Location:

Aylestone Leisure centre

Present:

Steve Smith, Ryan Smith, Barbara Whitcombe, Kaitlyn Peberdy, Libby Dunn, Ewan Cawey, Andi Ge, Rudi Ge, Fayha Omar, Wiktoria Kunz, Julie Guy, Mick Guy, Craig Bustin, Milkha Anini-Burham, Craig Anderson & Adina Stimpson.

Apologies:

Lee Garner

Minutes of Previous AGM: Refer to Secretaries report / Website

Matters Arising form previous AGM: Refer to Secretaires report

Chairpersons Report

State of the Club

Membership wise we are doing very well, with numbers the club has not seen for a long time, with our first post COVID beginner group being exceptionally large, and a solid core of pre COVID members returning even after such a long break. Which was followed by a good sizes grade 1 group at the beginning of this year, a large amount of the September group returning for grade 2 and members joining us from Beauchamp Blades means the club has grown quite well.

Competitions.

The beginning of this year has brought a couple of competitions, with the master of arms having half a dozen of our members taking part, with gold in the sabre being brought back by rowan from our sabre group. And we also had success in the British Youth Championships qualifier, with 3 foilist and 4 sabres taking part, and all of them picking up medals and qualifying, which is a very good performance.

Social

Unfortunately, the social side of the club has not gone so well, we did not have a Christmas dinner this year, and I did not quite get round to organising a post-Christmas dinner to replace it. We should try to organise something for the summer instead.

Thank you to all the coaches for your hard work, and specific thanks to Craig Anderson and Kaitlyn for stepping up to coaching.

And thanks all our members.

Treasurers Report

With the post-covid boost in membership and returnees, the club is in the best financial position it has been for 10+ years

Those who had built up ‘covid credits’ through continuing their standing orders have largely been refunded, or are using their credits towards fees and kit

We now have a card reader, making it much easier to collect payments at Club, and saves taking cash/cheques to the bank. It is well worth the small fee charged for transactions

We now have online banking, making it much quicker and easier to check if payments have been received and to make payments for Club bills and expenses

We will seek to pursue purchasing the Beauchamp Blades kit; this would represent a useful addition of a range of sizes of complete kits and the club can afford to pay a fair price which is good for both parties

Bank balance on 1st April 2022 is £9,316.98

Secretaries Report (Steve Smith)

The last AGM was held on 7th July 2020 and the actions arising from this was mainly regarding COVID and returning to fencing after the lockdown.

The club has had three committee meeting via Zoom since the AGM on 4th October 2020, 16th March 2021 and 10th August 2021.

The committee also has a WhatsApp group for everyday communication and decisions.

As the club’s representative to the British Fencing’s East Midland Region committee, I’ve attended one EM region committee meeting.

LFC’s Junior Sabre Group

The junior sabre group meets on Friday evenings at the Aylestone Leisure centre between 7 to 9pm and is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Steve Smith and John Willows provide the coaching. The group caters for kids from 9yrs to 21yrs but this year, we have allowed parents of the juniors to join in making it a family session.

Over to the term of the pandemic, the group has lost a lot of members. Some to university, some to foil and others just haven’t returned after the lockdowns. However, we have had good interest in new members and this year (2021) we have met eleven times and have an average of eleven fencers per session, with a maximum of 13 fencers.

We have held a taster session with the Glen Paver Cubs on 18th March 2021, which was a great success.

Six of the new members have passed their British Fencing’s Grade One award. Four members entered the East Midland Region’s British Youth Championship qualifying event and qualified for the finals in May at Sheffield.

Members have also attended the Stratford and Manchester Leon Paul Junior Series competitions. At Manchester they won two bronze medals.

We are also trying to have a connection with Crownhill School which has a sabre club including home and away matches.

Welfare Officers Report

Barbara Whitcombe SC for Leicester Fencing Club and East Midlands

The last 2 years have seen a number of changes of how we fence due to the pandemic, but we are now back to full fencing, regional training and competitions.

As a club no safeguarding issues have been raised with me

There are changes though going on a regional level and with British fencing these being a new safeguarding structure for BF which is in two parts.

1. The creation of a new Lead Safeguarding Officer Structure in England - It has been agreed with England Fencing that safeguarding will be moved out of the Regional Committee structure and into the British Fencing management structure. Accountability will be through BF’s LSO. In order to implement this, BF will be appointing 4 Area Lead Safeguarding Officers (ALSO). Each ALSO will be assigned to 2 or 3 Regions. They will be supported by 4 Deputy Area Safeguarding Officers (DASO). The ALSOs and DASOs will work in pairs. The precise geography of this has yet to be determined. I will be working in the Role Descriptions shortly.

An ALSO or DASO must attend Regional Committee Meetings appropriate to their geographical area of responsibility.

The ALSOs and DASOs will have access to BF’s Case Management Systems as appropriate. Full training will be provided. This will be subject to BF’s Policies and Procedures.

2) A New BF Safeguarding Working Party (SWP) will be established. This will report to the CEO of BF and will consist of all the Home Nation Lead Safeguarding Officers and the 4 ALSOs:

• Scottish Fencing - Ross Morrison

• BF/England Fencing - Liz Behnke

• Welsh Fencing – Tania Craig,

• Northern Ireland Fencing – Katie Gillespie

• ALSOs x 4

The SWP will be responsible for the following:

• Reviewing and proposing changes to all BF Safeguarding Policy for subsequent Board(s) approval

• Reviewing training needs

• Monitoring safeguarding in fencing across the UK (#cases, #clubs with WOs etc)

• Sharing relevant information

• Promoting safeguarding in relevant areas

Fund raising ideas

The following were suggestion for possible future fund-raising ideas to be investigated and prioritised by the committee: -

* Sponsored fence
* Jim Amberton or County competition hosted by Leicester FC

Future plans

The following were suggestion for possible future plans to be investigated and prioritised by the committee: -

* 35th Anniversary celebrations
	+ Badge or Tee Shirt
	+ Jim Amberton Competition
	+ Party
* Sabre on Tuesday
* Epee coaching on Tuesday
* Extend space or duration due to current numbers.
* Keep tasters’ sessions to each term not ad hoc and keep waiting list
* Club to advise possible competitions
* Inter club competition
* Add media permissions onto membership form

Future Kit investment

The following were suggestion for possible future kit investment to be investigated and prioritised by the committee: -

* Electric sabre masks & gloves
* Test boxes
* Wireless Boxes
* Coach Education – Bring in a coach educator for the day(s) – maybe share with other clubs in the county
* Armourer course
* Left-handed equipment
* Electric foils masks & bibs
* Kit Load System for breeches

AOB

* Buddy system for new fencers
* Booklet for club / grading courses
* Possible Jedi event / equipment
* Fayha Omar was presented with her grade 6 foil

Election of Officers

Chairperson: Current: Craig Bustin: Elected: Craig Bustin

Vice Chairperson: Current: Lee Garner: Elected: Lee Garner

Treasurer: Current: Julie Guy Elected: Julie Guy

Secretary: Current: Steve Smith Elected: Steve Smith

Welfare Officer: Current: Barbara Whitcombe Elected: Barbara Whitcombe

COVID-19 Officer: Current: Barbara Whitcombe Elected: Barbara Whitcombe

East Midlands Representative: Current: Steve Smith Elected: Steve Smith

Armourer: Current: Mick Guy Elected: Mick Guy

Youth Representative: Current: Kaitlyn Peberdy, Libby Dunn. Elected: Fayha Omar

New Position – Social Media officer: Elected: Ewan Cawey