

British Academy of Fencing **ACADEMY NEWS**

**November 2010
Issue 58**

"Run by coaches for coaches"



PROFESSOR ISOBEL

At the conclusion of the Autumn Denstone residential course, the Academy has a new full Diploma Master, Isobel Combes. This result rounds off a very successful 2010 for Isobel, when she gained two Diploma passes and a medal at the Fencing Masters World Championships.

When we spoke to her, immediately after the results were known, she confessed to feeling a bit dazed by the achievement, but her first thoughts were for her "inspiration", Professor Louisa Miller. Just a year ago, Louisa had completed her own Professorship and had stood alongside Isobel, who had recorded her first Diploma. At the time, Isobel had said of Louisa, "She's been fantastic to work with - a real slave



driver! It is wonderful, as a female coach, to have someone else who has done it who is also a woman". This time, Louisa had helped Isobel as a member of the course staff and had acted as her pupil on the day of the examination, renewing a successful partnership.

Isobel's success has come at a rapid pace. She recorded her first coaching passes (Levels 1 and 2 Foil) at the Easter Course in 2005 and her dedication and hard work has allowed her to scale the peak of the coaching "mountain" in just five and a half years, to become only the third female, after Professors Sue Benney and Louisa Miller, to pass Diplomas in all three weapons.

Isobel also took time to praise the efforts of members of her club, the Four of Clubs, in achieving their own awards. Brian Greaves and Imogen Peacock passed at Level 2 Foil. Producing more coaches for the sport is important to Isobel and she conducts an active coach education programme there.

Another Diploma pass was recorded at the course by Mick Johnson, who added Foil to the Epée he already has. Time to get working on the Sabre, Mick!

The full results of the examinations are recorded on page 8 of this issue and we offer congratulations to all those who achieved success at the course.

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NEXT ISSUE: February

***Contributions by January
10th, please***

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Articles and other material are welcome and should be sent to the Editor

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USEFUL INFORMATION**ACADEMY
MERCHANDISE**

**FOR ALL YOUR BAF
MERCHANDISE
GO TO OUR ONLINE
STORE VIA THE LINK
FROM THE BAF WEB SITE**

**RECOMMENDED
RATES OF PAY**

<u>Level</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Diploma	37.75
Maitre d'Escrime and Provost	30.35
Member	25.00
Associate	22.35

Travel - included for first 20 miles,
thereafter 16.1p/mile

**PROFICIENCY
AWARDS**

The current rates for awards are:

BAF Members:

1 - 4 Awards £3.70 each
5 - 9 Awards £3.60 each
10+ Awards £3.40 each

Approved non-Academy Coaches:

1 - 4 Awards **£4.70** each
5 - 9 Awards **£4.10** each
10+ Awards **£3.90** each

A5 Study Guides:

1 - 4 £2.65 (**£2.90**) each (incl. p&p)
5+ £2.30 (**£2.65**) each

A4 Syllabus leaflets:

Free with Study Guide, otherwise 60p
(**70p**) each.

A3 Sized Wallcharts:

65p (**75p**) each
Figures in **RED** are for non-BAF members

**EXAMINATION
FEES**

Level 1 Assessment £11.00

Level 2 to Diploma £21.00 (**£26.00**)

These are for "normal" exams - for
Special exams, consult the Course
Officer. Figures in **RED** are for
non-BAF members

DOCUMENTATION

The following documentation is available from the Course Officer, Dave Jerry

Key Teaching Points Foil	}£7.35 (£9.45)
Key Teaching Points Epee		
Key Teaching Points Sabre		
Key Coaching Points Foil		
Key Coaching Points Epee		
Key Coaching Points Sabre	}£7.35 (£9.45)
Glossary of Terms.....		
Translation of Fencing Terms in Four Languages.....		
Teaching/ Coaching Tactics (2nd Edition).....		
CD-Rom Issue 5 – this contains all the syllabuses and current questions for BAF examinations, as well as other examination material.....		
Examples of past written Papers – for the Advanced and Diploma examinations -		
FREE - apply to Course Officer		

All prices include p & p. Figures in **RED** are for non-BAF members

THE PRESIDENT WRITES.....



