British Academy of Fencing

# ACADEMY NEWS

July 2017 Issue 91 "Run by coaches for coaches"



# **ANOTHER BIG STEP**

The quartet of William Gallimore-Tallen, Sam Smith, Lewis McIntyre and Harry Gulliver have taken another step forward in their quest to become Full Diploma Masters, when they recently passed Diploma Foil examinations at an exam day in Warrington.

The examination board, chaired by Professor Tom Etchells and supported by Professors Liam Harrington and Bob Merry, were very impressed by the high standard of performance that was presented in their lessons and the marks reflected this. William and Sam both earned Distinction, whilst Lewis's result was an overall Credit.



Commenting afterwards, Professor Etchells said, "They were all well above the required standard and this was an exceptional result. They have done a lot of hard work in preparing for the examination and their success is well deserved. These young coaches are the future of the Academy." All too often, examination boards have the sad task of finding someone is not up to the high standards that the Academy sets, but, in this case, it was a pleasurable task to sit through these performances.

The aim now is obviously for the quartet to go on and complete their examinations with a Diploma Sabre Exam in the near future. On the basis of the results they have produced at Epée and Foil, they stand a very good chance of success and, for one, the chance to become the Academy's youngest ever Full Diploma Master, a record previously held by the late John Sanders.

At the same examination, Carina Vicente attempted the Advanced (L4) Epée examination, gaining a part pass in the Class section of the examination.

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## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

## **ACADEMY** WEB SITE

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

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)

£2.30 (£2.65) each

### A4 Syllabus leaflets:

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

### A3 Sized Wallcharts:

65p (75p) each

.....£7.35 (£9.45) each

Figures in **RED** are for non-BAF members

### DOCUMENTATION

The following documentation is available from Jackie Redikin (for contact details, see left)

Key Teaching Points Foil

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!

The Compendium containing all major Documentation, including the ones above, plus more relating to examinations, is currently under revision For further details contact Professor Isobel Bruce Combes (iacombes@btinternet.com)

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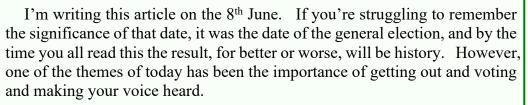
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## THE PRESIDENT WRITES.....



Which bring me on nicely to the British Academy of Fencing 2018 AGM. You will need to elect a new President and two Vice Presidents at that AGM, plus as many as three other committee members. The only posts not up for

election are the Secretary and Treasurer as they will be one year in to their two year term. However, the following posts will need to be filled:

President

Vice-President x 2

Committee Member

Assistant Secretary

Members' Representative

The next President and Vice Presidents need to be Masters of the Academy, which makes for a small pool of candidates.

Therefore, I have a couple of favours to ask you all. Firstly, turn up to the AGM and have your say. Don't assume that the next four years in the BAF will be business as usual and that things will take care of themselves. I'm hopeful the rest of the current committee will agree to carry on next year, however even if they do, that will still leave us two committee posts that will need to be filled by new people. So, the second thing I'd like you all to do is to have a think about if you would be willing to serve on the committee in any capacity. If anybody wants to speak to me about what being on the committee entails please get in touch. At various times, I've served on the committee as Members' Representative, Treasurer, Vice-President and lately as Acting President, so I have a broad understanding of the work the committee does.

I won't be standing as president in 2018, and just to scotch any conspiracy theories there isn't anything mysterious about this. I suffered from some mental health issues in the second half of last year and, at the time of the last AGM, I was just coming off treatment. Being president can be challenging, and while I'm able to keep the symptoms under control, one year in the job will be more than enough for me.

It is important to remember is there is a good side to being president. For example a few weeks ago I was privileged to watch four coaches, William Gallimore-Tallen, Sam Smith, Lewis McIntyre, and Harry Gulliver, pass their Diploma Foil exams. It was a great display of skill from all of them and they are a credit to the sport.

I've also had lots of help and support from right across the Academy. For example Jackie Redikin volunteered to return to the Committee as Assistant Secretary, to replace Dave Jerry who sadly passed away earlier this year. Thank you Jackie.

The AGM is scheduled for the 6th of January 2018. A formal notice will be sent out in the Academy News near the time. I hope to see lots of you there.

Liam Harrington, Acting President

## **DAVE JERRY MBE**



The British Academy of Fencing is sad to announce that Dave Jerry MBE passed away on 24 April after a long illness.

