

British Academy of Fencing  
**ACADEMY NEWS**



May 2013  
Issue 70

*"Run by coaches for coaches"*

## DIPLOMA SUCCESS

The recent Easter course was well attended, with twenty-four participants. These were split evenly between those studying for Advanced and Diploma awards and those working towards levels Two and Three.

The full list of successful candidates can be seen on page 11 of this issue, but the best result was achieved by Tony Klenczar, who passed his Diploma examination at Epée. As someone who specializes in coaching the épée, Tony was particularly satisfied in achieving success at this level.

Other notable results include two passes at Advanced level. The first was by Stuart Clough, who obtained high marks in his Foil examination, whilst Stefan Leponis was successful in Advanced Sabre.

Amongst those taking examinations at Levels Two and Three, there were nine full passes, with some candidates showing levels of performance comfortably above the standard required. The course was directed by Professor Philip Bruce and the other coach educators were Professors Isobel Bruce Combes, Peter Cormack and Peter Northam. Academy News is sure that all the course members will have been grateful for the high standard of education they received and will appreciate the advice given.

Later in this issue (page 10), you will find short articles written by our Vice-Presidents. In his inaugural article, Peter Northam urges all members to seek to maximise their potential by attending courses and training weekends. If either this or the success of these latest examinees, inspire you to want to do just that, then you will find preliminary details of the Autumn Course on the back cover, whilst our Course Officer, Dave Jerry, is always ready to pass on information about other opportunities to improve your coaching. Next time it could be your name on the list of successful candidates.



*Tony Klenczar enjoys his Epée Diploma result*

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**Chairman, Disciplinary Sub-Committee**  
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**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**ACADEMY WEB SITE**

**FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION AND MERCHANDISING GO TO THE ACADEMY WEB SITE AT**

**WWW.BAF-FENCING.ORG**



**RECOMMENDED RATES OF PAY**

Level	Rate
Diploma	37.75
Maitre d'Esgrime and Provost	30.35
Member	25.00
Associate	22.35

Please Note: These rates are given for guidance only. Coaches are free to negotiate their own rates, according to local conditions. The Academy recommends that travel, up to 20 miles from home, should be included in the basic fee.

**PROFICIENCY AWARDS**

The current rates for awards are:

**BAF Members:**

1 - 4 Awards £3.70 each  
5 - 9 Awards £3.60 each  
10+ Awards £3.40 each

**Approved non-Academy Coaches:**

1 - 4 Awards **£4.70** each  
5 - 9 Awards **£4.10** each  
10+ Awards **£3.90** each

**A5 Study Guides:**

1 - 4 £2.65 (**£2.90**)each (incl. p&p)  
5+ £2.30 (**£2.65**) each

**A4 Syllabus leaflets:**

Free with Study Guide, otherwise 60p (**70p**) each.

**A3 Sized Wallcharts:**

65p (**75p**) each  
Figures in **RED** are for non-BAF members

**EXAMINATION FEES**

Level 1 Assessment £11.00

Level 2 to Diploma £21.00 (**£26.00**)

These are for "normal" exams - for Special exams, consult the Course Officer. Figures in **RED** are for non-BAF members

**DOCUMENTATION**

The following documentation is available from the Course Officer, Dave Jerry

Key Teaching Points Foil	}	.....£7.35 ( <b>£9.45</b> ) each
Key Teaching Points Epee		
Key Teaching Points Sabre		
Key Coaching Points Foil		
Key Coaching Points Epee		
Key Coaching Points Sabre		
Glossary of Terms (including Translation of Fencing Terms).....		£7.35 ( <b>£9.45</b> )
Employment Guidelines.....		£7.35 ( <b>£9.45</b> )
Teaching/ Coaching Tactics (2nd Edition).....		<b>£16.80 (£21)</b>
CD-Rom Issue 5 – this contains all the syllabuses and current questions for BAF examinations, as well as other examination material.....		<b>£10.00 **</b>
Examples of past written Papers – for the Advanced and Diploma examinations - <b>FREE</b> - apply to Course Officer		