It has been my intention throughout my presidency to make every effort to constantly develop and improve our system of coach education and examination. I like to think, that with the unstinting efforts of a number of our most senior coach educators, we have made enormous strides in bringing coaching, and specifically the examination questions, more in line with competitive fencing. I would like to thank all those who have made such kind and supportive comments about our success in doing so.

However, there is never time to be complacent and we need to continue to be open to new ideas. To that end, I have been encouraging a number of our younger masters to come forward with their perspectives on the system and I thank them too for their thoughtful and sometimes insightful comments on what we do.

Inevitably, and somewhat less usefully, I also get to hear comments from those who seem not to have quite the courage to stand behind their own opinions . . . especially some who use the anonymity provided by personal gossip or the internet to make criticisms without taking the trouble to get their facts right, or having to take personal responsibility for what they say.

One of the comments that I find personally very sad is the claim that the Academy does not teach tactical and competitive fencing and that our system does not appreciate skill development and coach education training and development. I think anyone who has attended a Denstone course would beg to differ with this.

In attempting to address this comment I should like to offer the following:

Tactical and Competitive coaching must rest on a foundation of basic skills.

In order to teach and coach tactical and competitive fencing, it is imperative that the coach has a thorough grounding in the basic strokes and the conditions under which they are given. Without such skills, it would be irresponsible for a coach (and potentially detrimental to a pupil) to give tactical or competitive exercises. There are no short cuts to this.

The Academy's first three coaching awards provide coaches with the foundation of the basic skills.

Before a coach can hope to be an effective competitive coach, he or she must acquire a sufficient technical standard such that he or she can consistently replicate tactical and competitive situations on command and control these without deviation. The coach's own skills must be so thoroughly developed and confident that they can concentrate their entire attention on their pupil. To summarise - the job of a coach is to provide conditions under which the pupil can practise strokes under his or her supervision.

The advanced and diploma awards deal with a high level of technical skill whilst focusing on tactical and competitive applications

In years gone by, the examination questions sometimes did not specifically address the issue of tactical or competitive application, but most candidates had sufficient skill and experience to give tactical and competitive lesson under examination conditions.

The current structure of our examination questions specifically tests advanced and diploma candidates in the areas of both tactical application and their ability to give competitive lessons along with many other underlying lesson criteria.

Over many years our system of training and examination has produced numerous coaches who have gone on to train fencers who have represented their country from cadet through to and including senior world championship level. To name just a few:

Neil Brown, Norman Golding, Patsy Nicholls, Bob Bales, Nick Chapman, Philip Bruce, Phil Carson, Graham Stretton, Peter Barrett, David Kirby, Brian Matless, Sue Benney, Peter Cormack, Andy Hill, Neil Thomas, Peter Wright, Jonathan Katz, Lynne Melia, Chris Penney, Iain Aberdeen, Jes Smith

The most notable results from an Academy trained coach has been that of Andrew Vincent who coaches Jon Willis who, in winning the Heidenheim Pokal and Kish Island, along with making a number of World Cup finals, has become our most successful senior épéist since 1981.

In addition to those named above, many of our coaches regularly train fencers who make the finals of the various National Championships and the numerous opens around the country.

This list only contains a selection of our most recent successes and there are many more who deserve mention. I am in the process of compiling a database of all our coaches and their achievements so that the successes of the Academy can be better recognised and celebrated. All members should have received an email requesting such details and if you have replied, thank you. If you have yet to do so, please let me have the information about your achievements. They deserve to be more widely known.

The most extraordinary thing about our coaches is the ways they find to overcome difficulties. It's not uncommon for our coaches to only give two or three lessons a week to their pupils. Very few have access to dedicated venues and the funding which seems to have become an integral component of success. Just think what they could achieve if they had the support their (so much admired) foreign counterparts enjoy.

Finally I offer thanks and appreciation to those who continue to express their opinions, good and bad about the Academy. Such feedback forces us to continually look at what we offer. I'd be the first to accept the Academy isn't perfect, though you might find that Academy members will be the most dedicated and supportive coaches around. We don't train the best coaches in the world, I wish we did. I'd love to have the money and the resources, but we are self-funded and have no financial support whatsoever from outside the Academy. Not a penny of government sports funding comes our way and yet, in spite of that, we offer a continually evolving, structured and quality system of coach education which is fully supported by fencing specific study material, and which has earned the admiration of a number of coaches (and some top level fencers) from around the world.

