

# British Academy of Fencing **ACADEMY NEWS**

**May 2017  
Issue 90**

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



## **A COURSE NEAR YOU?**

The last two Denstone courses in October and April, although producing excellent examination results, have also had record low attendances. There may be many reasons for this, but it would seem to be a trend that is set to continue. On the other hand, local courses, such as the one organised by Andrew Norris near Southampton (see page 10), continue to be popular.

As a result, a new approach to BAF courses is set to be rolled out. This year's Autumn residential course will not now take place and, in 2018, a single residential course will be offered, either in late July/August, or at Easter.



*Is this the future? A busy course near Southampton recently*

It is now proposed to run non-residential courses in six basic areas of the country:

**North London** (just inside/outside the M25, **East Midlands** (Loughborough/Leicester), **South West** (Bristol/Bath), **South East** (Ashford), **North West** (Manchester/Warrington/Liverpool), and **Southern** (Southampton/Portsmouth). The Academy is seeking proposals from Masters, or Maîtres d'Escrime, to act as organisers and lead coaches for courses in these areas.

The structure and content of the course, at the discretion of the lead coach, should fall into one of three main areas:

1. Coach Education from level 1 to level 5, or specific to particular levels or weapon(s)
2. Personal Performance – age range left to the discretion of the lead coach
3. Coach education and personal performance combined

In those courses with a Coach Education element, it is preferable that they lead to an examination, although this is not essential.

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Contributions by June 10th,  
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.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

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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:**

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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 6.1 – 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**

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## THE PRESIDENT WRITES.....



I'd like to start by thanking everybody for the messages of support and offers of help I've had since stepping into the role of Acting President. Philip warned me it was a big job, he's proving to be correct (again). I hope those of you who have offered to help meant it, because I will be taking you up on your offers, if I haven't already. It's been a challenging year so far, and as I will explain later, we're sadly without the services of another committee member.

The first two Objects of the Academy include: "the furtherance and improvement of Fencing in Great Britain and Northern Ireland" and "the promotion of the highest professional standards from fencing coaches".

That isn't something that just happens by itself. It requires co-operation from right across the Academy, and it is something the BAF can do very well. To take some recent examples, there was a small exam day in Rickmansworth back in March. Three Academy members gave willingly of their time to travel to the venue and conduct the examinations. Likewise, as you'll read elsewhere in this edition, there was a weekend coach education course organised by Andrew Norris in Southampton. This was attended by coaches and coach educators from across the country. Without that sort of commitment and support the BAF couldn't function.

Going beyond that, one of topics of raised at last AGM, by Graham Stretton and others, was about coaches and fencing clubs working together to improve the training opportunities available to fencers. Fencing is a minority sport in the UK, so there isn't always the opportunity for fencers to train with or practise against a wide variety of opponents. However, if coaches and clubs could co-operate and run joint training sessions, or organise friendly matches, it can go some way to alleviating the problem. This is something I've done myself throughout my career and I've found it to be very useful. Working with other coaches doesn't just help the fencers. It's a good way of doing some informal CPD to complement your coaching qualifications, and I've been lucky enough to work with some very good coaches over the past year. Watching them give lessons gives me a great opportunity to re-evaluate what I do, and think about what changes I might make to my own lessons. It's that sort of thing that keeps me interested in the sport. If I ever found myself doing the same old thing year after year and not learning anything new I think I'd give up.

### ***Safeguarding***

Child Protection and Safeguarding issues in sport are a hot topic right now. I started thinking about this last year, when the stories about abuse in football were in the news. I wondered how it might affect the BAF and if we could be leaving ourselves open to criticism because we don't require our members to have background checks or to have attended child protection courses. It occurred to me that it would only take one scandal for the BAF's reputation to be tarnished. I am aware that background checks are not fool proof, however they have become a "must have" for sports coaches in the UK. A scandal involving a BAF member would be bad, if it were then to emerge that some of our members haven't even had the normal background checks, the fallout would not be pleasant.

British Fencing, who are our NGB, require all their coaches to have background checks and attend a Safeguarding and Protecting Children course. I would urge every BAF member to make sure they comply with British Fencing requirements. We are, after all, an organisation that is supposed to promote the highest professional standards from fencing coaches.

So, in Scotland that means having a DisclosureScotland check through Scottish Fencing, in Northern Ireland having an AccessNI check, in Guernsey having a Guernsey Vetting Bureau check, and in Wales and England having a DBS check. You should also have attended a Safeguarding and Protecting Children course. The easiest way of demonstrating that you have met these requirements is to be on the British Fencing Coach Register.

