

British Academy of Fencing **ACADEMY NEWS**

February 2015
Issue 79

"Run by coaches for coaches"



GOODBYE AAI

At the recent AGM, after much discussion, it was decided unanimously that the BAF would cease their membership of the Académie d'Armes Internationale (AAI), in spite of being one of its founder members and a great supporter over the years.

In the last few years, there have been efforts made by a number of member Academies to change the character of the AAI from that of a body supporting coaches of sport fencing, to one more focused on so-called artistic, stage, historical and theatrical fencing. For an example of what this involves, you can find a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oreVPzJw1Uk#t=26>, posted by Giovanni Rapisardi of Italy.

Matters came to a head in July 2014, when it was time to elect a new President and Committee of the AAI. This should have been done at the Congress held at the time of the Fencing Masters World Championships, but the contest, between our own President, Philip Bruce, and Rapisardi, ended in a stalemate. The current President, Mike Bunke of Germany, called an EGM, which was held in Frankfurt in late November.

Between the two meetings, an attempt was made to change the balance of the voting, with Italy and France attempting to register a large number of new coaches. This was in breach of the AAI statutes, whereby members have to be registered by the end of March, and the Executive Committee of the AAI, by a majority decision, declared that these new members would not count towards voting rights until 2015.

At the EGM, the various Academies supporting the Italian candidate refused to accept the decision of the Executive Committee, despite having been told of this in advance of the meeting. When it was suggested that they could have a vote of no confidence in the Executive Committee, they also failed to take up this option. What followed were disgraceful scenes, with insults being directed towards Mike Bunke in particular. Eventually, a vote was held for the post of President and Philip Bruce was elected. Many Academies chose not to vote.

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Contributions by April 10th, please.

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THE PRESIDENT WRITES.....



A.G.M.

Once again we have had a very successful and enjoyable AGM and Annual Dinner. On behalf of the committee, I'd like to thank everyone who attended and contributed. Overall, reports were accepted without any issue arising. In addition, the Committee received a vote of thanks for its work during the year

The AGM elected the following to the Committee:

<i>President:</i>	Philip Bruce
<i>Vice President:</i>	Peter Northam
<i>Vice President:</i>	Louisa Miller
<i>Secretary:</i>	Bob Merry
<i>Assistant Secretary:</i>	Dave Jerry
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Stuart Clough
<i>Committee Member:</i>	Donald Walker
<i>Members' Rep:</i>	John Worsley

There was one major issue which needed a decision from the AGM, namely our continued membership of the AAI. After what appeared to be a lengthy discussion, the AGM agreed unanimously to leave the AAI (see leading article)

Notable dates during 2015: Committee Meetings -8th February, 26th April, 21st June, 6th September and 6th December.

AGM – 9th January 2016

BAF Coach Educators and Examiners Conference – 1st February

Pre Residential Course Training at Denstone – date tba

Denstone Residential Courses (for more information, contact Tom Etchells) – 6th April to 11th April and 26th October to 31st October

Thoughts following the AGM

As has become customary on the morning of the AGM, I was invited to attend part of the Members and Provosts Meeting. This is a meeting open only to those who are not full Fencing Masters, so as to give other members the chance to share their thoughts in a more informal setting. As always, I found it very interesting and thank everyone for their comments.

During the meeting, I was struck by the great range of ages and experience attending from a very new coach in his late teens to those of very much more advanced years. This reminded me of how important it is that coaches of all levels continue to attempt to develop and move on with their skills and how important it is to them, and the Academy itself, that all coaches do everything they can not to stagnate at a particular level of qualification but continue to work and develop.

When I was in my earlier days as a coach, we junior coaches tended to be treated in what I might charitably call a 'robust' manner by the older generation. In particular, any attempt to pipe up with an opinion on fencing or the Academy in general, was met with a firm and not always gentle "get qualified and then you can have an opinion – till then, keep quiet" . . . and qualified meant nothing less than the full Fencing Master diploma!

While I would accept that such an attitude would be out of place today, these old masters did have a point. I do believe that members who want to play an active role in fencing and the Academy do have a responsibility to focus on getting qualified to the best of their ability – it is the best way to get yourself taken seriously and to be sure that your contributions have real weight and value.

