

# Kent County Amateur Fencing Union AGM - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010

## Chair's Report

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their support and work in the past year. Especially I thank the officers – Jane Clayton as our Vice Chair, Alan Rainey for his work as our treasurer and Corsini King for his captaincy of the County Team. I should also like to thank John Anderson for his role as auditor. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those other people from the clubs around the county for their organisation of the various county championships. I also wish to thank Benenden School and John Chorley who provided us with their venue for most of our events. Finally I wish to thank all those fencers who supported the county with their entries into our events as without their support we would have little purpose.

Lisa Pelham has resigned as our secretary and Tim O’Conor of Eltham College Fencing Club has agreed to take on this role if the AGM wishes it. I should like to thank Lisa for all her hard work over the past two years and to wish her ‘all the best’ for the future.

We have continued to receive financial support from the Kent Sports Development Unit I thank their officers and the Kent County Council for their sympathetic consideration.

The structure of England and in particular the area of each English Region is currently the subject of a review by England Fencing and I will deal more fully with this later in the meeting. However at present the review has looked into creating a different London Region to the extant area which if this comes about will affect the counties of Kent, Surrey, Middlesex and Essex and will effectively move all the London Boroughs into a London Region leaving the remnants of the counties as the South East Region. To make their decisions more palatable England have decided that any fencer and any club can register with whatever region they wish and thus fence for that region. Thus if I wanted to I could register Maidstone Fencing Club with the West Midlands and I could register myself with the South West whilst Janet could register with the North East despite the fact that we both obviously live in Kent and the club is clearly based in Kent.

British Fencing has made a decision to stop issuing membership cards but will confirm by Email that membership is current. In future our competition organisers will need to register with BF to be provided with confirmation of a competitor’s membership and will need to log on at the check in for each event to confirm the currency of that membership. As like many other sports halls the signal is non-existent at Benenden we will need to operate a different system. In future all entrants will need to prove their membership by providing a copy of the Email sent out by BF confirming their membership.

Kent’s coaches ought to be aware that they must maintain the currency of the various documents i.e. CRB, Safeguarding Children and First Aid if they wish to remain on the coaches list. At least one young Kentish coach has recently been removed from the England register because of his failure to renew his CRB and First Aid.

Cyril Lee Trophy -- As you are aware this trophy is presented to the club with the best results in the senior foil and the intermediate foil events. The winners for the 2009-2010 season are Tenterden Swords Fencing Club with a total of 42 points. The other positions were in second place Gravesham FC with 37 points, Shortland House FC in third with 24 points, fourth Mallard FC with 13 points, fifth Blackheath FC with 12 points, in sixth place Benenden School with 3 points and in seventh place with 2 points Invicta FC.

We ran an almost full schedule of events last year, and intend this year to run them again. However I must repeat my previous warnings that we have to try to improve our entry numbers as a greater interest in the events will help to build a stronger county and I would ask all club secretaries to "push" our events.

Without entries we cannot justify running the various championships and I am afraid that it will be a case of "use it or lose it". Whilst the latest event that we ran last weekend is not in the year under review I am pleased to be able to thank the management of Benenden School and in particular John Chorley for arranging the venue again.

Child Protection issues have moved on and I must repeat my previous statements that each fencing body be it only a club should have its own documented policy. We as a county association need such a policy and our Welfare Officer in conjunction with our new secretary will need to make the preparation of such a document a priority. There is a photographers' book, which travels in the organiser's box. Please make sure, if you are an event organiser, that you sign up all those that wish to take photographs at any event that you are running in order that the County has a comprehensive record of all those who are authorised to take photographs at our events.

Peter Huggins, Chair, KCAFU.1nov10