

# British Academy of Fencing **ACADEMY NEWS**



May 2011  
Issue 60

*"Run by coaches for coaches"*

## TOP OF THE WORLD!

Britain has a World Champion, in the person of Philip Marsh, 16, from Bradford on Avon. Philip won the Junior Men's Epée title at the recent World Championships in Jordan, being the first British Junior World Champion since Rob Bruniges won the Foil event in 1976. He was helped to this great achievement by a British Academy of Fencing coach, Professor Sue Benney.

Philip's main target at these World Championships had been the Cadet title, but, after reaching the last 8, he suffered from a bout of cramp, which reduced his mobility and he was unable to progress. His approach to the Junior event was more relaxed, as he didn't rate his own chances too highly. Indeed, seeing his first round pool, he said he would be lucky to qualify for the DE. In the event, he fought well and emerged as 40<sup>th</sup> seed. From there on, he went from strength to strength, improving with every match. One particularly satisfying result was to beat former World Champion Nikita Glaskov of Russia in the semi-finals, since it had been Glaskov who had knocked Philip out of the last 32 of the European Junior Championships in October.

The final, against Ayman Alaa el Din Fayz of Egypt, was a tight fight accompanied by great (and noisy) support for both fencers from their respective supporters – the whole of the British team were there to support Philip. Philip went ahead at 11-10 and then dominated the end of the fight to win 15-10.

Sue Benney has been the main influence on Philip throughout his fencing career and was there at his side at the World Championships. This influence should not be underestimated. Philip's mother later wrote to Sue, *"Thank you very much for supporting and encouraging Philip in Jordan. It was a fantastic result which was only possible with your calming influence and guidance. We are all grateful for the*



*A proud coach joins Philip Marsh on the podium*

*Photo: Peter Barratt*

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please*

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**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**ACADEMY  
WEB SITE**

**FOR ALL THE LATEST  
INFORMATION AND  
MERCHANDISING GO TO  
THE ACADEMY WEB SITE  
AT**

**WWW.BAF-FENCING.ORG**



**RECOMMENDED  
RATES OF PAY**

| <u>Level</u>                 | <u>Rate</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Diploma                      | 37.75       |
| Maitre d'Esgrime 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   | } |                                       |
| Key Teaching Points Epee   |   |                                       |
| Key Teaching Points Sabre  |   |                                       |
| Key Coaching Points Foil   |   |                                       |
| Key Coaching Points Epee   |   | .....£7.35 ( <b>£9.45</b> )           |
| Key Coaching Points Sabre  |   |                                       |
| Glossary of Terms.....   |   | £7.35 ( <b>£9.45</b> )                |
| Translation of Fencing Terms in Four Languages.....  |   | £7.35 ( <b>£9.45</b> )                |
| Teaching/ Coaching Tactics (2nd Edition).....  |   | £16.80 ( <b>£21</b> )                 |
| CD-Rom Issue 5 – this contains all the syllabuses and current questions for BAF examinations, as well as other examination material..... |   | £10.00                                |
| Examples of past written Papers – for the Advanced and Diploma examinations -  |   | <b>FREE</b> - apply to Course Officer |

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

## THE PRESIDENT WRITES.....



### *An Academy World Class Coach*

The recent achievements of one of our home-grown Academy coaches will almost certainly overshadow and out-shine the achievements of any of our members this year. Namely, Prof. Sue Benney, who most proudly watched her pupil Philip Marsh win the Junior Men's Epée title at the recent World Championships in Jordan. What may certainly be the pinnacle of her career comes after a lifetime of hard work and

dedication to her chosen profession. On behalf of Sue's colleague and friends in the Academy I offer our most heartfelt congratulations.

### *Residential Course – April 2011*

This year Easter course was led by Prof. Peter Cormick with the assistance of Profs Liam Harrington, Isobel Combes and Philip Bruce. The course culminated in the usual series of examinations, which achieved a pass rate of over 95%. On behalf of the membership I would like to congratulate the candidates and thanks all those who made our course the success it undoubtedly was.

