

Present: Paul, Alice, Mariam, Kat, Tim, Ellis, Ruby, Chris, Rupert, Regan, Jules, Sherena, Stirling, Pete, Alex, Anita, Jamil, Jose, Guy.

Apologies: Will, Thomas, Tilden, Arley, Clara (for UBU)

Chair. Paul.

Uncertain times over last year. Good to see new beginners. It feels like we are in “Normal” times so time maybe to consider “what is this club about?”

1) equality.

Paul is introducing himself as “chair” and dropping the man.

2) where to next?

Paul would like to see more inward looking – find more out about each other, get to know each other, and so help and support each other. So help and support is available to all from all.

e.g. Bradford team in the Yorkshire Team Foil – Isabella Ruby Alex worked things out for themselves.

Kit – some is showing wear and tear, and we’re not spending owt. We have actually bought 6 new body wires after last weeks disaster (- should we spend on some foil sockets and consider going to 2-pin plugs? Individuals buying now maybe consider getting two-pin foils/sabres bodywires.)

Treasurer – Kat

In £300.00

Out £298.00

in short! In Full on separate sheet.

Secretary – Tim

I generally review the beginners courses and any competitions during the year.

We’d just completed a beginners course before last AGM and had another to start straight away to run over Christmas. At that time we had two full courses, one to start Nov21, the next to start Feb22.

Sept 2021 beginners. 9 starters. Jules and Regan joined.

Nov2021 7 to start Alex, Maja and Nick joined.

Feb 2022 7 to start Jose, Harry Gowler, Arshad continued

May2022 10 to start (as were all courses supposed to) Arley, Tilden, Jamil, Ellis, Chris, Rupert.

There are 19 on the waiting list now.

We retain links with University of Bradford Union – Stephanie, Isabella, Clara, Emeka attended with others.

Vyom and Ross returned from Glasgow Uni.

Sherena and Ruby joined us too.

We’ve spent £150.00 on second hand kit from Marianna who used to fence with us but has packed in. We spent £60.00 on kit from the folding of Mary Hawdon fencing club.

In June we entered a team in the Yorkshire Team foil – Paul, Alex, Ruby and Isabella came 9th. As usual we had the Bradford-Leeds challenge in February, at Leeds, which Leeds won.

There is a full report on a separate sheet.

The Yorkshire championships:

Epee – Paul, Alice, Guy, and Stephanie competed, Stephanie winning the Junior comp.

Sabre – Tim competed.

Foil – no entries.

GB Cup – Paul got an entry following on from the epee.

Subscriptions. Used to be £36.00, lately £10.00.

A suggestion was to raise them to £24.00 so we can spend to replace/renew club kit.

Keep the flat rate we have always had with no concessions.

This was agreed by the meeting.

Election of Committee.

The committee members present were willing to stand and were re-elected en masse.

Will texted to say he was willing to stand and would be in a better situation to attend in the New Year.

Chris Pickard offered to stand for committee.

Alice offered to stand as Welfare Officer if James does not want to continue.

It was decided to consider the W/O position at a committee meeting as soon as one can be arranged.

Paul and Guy said that the permissions for Mariam to take over the Facebook job were not in place, and that they would ensure that they were as soon as possible. Mariam is willing to carry on with the job.

It was disclosed to the meeting that the BFC website is practically invisible. Members present had found it difficult to find anything out about BFC when researching, and difficult to find the website. The meeting hoped that with the attention of a more social-media aware committee member – Mariam – the Fb page may help fill the gap.

(Note – Pete presented a very full outline of the measures that could be put in place to arrive at a business-based approach to running the club.)

The weekly texts – are they still needed?

It was decided that they are no longer required weekly, so discontinue.

However they are useful for the circulation of info such as the times of sessions and whether there are beginners sessions or not. In some cases they can be used when particular news or info is to be circulated. Replies need not be required.

Perhaps foil/epee/sabre whatsapp groups could be set up to monitor attendance (e.g. ensure enough opponents to fence!)

Treasurer Kat asked if the fact that the team entry fee for the Yorks Team Foil was paid by the club is a precedent to be repeated in future. It was decided that it would as long as there are the funds.

Sherena asked if team matches could be arranged. The Bfd-Leeds challenge is due in Feb, and we could sort a match with the Uni. Paul suggested a format like the Big Bash we went to pre-lockdown.

It was suggested to give beginners a trial of sabre and epee at the end of the course.