

# British Academy of Fencing **ACADEMY NEWS**

**February 2016**  
**Issue 84**

***"Run by coaches for coaches"***



## **IN WITH THE NEW!**

January saw the start of another year and with it another Annual General Meeting of the Academy. This year there were changes to the make-up of the committee, as the previous Vice Presidents, Professors Louisa Miller and Peter Northam, decided to step down. In their place were elected Professors Liam Harrington and Andrew Norris.

Another change in the line-up came when the meeting of Maîtres, Provosts and Members elected Lewis McIntyre to be the Members' Representative on the committee.

You can read a little more about each of the trio of new committee members in the regular columns to which they contribute in every Academy News.

In the meantime, it is pleasing to see a new generation taking an interest in running the Academy, a necessity for the future health of our organisation.

It is also appropriate here to place on record the debt of gratitude the Academy owes to the outgoing Vice Presidents, who have contributed much to the governance of the Academy over the years.

Generally speaking, those attending the A.G.M were the "usual suspects"; members who turn out year after year to support the Academy at this time of year. But there were also a few less familiar attendees, most notably two of our youngest members, William Gallimore-Tallen and Sam Smith. This was their first experience of the A.G.M. Weekend and they have been kind enough to share their impressions by contributing an article, which you can read on page 8.

Later on the Saturday evening, members and guests enjoyed the customary dinner together, which was concluded with the presentation of a number of certificates that had been earned during the past year. These awards covered the range of Academy qualifications from Level 3 through to Diploma. Two recipients, Andrew Norris and Scott McMenemy, came away with a small forest worth of paper, with Level 3 Sabre awards and Diplomas in both Foil and Sabre. They also received their full Master certificates, as well as Diploma certificates from the IFCA. All those who pass our exams are worthy of congratulations and it is one of the privileges of membership that these presentations can be made in the presence of one's peers at the Annual Dinner.



*Professors Andrew Norris and Liam Harrington, the Academy's new Vice Presidents*

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

*Useful Info .....p 3*  
*President Writes .....p 4*  
*What on Earth Do They Do?!.p 5*  
*Den of Vice .....p 6*  
*An 80th Celebrated.....p 7*  
*First Time at the AGM...p 8*  
*Letters from Lewis.....p 9*  
*AGM Photo Report.....p 10*  
*More Useful Bits.....p 12*

***NEXT ISSUE: May 2016***  
***Contributions by April 10th,***  
***please.***

Academy News is edited by Bob Merry, 6 Birkdale Close, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2LN.

Tel: 0161 440 9613 or 07836 764026. Email: bobmerrybaf@aol.com.

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

Printed by BM Colour, Unit 20, Hillgate Business Centre, Swallow St., Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 3AU

# NO MORE WIRES



 **Leon Paul**  
London

Total freedom of movement with simple, accurate, wireless fencing technology.

[www.leonpaul.com](http://www.leonpaul.com) / [sales@leonpaul.com](mailto:sales@leonpaul.com) / 08453888132

**YOUR COMMITTEE****President:**

Prof. Philip Bruce  
190 Ashurst Road  
Peel Hall, Manchester M22 5AZ  
Tel: 0161 498 6625  
Email: [pbruce.baf@btinternet.com](mailto:pbruce.baf@btinternet.com)

**Vice-President:**

Prof. Liam Harrington  
54 Laureate Way  
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3RU  
Tel: 07712 633106  
Email: [harringtonliam@hotmail.com](mailto:harringtonliam@hotmail.com)

**Vice-President:**

Prof. Andrew Norris  
96 Pinegrove Road  
Southampton SO19 2PR  
Tel: 07714 201129  
Email: [andrew@southampton-epée.co.uk](mailto:andrew@southampton-epée.co.uk)

**Secretary:**

Prof. Bob Merry  
6 Birkdale Close, Bramhall  
Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2LN  
Tel: 0161 440 9613  
email: [bobmerrybaf@aol.com](mailto:bobmerrybaf@aol.com)