I know that not all of you coach children, so some coaches might think that none of this applies to them. However, Child Protection also covers Adults at Risk, (formerly known as Vulnerable Adults), and Adults at Risk has a fairly broad definition. It may or may not surprise some of you to know that I would have been categorised as an Adult at Risk for a lot of last year. It's very likely that if you coach adults you will be coaching somebody who falls into the Adult at Risk category at some point.

In Scotland, following a recent BBC news story about a shortfall in background checks for sports coaches, Scottish Fencing are now trying to make sure that all fencing coaches in Scotland are properly registered. If you

are coaching in Scotland, please, please, co-operate with Scottish Fencing in this matter. It might look very bad if Fencing was the only sport not to get all its coaches on the register.

I have heard that a small number of BAF coaches are claiming BAF membership allows them to bypass their NGB's requirements. However, BAF membership is not there to allow coaches to get around Safeguarding checks. The BAF is not the governing body of our sport in the UK. In fact, the BAF has had associate membership of British Fencing since 2006. In the spirit of that agreement I would strongly urge all BAF members to support British Fencing in making fencing safe. Your governing body of sport policies should be the principle policies that you adhere to. Any requirements from an employer or other organisation, should be viewed as *additional* requirements to British Fencing policies, not *instead of* British Fencing policies. This is in line with the instructions given by SCUK in their "Minimum Standards for Active Coaches".

To ignore, or to try and bypass, normal Safeguarding requirements gives people an excuse to criticize our sport. I'm going to remind you all again that one of the Objects of the BAF is the promotion of the highest professional standards from fencing coaches. I hope that every BAF member will try to live up to that ideal.

### **Dave Jerry**

As many of you will have heard Dave Jerry's health has unfortunately deteriorated this year. As a result, he's had to step aside from his committee duties. I'll be taking over the role of Course Officer for the time being, so any requests for documentation should come to me. Dave Jerry has been a very hardworking and efficient Academy member. He's been a regular examiner, coach educator, and as Course Officer has organised many Denstone courses. He is also an excellent coach and received the Brian Pitman Memorial Award in 2008. We will be poorer without his help. I know many of Dave's friends and colleagues in the Academy have been in touch with him to give him their best wishes.

*As we closed for press, we have learnt that Dave, after a long illness, has died. Our sympathies go to his family. There have been postings on our web site and Facebook page, whilst Academy News will carry an obituary in the next edition.*

Liam Harrington

## **A COURSE NEAR YOU?** (...from front page)

Each course should be planned to take place over eight six-hour sessions, or the equivalent. These could be on consecutive days, or spread out over a longer period (e.g. four weekends, one day a week, once a fortnight, or once a month). Where an examination is required, this would take place on the eighth session.

The BAF will fund the cost of the venue, based on an area equivalent to two badminton courts, whilst the lead coach can retain the income from the attendees. This should allow the lead coach to set a fee that is attractive to the customer, whilst providing a good return for the staff.

As mentioned earlier, the Academy now needs volunteers to act as lead coaches for these courses. What is required of these organisers? The lead coach would be expected to:

- 1 provide a proposal for the course to the Academy, including, where appropriate, child protection and insurance provision
- 2 source the venue
- 3 advertise the course, with the assistance of the Academy
- 4 provide a list of dates, times, the address of the venue and the type of course, in order that the course can be publicised through Academy News, the web site, the BAF mailing list, etc.
- 5 provide a report after the course – number of attendees, weapons, age range etc.
- 6 provide a breakdown of the income and expenditure (income to be retained by the lead coach)

If you are willing to act as the organiser of a BAF Regional Course, please contact, in the first instance, the Secretary, Bob Merry (contact details on page 3).

It is to be hoped that this approach can help to provide fencing with more potential coaches and allow our current coaches to improve their skills and qualifications. After all, if each of the six courses attracts just ten prospective coaches, that would be total of sixty, rivaling our peak years of residential course attendance.

# Professor John Sanders

Prof. John Sanders, Life Member (1984), BAF Vice President (1976), passed away in early January 2017.

Born and bred in Somerset, John was one of the truly great fencing masters of the Academy. He passed his BAF Diploma in 1953 at the age of 23, making him possibly the youngest ever full master of the BAF.