All prices include p & p. Figures in **RED** are for non-BAF members  
\*\* Price of CD-ROM includes lifetime replacement guarantee - only buy once!  
A Compendium containing all major Documentation, including the ones above, plus more relating to examinations, is now available. For full details see Issue 64 of Academy News or contact Professor Isobel Bruce Combes ([iacombes@btinternet.com](mailto:iacombes@btinternet.com))



## THE PRESIDENT WRITES.....



On a number of occasions over the last twelve months I have been asked, "What is the current situation and or relationship between the BAF and the BFA?" Sadly since Keith Smith and I agreed in 2006 the Terms of Reference for the BAF to be an associate body of the BFA, I have had very little to report. Indeed on a couple of occasions I've been asked "Why does the BAF exist?" and "shouldn't there be one system of coach education and qualification in Britain?"

In simple terms, the BAF exists to provide the consumer with a system of coach education and qualification. Historically we owe our existence to a small group of 1940/50s fencing masters and Charles De Beaumont, a past President of the AFA, now the BFA (see below).

So, "Should Britain have only one system of coach education and qualification?"

It's a big question and is based on the outdated assumption that one size should fit all. The reality is that we, increasingly, live in a world where personal choice is respected and catered for at all levels – just visit your local supermarket! Variety is something we enjoy in all walks of life, so why not in fencing? Coaches come with a wide range of personalities, experience, abilities and motivation and I believe that they should have the right to choose the system that suits them and their needs. It is not in our national character to be happy with any centralised and authoritarian system and even if it works for some other countries, imposing it here will be doomed to failure. There are those who in recent years have chosen to train and qualify in Hungary, Poland, France and Romania and that is all to the good, as it provides our sport with new ideas and impetus.

I would never pretend that the BAF system is the one and only way to train coaches, or even the best. To my mind, it still has a long way to go. Neither does it suit everyone. What we offer is a very stable and detailed approach to coach education which emphasises a precise grasp of technical skills, appreciation of tactics and a particular methodology of teaching and coaching and delivering individual and class lessons. Some people find it too restrictive and intellectually demanding, some people like some bits of it and not others. To me, that is not a problem because I know that others take to it with enthusiasm and become highly skilled coaches and produce great results. Because we are very precise and well documented, we remove the need to constantly reinvent the wheel and enable even very inexperienced coaches to make rapid progress towards successful club coaches or competitive coaches. The value of the system is widely recognised, even to the extent of attracting coaches from all over the world wanting to learn from it.

But it is just an educational alternative, just as Montessori, Steiner, home-schooling, state schooling, public schooling, faith schooling etc., etc., are alternative forms of teaching children. Some may be more valid than others, but it is up to the individual to make the choice.

### ***So what's the latest?***

In early March I was approach by Georgina Usher (Board member of BFA) to nominate someone from the BAF to take part in drafting the new terms of reference for the BFA's Coaching Committee. Having consulted with our two vice presidents I have offered and been accepted by Georgina as the BAF representative. I firmly hope that this will develop into a return to a spirit of co-operation and partnership enjoyed in the early 1950's through to 1990.

### ***A Brief History of the BAF and the BFA:***

*The Times, pg 6, Thursday, Dec 29, 1949*

The British Academy of Fencing has been formed as the governing body for fencing masters in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is to be **very** closely associated with the Amateur Fencing Association, on whose initiative it was started

*The Times, pg7, Tuesday Nov 14 1950*

For the first time since the seventeenth century an examination for fencing masters has been held in Britain. The examination was conducted by the British Academy of Fencing, the governing body for fencing masters, together with a representative of the Amateur Fencing Association, Mr C.-L. de Beaumont. There were eight candidates and four were awarded diplomas, these being: one amateur, Major G Gelder, and three professionals, Miss S Ridley (London), JF Field (Bristol) and Major Segda (Edinburgh)

*The Sword – Spring Issue 1950*

"On December 22nd, 1949, the British Academy of Fencing was founded and the following officers elected: President: Prof. L Bertrand; Vice-President: Prof. L Paul; Hon. Secretary: Prof. A Parkins; Hon. Treasurer: Prof. R Behmber; Committee: Prof. R Crosnier, Prof. J Erdelyi, Prof. H Faubert.