**Treasurer:**

Stuart Clough  
1 Yew Tree Cottages  
Brown Street  
Old Newton, Stowmarket IP14 4QB  
Tel: 07886 708392  
Email: [scloughbaf@gmail.com](mailto:scloughbaf@gmail.com)

**Assistant Secretary and Course Officer:**

Provost Dave Jerry  
Orchard Rise, Churchtown  
Belton, Doncaster DN9 1PE  
Tel: 01427 874109  
email: [davejerry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davejerry@hotmail.co.uk)

**Members' Representative:**

Lewis McIntyre  
Flat 7, 382 Wilmslow Road  
Withington, Manchester M20 3NA  
Tel: 07866 898762  
Email: [lewismcintyre365@gmail.com](mailto:lewismcintyre365@gmail.com)

**Proficiency Awards Administrator:**

Maitre Donald Walker  
4 The Aviaries  
Castle Howard  
York YO60 7BU  
email: [maitredwalker@aol.com](mailto:maitredwalker@aol.com)

**Additional Appointments:****Chairman, SSTT:**

Prof. Philip Bruce

**International Secretary:**

Prof. Philip Bruce

**Child Protection Officer, Welfare Officer:**

Prof. Andrew Norris

**Chairman, Disciplinary Sub-Committee**

Prof. Liam Harrington

**Editor - Academy News, Insurance,  
Examination Results Coordinator:**

Prof. Bob Merry

**Membership Secretary:**

Stuart Clough

**Film & Theatre Representative:**

Andy Wilkinson  
The Cottage, The Common  
Kinsbourne Green  
Harpenden, Herts. AL5 3NT  
Tel: 01582 713052  
email: [andywilkinsonbaf@hotmail.com](mailto:andywilkinsonbaf@hotmail.com)

**USEFUL INFORMATION****ACADEMY  
WEB SITE**

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

**[WWW.BAF-FENCING.COM](http://WWW.BAF-FENCING.COM)**

**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

**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

**DOCUMENTATION**

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

Key Teaching Points Foil	}	..... <b>£7.35 (£9.45)</b> each
Key Teaching Points Epée		
Key Teaching Points Sabre		
Key Coaching Points Foil		
Key Coaching Points Epée		
Key Coaching Points Sabre		

Glossary of Terms (including Translation of Fencing Terms).....**£7.35 (£9.45)**

Employment Guidelines.....**£7.35 (£9.45)**

Teaching/ Coaching Tactics (2nd Edition).....**£16.80 (£21)**

CD-Rom Issue 6 – 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 - **FREE** - apply to Course Officer

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

\*\* Price of CD-ROM includes lifetime replacement guarantee - only buy once!

A Compendium containing all major Documentation, including the ones above, plus more relating to examinations, is now available. For full details see Issue 64 of Academy News or contact Professor Isobel Bruce Combes ([iacombes@btinternet.com](mailto:iacombes@btinternet.com))

**British Academy of Fencing**

The British Academy of Fencing Ltd

Company No. 8540066

A Company registered in England and Wales

Registered Office:

190 Ashurst Road

Peel Hall

Manchester M22 5AZ



## THE PRESIDENT WRITES.....

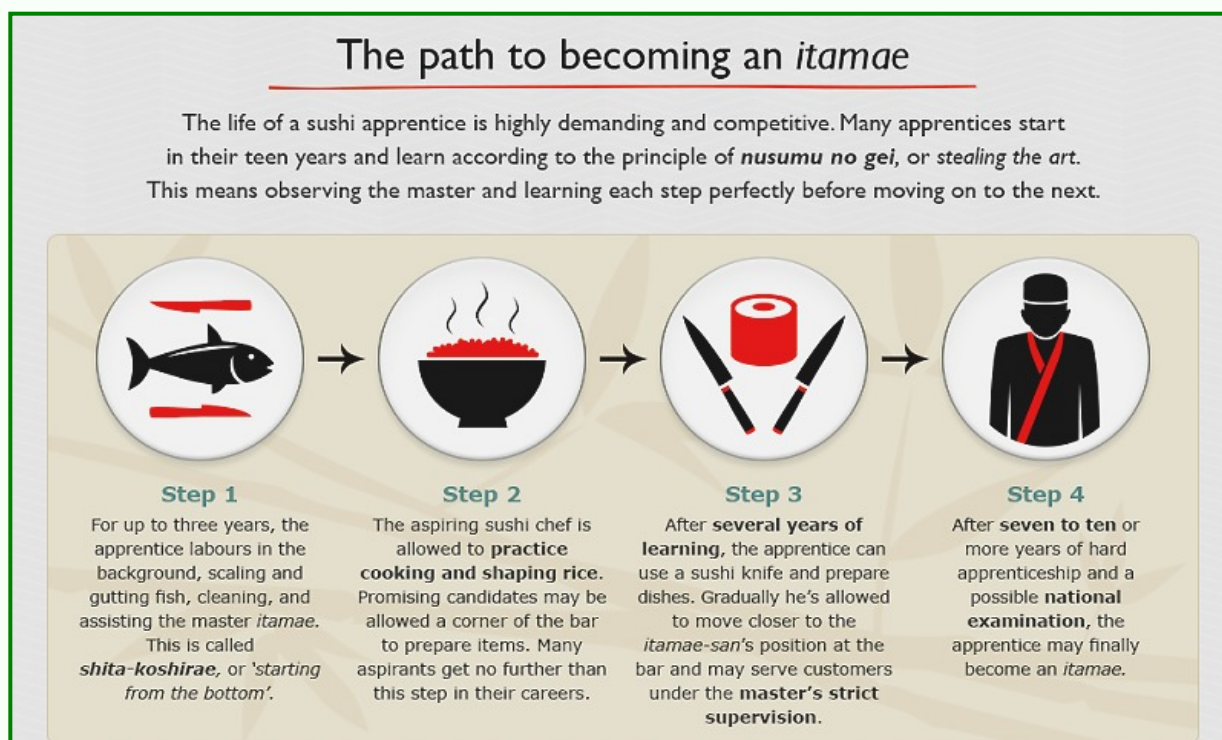


Much as fencing has been a lifelong passion for me and much as I love my work in our fencing club and in the Academy, like everyone else I have moments of wondering whether a different path might have been more rewarding.

There are certainly days when I wish I had never picked up a sword and had become a swimming coach instead. The joy of having no more equipment to lug round than a clip board and a stop-watch and nothing more to do than stride up and down beside a pool shouting 'faster'! Heaven! (Before anyone starts jumping up and down at such a simplification, I was once a county level swimmer so I am aware there is rather more to it than that – but one can dream!)

I do often speculate about the easier alternatives that must be out there. After all, people keep telling me that qualifying as a Fencing Master takes too long and is too much work, that our standards are too intolerant and that we ask too much of candidates. I have always said, especially to both my fencing and coaching pupils, that if you think it is too hard and you don't like it, then don't do it! I can't see the point in moaning about it. Isn't it better to go and look for something you feel happier and more able to do? But I digress.

So with that in mind, I was intrigued when a friend sent me an article on what it takes to become a sushi chef. For someone like me who has a hazy notion that sushi is just very expensive bits of chopped up raw fish which wives tend to have an inexplicable liking for, it was a real eye opener. Here is a cutting from the article, showing just how much goes into the traditional training of one of these individuals:



<http://www.swissotel.com/infographics/art-of-sushi/>

Seven to ten years to become qualified to cut up and serve fish. Becoming a Fencing Master could be seen as quite quick and easy in comparison. Our most recently qualified Masters did it in four years, and even then they were not training full time; they had full time jobs they had to keep going alongside the training.

I keep getting told that I should not see Fencing Masters as something special and that all coaches, however unqualified, should be seen as equal. Unpopular as it makes me with some, I disagree. I have profound respect for anyone who dedicates themselves to any course of hard training and comes out with skill and knowledge. I have great respect for what our two newest Fencing Masters have been through and I congratulate them both.

I thought sushi chefs just stood behind conveyor belts and chopped up fish. Now I know better. They have my respect.