It frustrates me that we have so many members who would be quite able to achieve higher awards if they made a concerted effort to do so and not stagnate within their comfort zone. I passionately disagree with the view propounded by some that beginners only need level 1 or 2 coaches and that Advanced and Diploma coaches are only needed for top national and international fencers. I am frankly outraged by the suggestion made by some that the top levels of qualification should be reserved for those training international fencers. That is absolute nonsense. I remember one of our most successful Fencing Masters remarking ruefully of his pupil (one of our country's most outstanding international fencers) "It gets boring giving him lessons sometimes – I'm just a mobile punch bag for him, nothing more". While that Master was vastly underestimating his contribution to that person's success, he did have a point and I admire the strength of character of a coach that recognises that immensely talented fencers sometimes do not need great input from their coaches. Conversely, I remember another eminent Fencing Master telling me – "Who should train your beginners? The very best coach you can possibly find. It is the hardest job there is".

The full Fencing Master qualification is, to my mind, the equivalent to a degree in fencing. A candidate who completes the training and does so well is developing the fully rounded ability to be a coach at any level. A diploma exam should ideally be a mere snapshot of the depth of skill, ability and knowledge of such an individual. It is not a proficiency test to be swotted up over the course of Denstone week and promptly forgotten and it is most emphatically not intended to be a dazzling display of a coach's knowledge of all the latest fads and fashions in fencing. The process of being trained and developed into a Fencing Master is process of not just acquiring knowledge and skill but also developing strength of character, confidence and resilience in the face of criticism. It should give a Fencing Master the depth of knowledge needed to continue to adapt to the evolving nature of the sport over the course of what we hope will be a long and successful career. To my mind it is a vital process in developing an individual who can be a useful coach and, most importantly to the Academy, a future examiner and coach educator.

To revert again to my younger days . . . there was a time when our residential courses and those that staffed them were very different. Those that remember the days of Bob Anderson, Leon Hill, Ken Pearson and others will agree that it was the era of some of the giants of Coach Education. They had to be – in a time when there was hardly a syllabus to speak of, questions were secret and everything was violently disputed, they had to reinvent the course from scratch on almost every occasion.

I like to feel that one of our greatest achievements over the last decade or so has been to drag our educational system into the 21st century. We now have a transparent system, a detailed syllabus, study material and clear procedures. To my knowledge, we are the only fencing organisation in the world that delivers time and time again a consistent and meaningful course where candidates know what is expected of them and can have confidence in what is being delivered.

This has required a change in coach educators and examiners. While I would argue that there is still a great deal of flexibility in the system, it is nevertheless necessary that coach educators now have a thorough grasp of the system and an ability to work together to provide a consistent product. Examiners need to understand what has been taught and what must be expected. This means that the next stage in our development is that we need to start offering training for those who are moving into the educating or examining stage of their Academy career and I hope this will be well received by all.

The first of our coach educator and examiner seminars will be held on Feb 1st and I hope it will be well supported by all those who wish to see our system continue to improve and keep up with the demands of providing a modern system of coach education respected all over the world.

Safety

May I remind all our members of the importance of the rules concerning the proper attire of both pupils and coaches at competitions. During 2014 I was approached by a number of competition-organisers complaining about coaches giving warm-up lessons without gloves, sleeves or otherwise inappropriately attired. Fortunately, in every case, none of our members proved to be the guilty party. Well done to all those who coached at competitions for maintaining high standards of safety.

Dave Jerry

Finally, as some of you will no doubt be aware, Dave Jerry was hospitalised a couple of days before Christmas. As such, Dave has temporarily handed his duties of course office to Tom Etchells. I'm sure like me you wish Dave a full and speedy recover and look forward to seeing him back on the fencing circuit.

Philip Bruce, President

DEN OF VICE

Contributions from the Academy's two Vice-Presidents



Well, Christmas over and another AGM has passed by. It was good to see old friends again and chat about fencing past, present and future; compare working conditions and ask about families. The numbers attending are pretty stable, still smallish with newcomers always welcome. Discussion this year was very important, based around the decision to stay or leave the AAI. Because of the direction the AAI was going and the internal disputes within their committee, the BAF has decided to leave. All present at the AGM agreed.