Philip Bruce

Letters

From Derek Evered

Re: Some Thoughts on Qualifications (Issue 57)

My qualifications to coach at all three weapons were through courses organised by the Amateur Fencing Association as it then was. The residential courses were staffed by well-qualified amateur and professional instructors. What was the difference between these two groups? Nothing at all! They were all knowledgeable and enthusiastic. As a retired academic I do not believe it matters which route is followed by a prospective coach. In all professions it is after passing the examination, which is just a gateway, that the learning process really begins - sword-in-hand in front of an individual or a group.

Personally I have never liked coaches who shout or swear at their pupils and so never took lessons from them. Presumably no pupil improves by being shouted at during their leisure hours (unless to prevent them doing something dangerous!). So my efforts have sometimes been described as "too kind to the pupil".

Surely one must continue learning as our sport does change. In the 1950s we came on guard in quarte at foil with the blades touching. So, to teach a disengagement, one just pressed on the beginner's blade to induce that movement. Imagine my surprise when I returned to foil fencing to come on guard in sixte and then have to teach the disengagement as a deception on the attempt to take the novice's blade. However I am still learning, mostly by watching younger coaches giving lessons. In brief, we are the product of our many experiences (and our genes).

Derek Evered

From Terence Gandy

Dear Editor,

In answer to your 'Editor's Lament', or possibly 'cri de coeur', concerning the lack of letters, I offer the following and possibly controversial reply.

Firstly, the front page of the September 'Academy News', shows the 'Magnificent Seven' holding our Union Jack upside down. This of course is regarded as an insult, but in this case, unintended, I'm sure.

Our flag is distinctive and even for the flag heraldically unaware, could not be confused with any other national flag.

Scotland's flag, (white saltire), was added to the St. George's flag in 1606 and holds precedence over the Irish red saltire, added in 1801. To indicate this, when flown from the flag staff in the top corner, the wider white band of the St. Andrew's saltire, always appears above the thinner band of the Irish saltire. The white fimbriation surrounding the St. George's cross recognizes the former all white background.

Now for the controversial section. Personally, I would replace the current uninspiring dirge of a national anthem, which is not a national anthem, but is about one individual rather than the nation. I would replace it with 'Rule Britannia' which has more impact on the senses and is about the nation. Play our current national anthem and then listen to the French national anthem, setting aside the lyrics, you will appreciate the comparison in terms of music and impact on an audience.

Finally, I wish to take the opportunity to send best wishes to all friends and acquaintances since the 'Golden Swords' production at the Globe in 1999. I produced all the on stage heraldic decoration for that most enjoyable event, hence my interest in the heraldic content of my letter

Yours sincerely,

Terence Gandy

Editor's Reply: *I can assure Terence and all our readers that no insult was intended by the team - the Union Flag (if we wish to be pedantic, since a Jack is a Naval flag) was supplied by the organiser. Yet another sin to be laid at his door.*

As for the National Anthem, this is a matter of personal taste. However, over 160 composers have been inspired to use the tune in their own works, including Beethoven (at least twice). For an uplifting version, I would suggest going to hear the orchestral setting by Sir Edward Elgar in a concert hall environment. When comparing our anthem to La Marseillaise, perhaps I can suggest the experience of being in the grandstands before the Le Mans 24 Hour motor race, when several thousand British fans belt it out with enthusiasm, to the spontaneous applause of the French fans - a courtesy returned a few minutes later, when the French have their turn to sing. In that situation, an honourable draw! As for lyrics, would it really be an improvement in the modern world to sing "Britannia Rules the Waves", or have you considered the PC implications in La Marseillaise of the lines in the chorus "Qu'un sang impur, Abreuve nos sillons" (That impure blood may water our furrows)? All such anthems have their plus and minus points, but it is unlikely that we will witness a change in the near future.

TRY FENCING AT A SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL

An invitation to show fencing as an activity in a Special School might appear daunting to anyone. Fencing is tried out by many differing groups of people. To show a group of children challenged by the usual expectations that society makes, seemed to be too complex to ensure both the safety and enjoyment for all.