*Philip Bruce, President*

# WHAT ON EARTH DO THEY DO?!

*By Bob Merry, Secretary*

Our regulars at the A.G.M. will have a reasonably good idea of what committee members do, having sat through all their reports year on year. Others of you may have only seen the list of names on page 3 of Academy News, but have little idea of how much work is done by this group of unpaid volunteers to keep the Academy running. In this occasional series, Academy News will be giving members of the committee a chance to describe what lies behind the title they carry. To start the ball rolling, I have decided to tell you what it means to be the current Secretary of the British Academy of Fencing.

Firstly, there is the obvious duties of any Secretary of such an organisation. The Secretary is often the first point of contact, dealing with queries from members and those outside the Academy. In this modern world, letters are a rarity, so most queries are made by email and are often answered in the same way. Occasionally, there is a need to "put it in writing" and letters are sent on the Academy's headed paper. And on many other occasions, I can simply put the person making the enquiry in touch with the appropriate member of the committee.

The other main secretarial job is that of taking the minutes at the A.G.M. and committee meetings. I also need to distribute these, together with an agenda, prior to each committee meeting. Fortunately, I am much assisted in the task of minute taking by other committee members submitting a report prior to the meeting; this allows for a certain amount of pre-writing of the minutes and means a much fuller record of our discussions.

When I first took on the post of Secretary, the above was basically all I had to do, but, over the years, other jobs have been collected to add to my portfolio. The first of these is Insurance. I act as the contact point between the Academy and our insurance brokers. Hopefully (as I look around for a piece of wood to touch!), this centres mainly on our annual renewal, which I need to have ready for approval by the September committee meeting, but I would also have to act in the case of a claim. I am also the person to whom members should report any accidents within their clubs or classes. There have been a number of these over the years, but, fortunately, they have been mostly of a minor nature, with no blame falling on our members. It is always sensible, however, to place any incident on record, just in case.

Another task I have taken on is that of Examinations Administrator. All examination results, from Level 1 upwards, are forwarded to me. I record all passes and part passes on our database, which now has entries for over 1600 coaches, dating back many years. There are also details of the numbers of passes and the location of examinations in separate records. Once all this has been recorded, I then send out letters to the candidates, confirming the results and, in the case of Level 2 and above, a copy of the mark sheet is included. For non-members, the appropriate certificate will also be sent, whilst members are offered the chance to have their certificates presented at the A.G.M. (see page 11)

I may also be asked to partake in other duties, such as being a member of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, or helping with reviewing future Academy policy. And, of course, under the recent change of status to a Limited Company, I am also a Director of the British Academy of Fencing.

Last, but by no means least, there is the job I volunteered for some years ago: the editorship of Academy News. This is produced five times a year and each issue presents its own basic problem; how to fill those blank white pages with something interesting to the members. I am helped in this by the regular contributions from our President, Vice-Presidents and Members' Representative, but I do rely on others to supply items of interest, so, if you have something you wish to share with your fellow coaches, please get in touch; you will receive every encouragement and help in getting your ideas into print. Otherwise, you will get more of my deathless prose!

Once the magazine is completed and proofread, it is printed, before I then have the jolly task of stuffing over 250 envelopes, sticking on the address labels and stamps, and posting them out to you.

So there it is. It says Secretary on the letterhead, but there's a little more to it than that. This goes for all our committee members, who all multitask in helping with the running of the Academy.

# DEN OF VICE

*Contributions from the Academy's two Vice-Presidents*



This is my first article for the Academy News as a newly elected Vice-President, so I thought this would be a good time to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me.

Those of you who can remember back a few years will know that I've served on the BAF Committee before as Treasurer and before that as Members' Rep. Some changes to my personal circumstances a couple years ago meant I wanted to take a break from being actively involved in the running of the Academy. However, when Philip Bruce approached me about standing for Vice President I decided I was ready to come back.

