



ENGLAND FENCING

President's Welcome to AGM 2019 England Fencing

Tristan Parris – November 2020

Welcome to all and thank you for attending – in the first online England fencing AGM. Thank you to Anthony especially for the work he has done on setting this up.

I think we are all very aware that it has been a unique year in our lives and the same is the case for England Fencing.

EF have been working as closely as possible with BF throughout the Covid19 Pandemic. Dr Jonathan Katz, one of the elected members of the EF Board, sat in on the working group which BF established and was able to contribute to plans for fencing in BF and EF as well as feeding back on relevant decisions and discussions to the EF Board. We would like to formally thank him for his time and dedication in this regard

It has been, of course, a quieter year in terms of events as no Commonwealth events have happened with the postponement of the Veterans Champs and the cancellation of the EYC.

There is every intention to run these events next year if possible, and there should also be a Cadet and Junior Commonwealth Championships in India in 2021. Obviously there is still much uncertainty in the world at the moment so we will aim to update membership asap when we have more concrete information.

England Fencing have been awarded the Senior and Veteran Commonwealth Fencing Championships in 2022 – and thank you so much to Alex Savin and his team for getting well ahead on this exciting project.

There were EF trips to Barcelona, Finland and France last year before the pandemic and thank you again to Beth for all the work she does organising these trips. We want to support the position of Representative Fencing Officer as much as we can as it is a voluntary role with a lot of work to do. We are delighted that Richard Bernstein has started working with Beth but would still like to hear from any members of EF who feel they could contribute in this space.

After the formal part of the meeting has closed I have asked Beth to make a short presentation on representative fencing in EF

We, as a board, have had some changes in personnel over the year and we said farewell to Viv Mills and thank you for the tireless work she put in for EF and continues to do especially with BDF.

The Board appointed Luke Deamer as Referee Officer. Luke has already done considerable work on bringing the level 1 and 2 courses and examinations up to date. Luke is working with Nickie Bailey – who England Fencing have agreed with BF to part fund in the short term – to get EF and BF



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refereeing pathways aligned and functional. This is a project close to my heart and also to many of the EF membership so thank you to Luke and team.

After the formal part of the meeting has closed I have asked Luke to make a short presentation on refereeing in EF

We are also delighted to have appointed Sam Murray onto the board as one of our two independent directors. Sam's record as an international pentathlete speaks for itself and we are confident that she will add initiative, expertise and energy to the board.

We are also delighted to welcome Ayesha Fihosy onto the board. Many of the membership will already know Ayesha and her superb record as a fencer. Ayesha will, I am sure, also bring in new ideas to help support and develop England Fencing.

EF continue to work with BF and help to fund Hannah Gavin in her role with both organisations. The main project towards which we are working is a comprehensive review of the regional structures within England Fencing, and how we can interact with and support the regions better and vice versa. This project has inevitably slowed a little over the past 6 months but we will push ahead with it in the next year.

Last month EF announced on the website that it was accepting bids for grants to support clubs and England Regions – we are looking forward to receiving exciting and innovative ideas which can support and grow our sport within England.

We also realise the need for our website to be totally revamped and Anthony Crutchett has been working on that. We will also be looking to improve and increase our use of social media.