British Academy of Fencing

ACADEMY NEWS

July 2014
Issue 76

"Run by coaches for coaches"



IF AT FIRST...

...you don't succeed, try, try again.

Any examination day can potentially produce a mixture of success and disappointment. At the conclusion of the Spring Course at Denstone, there were two candidates, who had missed out on obtaining Diploma Epée targets, McMenemy and Andrew Norris, but they were determined not to accept the situation. In the ensuing weeks, they travelled on a number of occasions from their bases in Scotland and Hampshire to undergo extra training with Prof. Philip Bruce before feeling themselves ready for another attempt. One strong motivation for this rapid return to the rigours of an examination board was their desire to qualify for a place in the team for the Fencing Masters' World Championships.



Thus it was that on a Sunday in late April, just days before applications for the FMWC closed, an examination board was convened at Keele University. Scott and Andrew both used William Gallimore-Tallin, from Four of Clubs, as their pupil and he worked tirelessly throughout nearly two hours of lessons. At the end, the board were pleased to tell Scott and Andrew that they had both been successful.

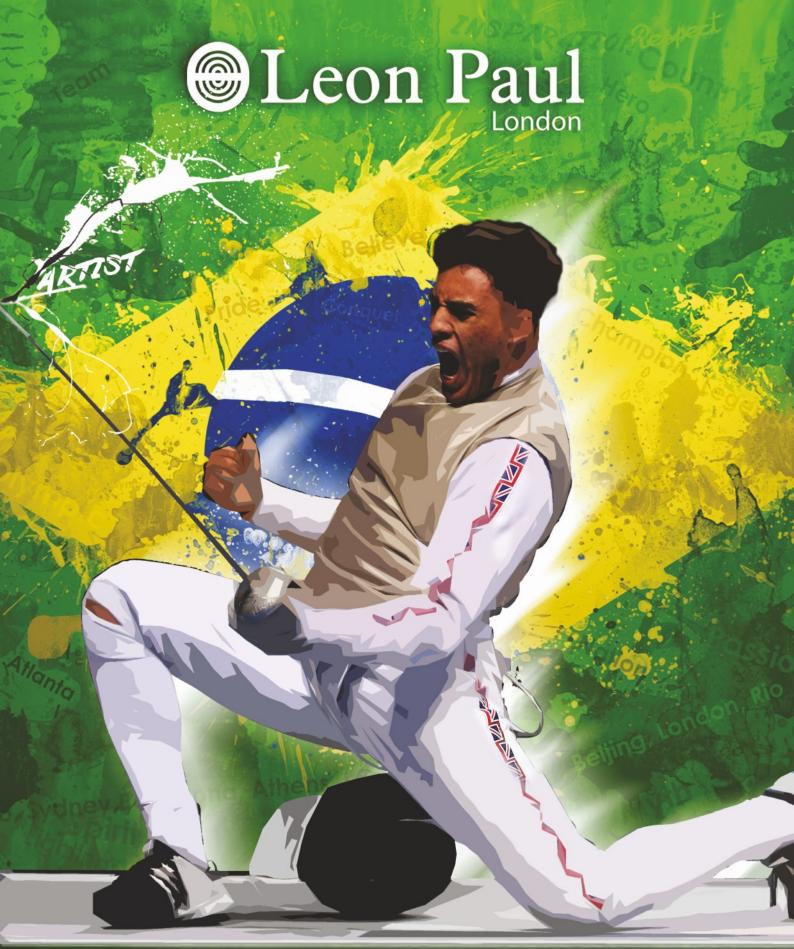
Afterwards, Andrew was sure that the extra training had played a significant part in their success; "It's definitely made a difference", he said. Scott agreed, adding, "It was good to do the exam (at Denstone), as it gives you an idea of what you're looking for. Although it's quite annoying, it's quite valuable to fail once; it gives you a kick in the backside, but you go in again with a renewed sense that you know you can do it to that level. All you need is to polish it up."

