

Foundation For Scottish Fencing - AGM Chairperson's report , 19th April 2015

Introduction

The Foundation is a charitable organisation whose main purpose is to promote the growth and development of fencing among the youth in Scotland. Our aim is to keep competition fees as low as feasible in order to make the competitions as accessible as possible.

All profits made from our activities are redistributed as grants to not for profit fencing organisations.

Acknowledgements

I would like to start by extending a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who make the competitions possible. There is a huge amount of effort that goes into organising and running the competitions, so from the people that help with setting up and taking down the pistes, referees, bakers, volunteers on the day, each and every one of you plays an important role in making these competitions happen and for that I thank you.

Review of the Year

This year we introduced the Tri-Weapon Cup in August 2014. With 12 teams in attendance this new format of competition provided a novel start to the season and received positive feedback. We intend to run this again this year but will move the date to September/October when the university terms have started.

We also helped to sponsor a referee course which was well attended and has resulted in a number of our YDSers gaining referee qualifications.

Competitions

Overall attendances are lower this year than in previous years. In previous years our busiest competitions would total 120 fencers, this year our highest attendance has been in the 90s. It's not clear why this is, perhaps because of busy calendar. Your thoughts and feedback on this are welcome.

Next year we intend to continue with the 4 competition format we had this year. We chose not to host a competition in Aberdeen because, overall, this ran at a loss because of poor attendance from both the local clubs and from those travelling.

In Glasgow this year there were only 1 or 2 local fencers and numbers were significantly lower than the Edinburgh, Dunfermline and Dundee events. Despite contact being made with all the Glasgow clubs to encourage attendance, it seems that the demand is not there.

We are considering whether to alternate between Aberdeen and Glasgow year on year. We are also considering dropping the u20 category which is very poorly attended.

Developments

We were delighted to have Dusty and Morag bring the Leon Paul Stand to the competitions. This is a great addition to the competitions and we thank them for providing the opportunity to try before you buy.

We have registered with the British Fencing Lolly Rewards Scheme, which will allow fencers to earn points from attending our competitions

Funding

We were delighted and very grateful that Peter Smith nominated us for a grant from his employer Sandisk in return for his volunteer hours. This award of just over £400 is pending payment from Sandisk. The Foundation extends many thanks to Peter Smith for his volunteer hours and for the nomination.

Awards made between 01/04/2014 and 31/03/2015:

Date	Account	Amount
18/05/2014	Salle Holyrood equipment storage Cage	£366.00
20/05/2014	Carnoustie HS Coaching Sleeves	£145.88
11/12/2014	Salle Ossian/GUFC/HWFC sabre gloves	£1376.07
01/03/2015	Referee course (VAF grant money) paid as subsidy to participants of course	£230.00
04/03/2015	Referee course (VAF grant money) paid to Scottish Fencing to cover expenses	£185.00
	Total Awards	£2302.95

Looking Ahead

We are in discussions with SF just now about proposals they have to develop youth fencing in Scotland by a possible change in age ranges to European odd age ranges. We are in preliminary discussions at the moment and details and practicalities of this need to be discussed and agreed.

Committee Posts

One or two key members of the council have expressed their intention to wind down their involvement over the forthcoming year. Therefore it is vital that we get new people on board to allow us to maintain the competitions to the frequency and standard that they currently run.

There are a variety of roles to be filled and many ways in which you can help out, either on the day or outwith the competitions and I would urge you to put yourself forward. In particular it would be good to have representation from a bigger variety of clubs as currently over half of the committee is from WFFC.

Closing thanks

On behalf of myself and the committee I would like to finish off by saying thanks to you all for your support, as either parent, coach, fencer or volunteer, it has been a very enjoyable season and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Marie Steele

Chairperson

Foundation for Scottish Fencing

YDS Attendance Charts – Total Fencers Who Attended