The BAF is to organise and examine for the Master's Diploma in conjunction with the AFA."

*The Sword - The Winter 1950*

In October the committee of the BAF unanimously decided to award the Diploma of Fencing Master to Reginald Behmber, co-director of Salle Gravé. In November the first examination for a Master's Diploma since the early 18th century was held. The examiners were: Professors Bertrand, Crosnier, Paul, Behmber, Faubert, Froeschlen and Perigal, and Mr de Beaumont from the AFA. Of the eight candidates diplomas were granted to Miss Suzanne Ridley, Professors Field and Segda, and Major G Gelder.

*The Times, pg 7 Saturday, May 24 1952*

The Champion Serjeant C L de Beaumont – Letter to the Editor

Sir, - the suggestion made by Mr Humphrey Swann that the title of the King's Champion should be awarded only to someone who can prove his supremacy at arms will appeal to all British swordsmen. The first corporation or governing body for British fencing was founded by Henry VIII before 1540. Today the Amateur Fencing Association founded in 1902 and its professional counterpart, the British Academy of Fencing, foster the art of swordsmanship in her Majesty's realm. The British Empire Fencing Federation could put forward an Empire champion at the duelling sword or the sabre. I suggest that these would be the appropriate bodies to apply the necessary tests to ensure that the King's Champion possesses the mastery of the art of swordsmanship, which his title demands

***Denstone – April 2013***

On behalf of the committee, those who staffed the course and the examiners I would like to congratulate those who were successful in taking and passing our coaching examinations. I would in particular like to congratulate Tony Klenczar who passed our diploma épée award

*Philip Bruce*

## *Letters*

***Following the Question and Answer column in the previous issue, concerning the quarte parry, we have a comment from Dr. Derek Evered.***

From 1947 onwards, I had the good fortune to be taught classical French foil fencing by Professors Behmber, Morel and Froeschlen. They were all French or French-trained and at that time international foil contests were dominated by French and Italian fencers. French foilists tried to avoid their opponent's blade. By contrast, Italians, with their orthopaedic grip strapped to the wrist, tried to beat or engage the opposing steel.

Later, I took some foil lessons from the Hungarian master, Bela Imregi. Hungarians name the parries in Italian, but pronounced in a Hungarian way. One day, I was coaching a foil beginner. Bela interrupted this lesson to ask, "You know my Hungarian Qvarta parry. Why you no teach?" I replied that she would be hit if I did that. Bela riposted, "Not possible! I no longer teach you." The Hungarian "quarte" parry is a beat parry, rather than closing the line, which was the French style; the hand is left on the sword arm side, in a pronated position, but the blade is angulated across the target. Of course, nowadays there are no national styles; only modern style.

May I also comment concerning the criticism that Academy News is dominated by BAF Committee members. It is these unpaid volunteers who do the work and, therefore, write most of the material. I have submitted contributions from 1978 onwards and these have nearly always been published, although I do not know yet whether this one will be.

*Derek Evered, Retired Member*

***Thank you, Derek, for your contribution. The answer to your last sentence should now be obvious. Editor.***

# SWORDSMEN OF THE SILVER SCREEN - PT 3

By Andy Wilkinson

## WORLD SABRE CHAMPION – TWO TIME AMERICAN OLYMPIC FENCER FILM SWORD MASTER RALPH B. FAULKNER 1891 - 1987



If Fred Cavens was the kindling to my becoming a fencer and later, in a kind of meandering eclectic way, a director, (*please see Academy News, Issue 68*), then Ralph Faulkner was certainly my inspiration to keep that flame going despite the odds being stacked against me.