### *Fencing in the USA*

Candidates of recent Denstone courses will remember Stuart Lee from San Diego who, last time he visited our Academy, achieved the Academy's foil diploma. His achievements and hard work seem to be going from strength to strength. Stuart has recently opened his own salle in his own premises. (see <http://www.lionheartfencingacademy.com>). On behalf of his friends and colleagues in our Academy I would like to wish him every success his salle.

Following the recent appointment of David Sach as the USA Fencing performance director, I have had preliminary discussions about the possibility of our Academy's involvement in training and qualifying US coaches.

### *International Course – May 21/22 2011 – Stoke-on-Trent*

Place are filling up rapidly for what promises to be a fascinating course, for further details see [www.baf-fencing.org](http://www.baf-fencing.org)

### *Course Officer - Dave Jerry*

In addition to being a hard working fencing coach Dave is a keen skier. Dave can now count himself as a fully paid up member of the skiing fraternity after breaking his leg during a recent holiday in Austria. On behalf of the membership I would like to wish Dave a full and speedy recovery

### *Mike Law*

I have been informed that Mike is ill, though I do not have details of the prognosis. On behalf of the Academy I wish Mike a speedy recovery.

*Philip Bruce*

## TEACHING AND COACHING IN THE BAF

*By Prof. Philip Bruce*

During our recent residential course there were a number of candidates who struggled to understand the difference between teaching and coaching. I therefore offer the following in the hope of clarifying the differences within the parameters of our system of coach education and examination

The curriculum, examination questions and exam system of the British Academy of Fencing may be loosely divided into two categories -- **Teaching** and **Coaching**. Our system progresses along a spectrum from Teaching to Coaching. At Level One, the emphasis is entirely on teaching skills whereas at Diploma the emphasis is entirely on coaching skills. It is therefore vital for the candidate to have a clear understanding of the difference between the two. Please note that in the following, the term 'pupil' can refer to the recipients of either individual or class lessons.

### TEACHING

When examining a question where the candidate is required to teach a movement, we are looking for the candidate to impart the knowledge and techniques, which will enable the pupil to execute that movement. The candidate should assume that the pupil receiving the lesson has no previous knowledge or experience of the subject matter.

The candidate's pupil control and ability to impart the necessary knowledge and techniques, whilst maintaining the interest of the pupil, are the essential factors in assessing his/her ability to **teach** the subject matter.

A candidate is therefore expected to have the ability to:

Identify (introduce) the fencing action in a clear and concise manner, using recognised fencing terminology. (It is acceptable for foreign nationals to use terminology from their own country's system of fencing as long as they can provide an English translation)

- Demonstrate the fencing action in a competent and orthodox manner. Where the question includes the requirement to revise an action, the candidate should be able to demonstrate a number of examples and identify them clearly
- Explain clearly the reasons for using the fencing action and identify and explain the component parts (refer to the "Key Teaching Points") of performing the action. Where necessary the candidate should refer to the relevant FIE rules and show an understanding of these
- Apply the action by setting simple exercises, which enable a pupil to practise the action
- Show the ability to correct errors in the execution of the stroke



While the Academy recognises and values individuality and creativity in the competitive fencer, we insist that strokes should be taught in a recognised, orthodox manner, in order to lay a foundation of solid technique, and that the personal technique of the candidate should support this.

### COACHING

When examining a question where the candidate is required to **coach** a movement, we are looking for the ability of the candidate to take an action, **which is already known to the pupil**, and improve his/her ability to

- **execute** the action
- **use** it under competitive pressure
- **apply** it in a tactical situation.

In short, we expect the candidate to formulate exercises and practices that will lead to an improvement of pupil's ability to execute that movement under a range of different competitive conditions.

As in teaching, the candidate's pupil control and his/her ability to maintain the interest of pupils are very important. Important also is the need for the exercises provided to be realistic from a competitive point of view.