During his career as fencing master, John coached many fine fencers and champions across all three weapons. Of these, the most famous was Bill Hoskyns, British, Commonwealth, World Champion and double Olympic Silver Medallist

As Section (now known as Regional) coach for the South West, he was instrumental in laying down the foundations of fencing in that area

In an average year John would clock up 36000 miles (on a motorcycle in his early days), starting clubs, running course and fostering competitions. Downside and Millfield were only two of the many clubs that benefited from his teaching.

He was responsible for taking fencing into ordinary schools when fencing was dominated by public schools and military.

The last BAF event he attended was the BAF Diamond Swords Dinner where he enjoyed catching up with old hands and some of the new generation of BAF fencing coaches.

*“John was a great coach and enthused his pupils, once bringing Bill Hoskyn’s Olympic medal into the club so that the children could take turns wearing it. John was a perfectionist with a great capacity to understand and inspire. He applied enormous patience and set highest standards.*

*He taught me sabre, way before it was acceptable for women, and I did my first coaching exam with him.*

*I would not be a coach without the amazing start he gave me.”*

**Sue Benny**

*“I went to see him at his home, when I visited that area two, or was it three, years ago. He was in good health and form then. We covered past history, but spent most of the time inspecting the work going on in his garage and workshop. He was insatiable in his appetite for working on cars and motor cycles – not fencing. He was rebuilding both an early motor cycle and restoring an E type Jaguar V12 at the same time.”*

**David Austin**

*Obituary notice by Philip Bruce*

## A COACH’S LEGACY

*by Bob Merry*



The photo on the left, taken at the Diamond Swords, at Warwick Castle in 2009, shows, from left to right, Tom Etchells, John Sanders, myself, and Andrew Sercombe. It was taken at the time, and remains so today, as an example of a coach’s legacy to the future of fencing.

John was my first coach at RAF Locking, in the late 1950s. Prior to joining the RAF, I had not been an enthusiast for taking part in sport, especially team games, such as rugby, football and cricket. Fencing, however, was something else and I eagerly paid my 6d (2½p) a week for a lesson with John. His skill and enthusiasm imbued in me a love for the sport that has stayed with me ever since, an experience very similar to that described by Sue Benney above.

Later, Tom became my mentor for much of my coach education, guiding me through Advanced and Diploma preparation. And now I am acting in a similar role for Andrew. I am sure that many of you, especially Masters, can point to a similar “family tree” in their own development and careers.

There may be many reasons and influences for why I am still in this sport after so many years, but it took John Sanders to plant the seed and nurture it in those early years. I have every reason to be grateful to John and hope that we can all create a similar legacy, through the enthusiasm and skills we pass on to our pupils, be they social or competitive fencer, or aspiring coach.

## DEN OF VICE

*Contributions from the Academy's Vice-President*



I think it's fair to say that fencing coaches are universal in their delight when a pupil acquires their own fencing kit. It's no secret that a full set of fencing kit will set you back a substantial sum, though, so it's not surprising that fencers (or parents) wait a while before buying their own. In the mean time, those beginners usually borrow kit from their club. Any club expecting more than a few beginners at a time needs a lot of gear. Helping pack away at the end of the night, more than one fencer has asked me, "How on earth do you fit everything in your car?" Little do they know, choosing a vehicle fit for the job and never being able to take more than one passenger because I have removed my back seats is just the tip of the ice berg! After returning from a week at Denstone, the second week of my Easter holiday will be spent catching up on a lot of kit related

jobs.

First and foremost is laundry. New fencers frequently grumble about having to put on smelly kit, so I try to wash mine at least once every half term. Your mileage may vary, but keeping kit clean and smelling as fresh as possible makes it much easier to persuade beginners to put it on. Kit that is kept clean should also last for longer, so long as you wash it as per the manufacturer's instructions. With twenty odd sets of jackets, plastrons and gloves to do and a smallish washing machine at my disposal, I have to do about six or seven rounds of laundry. Masks are even more trouble because they have to be hand-washed individually. Needless to say, I'm hoping for some sunny days this week!

After that I'm off to my garage to play the part of an armourer. Over the course of this term I have been slowly collecting faulty weapons, broken body wires and malfunctioning spools. Anything that couldn't be fixed in a few minutes during term time has been patiently awaiting my attention. Though armoury is hardly first among my talents, practice makes perfect, or so they say!

Another thing that needs its share of TLC is the club's supply of kit bags. Funnily enough, épées have a knack of poking holes in their bag. Other items do their best to break zips or seams. Before repairing or replacing them, upending the bags will yield a small pile of debris, origins unknown, which I prefer to leave behind before the beginning of a new term.