When I started my training as a fencing coach under the guidance of Professors Roy and Angela Goodall, over 25 years ago now, the name of Ralph Faulkner would often crop up in our sessions. Faulkner's achievements as a sabre World Champion (1928), a two time member of the American Olympic Fencing Team (1928 & 1932) and then as a swashbuckling film swordsman and fight choreographer, were inspirational to me, especially at that early time of my training and study.

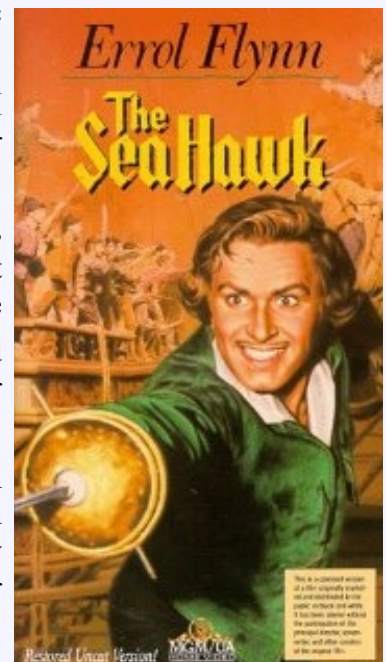
Faulkner was born in Texas, at the time a US State known more for the Alamo, cattle trails and cowboys, than for world championship fencers. Coming from Texas, Faulkner not only had a fencing career to build but he had to face the challenges of doing so despite what he refers to in an interview in 1983 as "*the elite of the East Coast Fencing Salles*", who at the time "*...didn't feel a savage from out West could be superior*". Leaving to one side

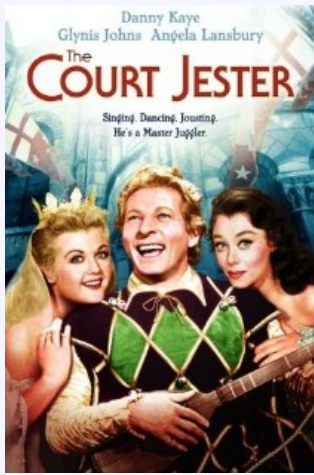
Ralph Faulkner's extraordinary fencing career for one moment, his contribution to filmed action sequences is now considered to be on a par with that of the legendary Stunt Coordinator and 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Director, Yakima Canutt, another very influential man on my chosen career path into films.

Faulkner entered films as a fight double and choreographer in 1921 and for the next thirty years Faulkner's movie list reads as a history of Hollywood's halcyon years of swashbuckling films that included the wonderful screen fights seen in "**Anne of Little Smoky**" (1921 Wisteria Productions), to "**The Three Musketeers**" (1935 RKO Pictures) and "**Captain Blood**" (1935 Warner Bros. Pictures), "**The Sea Hawk**" (1940 Warner Bros. Pictures) to the fantastic comic swordplay sequences in "**The Court Jester**" (1955 Dena Enterprises).<sup>1</sup> Faulkner's skills were still in demand in his 90<sup>th</sup> year working for MGM once again on "**Clash of The Titans**" (1981 Metro-Goldwyn Mayer MGM), a career spanning well over forty films.

It is noteworthy to mention here that not once did Faulkner or any of his contemporaries ever receive an on screen credit for their work as fight choreographers or doubles for the stars of these films. However, like Canutt<sup>2</sup>, Faulkner did some acting as a side line; twenty three films and television productions in total, where he did get screen credit. Stronger union I guess!

Faulkner never stopped coaching competitive fencers while working in films, opening his fencing school, 'Faulkner's Falcon Studio' on Hollywood Boulevard, he attracted both fencers and actors, especially those actors looking to pad out their resumes or just train with the master fight choreographer himself.





Faulkner would later reflect on some of the more famous of his students with footnotes on their personal performance ~

**Errol Flynn** ~"he could memorise every movement in a sword script and remember them six weeks later"

**Ronald Colman** ~ "not the athlete Flynn was"

**Basil Rathbone** ~"an accomplished swordsman" and

**Douglas Fairbanks Jr** ~ "he got into fights because he tended to be a little mouthy."

Falcon Studios also offered drama and dance, taught by Faulkner's late wife, Edith, and between the two of them they taught such modern stars as John and Bo Derek, Anthony Quinn, Alexis Smith, Cornel Wilde and Tony Curtis.