Both Scott and Andrew have now set their sights on completing all three Diplomas to become Full Master of the Academy. As was emphasised in the front page story of our previous edition, the Academy is in need of new Masters to secure the future of the Academy and it is to be hoped that they, and others like them, will continue to pursue their ultimate goal.

Academy New congratulates them both on their success and wishes them, along with their fellow team-mates (see page 6), the best of luck in the Fencing Masters' World Championships.

IN THIS ISSUE

Useful Infop 3
President Writesp 4
Den of Vicep 5
FMWC Newsp 6
Sharpening the Edgep 7
Star Wars VIIp 8
Worsley's Wordsp 10
More Useful Bitsp12
NEXT ISSUE: September 2014
Contributions by August 10th, please



James Davis GBR

THE RIO DREWN

Helping fencers achieve their dream since 1921 Official sponsor of the British Fencing Team Find out more at 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

Vice-President:

Prof. Peter Northam 28 Dorset Road Edgbaston, Birminham B17 8EN Tel: 0121 429 9717

Email: prof.pnortham.baf@btinternet.com

Vice-President:

Prof. Louisa Miller 84 Avon Street Warwick, Warwickshire CV34 4PX Tel: 01926 494 145

Email: louisajmiller@hotmail.com

Secretary:

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

Stuart Clough 1 Yew Tree Cottages Brown Street Old Newton, Stowmarket IP14 4QB Tel: 07886 708392 Email: baf@stuartclough.co.uk

Assistant Secretary and Course Officer:

Provost Dave Jerry Orchard Rise, Churchtown Belton, Doncaster DN9 1PE Tel: 01427 874109 email: david.jerry@free.newsurf.net

Members' Representative:

John Worsley 8 Mosedale Close Manchester M29 7JW Tel: 01942 888 935 Email: worsleyja@aol.com

Proficiency Awards Administrator:

Maître Donald Walker 4 The Aviaries Castle Howard York YO60 7BU email: maitredcwalker@aol.com

Additional Committee Appointments:

Chairman, SSTT:

Prof. Tom Etchells 24 Honevsuckle Drive Stalybridge Cheshire SK15 2PS 0161 330 3262 email: T_ETCHELLS@sky.com

International Secretary:

Prof.Philip Bruce

Child Protection Officer, Welfare Officer:

Chairman, Disciplinary Sub-Committee

Prof. Peter Northam

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

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 the Course Officer, Dave Jerry

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 5 – this contains all the syllabuses and current questions for BAF examinations, as well as other examination material.....£10.00 **

Examples of past written Papers - for the Advanced and Diploma examinations - 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)

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......



Child Protection – are you up to date? Do you know where you stand?

After a total re-write and thanks to Louisa Miller and the SSTT, the Academy now has a revised Child Protection policy, which I urge every member to read (go to our website). It's in your interest to read our new policy and could save yourself some embarrassment and possible finger pointing or, worse still, an accusations being made!

New Disk etc.

From the 1st September the Academy will have available a new disk, which principally contains all the information you need for our system of examinations etc. Please note all the questions across all weapons and levels have been revised and are included on the disk. For some, the disk will be posted out automatically (at no cost), for others should you require a copy please contact our course officer (Dave Jerry)

NEW Epée Masters

On behalf of the committee I would like to congratulate Scott McMenemy and Andrew Norris who, at the end of April, both achieved success in passing diploma épée

Rumours!