Stone Hill School, Doncaster, is a new purpose built mixed Special Needs School, catering for Pupils with learning difficulties, many of them on the Autism Spectrum. Mr Christian, the PE Teacher, has a policy of introducing as wide a variety of sporting activities into the School as possible. Doncaster Fencers were invited to introduce Fencing as part of this policy.

The School had never tried this activity before, and requested evidence of competency and a Risk Assessment (compliments to the BAF guidelines), before agreeing to the event. In addition the Fencing Instructors were advised that the Activity must be tightly controlled, with clear and concise instructions, and no surprises. As part of the arrangements, the Teachers and Teaching Assistants were to be in attendance to support the pupils throughout the activity. In organising the event, preparation had to be meticulous.

The activity was arranged to fall within the 'Sport for All' week in June. Doncaster Fencing Club provided the equipment and two BAF Instructors. Four classes took part, two year 9 (13 to 14 yr olds) and two year 10 (14 to 15 yr olds), each class attending one of four ¾ hour sessions over two afternoons. Each class averaged about 10 pupils, with at least two Teaching Assistants always in attendance. The fencing was made part of the school activity within the day, and each class attended fully. The activity took place in a Sports Hall.

The event was very well received by pupils and staff alike. The pupils were receptive and well behaved, and enjoyed the experience, as did the staff. Most had never seen fencing before. Each group was unique, and within each group the individuals had differing levels of ability, the more able pupils assisting the less able. Having the Teaching Assistants in attendance, with some even taking part, was an essential, and major contribution to the success of the event. The pupils' ability varied from being independent, to those requiring nearly 80 % adult supervision. This did not detract from the event, and all the pupils were able to complete all the tasks. For the Fencing Instructors, it was a very rewarding experience, and would be an event to repeat without any reservations.

The School staff appeared very impressed at how well the event ran. The disciplined method of instruction appeared to sit well with the teaching methods at the School. If nothing else, it is a testament to the teaching methods expounded by the BAF Coach Training Scheme.

Each class was organised using the same format, which is now described in some detail.

Following an introduction to the class, the first emphasis was on the safety aspects. This was followed by a very short demonstration bout by the two instructors, using only a direct thrust with a lunge and a quarte parry riposte, fought slowly. Then it was explained that everyone in the class would have a sword fight, just the same as the demonstration, in about ½ an hour, preceded by various activities in a set order: footwork (walk like a swordsman), kit up, mask on, blade activity, finally culminating in a full fencing experience. The kit was laid out in full view, by size, jackets at one end, foils at the other, for ease of kitting up.

Then followed a typical "have a go" format. Great emphasis was placed on safety, with constant observation on the pupils' responses. All taught activities followed the standard – Introduction, Demonstration, Explanation and Activity format. The Teaching Assistants worked within the group to assist the pupils.

First activity: 'walk like a swordsman'; two Instructors facing Pupils in one line, step, lunge. Demonstration and practice.

If the group worked well, a game activity was introduced; pupils facing each other in two lines, one leading with steps, the other following.

Second activity: Kitting up with Jacket/Plastron, Glove and Mask. The Teaching Assistants were essential to this, the Instructors supervised and safety checked each pupil once kitted out. Safety and the wearing of masks was repeated and reinforced. The usual format, kit up first, footwork second, was intentionally reversed in this instance.

Third Activity: the straight thrust and lunge hit was demonstrated. The instructors handed out and placed the foil correctly in each pupil's hand. Pupil activity, including a game activity: pupil A (puppet) responds to signal given by pupil B (partner), for example partner steps, puppet steps, partner opens line, puppet lunges.

Fourth activity: a quarte parry riposte was demonstrated and the safety rules for mask and fencing were repeated. The pupils practised the quarte parry riposte.

Fifth activity: The Fight. The earlier demonstration was repeated, now including the fencing courtesies, and the target area for scoring (and non scoring) was described. Pupils paired off and the fencing followed, controlled by the Instructors.

There were no surprises; the pupils were told what would happen, and it happened as told, in the correct order. Even the weather, blisteringly hot, did not detract, but included in the introduction was the warning, "you will be hot !".