- The pupil's ability to **execute** the action or actions may be improved by the candidate creating, controlling and managing the conditions with slowly increasing levels of difficulty. The candidate must have a solid grasp of the **technique** required from the pupil and the ability to develop this in the pupil.
  - The candidate should show the ability to demonstrate how an opponent could take advantage of poorly executed actions by:
    - occasionally hitting a pupil whose parry is inadequate or
    - parrying an poorly executed offensive action or
    - facilitating the action at the wrong time or and at the wrong distance
  - When the pupil's technique, distance or timing fails, the candidate should have the ability to slow down or stop the action at the relevant point, correct the pupil, and then put the action together again.
- The pupil's ability to **use** the action may be improved by asking for the action to be used with a variety of timings and distances and asking the pupil to distinguish between these. The candidate should have the ability to impose a variety of conditions and to clearly convey which conditions are appropriate for execution of the action and which are not. These conditions may relate to one or more of the following:
  - Timing
  - Tactics
  - Distance
  - Rhythm / Changes of Cadence
  - Continuity Hitting
  - Competitive situations
  - Simple and/or Compound Reaction at a particular distance
- The pupil's ability to **apply** the action may be improved by the candidate being able to lead the pupil through a variety of tactical situations. The candidate should demonstrate a clear awareness of where in the phrase the action is to be executed and should have the ability to provide convincing scenarios under which the action should be used, or adapted to suit the ongoing development of the fight.

Underlying all this should be the constant ability to pay close attention to the pupil's technique, timing and distance relative to the execution of the action(s), so that errors can be rectified.

### SUMMARY RELATIVE TO THE VARIOUS LEVELS

Level 1 - An introductory award designed for those who wish to begin to *teach* fencing. Candidates who successfully reach the required standard should be able to take absolute beginners – either singly or in small groups – and to *teach* them the basic strokes of fencing.

Level 2 - This award requires the candidate to be able to *coach* all the topics on the Level One Syllabus and to *teach* the technical and mechanical aspect of an additional group of strokes. Successful candidates should be capable of taking a beginners class within a club or school and to give short individual lessons to fencers.

Level 3 - A candidate who successfully reaches the required standard for this award is expected to be able to give *coaching* sessions, both individually and in groups, on all topics on the syllabuses for Levels 1 and 2 and to be able to *teach* almost the complete range of known fencing strokes to both groups and individuals. Here, as in the Level 2 award, the *teaching* is concerned with the technical and mechanical aspects of the stroke(s).

NOTE – fencing strokes, actions and phrases contained in the examination questions/syllabuses for Levels 1, 2 and 3 should be consider as the foundations/basics of fencing

Level 4 (Advanced Award) - Unless the examination question specifically asks the candidate to teach, the award is primarily concerned with a candidate's ability to *coach* strokes within a limited group or subject. The candidate should be of sufficient standard to give exercises, which form the basis for developing and improving a fencer's theoretical and tactical ability. In contrast to Levels 1, 2 and 3, the lessons (class and individual) should have an underlying theme and or direction.

Level 5 (Diploma) - The Academy's highest award is primarily concerned with a candidate's ability to *coach* strokes and topics within a group or subject. The candidate should be of sufficient standard to give exercises, which form the basis for developing and improving a fencer's theoretical understanding and his/her technical and tactical ability, within the confines of the stroke(s), topic or subject being examined. In contrast with the Advanced Award the candidate is required to deal with multiple strokes, topics and/or subjects whilst focusing on one or more underlying themes and or directions.

.....from front page

## TOP OF THE WORLD!

*lovely way you deal with Philip. I know Philip is always really happy when you are at the end of the piste."*

Philip started fencing at Bath Swords, with their beginners' group. He had recently had a bad injury playing rugby and had had to give up that sport – their loss was fencing's gain! Since he was tall and left-handed, Sue suggested that he joined the épée group. He started competing at under 14 level and soon gained success, winning some LPJS events. Since then he has gone on to win senior events such as the Keele Open, when he was 14, and the Leicester Open in 2010. As well as winning under 17 and under 20 National titles, he has finished 7<sup>th</sup> (2009) and 5<sup>th</sup> (2010) in the Senior National Championships.

What have been the influences on his career? Sue tells us that he has very supportive parents, an essential ingredient of success at this level. He has also received sponsorship from the Lloyds TSB Olympic Programme and receives help from the South West Regional Talent Development Centre (for more information see <http://www.teambath.com/what-we-do/sports-development/south-west-regional-talent-centre/>). But the overriding influence on his fencing has been Sue Benney.