I qualified as full Fencing Master in 2009. That completed what I like to think as the formal part of my training as a fencing coach. However, like every other decent coach I know, I've never stopped learning. Fencing is a constantly evolving and changing sport. Not only do you need to keep up with the steady stream of changes to the rules, but also with the latest trends in tactics, training, refereeing etc. Its keep adapting, keep improving, keep learning or die.

I remember a conversation I had a few months ago with a fellow coach who has been coaching fencing for longer than I've been alive, and who I might add, has had considerable success with his pupils. He told me that he has never stopped learning. I couldn't agree more. If I ever get to the stage when I lose my enthusiasm for learning I'll know it's time to hang up my fencing swords for good. Luckily I'm still at the stage where the more I learn, the more I wish to learn.

It was drilled into me early on in my training that one of the duties of a Fencing Master was to pass on what they know to other coaches. I'm often quite humbled when somebody asks me to teach them how to coach.

The purpose of the Academy is to help coaches learn, and it is an organisation that I'm proud to be part of.

*Liam Harrington, Vice President*



As a new Vice President and relatively new Fencing Master, it seems appropriate that, in my first article for Academy News, I introduce myself to those of you who don't yet know me.

I am a professional fencing coach based in Southampton. In 2012 I set up Southampton Epée Club which I am pleased to say continues to thrive. I also work at several other fencing clubs and schools in the area, coaching all three weapons to both children and adults. As well as a coach, I am an active competitor and a committee member for Hampshire Fencing Union.

I first joined the BAF in October 2011 after attending my first Denstone course for Level 3 Epée. I passed my first Diploma exam at Epée in 2014, just in time to fence in the Fencing Masters' World Championships in Prato, Italy, which was a fantastic experience. Last October, almost exactly four years after attending my first course, I completed my Foil and Sabre Diploma exams as well. Collecting the full Diploma certificate at the recent A.G.M. dinner was truly an honour.

I am very pleased to now be in a position to give something back. I hope my contribution will go some way to ensuring that future generations of fencing coaches can rely on the same tremendous support I have received from the Academy over the last few years.

I am feeling very optimistic for the year ahead and I'm looking forward to seeing what exciting new challenges 2016 will bring.

*Andrew Norris, Vice President*



## BERT BRACEWELL'S 80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY AND GATHERING



Professor HT Bracewell, better known as 'Bert', as he is affectionately referred to by his many friends and colleagues in the BAF, celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016. A surprise birthday party was organised by the Bracewell family on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by a fencing 'Gathering' on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, both in Edinburgh.

Over 200 people attended the Gathering on the Sunday, including many eminent fencers whom Bert trained, some dating back to the 1960s. It showed how much he meant to them by their turning out in such large numbers. An impromptu three weapon competition took place and Bert had a great time. This, of course, was just a fraction of the number of people whom he helped over the years, during his long and illustrious career, particularly as Scottish National Fencing Coach.

The BAF sends its felicitations to Bert and Joan on this very happy occasion.

*Report and Photos supplied by Ed Rogers*



*Detail from the temple of Ramases III at Medinet Habu, near Luxor.*

*Photo: Bob Merry*

## ORIGINS OF FENCING

The earliest known illustrations of a form of fencing, singlestick fencing, are to be found in the monuments of Ancient Egypt.

The one on the left is a detail from a large frieze carved on the walls of the temple of Ramases III, dating to around 1150 BC, which shows a number of sports held at a festival.

There are earlier examples to be found in tombs, both near Luxor and at Saqqara, but they lack the "sophistication" shown here. In the earlier examples. The "swords" are simply lengths of papyrus stalks, whereas here they have been improved by the addition of knuckle guards and padded tips. The fighters, too, have added protection. They have a wooden vambrace on the left arm, to ward off blows, and their throats are protected by padding.

This is also considered to be an example of an "international" tournament, as not all the fighters have Egyptian features. However, being carved on an Egyptian temple, they home side appear to be winning! The fencer on the right, looking like a sabreur, has just felled his opponent, who is falling away to the right. The winner is an Egyptian, of course.