We believe everyone went away happy, and it was a great success. Following the Introductory Fencing Days, the School is participating in the Change for Life (C4L) fencing programme, part of the School Sports Partnership initiative.

Ian Law, Elizabeth Law, Doncaster Fencing Club.



THE PAST REMEMBERED

When clearing out the BAF “archive” - the late Mike Joseph’s loft - David Austin, our Honoured Former President, came across a plaque commemorating Prof. Reggie Behmber, one of the founders of the modern Academy and a driving force in the Academy for many years.

The plaque bears the crests of Salle Behmber and the BAF and records his service to the Academy up until his death in 1969. For many years it hung in the old AFA Headquarters.

David has now passed the plaque on to Reggie’s son, Martin, who is seen holding it after the presentation.

Photograph supplied by David Austin

THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

Once again the Denstone course attracted a few overseas visitors. Conrad Makoski, a regular attendee from the Netherlands, introduced another Dutch fencer, Esther Goddyn, to the joys of a BAF course. At the end of the week, she went away with Level 1 and 2 awards at Foil.

From Israel came Peter Harris. Peter has fenced and coached in both Australia and the USA, before moving to Israel late last year. There he coaches mostly children - and plenty of them. One of his main problems is language, since many are Russian immigrants and do not speak English, whilst the others are Israeli and often only know Hebrew. Nevertheless, he is making progress.

Peter greatly enjoyed the course and found it stimulating. He intends to return again to complete the Level 2 Foil Award he was attempting.

Coming from even further afield, we had Teo Ah Heok, a lady from Singapore. Having competed for a number of years, she has been coaching at the Zee Club in Singapore for around seven years. Upon arrival, she was assessed by the Course staff and joined the fencers studying at Level 4 (Advanced). In the event, she did not attempt an examination this time, but acted as a pupil in one exam, as well as sitting in with the examination boards and gaining an insight into how the system works. She said that she had found out about the course through the Academy’s web site and it was one of the few options available in the world. We spoke to her on the Wednesday, about halfway through the course, and she was very impressed at that point, commenting favourably on the structure and content of the course. We hope she will return soon.



Good news - Mick Johnson has just heard of his success at Diploma Foil



Teo Ah Heok (right) working with Austen Rose



A class lesson in full flow

DENSTONE AUTUMN COURSE

A Report by the Course Director, Prof. Philip Bruce

This was the second time we have had the Denstone course in October rather than in the summer and this new date continues to be an advantage in many ways. Having the college to ourselves is a great improvement over sharing it with other conferences, although accommodation was limited this year due to redecoration in the college.

At the last AAI conference I was astounded to find that we run one of the only two international coaching courses in the world and that ours is by far the largest. Even this one, while by no means our biggest course, had 23 course attendees of whom 16% had come from abroad. As well as that, it should be noted that the ages of candidates ranged from 18 to 74 years old, fencing experience varied from relatively novice to currently active international fencers, and most of the course educators had achieved their qualifications on this same course in the last five years. Result? Out of those who came forward for examination, there was a 92% pass rate in front of demanding independent examiners.

Anyone who wishes to claim that our system is inflexible and hidebound has clearly come nowhere near our courses!

It was a challenging week in many ways and I would like to thank all the course tutors for their phenomenal level of commitment and hard work. I take great pride in the way we are producing a new generation of coach educators who have the skills, enthusiasm and commitment to drive the Academy forward over the coming years. It was a privilege and a great pleasure to work with such a dedicated group. Special thanks to Liam, who in the absence of a common room this year, volunteered his own room as a Staff Bar in the evenings. I, for one, could not have got through the week without it!

This course saw the introduction of a new timetable, which was a resounding success. After much discussion with the other course educators about the need for the development of basic skills, we decided to formulate a plan whereby the best part of Monday and Tuesday was devoted to establishing the core skills needed for the questions. This led to a rate of work by candidates which was far higher than in previous years and we had much positive feedback.

The exam day ran smoothly, thanks to the efforts of the examiners and of Stuart Clough who administered the day. Thanks to them all and to the candidates for their cooperation and their cheerful mutual support! I was delighted at the high level of success that was achieved in the exams and look forward to seeing all those who passed improve their qualifications even further at future courses.

