage I continue fencing, because it is a form of meditation for me. When you are in a duel and facing the opponent you need to act on the spot, instantly, with no time to think about anything else. Therefore, during these two hours your brain switches over to allow you to space out. It is important to keep balance in life.

### Is there a fencing champion you particularly admire?

Watching Wladimir Reznitschenko perform was enchanting. He was a hero in the fencing world. When you consider his background at that particular time and place, with the environment and prejudice in Russia back then, you realise his success took not only skill but also moral strength and a strong will and backbone. And if you throw in that he was left-handed, it's even more remarkable.

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# John Holt Tribute

## JOHN HOLT – THROUGH MY EYES

By Jenna Griffiths

At the end of 2017 East Midlands Region was hit by the loss of surely one of the most dedicated, loyal and generous coaches in the country. A man who has worked constantly to promote fencing in the region and help fencers of all levels of ability, devoted countless hours to the development of talented athletes to a high standard and encouraged others to take up the coaching challenge and follow in his footsteps: John Holt. Although no article can do justice to the impact John has made on the career of several of the Region's athletes, what follows will hopefully give an indication of how much John meant to so many of us.

I came into fencing quite late on at the age of 28. Five months after I started my beginners' course, I entered my first East Midlands Beginners' and Intermediates competition, where I met John for the first time. He was one of the referees during the course of the day. John came across as friendly and a hive of fencing knowledge which he was more than willing to share. John refereed the final which I was in and after the match he spoke to both of us sharing some tips. His enthusiasm for the sport was evident.

John started coaching at Radcliffe Sword Club shortly after the competition. This is where my relationship with John started. I started taking regular lessons from him, and my thirst for more knowledge was enhanced by his enthusiasm for the sport, which was quickly becoming my life.

John was always easy to approach with any questions I had. He went through the British Fencing grades with me and this made me want more. I could see the progression I was making through the grades and I was learning so much whilst he was eager to teach me.

John started to become a massive part of my life. He would attend competitions I went to,



not just for me but for everyone else he was currently coaching or those he had coached in the past. He was always there for anyone who needed him. His piste-side coaching was second-to-none and he would always find something positive to say at the end of a bout even if said bout had been a disaster. He wouldn't ever focus on the negative. Yes, he would give you things to work on, but at that moment when you feel down because you've just lost he would tend to make it better no matter what. He always knew what to say and he was always there to talk to about the bits that hadn't worked so well, giving different ideas for making them work for you.

After a year from starting fencing I looked into doing my level one coaching award. I knew I wanted to be able to pass on this love I have for the sport to others. John was always there offering advice, helping me find my feet with coaching and being able to get my head round changing from being a fencer to being a coach.

Every year Radcliffe Sword Club run the regional beginners' and intermediates competition and we could always count on John to be there on the day refereeing and helping out wherever he could. He would give piste-side coaching to fencers as well as sharing tips after he had finished refereeing the bout. John was Mr Fencing through and through. He loved to see fencers enjoying themselves and those he coached improve. He told me on many occasions all he wanted to do was coach and help people achieve their dreams and if he could help them in any way then he would.

I started having lessons with John outside the club hours. All I had to do was book a court at the leisure centre. During those one-hour lessons I learnt so much. He would break things down so I really understood the moves and how to coach them, then we went to the pub where we would discuss the lesson and where we were going next with it. I have never met such a selfless man as John. All the time

he came down to both the clubs I fenced at and all the individual lessons he gave me both in the club and outside he never asked for a single penny from anyone, he was just happy to coach people, happy to see improvement no matter how long that person had been fencing.

John always managed to find a way of making any lessons great fun. He could quite easily turn his hand from coaching a new 9-year-old child to an U15 England squad member to a senior Commonwealth fencer. He just loved to coach.

After a while John encouraged me to attend the East Midlands Cadet training days (as it was then) as a coach so I could continue to develop my coaching skills and knowledge. This gave me 6 hours of coaching under John's watchful eye. He was one of the main driving forces behind the sessions and they are a real asset to the region's young fencers. We changed the sessions last year to include all fencers who wanted to do a day's extra training - something John was always keen to push for.

I decided to do my level two coach award in 2016. John was a massive help to me during that as it was a real step up from the level one. When my head exploded he helped put it back together again and showed me I could do it and gave me the confidence to trust what I knew and push on through the tough times. Anytime I had questions I knew I could phone him and he would explain it in a different way so I understood. I had the privilege of watching John deliver lessons to a variety of different people. At the end of the lesson John would discuss with me what he was doing and why he was doing it. He would ask what I thought of the lesson he had given and if there was anything I noticed about it. John would always admit his mistakes; never did he make his mistake the problem of the student.