In a full and productive life, Ralph Faulkner could not only claim to be a world class fencer, a legendary fight choreographer, but also a childhood business partner of Dwight D. Eisenhower, where he and the future five-star general and President of the United States, fished for carp and sold them for 20 cents apiece.

To the day of his death Faulkner was known for his decorous posture and the time-honoured courtly and stern visage of the fencing master. His students knew him as a disciplinarian who brooked no nonsense, whether they were famous or not.

<sup>1</sup> Comedy swordplay is notoriously difficult to choreograph well. Faulkner set the standard in "**The Court Jester**"; many have tried to imitate, few have accomplished the ideal. A must see film.

<sup>2</sup> Yakima Canutt can be seen in "**Gone With The Wind**" (1939 Selznick International Pictures) He's the villain grabbing the horse and buggy stopping Miss Scarlet O' Hara fleeing the fugitive camp. He was also the stunt coordinator, Clark Gable's double and 2<sup>nd</sup> unit director – what a busy man!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The under mentioned names are published as having applied for membership of the British Academy of Fencing. If anyone wishes to raise objections or has information which he or she feels is relevant, please contact the Secretary of the BAF.

All objections will be required to be made in writing and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

<b>Andrew Wood</b>	<b>St Albans</b>
<b>Cindy Rudin</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
<b>Glenn Sancroft</b>	<b>Stirlingshire</b>
<b>Kevin Johnson</b>	<b>Bury St Edmunds</b>
<b>Lewis McIntyre</b>	<b>Thornton-le-Dale</b>
<b>Nick Wynn</b>	<b>Worksop</b>
<b>Thomas Bennett</b>	<b>Bucks</b>

See the Academy web site at [www.baf-fencing.org](http://www.baf-fencing.org) for details of the latest applications.

## COACH WANTED

St Albans High School for Girls are seeking a new fencing coach, after the retirement of their present coach at the end of the school year.

Interested coaches can contact Lucy Still, St Albans High School for Girls, Townsend Avenue, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3SJ (LS@stalbans-high.herts.sch.uk)



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### *The Question.*

The Proficiency Award Charts - as pressed upon us at the AGM - include 'step-lunge' as a third example of 'The Hit executed as an attack'. I do not see this term in either the Key Teaching Points or Key Coaching Points (guides).

Can you tell me if the term is meant to refer to a simple 'lunge preceded by a step' or, as I remember exercising thirty to forty years ago, an action consisting of bringing the rear foot up to the front heel, followed by an immediate lunge? In those days, this was merely regarded as a variation of the former.

### *Answer*

This is one of several questions that have been raised about the step-lunge and also the step-flèche. To answer the question posed here, it is the former that is the correct interpretation - a step followed immediately by a lunge. Many of the other questions are concerned about when a step-lunge is an attack, or when is it a preparation followed by an attack? We are indebted to Professor Philip Bruce for the following explanation:

#### ***Step-forwards-lunge and step-forwards-flèche (foil)***

*Over the last three months, I've received a number of enquiries concerning the above actions. In each case I have been asked to clarify what constitutes an attack when a step is involved. Can I please ask the reader to refer to the following rules for foil – t56 2c and 2d and for sabre – t75 4a and 4b. It seems to me that the problem is concerned with not so much the interpretation of the referee but a lack of consistency with which referees call the action. There is also a lack of consistency and poor terminology used by coaches when giving the action in lessons. It is the responsibility of all coaches to give actions in accordance with the rules. To do otherwise will result in more and more confusion amongst fencers. It also appears that preferred method of learning the rule is by hearsay and or how referees use and interpret the rules. This has got to be the poorest way of learning the rules as it will only lead to increasing deterioration of the sport in this country and will be a handicap to our fencers when they fence on the international stage. It is the responsibility of coaches to maintain the integrity of the sport and its rules and not allow understanding of the sport to be corrupted by inadequate refereeing and or coaching.*