# FIRST TIME

*A view of the BAF AGM from two first time attendees*



*Will and Sam at the AGM*

As 18 year olds who have only recently been able to take and pass coaching exams, the annual general meeting in January was our first chance, as the Academy's youngest members, to get a greater insight into the running of the organisation: its people, ambitions, plans and issues.

As two fencers who have had the opportunity to be well involved with certain aspects of the BAF before we could officially join, such as attending coach education sessions and Denstone examination days, we were familiar with a number of committee members, masters and members before we went. Despite this, we were still apprehensive about what the day would have in store. With a suitably open mind, we walked into the members' meeting, chaired very commendably by John Worsley. We both sat quietly at the back, preferring instead to watch the action unfold in front of us. There was a great deal of heated yet healthy debate, some of which offered potentially useful foundations upon which the Academy could build. From our point of view, it was a great shame that more members were not there to contribute to the debate, as there is more that could have been achieved if there was an even stronger will among members showing their faces at the meetings.

The main body of the A.G.M. followed shortly afterwards and this was another fascinating opportunity to get to know the Academy's Committee members; their work, achievements and visions for the future. Had any member or master felt it necessary (as some did), this was the point where questions could be asked directly of the Committee members. The simple fact is that, without one attending, this opportunity does not exist to the same extent.

After the formalities came the chance to sit down and chat with faces new and old, share stories over a drink and spend time with friends made through fencing. For us, the most pleasant and satisfying part of the day was the formal dinner where awards were presented. This was particularly poignant as we were given our certificates for passing Level 3 Foil and saw our good friends, Professors Scott McMenemy and Andrew Norris, finally receive their much deserved Fencing Masters' certificates. Seeing such awards at the A.G.M. and the speeches that followed is an inspiration for us to achieve the same status and be giving that speech while wielding the hefty certificate sometime in the future.

The A.G.M.'s greatest impact on us was in confirming the immense community and camaraderie that exists within the Academy. It's fair to say that the bar was not vacated until well into the night as stories of experiences past flew between coaches right at the top of the mountain to those just starting the climb and others at just about every stage in between. By going, we had the chance to appreciate how the Academy runs and functions and how its greatest asset is the people within it. We can only look forward to progressing further in fencing and forming the same friendships we have with other faces we are yet to meet.



*Sam Smith and William Gallimore-Tallen*

***(If you are one of our readers who has yet to attend an A.G.M., perhaps this will encourage you to think about giving it a try. Why not put 7th January 2017 in your diary now? Thank you, Sam and Will, for your interesting contribution. Bob Merry, Editor)***



## LETTERS FROM LEWIS

Correspondence from your Members' Rep.



Hello all, and a happy new year. My name is Lewis McIntyre and I'm delighted to have been elected as Members' Representative at the 2016 A.G.M. Members' Meeting. I hope to serve the membership well in this role in the coming year, and look forward to getting more involved within the Academy.

I'd like you to join me in thanking our outgoing representative, John Worsley, for his four years of service. He's done a fantastic job in this capacity. Unfortunately for him he can rest assured he's not entirely escaped the woes of the role, as I'll certainly be seeking his advice and expertise in the coming months!

Being not yet fully aware of the scope of what will be required of me, or what tools and resources will be available, I can only guess at predicting what contributions I can make. However, it is in my nature to seek to perform to the best of my abilities, and I intend to do so within the role as Members' Representative as with any other.

Before I write any further on the role I expect to fulfil, I'll say a little about myself.

I currently hold Advanced Foil and Level 3 Epee, with both awards being achieved in 2015. During 2015 I attended around ten competitions in the roles of fencer, coach and referee. I also attended both BAF residential courses and various coach education courses. It was a busy year, they don't seem to get less busy.

I began learning to coach in late 2012. My early intention was to learn though the BAF system and become competent enough to just teach and coach the basics. What I experienced in the following year, entirely as a result of the BAF system, blew my mind. I discovered a real passion for coaching and pushing myself in this regard. Suffice to say of my enthusiasm that quite early on I thought I'd realised how little I knew, and how much more there was to learn. I was wrong. And continue to be so. Every year it's brought more into perspective how much more I've yet to learn. As a result I find coaching as a whole both challenging and enlightening. These are thoroughly addictive feelings, and I intend to see my fencing career proceed well beyond obtaining a full diploma. I can see no better organisation with which to do this than the BAF.