*Action from the Final*

*Photo: Peter Barratt*

Philip trains at Bath and Glastonbury clubs and also has a 30 minute private lesson with Sue each week. In these lessons, Sue concentrates on his strengths, which are timing and distance. Academy News asked Sue for an example of typical exercises, to give our other coaches some inspiration in their own lessons. Her reply is included at the bottom of the page.

Sue has been there to support Philip at all stages of his career. It has not always been plain sailing. He had to withstand criticism that he only had one or two moves and would not progress, but as Sue explains, *"Of course he knew a lot more moves but at a young age it is difficult to have the confidence to use them when the simple moves are working well."* There have also been injuries to cope with, particularly in last November and December. Sue's strategy to get him match fit again was to take on a number of competitions, but with a reduced expectation of producing results. This included

the European Cadet Championships, where he nevertheless achieved a very creditable 11<sup>th</sup> place, although Sue could not accompany him this time.

But Sue was there again for him in Jordan. She tells us that, on the day of the competition, he was very relaxed and took a good warm-up lesson. She helped him to analyse his future opponent's and decide on tactics – "He is very good at taking advice" says Sue, and let us not forget that Sue herself is no stranger to competing in big events, having been to a number of Veteran championships and Fencing Masters' World Championships. Amongst her successes are a Team Gold in the European Veterans' Championships and a Women's Sabre Gold in the FMWC. And let us not forget that Sue created Academy history when she became the first woman to become a Professor by passing Diplomas in all three weapons - prior to this, ladies only fenced foil, so our female Masters were only required to pass at foil.

Fencing may be an individual sport, but any successful fencer needs a team behind him. Philip has been lucky in this respect, with first class support from parents, sponsors, the sporting and fencing establishment, but above all a coach who has recognised and nurtured his talent from the earliest stages. Academy News wishes to congratulate Professor Sue Benney for her part in producing this "home grown" talent and taking Philip to the highest level. Let us leave the last word to Sue herself, when asked for her reactions;

*"It was fantastic to be there to see him improving through every fight. The atmosphere in the final was terrific - the whole of the British team came back to the venue to watch and cheer.*

*It is always good to watch Brits doing well at major Championships, but this one was very special, coaching a young lad that I have been with since he started.*

### A LESSON FOR A CHAMPION

*By Professor Sue Benney*

We work a lot on attacks on preparations, so the lesson would start quite simply with me stepping towards him and him just lunging to various targets.

We have worked a lot on building his power with the lunge so he is hitting through the target, without over-lunging. It then progresses to doing similar attacks with him dominating the footwork and timing his attack. The lessons always contain renewals so that he has learned responses, if his attacks are blocked.

We also talk a lot about different situations and possible solutions and work them through. I think it is vital to have a two way communication between coach and pupil so that trust and understanding is built up.

I think building confidence is a very important start to the lesson. If the basics aren't going right you can't develop the more difficult moves,

# DENSTONE - THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

By Professor Peter Cormack

I have been a member of staff on the BAF residential courses at Denstone for a number of years now and it seemed natural to volunteer to help organise the course in some way. This resulted in being asked to be Course Director for the Easter 2011 course at Denstone College ... a new and somewhat daunting challenge.

## Pre Course

My first thought was that, over the past few years, some candidates have arrived on the course inadequately prepared and thereby limiting their own chances of success. As good preparation had always underpinned my own exam successes, I decided to write to course members encouraging them to work on the relevant skills and material before coming to Denstone. In hindsight, I'm sure this pre-emptive approach was valid with some and was a totally futile exercise with others ... still, at least I tried.

Paperwork and Admin ... not things I relish or find inspiring but important none the less. The list of study material, written exam questions, Exam Procedure documents, display material and exam related paperwork is pretty long. Thankfully, some liaising between myself, Philip Bruce, Dave Jerry and Stuart Clough meant that all the bases were covered by the time the course started. In future, I can see real advantages in having one person on staff dealing with all the paperwork and admin ... the possible financial implications being the only real downside.

## The Course

People started arriving at Denstone College mid morning and the process of checking them in to their accommodation began.

