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Tomorrow's Achiever's are Back

England Fencing is pleased to announce the re-launch of the Tomorrow's Achievers national training days.

Following recent consultation with the youth fencing community, it was clear that those involved in the past greatly valued the initiative, and called for its restoration.

Tomorrow's Achievers (TA) training sessions are a chance for young fencers who have already reached a high standard in their age-groups to train together for intensive, day long sessions. These cover all aspects of fencing, including warm-up, footwork and bladework as well as a chance to fence peers at national standard, but outside of the pressure of competition.

From time to time TA includes additional sessions on related subjects of interest to both fencers and parents, including nutrition, sports psychology, career planning, refereeing and armoury work. At every TA session there are opportunities to network with other fencing families, and to chat with England Youth coaches and officials about all aspects of the sport.

TA days are aimed at English fencers in the 10 – 14 year old* age bracket, and it is intended to act as a feeder to the newly established British Fencing Academy. Fencers should have been fencing for at least a year or two, be competing regularly and successfully, and aspire to fence at national and international level.

TA sessions are aimed at a high standard of young fencer, and the training is demanding of both skills and fitness, and so are not suitable for beginners. However, England Fencing recognises that in the target age groups, talent can emerge very quickly, and do not wish TA to be exclusive. All those with the talent and commitment are welcome.

Entry to TA can be achieved 3 ways.

- 1) **By invitation.** England Fencing invites fencers based on their performance at competition, and particularly based on the England U15 ranking lists.
- 2) **By nomination.** Coaches, club, county and regional officials may recommend a fencer to the TA organiser as being of an appropriate standard for TA
- 3) **By application.** Any English fencer of the appropriate age may attend a TA session for evaluation. If the TA coaching staff feel that the fencer is not yet of the requisite standard, they may suggest other avenues to explore before returning to TAs.

The first two TA training sessions will be at Rye St. Antony School, Franklin Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7SA, on 22nd May and 12th June 2010.

Please contact Matt Thompson on 01235 532460 or matthew.thompson@englandfencing.org.uk for more details.

- Older and younger fencers may be considered under exceptional circumstances. Please contact the organisers to discuss. Fencers resident in England, but affiliated to another home country can also attend subject to a small surcharge.