Over the last few months I have heard some rather disparaging comments directed against the Academy. In the main, these comments appear to criticize our coach education syllabus, saying that it is out of date and that our courses don't teach coaches how to deal with what is happening at the elite end of competitive fencing. What a shame that those who criticize have missed the point! Let's not forget the Academy's principal reason for existence is to train and qualify fencing coaches. A coach who has a thorough understanding of the mechanics of the sport and how strokes work together with distance and timing will have the ability to adapt rapidly and smoothly to the ever evolving changes at the elite end of fencing (where and when s/he is involved in that). More importantly, what any elite sport needs is a large and solid pyramid base of younger fencers who have been taught the basics to a high standard and have excellent and rounded skills ready to be polished into whatever is needed at the current high end of the sport, be it Korean dashing about, or high speed aggressive Italian sabreurs. Who else is going to produce these but a well-trained population of coaches, who value and have a thorough grasp of basic skills? It is not within the remit of the BAF examination/qualification system to provide continuing professional development for already qualified elite coaches or to provide courses helping them to refine their skills and share ideas in whatever the current competitive climate happens to be. Ideally, more senior members of the BAF would be offering their skills in leading courses where ideas and experience could be shared beyond the examination system, but, at the moment, the only regular course of that kind is the Staffs University weekend which has been running for the last 5 or so years. Surprisingly, none of those who moan about the lack of training in practical competition coaching or athlete development have ever shown any interest in attending! Then again, it is always more fun to moan and grumble than get up and actually do something.

In recent years, I have had the very interesting experience of becoming step-father to two young men at university, one of whom is at medical school with ambitions of working at the cutting edge of neurology or some similar discipline. While he enjoys all sorts of complicated arguments with my wife about the latest research into obscure ailments, I am struck by how much of the work he is doing involves plodding through basics (something which, in fencing, is glossed over in Britain - simply practising talking to people, taking blood pressure, giving injections, taking medical histories, which with small changes remain much the same year after year. No one is teaching him how to do the very latest fashions in surgery but I have no doubt that the skills he learns now will form a vital component for being a very competent doctor in any field he chooses. I do not think coaching is all that different.

What really astounds me is how much mud-slinging has been directed toward the Academy over the years. Having said that, most of the mud-slinging comes from those who failed an Academy examination in the past.

For decades, and more recently since the former AFA ceased to stage its two residential summer coach education courses, our organisation has consistently, without any financial help, and without making any money from it, successfully staged two residential courses every year. Over the last 10 years we have attracted trainee coaches from all over the world. And yet there are those who continue to complain (perhaps it's jealousy). If I were in the upper hierarchy of British Fencing, I would want to know how we do it. Yet in all the informal discussions (and there have been many) I have had with numerous individuals from the BFA and the Home Countries (with the exception of Wales), the one common comment they all seem to have is that of telling me what we are doing wrong! I'm not aware of a BFA Level 3 or 4 courses being run over the last 4 years nor is there anything in the pipeline, despite the increasingly desperate requests from the membership. Despite the mud-slinging and endless criticism, I have offered the Academy's help on numerous occasions to create a joined up system of coach education similar to that which some of us benefited from in the 70s and 80s. Sadly these offers have never been taken up.

All the criticism would be fair comment if there were a robust alternative coaching education system on offer (an idea which, despite what many may think, I have always supported). The Academy's system may not be perfect, but at the moment it is the only one offering qualifications beyond the most basic. It is all very well to moan about us, but if we go, what will take our place? We are increasingly getting to the point where Universities have gone from nearly always having a Fencing Master in post, to having the occasional coach to having no coaches at all and relying on members attempting to teach each other. Ordinary clubs are going the same way. As the years go by there are fewer and fewer coaches accompanying pupils to competitions. I fear it will not be long before we have no competent coaches at all in local clubs and no access to high quality basic coaching for young people and beginners. No need to worry then about whether coaches are keeping up with the latest Korean fashions at elite competitions . . . there simply won't be any GB fencers at elite competitions to experience being beaten by them!

Philip Bruce

DEN OF VICE

Contributions from the Academy's two Vice-Presidents



In this Academy of around 250 coaches, most can be categorised as part time coaches, i.e. Coaches who are working evenings and week-ends, receiving money for their time and expertise. They would probably have a full-time job and/or a partner or wife who works as well. Or, if retired, would have at least a state pension to supplement their income. There would be some of our members who are full-time coaches but have a second income from either a pension or a partner who works. And then there are a very few (including me, until I reached retirement age and qualified for a pension) who make their living from full-time coaching and have no other means of income.