With everyone in the drill hall by 1.50pm, I welcomed them all, introduced all the staff, outlined the practical nature of the course and addressed various 'housekeeping' requirements. The course was then split into two groups ... levels 2 & 3 working with Phil and Isobel while the 4s & 5s were with myself and Liam.

Soon the course settled down into the normal succession of demonstrations, routine lessons, compulsories, specials and classes with most people knuckling down and working hard. Phil and Isobel had the largest group and heroically stuck to the very intense time-tabling, making sure that everyone knew what they had to do. As Liam and I only had four candidates to work with, I spent some of my time helping out with the 2s and 3s ... this was only feasible as the Course Director does not examine course members and therefore can work impartially with any candidate on the course.

One of the features of the Course Director's job is that you can't just concentrate on being a coach educator. In between working with candidates, you have to deal with mundane things like 'lack of bedding', dietary requirements, or car alarms going off. You also have to try and anticipate what you will need to spend time on to try and ensure everyone's needs are met. No doubt with time and experience I will be able to develop another

pair of eyes in the back of my head and a sixth sense, as Philip has over the years!

During the latter stages of the week it is quite normal that some course members will start to experience self doubt, 'brain freeze' and suffer a consequent dip in performance. This is primarily down to the vast amounts of new information and skills that people are taking on board and it is the task of staff to rebuild confidence. It seems to me that the combination of good preparation and strength of character are the prerequisites for candidates trying to overcome these problems and pass exams.

Theory papers out of the way and the Level 1 assessments done, it was time for candidates to decide whether to take an exam on Saturday. This is an emotional decision for some while

others are very detached and pragmatic. For certain individuals it is the first time they have had to be realistic about their own abilities and chances of passing.

With decisions made and exam applications handed in to Stuart Clough the course was formally brought to a close at 5pm and everyone looked forward to the course dinner. Sometimes referred to as the 'last meal', actually the course dinner has grown less formal and more light hearted in recent years and was enjoyed by all.



Peter (blue tracksuit trousers) with the Advanced and Diploma students

## Exam Day

Examination day dawned and the subdued atmosphere at breakfast said it all. Crunch time!

My job was to coordinate the exams, examiners, candidates and stooges, and classes. This involved flitting between the practice hall and the Drill Hall where the examinations took place, while trying to keep candidates on the straight and narrow ... it is not uncommon at this juncture to see people under pressure trying to reinvent their lesson plans minutes before an exam! Again, eyes in the back of the head and a sixth sense would have been useful!

With a bit of cajoling the exams went to schedule and Philip,, as BAF President, was able to announce the exam results to people individually by around 3.30pm.

## Final Thoughts

Thanks to the staff just got on with the job in hand and supported me throughout the week. Thank you too to Stuart Clough and all the examiners who gave up their time to make the examination day possible.

Taking on the Course Director's role was not easy. For me, dealing with the more demanding individuals on the course and anticipating what might need doing next were the hardest parts of the job. Retrospectively, I can see experience is the most desirable quality for a course director ... of course there is only one way of getting that experience and that is by doing the job!

Will I consider doing it all again? ... you know, I just might.

## SUCCESSFUL EASTER COURSE

Despite the dates of the course having to move from the traditional time of Easter, due to the exceptional lateness of the actual Easter Day this year, the course was well attended. Amongst those on the course were several familiar faces, a number of newcomers to the BAF system and the usual sprinkling of overseas candidates.

The overseas contingent included Conrad Makosz from the Netherlands, who introduced a colleague from his Arnhem club, Henk Uijting, to the pleasures of a BAF course. When Academy News spoke to Henk during the week, he was obviously enjoying the experience and we would expect to see more of him in future.

Another familiar face was Andrew Wong from Hong Kong. Andrew has already passed his Level 3 Foil and now returned to add to this, taking further Level 3 examinations at Sabre and Epée. A former pupil of Tom Norcross, Andrew shows great enthusiasm for his fencing and is helping to spread the word in Hong Kong, where he now has over 20 individual pupils, in addition to his work in schools and clubs. If you go to [www.fencing.hk](http://www.fencing.hk) you will see that Andrew is helping to promote the BAF by using our Proficiency award scheme.