COURSE OFFICER

PLEASE NOTE

The Course Officer, Dave Jerry, will be away in Australia between the 9th December 2010 and the 12th January 2010.

Any urgent matters will be dealt with by Professor Tom Etchells (see page 3 for contact details).

EXAMINATION SUCCESS

The following candidates achieved passes in their exams at the end of the Autumn Course.

Diploma Foil

Mick Johnson

Diploma Sabre

Isobel Combes

Level 4 Foil

Austen Rose (Class)

Level 3 Foil

Bret Gantry

Level 3 Epée

Harry Gulliver

Stefan Leponis

Anthony Klenczar

Andrew Sercombe

Paul Williams

Level 3 Sabre

Paul Stimpson

Donald Walker

Level 2 Foil

Esther Goddyn

Brian Greaves

Gerard Harmer

Peter Harris (Class)

Imogen Peacock

Ronin Traynor

Liz Williams

Level 2 Epée

Kevin Nelson

Level 1 Foil

Esther Goddyn

Brian Greaves

Level 1 Epée

Kevin Nelson

We send our congratulations to all these successful candidates and wish them well in their future coaching.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the British Academy of Fencing will take place on Saturday 8th January 2011 at 11.00 am at the:

**Holiday Inn Birmingham M6 J7
Chapel Lane
Great Barr
Birmingham
B43 7BG
0871 942 9009**

All members of the Academy are urged to attend.

The meeting of Maîtres d'Escrime, Provosts and Members to commence at 9.30 am.

Following the Annual General Meeting, the Annual Dinner of the Academy will be held. Those attending are asked to assemble at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. BAF Awards, Diplomas and Certificates will be presented during the evening.

Nominations for election to the Committee, including that of the post of President, may be submitted to the Secretary.

Proposals for alteration or addition to the articles are required, in writing to the Secretary, at least 21 days before the meeting (by 18th December). Other proposals to be tabled at the AGM should be submitted to the Secretary 10 days before the AGM (by 29th December).

Apologies for absence may be forwarded via any Committee Member.

Rooms at the Holiday Inn can be booked direct with the hotel on the number above and you can obtain a room (single or double) at a rate of £69/night by stating that you are a member of the Academy. This is a flexible rate, meaning that it can be cancelled on the morning of the booking. Slightly cheaper, non-refundable, rates may be obtained through Holiday Inn's Central booking – 0871 423 4896 or via <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/>

Professor Bob Merry, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The under mentioned names are published as having applied for membership of the British Academy of Fencing. If anyone wishes to raise objections or has information which he or she feels is relevant, please contact the Secretary of the BAF.

All objections will be required to be made in writing and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Chris Jones	Bedford
Josh Johnston	Perth
Gordon Love	Edinburgh
Liz Williams	Cheltenham
Nigel Carter	

See the Academy web site at www.baf-fencing.org for details of the latest applications.

I SAY, I SAY, I SAY.....

The old Coach had decided it was time to hang up his swords and retire. He broke the news to the Chairman of the Club.

“Oh, no” said the Chairman, “This is terrible. What will we do? The Club has depended on you for so long. ”.

“Come now” said the Coach, “It isn’t that bad. You’ll find someone else and they may be even better than me.”

“Oh yeah” replied the Chairman, with more than a hint of sarcasm, “That’s what they said last time!”



CHRIS'S COGITATIONS

Musings from your Members' Rep.



Raising our profile

At the last committee meeting, the topic of raising awareness as to the work the Academy does was discussed. A few ideas were bounced around, and a general willingness was shown to actively promote the Academy. However, in order to do this we will need the support of the membership.

As a first step, we would like to hear your suggestions as to something we can do, whether regionally or nationally, to raise the profile of the Academy.

Please indulge me by taking 10 minutes out of your busy schedule to drop me an e-mail with suggestions. You may come up with something that we have not thought of and really make a difference to the Academy's success.

We have a great thing here – please help us share it. Send your suggestions to chriseasthambaf@hotmail.co.uk.

Invitation for nominations

Another coaching year is nearly over and the Annual General Meeting of the British Academy of Fencing is fast approaching. The committee is very keen to receive nominations for the Brian Pitman award this year, particularly as it was not awarded last year.