Thank you, Philip. For those of you who do not have the Rule Book to hand, here are the relevant articles:

- t56. 2 c)** The attack with a **step-forward-lunge** or a **step-forward-flèche** is correctly executed when the straightening of the arm precedes the end of the step forward and the initiation of the lunge or the flèche.
- d)** Actions, simple or compound, steps or feints which are **executed with a bent arm**, are not considered as attacks but as preparations, laying themselves open to the initiation of the offensive or defensive/offensive action of the opponent
- t75. 4 An attack with a step-forward-lunge** is correctly carried out:
- a)** in a **simple attack** (Cf. t.8.1) when the beginning of the straightening of the arm precedes the step-forward and when the hit arrives at the latest when the front foot hits the piste;
- b)** in a **compound attack** (Cf. t.8.1) when the beginning of the straightening of the arm for the first feint (Cf. t.77.1) precedes the step-forward, followed by the lunge, and the hit arrives at the latest when the front foot hits the piste.

Copies of the Rules can be found at <http://britishfencing.com/governance/rules/fie-rules/> and downloaded in PDF format.

***The Question and Answer column has met with a positive reaction and it is to be hoped that this will continue. Quite naturally, this will depend upon there being questions to answer, so please keep them coming.***



## WORSLEY'S WORDS

Musings from your Members' Rep.



Well it's that time of year again. Easter has come and gone, along with another of the BAF's Easter residential coach education courses at Denstone. I would like to congratulate those who took examinations at the end of the week and passed. To those who didn't get the results they wanted, keep going, it's a long hard road but you will get there in the end.

It was good to see a few new faces on the course this year, especially after some of the points raised at the AGM in January and mentioned in my article in February's edition of the Academy News about the lack of new members in the ranks of the BAF. Hopefully future courses will continue to see this trend.

On another point raised in my last article about the lack of communications with the members of the BAF, things seem to be changing slowly. I have now had a couple of articles submitted by members to the new 'Questions and Answers' page. Hopefully this is a sign that things are starting to change and that the members of the BAF are beginning to get more involved. I would like to take this opportunity say to all the members that anyone can use this section of the Academy News to ask fencing related questions. Granted the member who has submitted the article in the first 'Q and A' page in February and the one in this edition has also supplied possible answers as well, but don't think that everyone has to do that. If you have any fencing related question that needs an answer, then please submit it to me. All questions can be asked anonymously; there is no need to put your name to a question, or to an answer if you have one. As previously mentioned the questions don't have to be of a technical nature, it's just a coincidence that the questions submitted in this and the previous edition of the Academy News are technical.

For example, here is what I would call a non-technical fencing question. In March I received an email from a member in the South West asking for some assistance with completing a risk assessment for a school in which they were going to coach. The person in question had only very limited experience of risk assessments in general, so I directed them to the BAF's website and specifically to the page on safety and posted them the link to all the health and safety documentation, including example and blank risk assessment forms. ([www.baf-fencing.com/essential-documents.html](http://www.baf-fencing.com/essential-documents.html)).

Normally I would submit this to the 'Q and A' page, but I'd like to talk about this subject for a moment, because it made me think about how many of our members are asked to supply risk assessments for their coaching activities. Of those members who do complete them, are they generic, i.e. you use the same one for each club and venue or are they specific to the club? I have only ever been asked the once to complete a risk assessment, which was for a fencing demonstration at a local show. The risk assessment I produced was specific for that demonstration and not applicable to fencing anywhere else.

I do have a risk assessment for one of the other clubs that I coach at, but I have never been asked for it and herein lies a potential pitfall. Under current health and safety guidelines, risk assessments are only valid if they are reviewed annually and the date of the review is noted on the risk assessment. This doesn't mean that they have to be re-written each year, just that you should check that the conditions in which the your fencing club is operating have not changed. Also under current guidelines, if you are aware of a change in the current conditions, then you should immediately produce a new risk assessment. In practical terms for us as fencing coaches, this would mean as soon as possible.