Next I turn into a salesman. If I'm lucky, fencers give me their second hand kit to find a new home for every now and again. Hand-me-downs are great, especially for youngsters, but there are always a few things that are hard to get rid of. So, if anyone knows a very small left handed female fencer who needs a pair of breeches, please contact me!

Finally I become a clerk. All the kit I own is listed on an inventory. New items need to be added to the inventory first. Then I make sure nothing has been lost (if it has I try to find it!). Everything I still have is checked and its condition updated. Anything that is beyond repair is thrown away and its fate recorded. I try to do this at least once a year during either Easter or summer holidays, as it is a big job!

So, every time a fencer buys their own kit I have a little celebration. One more person doing their own laundry is a small but significant victory.

*Andrew Norris, Vice President*

## BAF INSURANCE - IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION

Apparently, there is some confusion in the minds of some members concerning what is covered by the BAF insurance. Briefly, it covers our members for Public and Professional Liability for their **own** fencing activities. You are covered for any liability for incidents or accidents arising from your coaching an individual pupil, or supervising a class. Where you have hired a venue for an activity for which you are responsible, you have Public Liability cover. You are also covered for your fencing activities if travelling abroad for short periods, except in North America.

However, the BAF insurance does **NOT** extend to activities that are not under your control or responsibility. For example, if you are coaching in a club and other fencers are fencing there, but not under your supervision, they need their own insurance (for example, through membership of British Fencing), if they wish to be covered against injuring a fellow fencer, or causing damage in the venue. Similarly, if the club has hired the venue, it also should have Public Liability insurance, as required by most sports centres. Again, a source of this would be through affiliation to British Fencing. The BAF's insurers are most unlikely to accept a claim, unless it can be shown that it is the direct responsibility of the member.

Any queries about the BAF's insurance can be directed to Bob Merry, who has "Insurance" as part of his responsibilities. Contact details are on page 3.



# NEW TO THE COMMITTEE



*Among the changes made at the AGM, one of our newest members, Sam Smith, was persuaded to join the Committee. In order to introduce himself to the membership in general, Sam has offered this contribution to Academy News.*

This article marks my first contribution to Academy News since becoming part of the committee at the recent AGM, so I believe I should briefly introduce myself. I am a 20-year-old who started fencing in February 2010 and began being officially educated as a coach when I reached 17, although I started ‘unofficially’ years prior to this. I’m actually writing this article on the seventh anniversary of my first fencing evening, a time that will seem like a blink of the eye for some but, for me, that cold, dark February night feels like a long, long time ago. I have been taking coaching examinations since my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and currently hold level 5 Epée as well as L3 Foil and Sabre.

A question that was, understandably, frequently directed towards me at the AGM and indeed at many other coaching events is “what got you into coaching at such a young age?” In answering that question, I not only reflect on what I have learnt about my sport, but the skills I have gained and developed in my wider life; indeed, I think it is rather normal for youngsters to be directed towards supervisory, teaching and perhaps even coaching roles in clubs. I have been lucky enough to be surrounded by inspiring and deeply influential mentors in fencing who started my path to coaching at a very young age. I would certainly encourage others to look at what coaching can offer juniors and cadets, if they have not already; not least because it would be nice for me to see more people of my age at coaching courses alongside my older friends, but because I know it can genuinely make a difference to their skillset, confidence and opportunities.

The first thing I would say about why I got into coaching is that I enjoyed it. When I started becoming involved in supervising beginners, fencing was a hobby; why would you spend your time doing a hobby that you don’t enjoy or achieve satisfaction from? It was clear to me and I think many others that my natural skillset and desire was directed towards a coaching route rather than solely competing and, even though I still compete, coaching has been a far more successful and enjoyable pursuit for me. The first steps I took towards where I am today involved very low level supervision of a group of young fencers which developed into having to scrutinise and improve the simple strokes and sequences they were practising. As a 14 year old, this task took me well out of my comfort zone and, if there is one thing I became quickly aware of, being outside your comfort zone is where real learning and development happens.

I realised that, to be successful, I had to know the subject matter inside-out so that I could fix the wide and sometimes bizarre range of interpretations beginners naturally come up with. However, I quickly realised that communication was just as important. If you show you lack confidence or, don’t know what you’re talking about, even a nine-year-old will eat you alive. There’s no better way to be thrown out of your comfort zone and come back stronger and better prepared next time.

I’ve got an enormous way yet to go until I can be truly satisfied with my coaching ability, and this is something I continue to strive towards but will never fully achieve. This article is intended as a brief introduction to me and my experiences, but I hope it might serve also to provoke a bit of thought into the benefits for the individual, the club and the Academy of encouraging more youngsters towards a coaching route.