These are the coaches whom I have to admire, for taking the financial risks. They have to accept an educational system that only operates for 39 weeks a year, therefore losing a source of income for approximately 10 further weeks. They have to work every evening, attend competitions at week-ends, run

courses between term times and usually, last on the list, provide for their own personal development and extra qualifications. And probably a wife, kids and a mortgage.

These are the coaches whom I admire and sympathise with; everyone else is a 'hobby coach'. This is not to denigrate all other coaches, far from it, but a full-time coach without any other means of income, who makes a living from this sport, successfully, is a rare coach. How do they do it? Personality, luck, massive support from other coaches, some business sense, creating opportunities for work, recognizing opportunities to grow fencing, fee flexibility, accepting a lower price to start a new venture, talking to other professional coaches and comparing situations.

The list is almost endless.

An extremely important element of a coach is his reputation. Honesty, reliability, enthusiasm, hard-worker, giving more than the fee charged, going that extra mile; ability to get on with Parents, Teachers, Heads of Department, Regional Sports Councils, BFA Regional and County organizations.

It is a wise coach who tries to get on with his fellow coaches; work can be passed on from them, working together with them, learning from each other. I see too many coaches who have become isolated because of arrogance and an 'I know better than anyone else' attitude.

Speaking from a personal point of view, I can confirm that being a professional fencing coach is the best job in the world. It will take you to places you never thought possible, move in circles higher than you would otherwise achieve, doing a job you feel guilty being paid for because you just enjoy coaching.

Happy coaching! - Peter Northam

I recently enjoyed watching the 2014 European Fencing Championships. The access and coverage available online was great. You could watch the bouts as they happened in real time or catch up later at a time convenient to you.

One particular fight that stood out was the men's individual foil semi final between Peter Joppich (GER) and James Davis (GBR). The first period and much of the second took place at a relatively steady pace with Joppich and Davis exchanging hits like for like, with Davis always taking the lead. Nothing special there you might think. However, it was the final 30 seconds of the second period with Davis leading 10-8, when the pace dramatically changed. Davis took charge and within 10 seconds had won the fight (Joppich didn't score again) and secured his position in the final.

The ability to dictate pace and take charge of a fight was never more apparent than in the 2011 World Fencing Championships during the women's foil individual quarter final match between Corinne Maitrejean (FRA) and Valentina Vezzali (ITA). The third period starts with Maitrejean 10-5 up. She extends her lead to make it 11-5 with just over 2 minutes left on the clock. Then the unthinkable happens with 1.40 to go Vezzali slowly but surely closes the gap until the score is 11-11 at the end of the third period. Three seconds into the extra minute, Vezzali scores and secures her place in the semi final. Vezzali's tenacity and ability to up the pace and dominate the fight is truly impressive.

Training fencers to cope with direct elimination fights is an important part of coaching. The ability to dictate pace is an essential skill as highlighted in the fights outlined previously. One training technique worthy of consideration is the use of controlled bouts and scenarios. Below are a few suggestions that you could use with your fencers:

- Fence for 30 seconds and aim to score as many hits as you can
- Fence for 30 seconds and aim not to concede any hits
- Fence for 20 seconds the score is 3-0. The aim of the fencer ahead is to maintain the score and the fencer behind to equal the score
- Establish priority and fence for 1 minute
- Fencer A has priority and there are 20 seconds left of extra time. Repeat, but fencer B has priority

I believe this type of training has many advantages not least of all encouraging your fencers to think tactically about fights and to appreciate the importance of pace when it comes to fencing in direct elimination bouts.

Louisa Miller

















FMWC UPDATE

2014 is an Académie d'Armes Internationale Championship year. This year it is the turn of the Fencing Masters of the world to strut their stuff on piste from July 30th to August 3rd in Prato, Italy.