All this may sound a little pedantic, but after an incident at work in which the risk assessment produced by one of our supervisors helped to prevent us from being prosecuted, I thought it might be worthwhile urging our members to check and update any risk assessments that they use. Those members that don't have or use them, I would recommend that now might be a good time to start, especially in today's compensation culture. Whilst risk assessments may not completely prevent an attempt to prosecute they will certainly show that any fencing coach using them is taking due care and attention and is in no way cavalier in their approach to the safety of their fencers (no pun intended.)

If you have any comments on the above or would like any more information then please get in touch.

John Worsley

Member's Representative. Email: [worsleyja@aol.com](mailto:worsleyja@aol.com) or mobile: 07857 625 958

# **DEN OF VICE**

## *Contributions from the Academy's two Vice-Presidents*

*Our two Vice-President's, Professors Peter Northam and Louisa Miller, have volunteered to contribute their thoughts to Academy News on a regular basis. Here are the first of these articles.*

### **From Peter Northam:**

#### *Why carry on training for higher levels of coaching exams?*

For those who don't know me, I am a full-time fencing coach based in Birmingham. It has been my job for in excess of 40 years now – and I have enjoyed every minute of it! I have taken all the Academy exams and am now, to my delight, a full Fencing Master (applause).

The reason for this little discussion is to encourage all coaches (BAF/BFA) to never stop going on coaching courses. If you miss one year, it will take you two years just to get back to where you were.

I know of two full-time coaches who, when asked, said "I haven't got the time, I'm far too busy". The biggest crimes here are 1) these two coaches are not developing their full potential, 2) denying themselves time out for refreshing and improving, 3) are not networking with other coaches and exchanging ideas and finally are 4) being leap-frogged by coaches who started later.

The ultimate sacrifice though, is that they may never become a full Fencing Master. All coaches should train and qualify as much as they can and as young as they can; it's much harder the older you get.

Be selfish! Take time for yourself, go on a course, do another weapon, take an exam.

If a course is out of the question, there are week-end sessions. If it is a financial problem, ask your club for at least a part subsidy. After all, they will get the benefit.

Did you know that the BAF has a bursary?

I have offered a coach, from my own financial resources, a contribution to his next residential course; because I know he has the potential to become a three weapon Master. Guess what the answer was; "Thank you, sorry, too busy". My money is safe!

A Fencing Master I was talking to recently said "I want to thank you for some advice you gave me many years ago". I waited in some trepidation, "You said, once you start training, don't stop. I didn't, and qualified as a full Master. Thank you"

There is no greater title to have as a fencing coach than Professor of Fencing. I worked damn hard for mine and so did all the others. Some may criticize who has the title, but all have put themselves before the Board and passed.

Strange that those who do criticize are not Masters.

### **From Louisa Miller:**

It was a chilly October morning as I departed Denstone, having just qualified as a fencing Master, when someone made a passing comment which has been fixed in my mind ever since. 'Don't let the standard drop.' It may sound melodramatic, but 'The Standard' means everything to me and it should to us all, whether taking your first steps on the coaching ladder or tackling the dizzy heights of levels four and five.

So what does 'The Standard' mean, who sets it, who maintains and upholds it? 'The Standard' is a document, which clearly defines the criteria and requirements for those following the BAF Coach Education and Examination Scheme. 'The Standard' is set by the BAF, specifically the SSTT, who determine the minimum requirements and expectations applicable to all five levels and across all three weapons. It sets out the main objectives, which include the expectations for basic sword-in-hand skills, class/pupil management skills and sequences of events within lessons; a variety of methods that can be used to emphasise various aspects such as distance and timing; and how these aspects are assessed in BAF Coaching Award Examinations.

Not seen a copy? I strongly suggest that you get hold of one. It is essential reading for those working towards BAF Coaching Award Examinations and for Coach Educators and Examiners alike. Remember, this document is not exclusive to those taking BAF Coaching awards, indeed candidates working towards awards with other fencing organisations will find it invaluable. Please get in contact with our Course Officer to order your copy of 'The Standard – A Guide for Candidates and Examiners for the Structure and Assessment of Individual Lessons and Class Lessons.'