Dave Jerry's gave selflessly to the sport of Fencing over his life, as a fencer, then a coach, and finally, while with the BAF, as a coach educator. His positive approach to life, patience, and depth of knowledge will be sorely missed by the fencing community,

While serving in the RAF, he was, for many years, the Secretary of the Royal Air Force Fencing Union. He was a most enthusiastic organiser and took part in training weekends for the teams competing in the Combined Services Fencing Tournament, which the RAF won on many occasions. He also helped train and qualify many RAF fencing coaches. After leaving the RAF, Dave started a career as a professional fencing coach, establishing a thriving circuit, coaching in schools and clubs in Yorkshire. In 2008, Dave received the Brian Pitman Memorial Award from the BAF in recognition for the fantastic work he did.

As Assistant Secretary of the British Academy of Fencing, Dave was instrumental in training new fencing coaches. He organised many popular courses, including the Denstone Courses, which were attended by coaches from all over the world. Many fencing coaches owe their start on the coaching ladder to him.

The enormity of the workload he 'shouldered' for the British Academy of Fencing, through which the

fencing fraternity benefited as a whole, cannot be quantified



Dave's funeral on the 10th May at Scunthorpe was very well attended, with many friends from the RAF and the world of fencing, including a good representation by members of the Academy. The wake that followed was at Dave's "local", the Crown Inn in Belton, where Dave's memory was honoured with a fly past by an RAF aircraft (left; *photo Stuart Clough*).

Dave is survived by his wife Joyce and sons Simon and Phil

## DEN OF VICE

Contributions from the Academy's Vice-President



At times, it can be all too easy to fall out of touch with what's happening in the wider world of fencing. On the other hand there are now more ways than ever to keep up to date with news, results and changes taking place in the sport.

So, how do you keep up with what's happening in the world of fencing?

Magazines like our own "Academy News" and British Fencing's 'The Sword' are great places to catch up on a variety of different topics all in one place. You can read updates on the activities of the committee members, hear news about past and future

events, and take your time to digest articles covering all sorts of topics related to fencing. It's also great to have contributions from the membership, and I'm sure our Editor would agree that more are always welcome! (He does - Editor)

With an ever growing internet presence, fencing news is easier to access than ever. Social media is especially powerful because all of us can engage with other fencers around the world to spread news, start discussions and see what is going on as it happens. It is of course wise to post with caution and take what you read with a pinch of salt, but it is undeniable that now it is easier to communicate than ever.

As well as social media with user generated content, there are lots of other alternative media outlets you can use to get an in-depth look at particular areas fencing. For example, 'The Fencing Podcast' is a new place to hear news and discussion on results and other aspects of the international fencing scene. For more official news, if you look on the FIE Video YouTube channel you will see that they have started to publish the 'FIE Magazine Show' – essentially a magazine in video form with interviews, competition news and fun features like the 'Coin Challenge'. Of course there are many other blogs, YouTubers, forums and websites you can follow. No matter what flavour of news you like there will be something for you!

I would encourage coaches to check out some new sources of fencing news and, if you like them, tell other people about them! Help your favourite channels get more views and they are more likely to continue. Not only that, but it will spark more discussion and interest from fencers and they will get more out of the sport. As coaches, this is exactly what we want to keep people engaged with our sport.

So keeping up with fencing news is one thing – how about making your own news? The obvious place to start is within your club. Share your successes! Whether they are competitive results, events that have gone well, a successful beginners' course... some of these might be very everyday things and perhaps doesn't seem news-worthy, but it all helps cast both your club and the sport in general in a positive light. Sparking conversations about fencing is an important way to get us noticed by more people, and some of those people might become the next cohort of beginners at your club.

Andrew Norris, Vice President

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The under mentioned name is 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.

Tim Longson Sheffield

## LETTERS FROM LEWIS

Correspondence from your Members' Rep.



I had a massage the other day; I quite like them and this one more so as it was a gift from my partner. This becomes relevant very soon, so bear with me. The masseuse liked to talk and we quickly got on to hobbies and things we do to keep learning, she was a firm believer in continuous development and building on previous experiences to set yourself up for future growth, and a great example of someone trying to embody that. Now at this point I'd had a long day, very little to drink, and was feeling quite light-headed from whatever heavily scented oils were being used. This interaction provided a lot of the inspiration for this article, so I apologise if it happens to get a bit deep or existential at points. Aside, I reckon she had a lot of the characteristics that would a good fencing coach if she'd taken up fencing in her past.