John had a wicked sense of humour and spent most of his time at the club and with



me laughing and joking. I had the privilege of knowing and having John as a coach for four years and I wish we had many more together. When I met John I knew he wasn't a well man. As his condition deteriorated he continued to coach, you would never know he was ill - he always had a smile on his face and a joke up his sleeve. Even after he had surgery he was back coaching after a week or two. There was no keeping him away. He was still giving me individual lessons every week as well as group lessons in the club. One of the many amazing things about John was he never



moaned about being ill or being in pain. He was just frustrated he couldn't do as much as he wanted to towards the end of his time coaching. I had an incredible relationship with John and I class him as one of the closest friends I have. I am honoured to be able to call him my coach and to be able to have the time with him I had. I have never known a braver man. It's been a real honour knowing John. He lives on through the people he's coached and trained as coaches.

Thank you John, for everything. Fencers; en garde! Fencers; Salute!

British Fencing extends its condolences to John's friends and family and Steve Kemp, BF's Coaching Development Manager said, "I knew John for a short time and it was easy to see John in Jenna's eyes. It was an emotional read and I did reflect on the profound impact of coaches on athletes. John was a great role model, a true Athlete Centred Coach, and his values and behaviours have created echo's in time, and these will sound again and again. They will remind us that at certain times we all need to be a little bit more John, something we all should aspire to be."



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# ZFW has gone WIRELESS!!!

Four months ago I purchased 4 wireless machines from Leon Paul for my fencing club, ZFW, and I haven't looked back.

I am saving a good 20 minutes before and after every training session. Setting up traditional boxes and dragging around old spools is now a thing of the past for ZFW.

I no longer have to tire my shoulders lugging around heavy equipment, nor do I need to deal with repairing ground leads, clunky spools or old boxes.

Leon Paul's wireless boxes are the ideal solution for ZFW because our club uses several different premises. Free from weighty scoring gear, my car's suspension is enjoying a lighter load, and I am enjoying a smoother ride on the road every day to and from training.

These days I simply carry all four wireless boxes in my small fencing bag, and they are so light I hardly notice them.

Our youngest fencers have been especially fascinated with this new technology. Impressively, after just one short explanation they are confident setting them up and fencing.

I have been using these Leon Paul wireless boxes for four months now. When I was using traditional equipment, four months meant at least two trips to the repair shop. So far I have not had a single problem with any of these wireless boxes.

I strongly recommend Leon Paul Wireless to any fencing club, and for that matter to anyone who wants the freedom to fence electrically in different places. In the long run they will save you valuable time and money.

My long experience as a fencer and coach tells me that this small contraption is going to be one of the most powerful innovations in the history of the sport of fencing. It seems obvious to me that this wireless box will make electric fencing more accessible and appealing than ever before.

In Polish we would say "spoko", which means cool.

Ziemowit Wojciechowski  
(GB Olympic Coach, Head coach of ZFW fencing club)

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# Round Up

## BF AND BDFA COLLABORATION

British Fencing (BF) and The British Disabled Fencing Association (BDFA) would like to announce the proposed greater collaboration, and strengthening bonds between both organisations. The purpose of working collaboratively is to identify the number and needs of disabled fencers within the wider fencing community in order to support those fencers towards the goals they wish to achieve, be that social fencing, training camps or the ultimate goal of becoming a Paralympian. In order to do this, we would aim to support clubs and coaches with advice and training to help extend their knowledge to coach their wheelchair fencers and, for the future, any person with a disability.

There is a need to identify the current provision that is available to disability fencers across Great Britain. We would like to hear from clubs, coaches, parents, and fencers about the disability sessions they are part of. This will allow us to map out the current opportunities and provide support to any key areas that are already delivering disability fencing opportunities.

If you are involved in any form of disability fencing, please complete this short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3KJW22B>

BDFA & BF are also proud to announce a newly developed Wheelchair Fencing Course. The course is based on a number of modules including:

1. Set-up/equipment, transferring and strapping
2. Lessons technical
3. Lessons tactical
4. Inclusive Games
5. Rules

This first-ever course will take place on Saturday 24th February at the Leon Paul Fencing Centre, 09.00 – 17.00.