Who upholds and maintains 'The Standard'? It could be argued that this question alone opens up much debate and discussion; indeed I hope that it does. Some may see the BAF and the SSTT alone as maintaining 'The Standard'. Maybe it is the Coach Educators and Fencing Masters who are charged solely with upholding the high standards of professionalism and ability with which BAF Awards have come to be held in such high regard both at home and abroad. However, for me the answer is simple, we all uphold 'The Standard'. I firmly believe that every fencing coach, regardless of level or qualification, has a duty to maintain their sword-in-hand skills, techniques and motivation and should continue to improve and build on their abilities as long as they remain active within the sport. Surely this is the minimum standard that we should expect from ourselves.



*Captions, please!*



*On the way to Advanced Foil*



*Attentive class*



*Epéists at work*



*Advice on Sabre from Philip*

## EXAMINATION SUCCESS

The following candidates achieved passes in their exams at the end of the Easter Course.

### *Diploma Epée*

Tony Klenczar

### *Advanced Foil*

Stuart Clough

### *Advanced Sabre*

Stefan Leponis  
Donald Walker (part Pass - Class)

### *Level 3 Foil*

Chris Gregory  
Gerad Harmer  
Ronin Traynor

### *Level 3 Epée*

Ian Drew

### *Level 2 Foil*

Lewis McIntyre  
Nick Wynn

### *Level 2 Epée*

Laura Jamieson  
Calum Maynard

### *Level 2 Sabre*

Cindy Rudin  
Glenn Cooper (part Pass - Class)

### *Level 1 Foil*

Chris Gregory  
Kevin Johnson  
Lewis McIntyre  
Jason Murdoch  
Nick Wynn

### *Level 1 Epée*

Calum Maynard

### *Level 1 Sabre*

Cindy Rudin

We send our congratulations to all these successful candidates and wish them well in their future coaching.



## **MORE USEFUL BITS.....**

# **BAF RESIDENTIAL COURSE**

*The list of successful candidates from the Easter Course is on page 11. If you want to see your name there in November, come on the next course!*

**Autumn Course - 28th October to 2nd November 2013**

**Course to be held at Denstone College, Staffordshire.**

**Fees to be confirmed**

**Contact Dave Jerry, the Course Officer for full details.**

*Contact details are on page 3 and further details can be found on our web site.*

**Don't delay - Apply Now!**



## **COCKS MOORS WOODS ÉPÉE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Saturday 16th November 2013**

Two competitions in one day...

Morning: Juniors (age groups)      Afternoon: Seniors Open

Entry Fees

AM or PM £16.00      AM & PM £24.00

U15s may enter Junior and Senior events. Late entry plus £5.

Closing date for entries: 12th Nov 2013

Venue:  
Cocks Moors Woods  
Leisure Centre  
Alcester Road South  
Kings Heath  
Birmingham B14 6ER

Format: One round of poules. Everyone promoted to direct elimination.

Visit website for full details, to enter online or download an entry form.

Contact: Richard Burn - m: 07967 267663 e: epee@cmwfc.org.uk

[www.cmwfc.org.uk/epee](http://www.cmwfc.org.uk/epee)

Leisure Centre  
Facilities:  
Cafe and Bar  
Swimming Pool  
Fitness Centre  
Large Free Car Park

## **ADVERTISE HERE FOR FREE!**

*This page is devoted to items letting our members know of courses and other events. If you have a course, event, or even a club you want to advertise here, contact the Editor, Bob Merry, to discuss this. There is no charge to members and you don't even have to supply any artwork. Simply give Bob Merry the details and he'll see you get a mention on this page.*

## **IMPORTANT**

*All Course organisers and potential attendees should be aware of the following condition, which applies to all BAF Courses, including "non-official" courses run by Academy members.*

**Please note the Course Officer and the Course Director reserve the right to refuse an application to attend the course.**