I love bits of paper with my name on that say I'm good at things. Particularly when that thing is difficult or that I've achieved a high standard. I like the progress awards represent and the reminder they provide of what I've achieved in the past, the worthwhile feeling. This is generally only the case when I feel like I've had to work for it, however. The BAF qualifications I've achieved so far fall firmly into this category, and are the most worthwhile things I've achieved. I don't think anyone who holds an award from the BAF would argue that, at that point when they were granted the award, they didn't believe they had achieved and deserved it. For the majority of people there's not really a lot of value in something you don't think should have, myself included. I think the BAF, between the course organisation staff and the examiners, does a bloody good job of making sure each qualification feels like it was hard-earned. I suppose part of it is the process, part of it is the standard we maintain, and part of it is individuals we get to carry out their roles. It works very well.

When I finished A-levels at school, and again when I finished a degree there was the incredibly strong feeling of 'Is that it?' There was no grand finale, no final challenge to overcome, just nothing, as sort of "Off you go; do something with what you've learnt, or not, it's up to you". In each case it was just picking up one or more (albeit quite fancy looking) bits of paper, but there wasn't really any feeling of success. It took me a while to get over the fact that it's the quality work and effort that you put in that will ultimately bring meaningful success. I'd like to think this translates directly to fencing, in the way we train our coaches and fencers to do their respective bits.

Coaching awards, and other things worth your time, deserve continuous work. And I don't believe progress should be transient. Each thing (award, qualification, course, whatever its origin) should provide a platform from which to reach higher and do what you want to do. At this point I'll make clear that I'm not advocating taking coaching awards for the hell of it, there's really no reason in that either. To do so may only set someone up for failure when, down the line, they don't actually need to maintain their skills to the level they had reached and simply allow them to degrade. I imagine this can be a bit tragic to watch, and some would call it (in many walks of life, not just fencing) disrespectful of a qualification. Awards are a symbol of the standard of work, not necessarily something to work towards and forget.

Having said all this I would love to see more Provosts and Masters of the Academy, with people investing their time and putting value in the technical skills of a fencing coach. Between Provosts and Maître d'Armes they currently stand at around 15% of our membership, adding Maître d'Escrime brings the number up to around 25%. These numbers are respectable, but I'd still like to see more.

The BAF is moving towards a split course structure, whereby we run one central residential course per year and run, in conjunction with Masters in various regions, local courses aimed a development over a longer period of time. I'd like to see this used as a chance to train over the majority of the year, with the residential course to polish off' and provide somewhere for members of the Academy to have a get together outside the AGM. I hope those (of any level) looking for a chance to practise get in touch with the organisers.

To conclude: In any kind of development there will be summits, when where you stop to look around you're on top of the world, seemingly nothing above you; and there will be chasms; where everything feels beyond you. In each case it's vital that do not allow those skills you truly respect to stagnate.

Lewis McIntyre, Members' Representative

## A QUESTION OF SAFETY, NEGLIGENCE OR STUPIDITY?

It seems to becoming an increasingly common practice for some coaches giving warm-up lesson at competitions to be in breach of safety guidelines of the BAF, the BFA and the FIE. That is to say, an increasing number of coaches are giving lessons while not wearing a glove on the sword-hand, with bare arms, and in some cases, without a mask. There are also a considerable number of issues concerning the pupil. It is not uncommon to witness a pupil receiving a lesson in a tee-shirt, breeches, a mask and a glove. It is becoming increasingly common to see a pupil receiving a lesson in shorts and a tee-shirt. Extreme examples have been witnessed of what can only be considered to be negligent and gross stupidity on the part of the coach, where the pupil is allowed to receive a lesson dressed in shorts and a tee-shirt, with no mask or glove.

There have been cases reported of parents attempting to give warm-up lessons/fights to children while wearing street clothes and no protective equipment whatsoever. A recent case of this was witnessed at the BYCs. While we assume such individuals are parents and not coaches, the fact is that a number of our members also organise or help to run competitions and would therefore be liable if an accident were to occur as a result of such behaviour.

The SSTT would urge all coaches to consider the various guidelines and rules in the context of safety

### From the Articles of the British Academy of Fencing

- 33. The Committee shall prescribe, publish and periodically review: "A Code of Ethics and Conduct", "Guidelines for Health and Safety" and "Rules for Disciplinary Procedures".
- 34. Every Member agrees to be bound by the documents referred to in Article 33 (as amended from time to time) and by the "British Fencing Association Rules for Competitions". Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

#### From the BAF's Code of Ethics and Conduct

Members have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the fencers with whom they work as far as possible within the limits of their control.