This being the start of a new year, it is good to begin setting goals. Where do I want to be by the end of the year? What extra qualifications would I like to have, which courses to attend? Regular and consistent training, this gives you the chance to build and grow, a one or two-off event doesn't work, I've tried it!

I would like to see, and will work towards, more members for the Academy, encourage more of our members to attend the AGM; and by example, be a coach who will demonstrate good coaching skills, a sense of humour, and a willingness to listen.

I wish you all a better year than last year, greater success with your fencers and clubs, and a new Fencing Master for the Academy.

Prof Peter Northam, Vice President.



The start of a new term always gets me thinking about what I could do differently. What are my strengths as a coach and what are the areas that I would like to develop or improve? It is not always easy to approach this objectively, especially when many coaches carry out their day-to-day work independently.

There are many benefits to working with other coaches and I don't just mean on a coach education course, or the sharing of resources, such as equipment or a training venue. Working collaboratively as part of a coaching team can serve many purposes. It can reduce planning time by the co-planning of lessons and training activities which can then be shared among the group. The sharing of ideas and skills can help to increase the pool of knowledge which serves to encourage and support less experienced coaches and to sharpen up and reinvigorate more experienced coaches as they search for a fresh approach to familiar topics. In my experience coaches tend to feel more motivated and enthused by working within this type of environment. This must surely have a positive impact on the fencers as well.

In my opinion a fencing coach should seek to be a positive role model for his or her fencers. By encouraging a culture of cooperation between coaches it could be perceived that you are encouraging fencers to train together through the modelling of positive behaviour. Yes, fencing is a competitive sport and an individual sport, but fencers cannot train in isolation. Some of the most successful fencing nations in the world place a high value on central training centres where fencers, coaches, trainers and support staff come together all with the common goal of winning. Success breeds success.

Don't be put off by cynical attitudes. There will always be those who are unwilling to cooperate or work together. Brush aside their short sightedness. Although we may not always see eye-to-eye with other coaches (their abilities, techniques or methods), we should strive to encourage a culture of cooperation so that we can work towards a higher quality of coaching, which ultimately should produce better fencers.

Prof. Louisa Miller, Vice President

DAME MARY GLEN-HAIG DBE

1918 - 2014



Dame Mary Glen-Haig was born as Mary Alison James on 12 July 1918 in London. Her father, William James, was a competitor in fencing at the 1908 Summer Olympics in London and it was from him that she developed her interest in fencing.

In the course of a competitive career which ran from 1937 to 1959, Mary competed at regional and world level, bringing home the individual gold medal for Ladies' foil on both the 1950 and 1954 British Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games) and qualified for the 1948 Olympic Games in London, where she came 8th. Following this, she again competed at the 1952, 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games in individual Women's Foil and in 1960 in the Team event.

What makes this more remarkable, is that Mary combined all this with a successful medical career, first as a nurse and then from 1974 to 1982 as hospital district administrator in West Kensington.

In addition to this she was fencing representative for the NOC (1948); member of the Executive Committee of the NOC (1970s); President of the Ladies' Amateur Fencing Union (1964-1973); President of the Amateur Fencing Association (1973-1986); Honorary President of the British Fencing Association (1986); British representative to the International Fencing Federation (FIE) (1972-1986); FIE Honoured Member (1999); Chairman of the British Olympic Association Medical Trust (1989-1993); Chairman of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (1975-1981) then Vice-President (1982); member of the British Sports Council (1966-1982); President of the British Sports Association for the Disabled (1981-1991) then Honorary Life President (1991); Founder member and Vice-President of the Sports Aid Foundation. In 1982, she was made the first female member of the International Olympic Committee.

She was also an honorary member of the BAF and was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 1971 Queen's Birthday Honours, promoted to Commander (CBE) in the 1977 New Year Honours, and Dame Commander (DBE) in the 1993 New Year Honours. She served as the ambassador from Britain to the 2012 Summer Olympics, which was held in London.

Mary was one of the most forthright and intimidating people I have ever met and she didn't suffer fools lightly. And yet she had fencing in her blood. During the mid 70s I organised a fencing conference in the North West and invited Mary (then President of AFA) to be our guest of honour. Not only did she accept, she insisted on paying all her own expenses.