I have the great pleasure of introducing –

The 2014 British Academy of Fencing Team:

Professor Philip Bruce Head of GB Delegation & Team Manager

The Team

Professor Sue Benney Master at Arms - all three weapon veteran competition

Michael Johnston Epée and Foil - veteran competition

Anthony Klenczar

Scott McMenemy Team Epée - competition

Andrew Norris

Peter Wright Sabre - competition

Dennis Hunt Sabre - veteran competition

The Fencing Masters' World Championship is a unique event; only diploma qualified Académie d'Armes Internationale members can take part. Held every four years, Masters from across the globe come and fence each other in competition, showcasing their knowledge and skills.

I think you will agree with me, we have a fabulously talented team of Master's this year who have taken time out of their busy lives to represent Great Britain and our Academy.

The flights and hotels have been booked. Team GB track suits for the opening ceremony are on their way.

I hope, along with me, you will continue to support and wish our 2014 BAF Team the very best of luck and success in Prato!

GO FOR IT!

Andy Wilkinson FMWC 2014 Team Captain

SHARPENING THE EDGE

A Report on the Course by Isobel Bruce Combes

The 6th Staffordshire University Coaching and Performance Course was held over the weekend of the 14th and 15th of June. This was run by Four of Clubs Fencing in association with the BAF and seems once again to have been a great success with a good turnout and lots of positive feedback.



This time around the course focused on the difficult skill of the 'Fighting Lesson' where the coach 'fights' for a particular stroke or strokes with a pupil. This goes beyond merely 'making it competitive' as required at Advanced and Diploma levels and so was a challenge for all who attended. Philip started the course with a bang by demonstrating with some young, highly motivated fencers of what this exciting and exhilarating kind of lesson could look like. After the rest of the course had a go at this, we then proceeded to spend the rest of the day and half the next breaking this concept down and exploring the basic skills needed to make such a lesson effective. Sunday afternoon saw the 'Fighting Lesson' revisited and I think all the coaches were pleasantly surprised to see how much of it they could now do.

One feature of the course was that we brought along a wide variety of Four of Clubs pupils so that Philip could demonstrate how these principles could be applied to almost every kind of fencer from an 11 year old competitor to an enthusiastic adult recreational fencer, including along the way male, female, left handed, right handed, child, adult, national champion, beginner and experienced competitor and so on. Not to mention that is was at all three weapons. I think the point was well made that it could be done with anyone!

As usual, there were many opportunities for coaches to socialise over the coffee and lunches which were provided as part of the course. We also once again had a very pleasant course dinner at the Church House Restaurant – though it was noticeable that everyone retired back to their hotels and beds much earlier than in previous years. They had worked very hard!

It was very pleasing to see the number of diploma holders who attended the course and even more flattering that two chose to work with the weapon in which they were already Masters. It is very encouraging that we have people who have no intention of resting on their laurels but are determined to continue raising the bar of their own achievements. I was sorry that none of our Full Masters were able to attend – it would have been a great example to others.

Here are a few of the very kind comments we received after the course:

- Brilliant Course! Thank you to Isobel for organising it and to Phil for his fantastic coaching and knowledge. My fencers (and I) had a great time and went away with plenty to work on and think about.
- The course was very enjoyable and covered subject areas that I will find very useful. I have already told other coaches that they have a missed out.
- Even as one of the coaching students' students, I learned more in 2 days than I would ever have thought possible and now feel more motivated to progress at fencing than ever before.
- Thanks again to you and Philip for a wonderful course.



• I wasn't sure what to expect as a pupil, but I am pleased to be able to say I came out of it a better fencer than when I arrived on Saturday morning.

