

Minutes of the Cambridge Fencing Club AGM
17th May 2007

1. Apologies for absence

All the current committee members were present. Barry Clark and Graham Stretton sent their apologies for not being able to attend.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes for the last AGM were presented by Mike Lewis, who went through them. The minutes were accepted by the meeting.

3. Chairman's report

Mike Lewis gave his report on the year's events. The main points of his report were as follows.

Club membership is at a good level. The number of people attending the beginner classes has risen and the club has been able to retain members from the classes. He thanked Michael Kranz and Pat Faircloth for running the classes.

Barry Clark has had to stop coaching at the club, but he hopes to return in July. Mike thanked him for his coaching, especially his work with the epeeists. He hoped that the club will be able to recruit a second three-weapon coach, but it has been difficult to find a suitable candidate.

Mike thanked the individual members of the committee for their help during the year. He finished his report by announcing that he will be standing down as chairman.

4. Treasurer's report

Laurence presented the accounts for the last year. The club's finances remain healthy, with a balance of approximately £4,000. One factor that has contributed to this is that Barry has been unable to attend as often as expected. The club should break even next year and there is no need to increase fees at the moment. However, this will need to be reconsidered if a second three weapon coach is appointed.

5. Captain's report

Diane presented her report. The club lost the town vs gown match again. However, entry to the county and Eastern region competitions has been good and the club won the team foil and epee competitions.

6. Secretary/Armourer/Publicity

Only Ian, the armourer, presented a report. The club is applying to the county for another new timing box. However, the club will have to buy the spools for this. Unfortunately the body wires supplied by the club have been disappearing. Ian finished by drawing attention to the clothing regulations concerning socks. All fencers using electric weapons must now wear long socks.

7. Coaching

Barry is hoping to return to coach at the club in June.

It was suggested that an additional coach should be recruited. Martin Brooks has expressed an interest in returning to fencing and Alan Skip of the BFA has a plan to appoint a coach in Cambridge for school fencing. However, it is not clear what will happen. In the meantime the club should encourage members with amateur qualifications to use them.

The university club has been approached concerning the appointment of a resident coach who could serve both clubs. This contact will be maintained.

The way in which an additional coach would be funded was raised. It was suggested that fees could be increased now to build up additional funds to pay for the appointment of a new coach in the future. It was also suggested that those receiving lessons should pay extra. However, the treasurer felt that funding should be considered if/when a new coach is appointed.

8. Elections

Chair -	Michael Kranz was elected without opposition.
Vice-chair -	Nick Bane was re-elected without opposition.
Treasurer -	Laurence Bunnage was re-elected without opposition.
Secretary -	Simon Butler was re-elected without opposition.
Armourer -	Ian Wittingham was re-elected without opposition.
Publicity -	Adam Maltpress was elected without opposition.
Captain -	Diane Patterson was re-elected without opposition.

9. Any other business

Foil team

A league secretary needs to be appointed to help run the county foil team. This will be arranged informally.

Presentation to Mike Lewis

Mike Lewis was thanked for all the hard work he has put in as chairman and in other rolls within the club over the years. The new chairman, Michael Kranz, presented him with a commemorative wine glass.

Open Air

Michael Kranz reminded everyone that the Open Air tournament would take place on the 8th July at St Bedes School. Help will be needed to run the event.

Michael also suggested that it might be possible to move the club to St Bedes School since it has good facilities. However, the sports hall is not available on Thursday nights and it would therefore be necessary to change the evening when club meetings are held. The availability of coaches would also need to be considered. Michael will make further enquires to find out the cost and the availability of car parking.

Coaching and fees

Michael Kranz would like those who receive coaching in the future to provide training for beginners. He would like to establish a formal procedure for this.

He also suggested that members who carry out tasks for the club, principally coaching, should have their fees reduced. It was felt that any such reduction should only be made for specific tasks, such as running the beginners classes. Fees must not be reduced on an ad hoc basis. It was also felt that rewarding some may put others off from helping in the club if they do not receive a similar reduction in fees.

Footwork

A request was made to institute footwork sessions at the start of club meetings. This will be discussed with Barry when he returns.

Simon Butler
5th September 2007