



Minutes for Foiled Again AGM dated 28.10.10



Present:

Matthew Ball- Chairman & coach

Thomas Murfin- Treasurer

Thomas Hailstone- Social Secretary

Angelika Dennis- Child Protection Officer

Mick Dennis – Head Coach

Alan Brown- coach

Andy Darnell- coach

Harriet Wheeler

Ursula Hersey

Maureen Tierney

Ian Roberts

George-Oliver Cox

1. Apologies

Nicola Todd

James Fortune

Azariah Jenney

2. Acceptance of minutes from previous AGM

Chairman will ensure they are circulated so this can be done.

3. Chair's Report

Coaches' Development Programme

The club has been busy providing opportunities for the coaches to go on development programmes with the BFA and the BFF, with whom has seen the greatest uptake.

This has provided the opportunity for coaches to learn more about general weapon skills, general coaching skills and weaponry coaching skills to name but a few.

Kit Replacement

This was started in 2004 replacing some kit and has progressed apace this year. We have replaced the majority of the foil and epee masks in response to comments from members that these were uncomfortable to wear. Some of the new masks also meet foil requirements for competitions. We will find out in the next two weeks whether it is mandatory for the club to use these types at standard training sessions also.

We will continue to replace the remaining old kit, including the plastrons, many of which aren't fit for purpose anymore and it is now necessary to have 800N ones.

The Chair posed the question whether members present at the meeting had any suggestions about what to replace.

It was suggested whether it would be possible to buy any more pistol grip foils and there were only 2 size 5 ones in the clubs kit. This was noted.

Outreach

Foiled Again's outreach programme continues to be very active, taking place in schools, local community centres and with the Scouts. This is mostly repeat business which shows the success of the programme. The Chair thanked Angelika and Mick Dennis for their work.

A day club will start at Murry Park School in four weeks time.

Foiled Again were invited to the University of Derby's freshers fair which was very successful for the club and the Chair thanked all the volunteers who manned the stall on the day.

Foiled Again were asked to do an open day in Brownhills. This was very successful and we have been asked to help them in setting up their own fencing club. They would like us to do two taster sessions to gauge the true interest in the endeavour. The date for these is yet to be confirmed. We have also committed to helping them obtain the best price for their kit.

One coach has expressed an interest to help the project in his own time. Overall, Foiled Again is committed to helping to increase the interest in fencing in Staffordshire and this should go a long way to do so.

Insurance

This is compulsory for all members of Foiled Again and the club has a record of who is yet to get insurance. We will be more proactive in ensuring compliance with this rule.

Members asked the Chair about the issue of potentially assisting members with funding. The Chair pointed out that the cheapest insurance available was the BFAs social membership at £10 but that if funding was an issue for some members then assistance could be provided by the club at the Board's discretion.

Website

The Foiled Again website has been completely redesigned and changes made to the layout, content, colour and there is a new calendar feature which can be updated to inform members about key dates for the club.

Planning to use the website as a learning resource for new members especially. Hoping to put up pictures and videos as a guide and tool for learning.

It was pointed out to the Chair that there was no information about sabre or epee grades. The Chair will seek to rectify this.

Was also pointed out that it was difficult to navigate around the website to find specific information. A proposed solution to this would be to include some form of search device on the website. The Chair will investigate this option with the man in charge of altering the website, who is currently away at university.

4. Secretary's Report

Club Mark

Foiled Again has been awarded the Club Mark again. In the future though British Fencing will take over from English Fencing in the administration of this area and Club Mark will change to Sword Mark. We will have to submit for this new award in the future therefore. Will enquire with the East Midlands committee what this will mean in practice as it was pointed out that many schools will only use clubs which have the Club Mark due to its respectability.

Club Trip

This year's club trip was a great success with a better uptake than last time. Although it was seen as quite expensive we will consider raising the number of club trips to two, money permitting.

The usual way of asking members for their preference of location with the most popular choice being settled upon will continue to be used.

Club Competition

Will take place on 13.11.10. Will copy last year's formula which was a great success.

Members should note that there is still time to enter as entries must be received by 4th November at the latest.