SWORDSMEN OF THE SILVER SCREEN - PT 7

By Andy Wilkinson

SOME THOUGHTS INSPIRED BY "STAR WARS"



"The Empire Strikes Back"
From L to R: Peter Diamond (Blue Track suit), David Tomblin (1st Assistant
Director - hand on rail), Bob Anderson, Mark Hamill
Copyright Lucas Film. (Author's Collection)

Q. What's the difference between an ordinary sabre duel and a light sabre duel?

A. A light sabre duel has fewer calories.

Too early in the year for Christmas cracker jokes? Yes, I hear you cry! Well, it's nice to be the first at something I guess, so Merry Christmas!

That cracker of a joke is perhaps not as silly a question as it first seems to be. "Star Wars VII" is now in production at Pinewood Studios for an 18th December 2015 release. The original cast are back and the nostalgia of seeing "Star Wars" for the first time, way back in 1977 came flooding back to me.

Of course, our very own Professor Bob Anderson was the sword master on the original three films, "Star Wars", "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of The Jedi" – working alongside the stunt coordinator Peter Diamond.

So that you don't have to wait too long to read this next insight in my autobiography entitled 'Life on the Cutting Room Floor' (stop rolling your eyes, only kidding folks...), "Star Wars" was the reason I got into fencing in the first place! I had the honour and privilege of telling Bob this at Warwick Castle when he was guest of honour at our Diamond Swords celebrations.

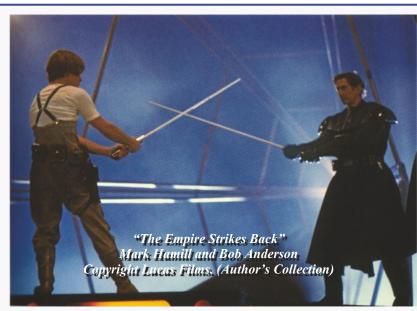
With this new chapter of the space saga in production, it got me thinking about how the demands for sword play have changed over the subsequent years of this franchise.

Those cast members who were required to learn how to duel with light sabres all needed training, including the cast in the most recent films "The Phantom Menace" "Attack of The Clones" and "Revenge of the Sith". It was obvious to me however that the style of fencing is markedly different between the original three and the last three.

Bob Anderson's light sabre duels used actual fencing moves; they are realistic and logical, exciting, dynamic and believable.

The last three films incorporated a considerable amount of jumping about; spinning in mid air – defying gravity, Molinello type moves while running forward to attack...

Obi Wan-Kenobi describing the light sabre in "Star Wars" as '...an elegant weapon for a more civilized age' ...Hmm



So what happened? Why the different styles between the films?

There are a number of answers, the first being that Bob didn't work on the last three films. I can only observe that the fight director/sword master on the last three films was a stuntman who had martial arts training. To hire martial arts experts instead of sword masters is a regrettable trend in films today. Although martial arts are an important tool in the fight director's armoury, the sword work is predominately of Eastern origin, philosophy, style and movement. Does that matter in a space opera? Maybe not to the untrained eye, but I can name a dozen or so recent films where it

did matter; not martial art films but they used that style, the swordplay scenes in these films were like grit in the eye ointment to a swordsman.

Secondly, technology has advanced considerable since the original three films were made. The use of Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) for 'live action stunts' was in its infancy back in the late 70s and early 80s. CGI allows you to do much more when filmed against a 'Green Screen' – computers can take over and your duel becomes digital. Post Production, where a film is put together, and where the light of a light sabre is added, an action sequence can truly be enhanced, the tempo can be raised or slowed down in a fight and with good editing, stunt doubles and actors merge into one; the process is complete. In the 70s and 80s, 35mm film stock was used in the camera. The film had to be developed 'in the soup' before it could be reviewed.

