

Southern Region (England Fencing)
Chair's report
July 2022 to June 2023

Fencing has picked up since the Covid shut down in the early part of last year. In common with other sports there's been a patchy recovery, some clubs have fully recovered membership, but others are still down on numbers.

The region held six events this year, 4 competitions, 2 development events. We also supported 5 other non-regional events (Winton cup, Cadet Winton, Veteran's Winton cup, GB Cup & the British Youth Championships). As usual the 2 BYC qualifier competitions were the largest event – with over 200 entries in 24 categories.

During the first half of the year I, along with the other regional chairs, was part of a review into the governance of fencing & the formal relationships between British Fencing, England Fencing and the regions (counties are not yet in the remit of that review). The final document was not universally endorsed, mainly because it left some unanswered questions about the future. However, England Fencing may formally adopt it and this will require some changes to our constitution in order to comply, but it will mean that all the regions will have very similar constitutions and comply with current ideas about good governance in any sports organisation (our constitution was adopted in 2011). Compliance is necessary to ensure inclusion in England Fencing's organisational insurance, and to comply with any "good governance" requirements of any future funding applications.

At the moment the constitution says the chair is elected a period of 3 years or less, therefore I am due to retire at this AGM. I decided not to stand for Chair again at this AGM, but to offer to offer to stay on the committee as Treasurer.

I would like to thank the other members of the committee for their support and all the work they've put in to running to competitions. Anyone who has run a competition will know how heavily we rely on volunteers – Thank you to all the other people who quietly put in time setting up and packing up at the venues, repairing kit and numerous small jobs that keep things running smoothly.

Activities during the year:

(there are photos from most events on the Region's Facebook page)

Senior Championships – 03 July 2022

Held at St Gabriel's School, Newbury. 44 entrants but too few in the women's sabre to run that weapon category. 19 entrants in the Men's epee lead to a close fought final with Alain winning 15 – 14 against Sam Gibbs.

Men's Epee – won by Alain Barbasiewicz (Reading)

Men's Foil – won by Kunle Taiwo (Sarum Swords)

Men's Sabre – won by Sam Gibbs (Camden)

Women's Epee – won by Helen Howell (Escrime Winchester)

Women's Foil – won by Ella-Marie Rudman-Bromley (Sarum Swords)

Senior Winton – July 2022

Separate report

Thank you to Steve Bateman for continuing to organise the team.

1st Aid course 14/8/22

12 people joined a level 3 Emergency 1st Aid at work course on 14 Aug 2022. It was the standard course but we also looked at some fencing specific issues. There seems to be a limited demand for 1st aid courses as many people are accessing training elsewhere.

Under 10 Foil & Under 14 team foil 30/10/22

30 Oct 2022 – St Gabriels school, Newbury

10 entries in the U10's & 8 teams of Under 14's. Final of the U10's was well fought and very close. Likewise the U14 team final was tense and only decided on the last hit. Well done to all the fencers

Cadet Winton 18/12/22

See separate report.

The region continued to support the Cadet Winton. Costs have risen because the venue cost have increased. The fencing is over two days with overnight accommodation provided. It is one of the best opportunities for good fencing and meeting fencers from other regions.

BYC – RQEs Feb & March 2023

BYC RQE Competitions entry numbers and qualifiers

Age Group	Foil Entrants/ qualifiers	Epee Entrants/ qualifiers	Sabre Entrants/ qualifiers
Women's U12	16/8	10/8	1/1
Women's U14	16/8	10/8	3/3
Women's U16	7/7	10/8	4/4
Women's U18	6/6	8/8	2/2
Men's U12	22/10	10/8	3/3
Men's U14	45/8	14/8	3/3
Men's U16	15/8	28/12	3/3
Men's u18	9/8	11/8	3/3

NB not all qualifying places were taken up.

Congratulations to those fencers who went onto win medals at the finals in May.

Foil Training day for Under 18's 16/04/23

Run at St Gabriel's School, Newbury. 36 foilests came to the training day run by John Routledge, Allen Cooke & Steve Davy, with assistance from James Kwan and Matt Copp.

GB Cup June 2023

Only two fencers applied to be on the team (though one had to withdraw) so there was no need to have a selection competition. Congratulations to Amelia from Espada for winning the silver medal in the women's epee.

Once again, thank you to all the volunteers, coaches and fencers who have helped through out the year.

David Bradley