I look forward to my first year as a member of the committee and look forward to meeting more of you in the near future.

*Sam Smith*



## LETTERS FROM LEWIS

Correspondence from your Members' Rep.



Congratulations to all of those who sat and passed exams at our most recent course (and to Liam and Andrew for staffing it). Whilst the turnout was lower than in recent years the pass rate was high. This was my first time sitting in at the exams on one of our residential courses, and I had a great day. Every examiner whose shoulder I sat on was incredibly knowledgeable and offered a lot of guidance on what to look for when assessing at various levels. It's a totally different experience on the other side of that table, and I'm not sure it's any less stressful when you're as invested in the candidate as the examiners on Saturday were. I got a lot of experience in our examination system, and a good look at how Stuart runs things "behind the scenes"; another thing he does well for the Academy. I'm told at least two of the candidates then went to the Birmingham International Open the next day after their exams.

Perhaps they hadn't been tired out enough, perhaps they'd had an inspiring week? Either way it's a bit much.

The turnout was perhaps low due to things I've previously written about, like availability during a school holiday and a seeming lack of appreciation for higher qualifications, or technical skill. I also think it's a result of Denstone essentially competing with a greater number of courses (I've heard of at least three with slightly or completely different aims) than in recent years. It's been suggested by quite a few people that we move to a Summer course similar to how the BAF ran courses years ago. I'd like to hear people's views on this. None of this, however, detracts from the successes of the coach educators and candidates at our course.

Following on from talking about our course I want to talk about kit, specifically the bits that *protect* fencers during a fight. There are rules and regulations around these things, quite a few in some cases, but they are there for a number of reasons. The main reason is safety, which is obvious, and needs no further explanation.

As someone who frequently referees at junior competitions, I see a lot of young fencers who are sent on to the piste with inappropriate kit. I've had fencers turn up to the piste with all kinds of inventive infractions of the rules. A rusted mask; no underplastron; an underplastron (but on the wrong arm); a jacket on backwards; a jacket on inside out; breeches with the straps loose; a glove with holes in; trying to fence without a glove; the list goes on. The situation in which I usually see this kind of thing happening is where the fencer has just been sent out by their coach or, more commonly, parent and has little influence on what kit they're sent out wearing. The responsibility, therefore, more often than not, is with the coach or parent to make sure the fencers are correctly kitted out and that everything they have is suitable. Size, shape and condition are all things to consider.

The implications of having inappropriate kit are numerous and varied. It can cause delays at competitions, damage a fencer's confidence in their coach or parents, it fails to instil a good understanding and appreciation of rules in younger or impressionable fencers, gives a poor representation of the club, and, last but not least, costs a damn lot of money to replace kit that has been poorly maintained.

As coaches of the BAF, can I ask that you make sure that the fencers, of any age, that you send to a competition are aware of the requirements of the kit and that it conforms to whatever regulations are in force. I shouldn't need to remind most coaches that we are the ones who are expected to maintain and enforce the standard.

I've not had much communication from members over the past few months except for a healthy number of membership applications. I (and the rest of the committee) would still like to hear from members about what you want to see in coach education courses. Be the format residential or otherwise, would you like to see more of what is currently on offer, or is it of limited value to you? If it is not on offer now, what would you like to see?

Writing a bit as Membership Secretary, I'd like to thank those who have run or supported coach education courses, or have organised coach examinations so far this year. Running these activities increases the number of coaches and improves the quality of those within our organisation. If you are one of those who organises a Level 1 exam day or similar (and you've not got bored of reading yet) would you let me know (with the coach's permission) who I can get in touch with to encourage and remind them to apply for membership. The aim being to help me keep on top of applications as and when they are made.

*Lewis McIntyre, Members' Representative*

# SOUTHAMPTON COACHING COURSE

*by Professor Andrew Norris*



On the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017, I hosted a coach education course near Southampton. After some discussions with BAF members based in the South of England and other coaches in the area, it seemed to me that there was a demand for a local coach education course. As this was the first course of its type that I have run, I conservatively hoped a handful of coaches would support the course and that I would be able to break even.

The course was advertised on my club web site, in Academy News, through social media, and of course by word of mouth. It was very encouraging when applications started hitting my inbox. When the weekend of the course finally arrived, seventeen coaches were signed up, plus a handful of dedicated stooges making a total of over 20 people. There was a lot of variety on the course, too; foil, épée and sabre, men and women, coaches working towards Levels 1 to 5, young adults just starting on their coaching journey and fencing masters with a few more years experience.