The Brian Pitman award is presented at the discretion of the committee to a fencing coach who has demonstrated particular skill in the promotion and development of the sport of fencing, or participation in and enjoyment of fencing for young people (under the age of 18). The award takes the form of a permanent trophy to be presented to the recipient at the dinner following the AGM.

You can nominate a coach by e-mailing me at chriseasthambaf@hotmail.co.uk before the end of November. Please include a summary of the work of the nominee that would qualify him or her to receive the award.

Nominees who have shown innovation in the teaching or coaching of young people from one or more of the following categories would be strong contenders for the Award:

- young people with learning difficulties
- physically handicapped young people
- young people from deprived areas
- work in state schools and/or
- work with voluntary organisations.

I would encourage all coaches to circulate this article around their clubs and pupils – don't let modesty cause your contribution to go unrewarded!

Chris Eastham, Members' Representative

BILL VINYARD

Heather Jarrold has passed on the news of the death of Bill Vinyard to Academy News. She writes:

Bill died suddenly but peacefully on the 23rd October, aged 86.

After Bill began fencing in his forties, he approached the sport with complete dedication. He ran Ipswich Fencing Clubs for decades and never missed a night. He leaves a legacy of fencers who came to love the sport thanks to his dedicated coaching. To the younger fencers he inspired awe, to the older members a sense of loyalty and to all of us, an incredible admiration.

I know that he will be sorely missed by all who knew him, as coach and friend.

COURSES

BAF RESIDENTIAL COURSES

Easter Course - 4th to 9th April 2011

Fees for the Course

The fees for the course will be confirmed once we have final costs from Denstone College, but it is expected that there will be a small increase compared to the current level of fees.

Course to be held at Denstone College, Staffordshire.

It is not too soon to book your place!

Contact Dave Jerry, the Course Officer for full details.

Contact details are on page 3 and further details can be found on our web site.

Various Coach Education courses are held on a regular basis. The following contacts may be useful. Otherwise, contact Dave Jerry, the Course Officer, for the latest information.

Yorkshire Coaches' Club: monthly 10 am to 4 pm at Ackworth School, Pontefract. Levels 1 – 4 catered for; Level 5 by arrangement. Coach Educators of the Academy will cover the Theory and Practice of Coaching. All coaches and their pupils are welcome to attend. Please contact Provost Dave Jerry (see page 3).

Sunday Coaches' Club, Birmingham: normally the first Sunday in each month, from 10 pm to 4 pm at St. John's Primary School, Mortimer Road, Kenilworth, Warks. CV8 1FS. Coach educators are Prof. Peter Northam and Prof. Pete Cormack. For full details, contact Pete Cormack at cormack@ntlworld.com or on 01926 859881.

Saturday Coaches' Club, Norwich: Monthly at the University Sports Park, Norwich. Advanced Coach Andrew Sowerby invites all coaches in the Norfolk and Suffolk area wishing to prepare for Foil, Epée and Sabre (levels 1 to 4) to come along. E-mail Andrew via www.sowerbyfencing.com

Hemel Hempstead: We are glad to report that this monthly course has restarted. Normally held on the second Sunday of each month. Venue: Hemel Sports Centre, Park Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1JS. Contact Liam Harrington at harringtonliam@hotmail.com for details.

Cambridgeshire: A new series of weekend coach education courses are planned at Linton Village College, near Cambridge. They will be conducted by Professor Mike Law. Full details can be obtained from Sarah Paveley, Rutherford Lodge, Wixoe, Stoke by Clare, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 8UE. Tel: 01440 785600 or 07837 933603. email: sarah.fencing@jacobiteltd.com

If you are organising a Coach Education course, please contact the Editor if you wish to have it publicised. You should also inform the Course Officer.

See also the Academy web site for the latest news on courses. Contact the webmaster, Isobel Combes, if you wish to publicise any events there.

www.baf-fencing.org

IMPORTANT

All Course organisers and potential attendees should be aware of the following condition, which applies to all BAF Courses, including "non-official" courses run by Academy members.

Please note the Course Officer and the Course Director reserve the right to refuse an application to attend the course.



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