All reasonable steps should be taken to establish a safe working environment. The work done and the manner in which it is done should be in keeping with regular and approved practice within the sport.

The activity being undertaken should be suitable for the age, experience and ability of the fencers.

Fencers should have been systematically prepared for the activity being undertaken and made aware of their personal responsibilities in terms of safety.

Members should make themselves aware of the contents of the Academy's Health and Safety Guidelines and other documents that may be of relevance.

#### The Rules – FIE: t.15. 1. 2.

Fencers arm, equip and clothe themselves and fence at their own responsibility and at their own risk.

It is obligatory for any fencer who warms up or trains with another fencer on site at an official FIE competition (including in the training halls linked to the competition) to wear fencing clothing and equipment which conforms with the FIE regulations.

Any person giving a lesson must wear at least a fencing master's plastron as well as a fencing glove and a mask conforming with the regulations.

Any fencer taking a lesson must wear at least a mask and a glove.

### From British Fencing Safety Guidelines, Board Approved December 2014

4.3.2 When steel weapons are being used:-

The coach/instructor

- should normally wear the appropriate full protective clothing; and
- must always wear the following items: mask; fencing jacket and plastron or a teaching jacket and plastron combined, glove.

The pupil should normally, at a minimum, wear the appropriate full protective clothing required for those fencing non-electric foil

### So who is responsible?

Ultimately it is your responsibility as the coach in charge to ensure that those taking part in the activity do not come to any harm. That includes the coach. Remember that if a young fencer should injure a coach during a lesson, the parents might have a good case against that coach for the resulting trauma and psychological damage this might do to the child. If you conduct warm-up lessons in breach of the Academy's and/or the British Fencing Association's safety guidelines and your pupil, a bystander, or you, the coach, are injured, then your case may be indefensible.

The BAF, as part of the process of obtaining insurance quotes, have supplied our brokers with copies of our Code of Ethics and Practice, together with the BFA Guidelines on Safety. Coaches who breach these Guidelines could have any insurance claim denied and be personally liable for any damages awarded.

The SSTT would also like to remind all Fencing Masters that, regardless of their personal opinions on the matter, as Masters of the Academy they have a duty to uphold the guidelines of the BAF in regard to this and to not do so could be construed as a breach of the BAF's Code of Conduct and a cause for disciplinary action to be taken.

The SSTT of the British Academy of Fencing

## LEON PAUL WIRELESS SCORING APPARATUS

A REVIEW BY NICK CHAPMAN



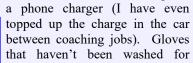
We have all seen wireless fencing on the Olympics and many will be aware that it has been used at other major tournaments. That system is complex, bulky and above all expensive to access. Well now we can all have access to Wireless fencing.

I have been fortunate enough to be involved with the testing of this new Leon Paul system since it was in an early stage of development. From the very first time I used it I felt it was a significant improvement on systems have used in the past, and, trust me, it has come a long way since the first time I used it.

Originally I saw the future of wireless as being a system for competitions; think of the time and

aggro you could save if you never had spool or ground lead problems! However, when I got to test the version that was to come to market, it quickly became apparent to me that it was much more than a piece of competition kit. It is so small and light that it quickly found a home in my fencing bag with the rest of my kit. Think about that for a moment, a full set of scoring apparatus that is light enough to be carried in the bag with your personal kit, small enough that it could be kept in your mask. It's faster to set up, faster to pack up, that means more time for me to coach, and less time carrying heavy bags backward and forward to my car - result!

How practical is it? My fencers were quickly familiar with how to set it up and use it; the young are especially good at understanding these things. It seems very reliable (I have had a set in use for 18 months now). The batteries last for weeks and recharge on



Nick Chapman

months occasionally cause a problem, easily solved (change gloves) and it's no bad thing if the result is fencers wash their gloves from time to time.

Compared to a traditional set of box spools and cables, this equipment is faster to set up and pack away, smaller to store, lighter to transport, yet remains reliable and simple to use. What's not to love?

I whole heartedly recommend this system, when they became available I bought two and am about to buy another.



of box spools and cables, this ck away, smaller to store, lighter to

photos: Nick Chapman

## SWORDSMEN OF THE SILVER SCREEN

By Andy Wilkinson

Hello dear friends, it has been a long while since we chatted, I hope you are all fine and dandy.