During that same period, I invited her to a beginner's competition, in Manchester and again she insisted on paying her own expenses. She arrived just after the first round then spent all day talking to and encouraging the fencers. She insisted on presiding the final (which, in those days was still steam) and did so in her usual and inimitable way, letting the judges know exactly where she stood if they didn't agree with her.

Mary was a good friend and a great ally, and she provided me with any enormous amount of help, support and advice in helping secure and organise the 1990 Commonwealth Federation Fencing Championship which was held as a part of Manchester bid to stage the 1996 Olympic Games.

Mary died on November 15th 2014 and will be deeply missed by those who knew her. IOC President Thomas Bach says of her: *"Dame Mary Alison Glen-Haig lived a life full of passion for sport and was a pioneer in many respects. Her skills on the sports field, as well as in the medical field, combined with her warm personality, made her unique. She was a true inspiration."*

The fencing world and each and every fencer in Britain has lost one of its hardest working and best supporters of our sport and she will be sadly missed.

Philip Bruce

DEREK SWEENEY

1929 - 2015



Derek Sweeney, a long time member of the Academy, passed away on the 5th January 2015, after a long period of declining health. He was 85

Derek was a familiar figure in fencing circles and had given many years service to the sport. He had received recognition from both British Fencing, for long service, and, in 2007, from the Academy, for the success of his pupils. He was particularly active in the coaching of paraplegic fencers, including the team that took part in the 1992 Barcelona Paralympics. One pupil, Caz Bryant (now Walton), gained medals in several Paralympics.

Derek was also the Life President of Wimbledon Fencing Club, having joined them in 1951, soon after its formation. The club recognises Derek as its 'mainstay and principal coach ... until he retired from coaching about eight years ago.'

We are grateful to Angela Goodall for passing on this sad news. Angela has known Derek since the late 1960s and will remember him as a quiet, kind man.

MEMORIES OF GREAT BRITISH FENCERS

by Peter Stewart

Mary Glen Haig

Following her recent passing (see previous page), it was pleasing to see that the Academy properly acknowledged Dame Mary's lifelong contribution to fencing both as a fencer and an administrator.

I had occasion to attend a meeting between the then AFA and the Home Countries in 1982. Prior to the meeting getting under way, Dame Mary who was chairing the meeting asked me 'What do you think of Centres of Excellence'? These Centres were the current 'buzz' theme of the day and heavily promoted by HQ. I told her I didn't agree with them, and why. I fully expected her to take me to task for this response but to my great surprise she said 'I totally agree with you, but aren't they a good way of getting money'

A clear thinking and pragmatic lady.....

Emrys Lloyd

Members will be aware of the Gautier Trophy which was donated to the Academy by Emrys Lloyd, a fencer who had enjoyed a long career stretching from the 1932 to 1952 Olympics, the highlight being a 4th place finish at Foil from a field of 63 in the 1948 London Olympics.

Many may not know however that Emrys was the man chosen to carry the Union Flag at the opening ceremony in 1948. Part of the uniform was a beret, and the team had careful instructions on how to wear them – band level around the head, one inch above the eyebrows, badge over left eye. With no time or money for metal badges, Women's Institutes had embroidered them instead.

Emrys, minutes before he entered the stadium discovered that his beret, which he had been sitting on, had disappeared. He became the only hatless flag bearer in the parade, but this was the least of his problems when he realised he had no flag. A mistake had been made by the organisers and no Union Flag was available. The situation was saved by a young medical student, Roger Bannister, who had picked up a spare flag 'just in case' from RAF Uxbridge. This flag was still in the car, parked some distance away. Bannister was taken through the crowds by Jeep to find the flag, somewhere within a packed car park, - it took ten minutes. The car was found, but without the keys they smashed the back window with a stone. A policeman who tried to arrest Bannister was restrained by an Army sergeant, whilst Bannister, realising that driving back through the crowds was going to take too long, ran back, reaching Emrys moments before he marched into the stadium.

WORSLEY'S WORDS

Musings from your Members' Rep.



Hello and Happy New Year to all the members of the Academy. You've got me for another year as the Members' Representative, after being voted back into the position at the meeting of Maîtres d'Esgrime, Provosts and Members. Once again I would like to thank those members that made it to the AGM and especially those that attended the meeting of Maîtres d'Esgrime, Provosts and Members that took place earlier in the morning. As last year it was a relatively peaceful affair, with no complaints to raise and with the majority of the members present happy with the actions of the committee and Academy.