A new face and a new country to add to those attracted to the BAF system came in the person of Kyle Tsigakis from Norway, who achieved a pass at Level 2 Foil.

The examinations were very successful, with a 97% pass rate across the board.

A number of candidates completed a "full set" at Level 3, by finishing all three weapons. As well as Andrew Wong, these were Stefan Leponis, Conrad Macosz and Andrew Sercombe. They can now move to the top end of the Drill Hall at Denstone to join the Advanced and Diploma candidates!



*An anxious wait for the results*

Congratulations to all the course members and the staff who worked so hard on their behalf.

## 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.

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Owen Stone</b>         | <b>Edinburgh</b>            |
| <b>Laura Delany</b>       | <b>Cambridge and London</b> |
| <b>Michael Fay</b>        | <b>Norwich</b>              |
| <b>Thomas Bayston</b>     | <b>Spalding, Lincs</b>      |
| <b>Robin Salt</b>         | <b>Reading</b>              |
| <b>Kyle Tsigakis</b>      | <b>Vennesla, Norway</b>     |
| <b>Henk Uijting</b>       | <b>Arnhem, Netherlands</b>  |
| <b>Jamie McClement</b>    | <b>Northampton</b>          |
| <b>Alain Barbasiewicz</b> | <b>Reading</b>              |

See the Academy web site at [www.baf-fencing.org](http://www.baf-fencing.org) for details of the latest applications.

## EXAMINATION SUCCESS

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

### Level 3 Foil

**Brian Greaves**  
**Stefan Leponis**  
**Harry Gulliver**

### Level 3 Epée

**Andrew Wong**  
**Alain Barbasiewicz**  
**Jamie McClement**  
**Kevin Nelson (Individual)**

### Level 3 Sabre

**Conrad Makosz**  
**Bret Gantry**  
**Andrew Wong**  
**Andrew Sercombe**

### Level 2 Foil

**Kyle Tsigakis**  
**Howard Wheeler**

### Level 2 Epée

**Liz Williams (Class)**

### Level 2 Sabre

**Alexander McLeod**

### Level 1 Foil

**Kyle Tsigakis**  
**Matthew Clarkson**  
**Harry Gulliver**  
**Frederick Scragg**  
**Howard Wheeler**

### Level 1 Epée

**Andrew Wong**  
**Henk Uijting**  
**Robin Salt**  
**Jamie McClement**  
**Alain Barbasiewicz**

### Level 1 Sabre

**Andrew Wong**

### Theory Passes (in addition to above)

**Level 2 – Henk Uijting**  
**Level 3 – Robin Salt**

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



# The British Academy of Fencing



## International Coaching and Performance Day

May 21st and 22nd 2011

Foil, Epee and Sabre

Led by

Maestro Roberto Piraino

and

Professor Philip Bruce

assisted by other British and European Fencing Masters

For more information  
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[www.baf-fencing.org](http://www.baf-fencing.org)

Stanley Matthews Sports Centre  
Staffordshire University, Stoke on Trent



## STUART'S SCRIBBLINGS

Musings from your Members' Rep.



First of all, let me say Congratulations and Well Done to those that took and passed exams at the Easter Residential course held at Denstone recently. I've been a candidate myself a few times now and know how tough the weeks can be (physically, mentally and emotionally).

As I mentioned in my previous message, I have taken over the job of OTD Exams Administrator. This involves dealing with all sorts of things, from making sure that application forms are completed correctly, time-tabling of the exams and ensuring that people are in the right place at the right time so the process doesn't stall. This would not be possible without your help.

No matter how the time-tabling is done, it would not work if not for your cooperation. This is especially true for the Class Lesson exams, where we need not only the candidate, but enough pupils to make up a class as well. Then for the Individual lessons, trying to give candidates their preferred stooage, as well as making sure that they are not doing too many exams in a row and that they always have the exam time before their own to prepare and/or rest.