Running the course was hard work, but well worth the effort for the feedback I received afterwards. Eight Level 1 passes were achieved on Sunday afternoon, so those newly qualified coaches will take back their new skills to put to good use in their clubs. Higher levels also worked hard all weekend and I was pleased to hear from many of them that they had also found the course a valuable experience.

I must extend an enormous thank-you to Professors Philip Bruce and Isobel Bruce-Combes, who kindly made the 400 mile round trip from Manchester to staff

the course. Not only that, but they put in a lot of time behind the scenes not only preparing the material for the course, but also producing course notes for the candidates to take home with them. As a young fencing master it is fantastic to have such supportive colleagues willing to lend their experience.

Some people have asked me if there will be another course in the future. The answer is – I hope so! Though there is nothing in my diary yet, so long as coaches want the courses and continue to support them I will be willing to run more. Watch this space...



## **Buccaneer Eagles**

*by Liz Williams*



Working on the success of the Buccaneer Eagles fencing club now resident in Sherborne, Dorset we have now opened a satellite club over in Totton, Southampton, Hampshire.

Just over four years ago, with the help of three fantastic volunteer coaches, I was able to start Buccaneer Eagles in Sherborne, Dorset. In the past years, this club has grown to over thirty members, with an age range of 8-65yrs. We are a friendly club, focusing on all three weapons and working with an ethos of “fun and friendly”.

This doesn't mean we are not competitive though and the Sherborne Open has become a great fixture for the juniors, along with our newly reinstated Dorset Open and County Championship, held this September for the first time in over 40 years.

**Now we can proudly add another club to this achievement.....** January saw the beginnings of a new satellite club over in the Southern region of BF as we opened the Buccaneer Eagles Southampton Fencing Club.

This has been spearheaded by BAF coach Nick Stuart, resident of nearby Isle of Wight. Nick is busy building the three weapon club in the sports hall of Hounsdown school on Wednesday evenings, whilst also running the highly successful after-school club at the school in Totton, Southampton.

“The enthusiasm of the kids is infectious and they're a hard-working bunch, which makes it good fun”

I will be assisting with the coaching as we go forward and I'm also looking forward to working with the Hampshire Fencing Union and Southern Region who, along with Energise Me (the CSP for Hampshire) have been really helpful and welcoming.

# EXAM DAY AT DENSTONE



## EXAMINATION SUCCESS

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

### *Level 4 Foil*

Tony Middleton

### *Level 3 Foil*

Ed Jefferies

David Browning

### *Level 3 Epée*

Solange Emmenegger

### *Level 2 Foil*

Peter Pang Hiu Fung

### *Level 2 Epée*

Joash Lewis - Level 2 Epee

Geoff Keay - Part pass (Class)

### *Level 1 Foil*

Ed Jefferies

### *Level 1 Sabre*

Alastair Brook

### **In other recent examinations:**

### *Level 2 Foil*

Dominique Szokolovics

Ben Peggs

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

## 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.

**Timothy Coveney**

**West Molesey**

**Shaun Alderman**

**Edinburgh**

**Joash Lewis**

**Southampton**

**Joanne Cornish**

**Canterbury**

**Magnus Spence**

**Orkney**



***MORE USEFUL BITS.....***

# **BAF MINI COURSE - JULY**

This is a course for fencing coaches who want to work towards  
BAF Level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications at Epée, Foil or Sabre.  
Course Director - Professor Liam Harrington

Nuffield Sports Centre  
The Royal Masonic School for Girls  
Rickmansworth Park  
Rickmansworth  
WD3 4HF

**Course Dates:**

Sunday 16th July 2017 - 9am - 5pm

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July 2017 - 9am - 5pm

Saturday 29th July 2017 - 9am - 5pm

Exams are on Sunday 30th July 2017 - starting at 9am for those who wish to take them.

**Course Fees:**

BAF Member £50      Non-member £79  
(N.B. Examination fees are not included)

For more details, or to apply to join, contact Liam Harrington (see page 3), or go to <http://www.baf-fencing.com/july-2017-mini-course.html>

## **PHOTO CREDITS FOR THIS EDITION**

Page 1 and 10 (Southampton course) - Andrew Norris

Page 6 (A Coach's Legacy) - Bob Merry

Page 10 (Buccaneer Eagles) - Liz Williams

Page 11 (Denstone Exam Day) - Liam Harrington

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