One question posed by a member was regarding the relationship between British Fencing and BAF and the recognition of coaches that hold British Fencing coaching qualifications. As it stands, the BAF does recognise coaches with qualifications issued by British Fencing. However, it was explained that, as the SSTT had not seen a full syllabus from the BF coach education scheme, we could not say whether a BF level 2 qualification was the same as a BAF level 2 qualification. The debate started to wander slightly into the realm of the BAF versus British Fencing and had to be brought back on track by reminding people that the BAF merely existed to support fencing coaches, by providing an alternative coach education system, and was not there to be the sole provider of coach education, nor was it a rival to British Fencing.

Discussions then moved on to the subject of recruiting more members into the ranks of the BAF. It has been mentioned on a number of occasions that on many of the residential courses and Sunday coaching workshops that it's the same people turning up and very few new faces. Some of the members present believed that the Academy could do more to publicise its activities outside its current membership, whilst some of the others present held the belief that it was up to individual members of the Academy to recruit new members. This led to a lot of debate about whether the BAF should be looking at an advertising based approach to recruitment and appoint a communications or media officer, or rely on its members.

My personal opinion is that each member coach of the Academy has a part to play in recruiting the next generation; they are in fact the sales force of the BAF. If we the members cannot sell the benefits of joining the BAF to the fencers or other coaches we meet, then what hope have we got by simply advertising our courses to a wider audience? This started me thinking about what would happen if all the current members of the BAF decided this year to try to introduce to the Academy one new member? Even if, for example, roughly one in ten members managed to introduce a new individual to the Academy this would add roughly 25 new members to the ranks. It's worth thinking about, as each of us must know one individual in our clubs that we ask to supervise beginners or help with delivering class lessons; they are the people that will be the next generation of coaches. Let's give them a head start and introduce them to the BAF coach education system.

I would like to ask all the members of the BAF who read this article to take a moment to think about what joining the BAF means to you, what are the benefits of joining the BAF and how would or could you sell this to other fencers and coaches? I would be interested to hear any comments about the above or if anyone has alternative ideas please let me know.

I wish you all a prosperous and rewarding 2015.

John Worsley, Members' Representative.

GOODBYE AAI ...from page 1

An attempt was made to conclude the business of the meeting, by electing the four Vice Presidents, but the meeting degenerated once more and no progress was possible. At this point, Philip Bruce expressed, in no uncertain terms, his dismay and disgust at the behaviour of so-called fencing masters and resigned as President. Mike Bunke, Philip Bruce and Finbar Farrell (Ireland) then left the meeting, but reports later indicated that no further progress was made, apart from arranging another EGM in April.

In considering the current make-up of the AAI, its member Academies and the delegates that represent them at Congresses, it has become clear that a large number have little interest in sport fencing or its coaching. Most follow various forms of what they call Artistic, Historical or Theatrical fencing, although it is difficult at times to see how they fit into any of these categories. It has become evident that, with these Academies using every means, fair or foul, to gain control of the AAI, there is little hope of reform from within and continued membership of what is becoming a discredited organisation could lead to our own awards becoming devalued. When faced with this evidence, the members present at the AGM decided that the BAF should leave the AAI.

But what of the future? A number of opinions expressed at the AGM included the caveat that we should not immediately rush into anything new and this was accepted. Perhaps the AAI, left in the hands of those who have shown little ability so far in the fields of administration and fiscal management, will collapse of its own accord and present an opportunity for reformation. Alternatively, we could follow the suggestion of Mike Bunke, with Germany also having left the AAI, of creating a new, sport fencing based organisation. Or perhaps we would be better on our own. In any case, it will be some time before any of these paths is chosen.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ACADEMY'S AWARD SCHEME

By Donald Walker (Award Scheme Administrator)

At this moment in time there are only 42 coaches out of the total Academy membership using the award scheme and I want to persuade more of you to get involved. Why should you use it? There are several reasons:

When a beginner comes into a club it gives an excellent and easily followed structure for them and the coaches to work to. For the pupil there is the gradual increase in complexity, that they can follow at their own pace, and the study guide, with its explanations, diagrams and glossary helping to educate them in the theory and terminology of the sport. It also can give a sense of achievement to the pupil. In fact, I have had many adult pupils, who on gaining their bronze award, achieved the first sporting success of their lives. Fencing needs the social fencer as much as it needs the competitor, so anything that can be done to encourage them should be. It also breeds inclusivity within a club, as everyone knows the system, and more advanced fencers will help the beginners, especially with theory. I recently watched a 15 year old girl go through the parts of the Foil, for a beginner in his fifties, with confidence and authority.