Christmas Party

Suggest having on a Thursday night as this is a night most people associate with fencing and so hopefully this will encourage greater turnout.

Must ask the members for their views and preferences. Suggested options were to have it at either the Diocesan centre at Mackworth where usual Thursday night training happens or at DW centre.

The award for the winner of the club competition will be presented on the night with the junior winners also receiving something on the actual day of the competition.

5. Treasurer's Report

There are some obsolete headings used in the breakdown of expenditure and revenue. For example, 'club trip' includes the Christmas party and other events. Suggest changing this to 'club event'.

Also 'coaches expenditure' includes items such as stationary and postage etc when the coaches buy these things and claim them on the same expenditure form. This explains why the figures are larger than would be expected.

Asked what happens to the old kit. Chair responded that the old masks have been sold to members at a reduced rate. If unsafe then kit has simply been thrown away. This is included in the 'for kit purchase' figure on the accounts. It was pointed out that this was a good way for new members to obtain, what's usually expensive, kit.

Pleased with the financial position of the club. Ideally would like around £2,000 in the bank as this will provide enough money to fund trips, courses etc.

Was suggested that we buy more kit, especially breaches. Pointed out though that it would be difficult to maintain a descent range of sizes and the kit is already at capacity due to storage space. Instead could look at the possibility of assisting members to purchase kit if they needed it, say for competition purposes.

It was pointed out that membership fees had gone down. Main reason for this was that members were poor at paying on time. Must be more proactive in recovering membership fees. Also stress that adult members must tell the coaches when they will not be turning up for a session otherwise they will be charged. This is in contrast to the position for juniors who are charged on a pay as you go basis. Argue that this is the right approach as adult members must take responsibility for their own participation and the club would not be able to sustain itself if the alternative position applied to adults too.

Must emphasise the need to sign in and out of training session not only so an adequate record can be taken of who attended but also for health and safety reasons in case of fire.

6. Charging committee members

Coaches aren't charged when they actively turn up and coach members. Suggest waive fees for committee members.

People in attendance asked to vote on the motion to allow committee members to waive their membership fees. Motion passed with 11 in favour and the Chair abstaining.

7. Voting

Chairman- Matthew Ball

Secretary- Harriet Wheeler

Treasurer- Thomas Murfin

Social Secretary- Thomas Hailstone

Membership secretary- Ursula Hersey

Child Protection Officer- Angelika Dennis

Proposer Alan Brown

Seconded by Mick Dennis.

All voted in unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

The Chair showed those present an advert he had printed to advertise the club in libraries schools etc. He asked for opinions and suggestions. Mentioned that must be careful in advertising as are already working close to capacity.

Mick Dennis: Wants all coaches to be sent a list of the Saturday coaching dates as there has been some confusion in the past.

Hopefully the new calendar feature on the website will assist with this but in the meantime the Secretary will endeavour to send this to the coaches.

Queried whether it would assist the club to purchase a laptop for use by the committee. Would help to have all documents and information in one place and be good for committee members to have access to a club computer rather than using their own computers, where they have this, or risk using facilities at people's work. The committee will investigate pricing with a view to purchasing a laptop.

Coaches asked that there always be a committee member at each training session and this was agreed by those present.

Angelika Dennis: asked whether it was worth reviving the junior representatives. This would allow the junior members greater participation in the club and would give them someone else to go to with queries, suggestions or comments. Agreed and will encourage members under 18 to put themselves forward for the position.

Noted that new committee members must undergo a CRB check and first aid training. Also agreed to open up first aid training to any members interested in taking on this responsibility.

Noted that must buy new first aid equipment to replace the out of date ones in the kit.

Noted that if anyone at the club is interested in becoming a coach they should get in touch with the Chair. The club would encourage members to step forward and Foiled Again will fund the cost of a coaching course upon successful completion and the proviso that they will take an active coaching role at the club.

New coaches will be given support and time in front of beginners who are also asked to lend their own support.

Queried whether another foil master class will be put on for the club. If there is interest from membership it will be and this will be investigated.

Ended 9.15pm