No more need for rushes either. Rushes are quick rough edits of your day's filming once the film had been developed. Rushes were often screened early the next morning to the director and producer as well as key crew before the new day's filming began. If you see an error, or you would like to do that bit over again, scheduling or budget may not allow you to do so and the error or correction had to remain, or worse, be cut from the film! With digital, you can instantly see on play back the error and go again – same set up, all fresh and immediate. I recently shot an action sequence for the BBC series "The Tudors". The sequence was shot digitally and in slow motion for effect. If I shot that same sequence back in the 1970s it would perhaps take 24hrs to 48hrs for me to see the rushes. I was able to watch the play back in HD slow motion within minutes of shooting it while on set! FYI: It was a good take anyway – cough cough...

Thirdly and this is indicative of the film industry today, the studio financiers, not the creative's necessarily, want more bang for their buck – regardless of story line or characterisation. Where once the climax of an Errol Flynn swashbuckler was a dramatic duel to the death with Basil Rathbone and that was the buzz as you left the cinema, today a blockbuster has to have a least an entire Pirate Galleon exploding into a million fiery splinters as the hero swings from the yard arm with the princess under one arm while fighting a pirate with the other, as the last of the cannon balls sails between his legs!

There is room for both styles. Sometimes the story dictates it!

As many of you know I work in film too and as a film voting member of BAFTA I see about 100 films a year - someone's got to do it – AND I do see the tide changing – a balance returning to the "FORCE".

"Star Wars VII" I'm sure will be action packed with light sabre duels aplenty.

I wonder what the stunt coordinator or fight director will come up with next – I'll be watching - no pressure! Until next time -

Take care, be safe, have fun!

WORSLEY'S WORDS

Musings from your Members' Rep.



I'd like to start my article this time with a big thank you to Scott McMenemy, for his contribution to the last edition of the Academy News. These are the types of articles that I would like more of our members to send in, they don't have to be long, they don't have to include photos (but pictures are nice), they don't have to be about overseas competitions, just a couple of paragraphs about a local competition you went to, a beginners' session that you ran, or something similar. Anybody can contribute, no matter how mundane you think something is there always someone else out there who wants to hear about it. Remember the Academy News exists to inform the membership of what is happening within the Academy and what its members are doing. It's also a way for members to pass on advice and information to the rest of the Academy. Don't be shy, get writing! So, once again, thank you Scott for an interesting article and some keen observations on the differences between UK and Continental fencers.

As you can read on page 7, Four of Clubs in association with the BAF has held another competitive coaching workshop. The intention behind these workshops is to share some ideas on competitive coaching outside of the examination system. The workshop is not intended as an all-encompassing answer to the question of how to train winning fencers; no course or training system can hope to do that. Hopefully these ideas will provide a useful insight into the training of competitive fencers and give the attending coaches and fencers a framework to take away with them, which they can try out and experiment with back at their clubs.

Having attended this workshop, which was held on the weekend of 15th and 15th June, I can say that it was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding weekend. Although hard work, both physically and mentally for the fencers and coaches alike, it was well worth it. Fencers and coaches went away with a lot of useful material. Those who have been on some of the BAF residential courses may have recognised several of the ideas demonstrated, but it was good to see it applied in what most people would call a real coaching situation.

I must say though that I was surprised and disappointed by the relatively low turnout (about 35-40 people) compared to the one held last year (about 50-60 people), especially considering that this second workshop was held in response to many requests from BAF members for more of this type of workshop. I would urge the members of the Academy to support these workshops and any others that are held. They are not easy to organise and it would be all too easy for these types of events to die out through lack of interest. If that happens, then the Academy has lost a valuable educational resource that is available to coaches and fencers alike. Be warned!

If you have any comments on the above or would like any more information then please get in touch.

John Worsley, Members' Representative.

EUROPEAN CHAMPION

Congratulations to James Davis on becoming the new European Men's Foil Champion, beating Alexei Cheremisinov (RUS) by 15-11 in the Gold Medal match in Strasbourg. James is the first British Fencer to become European champion

Afterwards, James paid tribute to all those who had made this possible, including his parents and his coach, Ziemek Wojciechowski. He also thanked all the coaches who had helped his career. A major influence on his early fencing was, of course, the late Professor Jim Perry.