For the coach, it gives an easy to follow structure, especially in the case of the professional who has several classes, or, when there is more than one coach, everybody knows on what strokes the class or individual should be working. It gives a thorough grounding in the basics, without which a successful fencing career is difficult to sustain. It can be used to encourage the competitive fencer as well. Competitive fencers are ambitious, giving them another goal to aim for can only help, especially when the strokes are put into the context of a competitive lesson.

Lastly, but not least, it raises the profile of the Academy. The pupil is going home with a certificate with our name on it, and, hopefully, a good impression of the Academy and the coaches it trains. Who knows, from such a small beginning, one of the Masters of tomorrow may grow.

PRACTISING BLADE PRESENTATION

By Donald Walker

With the Easter course not too far away and taking Professor Philip Bruce's comments on being prepared, I thought I would share a way that I use to practise the mechanics of blade presentation without a pupil. I do this by hanging a one inch rope from the catch on my loft hatch. The rope has bands of coloured tape at various heights to give a number of aiming points. This allows a number of different practices to be made. For example, from the coach's stance in sixte, step forward and just touch the rope at the chosen height. Then do it an inch short or an inch long. Do it from quarte or any of the other positions. Do it with a longer step or lunge. Do it with angulation. Do it slowly. Do it perfectly. This allows the muscle memory to develop correctly and the correct habits will be there when you start to speed up. If you are making a mess of it, slow down again.

You can sit down as a fencer and do the same exercises with a wider variety of footwork.

It might sound simplistic, but a one inch rope is not a big target and hitting the same spot time after time with whatever variations in guard, distance, rhythm, acceleration and angulation you may be using requires a lot of practice. It also means that the hand holding the sword is improving its skills and that can only benefit you and your pupils.

AGM 2015

The Annual General Meeting of the Academy was held on the 3rd January 2015, at the Warwick Hilton. The meeting itself followed the normal format of the President, Directors and Committee members of the Academy presenting their reports to the members present and answering any questions that arose in the ensuing discussion. The Officers and Committee for the next year were elected and given the authority to set subscription levels for 2015-16, once details of costs are known. Apart from the usual business of the meeting, there was some discussion about our relationship with the Académie d'Armes Internationale. This is reported more fully in the leading article.

In the evening, the Annual Dinner was attended by a total of thirty-two members and guests, the highest attendance for some years. Perhaps the attendance was helped by the reduction in the price of the meal this year and the complimentary wine on each table.

At the conclusion of the meal, the President, Professor Philip Bruce, assisted by the Vice-Presidents, Professors Louisa Miller and Peter Northam, presented certificates to members who had elected to receive them at the Dinner. Those receiving their just rewards were Andrew Robinson (Levels 1 and 2 Epée), Scott McMenemy (Level 3 Foil and Diploma Epée) and Andrew Norris (also Level 3 Foil and Diploma Epée).

Afterwards, many of those present continued their socialising, whilst discussing a wide range of topics, in the bar. Once more, it proved to be a most enjoyable weekend.



Awards were made to Scott McMenemy (top left), Andrew Norris (top right) and Andrew Robinson (centre), witnessed by a well-attended Dinner (below). (Photos by Bob Merry)



MORE USEFUL BITS.....**BAF RESIDENTIAL COURSE****Easter Course - 6th to 11th April 2015****Course to be held at Denstone College, Staffordshire.****Fees: £440 (members) £510 (non-members)**

A one-day personal performance course may be held during the month preceding the Easter Course, subject to interest - more details to follow.

Due to the current indisposition of Dave Jerry, please contact Tom Etchells for all matters relating to this course.

Contact details are on page 3 and further details can be found on our web site, where you will also find an Application Form (look under 'News').

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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.