I know that some of you might not have ever picked up a sabre before, but you were willing to help out for a class, or you might have never touched an épée in your life, but when I called for pupils for an épée class, you volunteered. It is this willingness to help that makes it so much easier for us to work it all out. Imagine if there were only four sabreurs on a course and we only used coaches with weapon specific training and knowledge to act as pupils in classes, it would take all day just to get through the classes, let alone the individual exams, and to make sure the candidates got a rest between being a pupil and being a coach.

Again, thank you for your help and your flexibility, it really is appreciated, and a final Congratulations to all those who passed exams at the course.

*Stuart Clough, Members' Representative*

## THEATRICAL FENCING NEWS

*By Andy Wilkinson, Theatrical Fencing Representative*

I have had a number of enquiries regarding Theatrical Fencing Workshops, from members all across the country, which sadly makes organising a workshop very difficult for our Academy Course Officer, Provost Dave Jerry and myself.

To remind you, these workshops are designed for coaches who would like to explore the parallel skills of that of the Fight Director. The workshops will cover the basics of stage combat and swordplay giving those who attend a basic grounding on what is required to stage dramatic swordplay.

Our colleagues in the AAI have embraced theatrical fencing as a positive thing, and a potentially lucrative one for their professional coaches, a skill that can coexist harmoniously with our core primary purpose of competitive training and coaching.

To help us organise a workshop please go to the BAF website <http://baf-fencing.weebly.com/index.html> and click the Theatrical Fencing tab where you will find out how to **Register an Interest** – You can also contact our Course Director, Provost Dave Jerry. All our contact details can be found on page 3 of Academy News. We will then endeavour to get a workshop going near you.

The next AAI Artistic World Championships will be in Portugal, 2012. The Academy will be holding a National Championships this year to select the GB Team(s) and Individuals, to represent the Academy at this event.

Please note this is an AAI competition, **ONLY** Member Academies can enter, it is **NOT OPEN** to private clubs, companies, institutions or organisations.

This makes the AAI Artistic Championships unique and highly regarded internationally.

President Prof. Philip Bruce, our International Secretary and AAI representative, is working hard as I type to secure the latest Rules & Regulations for the forthcoming Championships, they will be published in these pages and on our website as soon as they become available. Please note; these will be the Rules & Regulations for our National Championships.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Good luck!

## **COURSES**

### **BAF INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE COURSE**

**21st - 22nd May 2011**

**SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS SPORTS CENTRE, STOKE ON TRENT**

(see advertisement on page 9 for contact details)

**Maestro Roberto Piraino will be coming over from Italy to run the course with Prof. Philip Bruce. It is possible that we will also have other European or British Fencing Masters assisting.**

**Saturday 10 am to 4 pm; Sunday 9.30 am to 3 pm**

**£47.50 per head, £50 within 2 weeks and £55 on the day. A light lunch and refreshments will be included in the ticket price. Evening Meal on Saturday evening - £10 extra**

Any coach who comes with a group of at least 5 participants will be invited to attend free of charge. They may choose to participate, to assist with coaching or to simply observe.

All three weapons will be covered and we are setting a minimum age of 13 for participants (we will be requesting that any participants under the age of 17 should have a few years of fencing and competitive experience under their belt)

#### **Roberto Piraino**

**Teaching achievements: many (20-25) Italian titles with fencers in junior categories and individuals and teams at foil and épée (Andrea Magro, Margherita Granbassi)**

**3 victories in World Cup U20 épée (Giulia Rizzi 2006/2007 Lignano-Digione-Budapest)**

**2nd position World Champ. U20 female épée team 2007 (Giulia Rizzi)**

**3rd position World Champ. Cadets male épée team 2008(Marco Leombruno)**

#### **Philip Bruce**

**President of the BAF; BAF Course Director for 10 years; Member of the SSTT Former England Senior Team Manager/Coach and National Under20's Epée Coach Coach to a number of fencers who have represented Great Britain in the World Championships at Cadet, Under 20 and Senior levels**

**Former Member of the Board of Directors of the British Fencing Association**

**Experienced BAF Examiner at all levels and for all weapons**

### **BAF RESIDENTIAL COURSE**

**Autumn Course - 24th to 29th October 2011**

#### Fees for the Course

**£400 for Members and £460 for non-Members**

Course to be held at Denstone College, Staffordshire.

**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.*

### **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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