The course will be led by Peter Rome (Head Coach, Wheelchair Fencing).

The course is now open for bookings via the British Fencing website <http://britishfencing.com/courses/upcoming-courses/>. **Please note places are limited.**

BF and the BDFA would like to thank, Peter Rome, Shah Rashid and Alan Sheriff for their work on developing this course.

British Fencing and The British Disabled Fencing Association.

## PAUL DAVIS FENCING ACADEMY WINS LOCALS AWARD

British Fencing would like to extend its congratulations to Paul Davis Fencing Academy and Paul himself for winning Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 at the Hertfordshire Business Awards.

Speak about the awards Paul said, "It's brilliant to have fencing recognised on a such prestigious stage and have the acknowledgement from experts outside our field that the approach we are taking to operating our academy is working."

These awards are so important for the development of fencing in the UK. Everyone at The Sword magazine celebrates both PDFA entering for this award and then winning it. To find out more about PDFA please visit their [website](#).



# Book Review

## "The Duel" by Giacomo Casanova



The sinister phrase "Pistols for two and coffee for one" has a fascination for us all. From our earliest childhood, the concept of two men (and occasionally women) fighting to the death for reasons of a perceived slight, has given rise to a plethora of films and books over the years. In most of these duels there is usually a member of the opposite sex at the heart of it all. Moreover, Robert Baldick's excellent "History of Duelling" and Richard Cohen's "The Sword" depict the advancement of the duel (from the Latin *Duella* – from *bellum* (conflict) and *duo* (two)) from a mere form of medieval combat of arms to one where social mores required men of high degree to seek retribution for an affront which was held to be a serious personal injury in itself. A duel therefore had to be fought as a point of honour.

Thus it was with some amusement that I took up this little paperback published by Hesperus Press on the little known duel fought by none other than Giacomo Casanova (yes – THAT Casanova) in 1766 at Warsaw. Fully expecting it to be a somewhat fanciful depiction of the life and loves of this colourful character, I was intrigued to read a more serious insight into not only the man but also a social history of how duels were actually conducted in the courts of Europe at the time of the Enlightenment and before the Revolutions that were to sweep many of the old traditions aside. The book is in two parts, both written by Casanova himself but separated by 32 years. The first was a standalone piece written shortly after the incident, whilst the other was a part of his biography with slightly more exuberant prose and showing the "unfortunate Venetian" as being the innocent in this duel.

So what happened? Casanova had escaped from a debtors' prison in Venice and was sponging his way across Europe, using his licentious charms to ingratiate himself into the various courts of Europe and ending up in Warsaw. A visit to the theatre with the King of Poland's entourage saw our hero paying a call, during the interval, on an Italian ballerina, Teresa Casacci, who had caught his eye. Unfortunately, he interrupted a call being paid to the same woman by a Polish Count, Count Podstoli, with two of his military companions. Dark looks ensued and although Casanova attempted to beat a hasty retreat, the Count felt affronted as "it was not his habit to suffer rivals". A war of words ensued with Casanova finally grasping the hilt of his sword and declaring that he has suffered enough rebuke. The challenge was made. Both sides felt that there had been sufficient cause for both to seek retribution one against the other.

What follows now is a fascinating description of the social conventions of the time i.e. the letters, the selection of the seconds and more interestingly, an almost verbatim record of the conversation between the Count and Casanova of how and where the duel was to be fought. Swords were Casanova's preferred weapon for the duel, but because the Count was unaware of Casanova's background and social standing and, fearing that he might have been a fencing master, declared for pistols. The resulting compromise was pistols – one shot – followed by swords if both remained unhurt after the first exchange. The duel commenced after lunch and the consumption of some fine Burgundy on Casanova's side and prayers and water on the side of the Count. The result? Well, Casanova obviously fortified by his good meal aimed true and shot fractionally before the Count. Although badly wounded, the Count "forgave" Casanova who then had to flee the Field of Combat as the duel was still deemed to be an illegal act and if the Count died, Casanova might have had to add murder to his many other vices!

The translations of the two parts by Tim Parks and JG Nichols are excellent and really bring this little book to life. In particular Nichols sums up the fascination that we all have with Giacomo Casanova by the last sentence in his Introduction where he says that "it is refreshing to see here another, and more versatile, Casanova – the insouciant and engaging risk taker... but, as in anything that purports to be history, the truth does matter; but we can here enjoy a well written "history" without actually worrying too much about its truth..."!

Look for this addition to your library – you will not regret it.



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