Sir Bob Merry and I (I only say it as it is meant to be) were thinking recently that I actually haven't mentioned anything at all about Theatrical Fencing in a long while, so perhaps I should sharpen that pencil and jot something down.

Even better, I said to him, I was invited on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, to RADA Studios in London as a guest to the Graduation Show Case of their Acting/Combat Students. I'll write a review of the show, I said, with my usual Cheshire cat grin on my face.

Very well, he said. So I trundled off, well it was more of a sashay really (rock climbing injury only 80% healed), into London.

A highly acclaimed drama school were the hosts and supplied all the Graduation Students. They were all charming and the production was very well put together. I could list all the performers and performances I saw but it would mean little to those not there. So I will concentrate instead on my conversations after the show with the cast, the tutors and Head of the Acting / Combat Department. I will not name names.

I noticed that on the cast handouts, under hobbies, there were many sporting activities. As you would expect are listed including sports like Archery, horse riding, rugby, dance, martial arts and swimming, but not one person, not one, mentioned Fencing.

Now, this struck me as very odd as I watched some brilliant Rapier and Dagger, smallsword and sabre routines. I mean top draw stuff, really well trained and coordinated routines with a sprinkling of unarmed combat and acrobatics thrown into the mix.

These skills were all listed in their training syllabuses and after 3 years of work it showed! All were very skilled. But Fencing as a sport or hobby was not listed anywhere.

I asked the Head of Department, after I congratulated his students on their show case, and he told me a familiar story, about Educational Budget Cuts, 20 % had to be found and fencing was number one on the runway.

Why? It is so important to their training, I said. Then the flood gates opened.

"You just cannot find the right coaches; they cannot relate the two skills - competitive to theatrical fencing; it is far too expensive - all the kit, the cash-poor students have

to buy and, frankly, the attitude of the sport is so negative to us. Fencing was an easy option to drop"



Now I have heard this from so many top flight drama schools and academies throughout the UK over my 30 odd years learning competitive fencing and theatrical fencing. We seem to be losing friends and supporters at an alarming rate. We've lost so much funding in competitive fencing, now friends in the Arts too?

I see Fight Directors, many not trained as fencers, taking the lead in areas where we are failing, as they are enthusiastic swordsmen, fit, knowledgeable about how and why they are doing what they are doing and it is all relevant to both sports, theatrical fencing included!

When I asked the younglings (sorry, too much Star Wars), they pretty much say the same thing. Coaches were not relevant, the coach was too "snooty", clubs were unwelcoming, when other club members found out who we were and what we were doing, they ignored us and never interacted with us.

This is the Advanced Combat list from just one of the actors I saw on Wednesday:

Broadsword, Military Sabre, Knife, Quarterstaff, Rapier & Dagger, Sword & Shield and Smallsword.

Not a fencing coach in sight.

I know, I know, stop screaming at these pages! I know full well it's not you or your club. "How dare they!"

But this is the story I keep hearing from the world of Theatrical Fencing.

So what do we do as a sport to stop the rot? Ignore the problem and it will become someone else's problem? If you fancy doing that, fine.

How about we tackle the problem? Try not to become one of the "snooty" coaches and instead become one of the Sword Masters I have spoken about in these pages so often before. Masters like Fred Cavans, Ralph Faulkner, Henry Uyttenhove or even better, Professor Bob Anderson, who were the best their countries had to offer, Olympic standard every one.

Those are the masters the Arts are looking for; teachers, coaches, swordsmen and women to continue carrying our torch of the sport we love so much onto the stage and silver screen. It only requires a little balance in thought, training and understanding to achieve.

Have fun. Be safe!

Andy

Photo: Author's Collection. Richard Lester, Director. Production Co. Film Trust S.A.

Editor's note: Andy submitted this article to Academy News back in April, but, since then, he received a request for help from an actress in Manchester, Dani Halsall, who wanted to acquire stage combat skills. Andy recommended that she first learnt some fencing and suggested she contact me, Bob Merry, and my club, Bramhall Sword Club. Here are her thoughts after her first few weeks of training:



On my last meeting with my agent a few months back we discussed my main selling points as an actress and what work I would be most suited for. I am a former Great Britain international athlete who also works as a Personal Trainer. When I retired from my sport I was given a small role in a vampire based film that contained many combat scenes through-out. My lack of skill in this area was obvious to me and I mentioned to my agent that combat training for television and film would be a good step for me in preparation for future roles.