Moving onto this year: I will address, within Academy News, issues which members feel require discussion or clarification; I will, within the committee, provide a voice and link to the membership and I will, again through this column, communicate issues discussed within the committee which I understand to be pertinent to the membership. In the coming year I will not be reinventing the wheel and, having joined the organisation only very recently, will spend a lot of time understanding how the Academy is run and finding my feet.

Whilst the A.G.M. is fresh in my mind I will very briefly discuss two issues raised. The meeting was perceived to be of low attendance and this was discussed briefly, with various reasons suggested. I'm fortunate in that I don't have to make any large effort to attend; I live within a two hour drive, there's time in my calendar and money in my budget. However, and this is perhaps due to having only been a Member for two years, I believe I've never seen or heard from the majority of people to whom Academy News is sent. It seems apparent that those who did attend would like to hear more from all members of all ranks, both at the A.G.M. and through Academy News.

The second issue was, loosely, that of communication within the Academy. I believe this to be heavily linked to the first issue in that if more people contribute, be it with an article, short letter or discussion of something you've experienced as a coach, there will be much more for us, as an organisation, to digest. This increased input will resolve into a greater clarity on the diversity of viewpoints within the Academy and fewer miscommunications moving forwards.

As with all future articles I will write, I appreciate comments, feedback and discussion. I ask that these be in the medium of letters to the editor or articles, if appropriate, so that views and voices may be shared with all readers. My email address and contact details are, however, provided on page 3 of every edition of Academy News, should you need to contact me personally. Please keep criticisms constructive, or at least humorous.

I'd like to thank all those who were able to attend the A.G.M., and I hope to see you all next year (if not before)!

Lastly, I apologise to the editor in advance for any surge in workload due to newsletter communications.

*Lewis McIntyre, Members' Representative*

***(No need to apologise (yet!), Lewis. It's what I'm here for. Bob Merry, Editor)***



## ***A.G.M. Dinner 2016***

*Above: Members and Guests during the presentations*

*Below: The group from Four of Clubs with their certificates*

*Opposite:*

*Top: Professors Andrew Norris and Scott McMenemy and a full house of certificates*

*2nd Row: William GallimoreTallen and Sam Smith collect Level 3 Foil awards*

*3rd Row: Diploma Epée for Maître Jamie McClement*

*Bottom: Lewis McIntyre receives Level 3 Epée and Advanced Foil awards. Scott and Andrew receiving their awards.*

*A.G.M. Photos: Bob Merry*



# ***Reaping the Rewards***





**MORE USEFUL BITS.....****BAF RESIDENTIAL COURSE****Easter Course****28th March to 2nd April 2016****Course to be held at Denstone College, Staffordshire.****Fees: £440 (members) £510 (non-members)*****Please contact our Course Officer, Dave Jerry, for more information*****Contact details on page 3****Allow all Olympic sports to be part of curriculum at GCSE and A Level Sport.**

*"The Department For Education is drastically cutting back the sports which can be assessed as part of GCSE and A Level practicals. They have removed a number of Olympic sports such as Fencing, Judo and Taekwondo.*

*This is a massive backward step and contrary to our aim to achieve Olympic success."*

The above is the essence of a Petition currently on the Government's Petition web site. If you agree that it would be a mistake to drop certain Olympic sports, including Fencing, from school examination syllabuses, then you can add your name to the petition by going to

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110802>

The process takes only a few minutes and simply requires you to provide an email address to confirm your electronic "signature". The petition remains open until **21st April 2016**.

**ADVERTISE HERE FOR FREE!**

**Academy News is a service to our members and we offer the chance to advertise on its pages, whether it be for an event, a course, your club, or indeed anything. There is no charge to members and you don't even have to supply any artwork. Simply give Bob Merry the details and he'll see you get a mention.**