DIAMOND JUBILEE FOR CRAWLEY SWORD CLUB

In 1954, Geoff Griffin founded Crawley Sword Club, which has now reached its 60th anniversary.

Geoff, one of the Academy's select body of Provost members, is now in his late 80s and has coached at the club until quite recently. Regrettably his health has declined of late and we wish him all the best.

The club celebrated their jubilee towards the end of June, with a birthday lunch and skittles.

Congratulations to both George and Crawley Sword Club on reaching this milestone. Our sport depends on the work done at the grass roots by this type of club.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

In future issues, Academy News is planning to run a page covering general news from the wider world of fencing and we need members to help by doing the research and contributing short items.

These could be simple facts about prominent people in the sport. For example, do you know who is the President of the FIE? Who coaches the Italian Women's Foil team?

Or they could be short items like the ones on the left, ranging from news about our members (especially some of the usually unsung ones) to success on the international stage.

If you want to help, contact Bob Merry - bobmerrybaf@aol.com - with suitable items. We'll need plenty to fill a page!



SNOWDON TREK 2014:

IN AID OF EXCALIBUR UNIT' CHARITY

On July 12th we will be trekking up Snowdon in memory of Prof. Jim Perry.

Jim was a good friend, fencing coach and work colleague. He was a great believer that life is for living and in that spirit we have set ourselves a challenge doing one of the things that Jim loved so much.

He was closely involved with the military, serving many years in the SAS, then training Special Forces in Arctic Warfare and Survival Skills.

Jim was an exceptional and inspired Coach and Teacher, a great role model and friend.

He spent many more years involved in the support, mentoring and coaching of youngsters in

skiing and fencing.

He touched the hearts and lives of many children and adults and as part of that legacy we have chosen Excalibur Unit (www.excaliburunit.org.uk reg. Charity no.1143735) as our charity as it encompasses many of ourgims and sim's.

Any donations would therefore be greatly appreciated. You can do this simply through our page at: http://www.justgiving.com/SnowdonTrek2014

Thankyou.

Líz, Carl, and Jon



MORE USEFUL BITS......

BAF RESIDENTIAL COURSE

Autumn Course - 27th October to 1st November 2014

Course to be held at Denstone College, Staffordshire.

Fees: £430 (members) £499 (non-members)

Contact Dave Jerry, the Course Officer for full details.

Contact details are on page 3 and further details can be found on our web site.



First Aid Courses

Are you interested in learning First Aid, or need to renew your qualification? I can provide training in Primary Care (CPR), Secondary Care (First Aid) and Automated External Defibrilator (AED) use. All qualifications are backed by Emergency First Response EMEA Ltd and are recognized by HSE.

For more details and information, contact Stuart Clough (details on page 3) or visit our website http://efr.stuartclough.co.uk

Creating Confidence to Caresm



Venue:

Kings Heath

Birmingham B14 6ER

COCKS MOORS WOODS ÉPÉE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday 15th November 2014

Two competitions in one day... Morning: Juniors (age groups) Afternoon: Seniors Open

Entry Fees

AM or PM £17.00 AM & PM £25.00 U15s may enter Junior and Senior events. Late entry plus £5.

Closing date for entries: 11th Nov 2014

Cocks Moors Woods Format: One round of poules. Everyone promoted to direct elimination. Leisure Centre **Alcester Road South**

Visit website for full details, to enter online or download an entry form.

Contact: Richard Burn - m: 07967 267663 e: epee@cmwfc.org.uk www.cmwfc.org.uk/epee

Leisure Centre Facilities: Cafe and Bar **Swimming Pool Fitness Centre** Large Free Car Park

IMPORTANT

All Course organisers and potential attendees should be aware of the following condition, which applies to all BAF Courses, including "non-official" courses run by Academy members.

Please note the Course Officer and the Course Director reserve the right to refuse an application to attend the course.