I was given Andy's contact details and luckily with his help I am currently being trained by Bob Merry and hoping to visit one of Andy's workshops in the near future. On arrival for my first training session with Bob I was very nervous. I wasn't sure what to expect and I do believe that fencing can come across as an elitist sport. This

could possibly be because of the way it is shown in films and television. I couldn't have been more wrong. On arrival I was welcomed by the lovely Bob, supplied with kit within minutes and trying my first attempt with a willing volunteer before I had time to sit down. I can't believe I haven't tried this sport sooner and now I attend sessions weekly with Bob learning new skills every week.

I can't thank the fencing community enough for your help and when I get my first role in a combat based project I know it's down to the positive impact your coaches have had on me and the knowledge that you have provided me with. I think any actor that isn't working towards this skill is missing a vital link in their training.

Warm regards

Dani Halsall

### A COACHING COURSE NEAR YOU? - UPDATE

In the May issue of Academy News, we gave details of a regional approach to coaching courses, as a means of addressing the problem of falling numbers at our residential courses. Masters and Maîtres d'Escrime were invited to offer themselves as potential lead coaches of such courses, but, to date, the response has been poor. Remember, you can contact Bob Merry if you are interested in helping with this scheme. It has also been decided to become more proactive in this respect, so, Masters, you may be contacted soon.

One course that has been decided upon for support under the scheme is a one-day course designed to act as a "taster Session for Coaching". This course is not tied to any particular syllabus or examination system. Instead, it will act as an introduction to coaching ideas and techniques, principally for fencers thinking about becoming coaches, but also for coaches wanting new ideas to broaden their range of coaching to cope with different situations, It will also act as a forum to exchange ideas.

The course is being presented by Professor Bob Merry, who will draw on his nearly sixty years involved with fencing, including twenty-one years "at the coal face", teaching and coaching in schools, clubs, etc., as well as his experience as an instructor in the RAF, which involved two Instructional Techniques courses and a period as part of a team writing and editing a Programmed Learning course. The course will cover such topics as basic definitions, different lesson formats, and preparation and planning of lessons. There will a strong emphasis on practical, "sword in hand" work throughout the day.

The first course of this type will be on October 15th at Bramhall Recreation Centre in Stockport, Cheshire. Because the BAF is supporting such courses with venue costs and Bob is working on an expenses only basis (and lives only a few hundred yards from the venue), this course will be **FREE** (this is not a typo!), but numbers will be limited. If it proves popular, it can go "on the road" to other regions, again on an expenses only basis.

If you are interested in this course, or would like a repeat performance in your area, email bobmerrybaf@aol.com for more details.

## MORE USEFUL BITS......

### TRAINING FOR SUCCESS

Developing the Cadet and Junior Competitive Fencer at International Level August 19th - 20th 2017



## International Performance Weekend led by

Prof. Franco Cerutti and Prof. Philip Bruce

All Hallows Roman Catholic College, Macclesfield SK11 8LB

For details contact Prof. Isobel Bruce Combes at four of clubs@btinternet.com or 07828 588143

This course is designed for coaches who wish to take young fencers from the early stages of competition to success at National and International level. The course will be led by the Swiss National Coach, Prof. Franco Cerutti, and Prof. Philip Bruce. It will focus on épée, although other weapons will be accommodated.

The course is all "sword in hand" and will focus on exercises and lessons suitable to raise the level of competitive fencers.



19th and 20th August 10-4pm. King Edward VI School, Chapel Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6BE

Two days of seminars, interactive workshops, technology demonstrations and trade stands Come and join us for the most relevant gathering of coaches, fencers and supporters in the UK.



Take Foil Fencing to the next level with a Summer Foil Coaching and Performance Course led by Ziemek Wojciechowski

Ziemek Wojciechowski will be leading a one week foil coaching and fencing performance course from Saturday 19th August to Friday 25th August 2017 for both coaches and fencers at Mount St Mary's College, Sheffield. Fencers and coaches can attend for the whole wee or individual days and accommodation and food is available.

This course follows our successful and inspiring course with Ziemek over the last two summers giving a great opportunity to develop coaching and fencing skills under Ziemek's guidance, and gain many new ideas, insights, skills and capabilities.

For more information visit our website Contact: Adam Blight - zfw@adamblight.plus.com or 07761 284378