

## **BFC AGM Minutes October 6 2020**

Google Meet

**Present** – Paul, Alice, Kat, Matt, Tim, Vyom, Will

**Apologies** – Correnna

### **Officers' Reports**

**Chair Paul** – Slow year. 6 months ago, coronavirus hit. Prior to that the club had a good 6 months with some good competitions especially The Big Bash at Manchester Fencing Centre. An unusual format, teams of 3, each of 3 weapons.

It was good to welcome Bradford Uni people to our club, and it was good that some joined. The Bradford/Leeds Challenge was lost again but it was good to foster relations.

We have a couple of thanks to say.

Cat Crossley stepped down as welfare officer, a post she filled with diligence and enthusiasm. She engaged with British Fencing (re Muslim girls fencing initiative) and also provided a detailed welfare report for our club for which she deserves our thanks. James Hopkins has stepped up as our new welfare officer.

Pete Fletcher has taken a step back and will step down as committee member and coach. He wishes to continue as an 'ordinary' club member. It is good news that he wishes to continue at the club. It is understandable that as a coach one may not get a chance just to enjoy your fencing. He deserves our gratitude for all the hard work he has put in for the club.

On the subject of coaching, Will has qualified as a level 1 coach and is looking to step in as a club coach once he has obtained the necessary first aid and safeguarding qualifications.

Where we go from here is critical. We have a close group of members, and when we get back to fencing we will need to re-engage with the sport, keeping it small and simple at first. There are rules we have to follow so we will fence in a group of 6 at first and then maybe 2 groups of up to 5. We will all need to book in advance and self-certify as free from Covid. Tim has put together a protocol to follow to ensure that the club sessions are Covid safe. This can be seen on the club website, and on the club facebook. Thornton Rec also has a responsibility to be Covid safe, and some of their rules will overlap with ours. Fencing allows for distancing anyway.

**Website.** The website is pretty static as it is intended to simply give basic information. Paul is willing to hand over responsibility for the website if anyone is keen to take over. Matt was asked and replied he may be able to after Christmas.

**Facebook.** Does anybody who likes facebook want become social media manager? The present administrators (Paul, Tim, Guy Haley) are not keen on facebook.

For the coming year we have high hopes of fencing again and it is perhaps good to start from scratch working from basics. Training videos are available online. I have great hopes for the year. I think it will be good and we will be fine. Here's to next year!

**Treasurer** Kat

(James subs lost – dont use the same numbers again)

**Secretary** Tim

(Vyom – Yorks sabre - 2<sup>nd</sup> round DE lost to Alex)

### **Subscriptions**

Why do we have subs? Principally to pay the club's British Fencing membership (£40), some course fees (eg welfare officer), and for the upkeep and replacement of the club clothing and equipment. In view of lockdown we should reduce fees. We need memberships to satisfy insurance requirements and to ensure we have fencers' details. Membership of the club will be required to fence at club sessions. From now on we also have to insist on British Fencing membership.

£10 subs was discussed and carried.

**Election of committee.** Pete is stepping down. Vyom put himself forward. Rest happy to carry on. Therefore committee is : Paul, Kat, Tim, Will, Alice, Vyom. (James – welfare officer)

**AOB.**

**Coaching.** BF is insisting on face-to-face safeguarding courses. Will is trying to attend one. Tim is going to look into the DBS registration process and also research courses. Jack, a coach who lives in Shipley, could be approached to provide coaching cover. We will continue to invite Bradford Uni fencers to our club. The next Bradford /Leeds challenge will be at Leeds.