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*EDITOR'S NOTE. I became an Engineer because I was not much good at writing but with a largely new and increasing membership I wanted to disseminate some news and other information. I have therefore produced this first newsletter. There may not be another but if anyone wants to see future versions they are welcome to take on the role of editor. Let me have your feedback and ideas*

### **Growing in a new venue.**

Despite our best attempts, Worcester Fencing was struggling to keep going late on a Friday evening at The Kings School, Worcester. The school have been excellent hosts for several years but they were unable to offer us a better time and our ability to grow was limited. The situation was made significantly worse by the introduction of late evening parking restrictions and charges in Severn Street, so we have been looking for a solution. It came this year when Sport Dyson Perrins opened and we decided to make the move, especially as we have had many enquiries over the years from the Malvern area. In May we looked a little thin on the ground but largely thanks to Simon and Malcolm we persisted with it despite the approach of the summer holiday season when numbers tend to be low. Now our move is beginning to look like a good one. We hire half of a bright new sports hall every Wednesday evening from 7 pm till 9 pm. OK, so it costs more but the changing rooms are fresh and clean and the staff are friendly and helpful. It is good to see some of our former regulars including James, Chris and Richard making the journey to be with us. In the past two months we have been joined by 12 new Social members: Ashley, Edward, Julian, Nick, Robin, Paul, Rachel, Tom, Robert, Ted, Becky and Monica. We also have enquiries in the pipeline and we look forward to more new members over the next few months. At present, we do not have a waiting list so we can offer the opportunity for members to join immediately and develop at their own pace whether as serious competitors or just for some light exercise and fun. Join in and let us know what you want. At least we now have a fine venue, good meeting time and a chance to grow.



*Anna Bentley the new GBR women's foil champion defeating Claire Bennett in the last 8*

### **Members' activities**

On 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> July Edith and John went as officials to the British Senior National Championships at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. Edith performed her usual role on check-in and John refereed epee. This is the first year the Championships have been held at EIS and everyone was impressed with the venue with over 50 pistes and lots of space. On the Saturday, despite some absentees as a result of the weather and flooding, 198 women and 225 men took part in one of the six individual competitions at foil, epee and sabre. On Sunday 95 teams took part.

On 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> July John refereed Modern Pentathlon Youth Epee at the MPAGB Open tournament at Millfield. The one-hit bouts last no longer than a minute and the fencers move round in teams of 2 or 3. For every bout the weapons are tested so the referees have to work hard to keep everything moving to schedule. The balance between boys and girls was reasonably even and for the under 12s it was good to see some bold young fencers from Scotland and Ireland (some in oversized kit) taking part in their first big tournament.

## Malvern Hills Sword Fencing

Last year John and Simon were invited to the Elms School in Colwall to run an evening club 'An introduction to fencing'. This was a new venture for us and a challenge in terms of coping with a large number of children and a small stock of kit. With some help from Edith we completed two successful terms and look forward to doing something similar again this winter.



*Fencing at the Elms School*

With the proceeds from this activity John and Simon have bought more kit in Junior sizes, so we are in a better position to enable children to put their skills into practice. 'Simon says' is a favourite with children and it is amazing how well occupied they are and how quickly they progress with Simon's footwork classes. In the past we have not been able to offer fencing to young fencers at a public club in the Malvern area. Now we have a suitable venue, we hope with some help from parents to be able to introduce more children to fencing. Bear in mind that the Women's Sabre World Champion this year is only 16 years old.

## Fencing on the TV

Like many sports, fencing receives little coverage except when there are Olympics or major championships and then it is often confined to satellite and digital channels such as Eurosport. If you have access to them you might like to look out for the Senior World Championships 29<sup>th</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in St Petersburg.

## Safe kit, safe fencing

Fencing is inherently safe when the correct equipment is correctly worn and correctly used. There is a vast range of personal protective clothing for fencers to accommodate different weapons, skill levels, sizes, gender and hand. Kit is available for borrowing, especially by beginners but, whatever the size of club, it is impossible to cater for the exact needs of everyone. As one progresses in the sport, it is best to acquire personal kit and weapons, especially if going to tournaments. As an aid to understanding fencing kit, see the guidance sheets kept with the kit 'ABBREVIATED SAFETY GUIDELINES – CLOTHING' and 'SOME HELP & TIPS WHEN SELECTING AND PUTTING ON KIT' plus the lists of available kit and its sizes. These should get you started but when you need more immediate help just ask one of the more experienced members. When you have more time, do explore the British Fencing website or browse some of the excellent websites of the leading manufacturers.

**HAVE FUN GET FIT GO FENCING**



### **MALVERN HILLS SWORD FENCING**

for Musketeers (8 to 13 years)

and

### **WORCESTER FENCING CLUB**

for Cadets/Juniors/Adults/Veterans ~ Men/Women  
~ Foil/Epee/Sabre ~ experienced fencers and  
beginners

Both these Sections of Worcester Fencing meet  
each

Wednesday evening from 7 p.m. in the new Sports  
Hall at Dyson Perrins School, Yates Hay Road,  
Malvern, WR14 1WD ~ Tel. 01684 572645

Come along for a FREE induction evening

For details see: [www.one4all.plus.com](http://www.one4all.plus.com)

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