



LONDON REGION FENCING

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Region

(In Respect of the Year Ending 30 June 2023)

Held at St Benedict's School, Ealing

at 7:00 pm on Monday 4th March 2024

Present:			
Sandy Sandford (Chairman)	SS	Hazel Herbert	HH
Rosemary Gilmour (Secretary)	RG	Andrew Nisbet (arrived late)	AN
James Kneller (Treasurer)	JK	Hussain Sadiq (left early)	HS
Len Harris	LH		
Apologies:			
Graham Miles			
Proxies:			
Christopher Sandford		Christopher Tidmarsh	
Decordoba Mitchell-Rowe		Mike de Bono	
Clare Halsted			

	MINUTES
	The Chairman opened by welcoming those attending. He confirmed the meeting quorate, there being a total of 11 [later 12] London Region affiliated BF members participating in person or by proxy.
	Minutes of last year's AGM The minutes of the previous AGM, held on Friday 30th June 2023, were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
	Chairman's Report SS presented an overview of the 12 months 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. He reported it as a year of mixed fortunes for London Region. Generally, uptake for events had been variable, with increases to Novice and

	Intermediate events and to the Regional Youth Championships but a significant fall in the Intermediate Championship/GB Cup Qualifier. So, overall numbers had risen slightly for those events that were successfully delivered, but the perennial problems surrounding finding and securing a suitable, large venue for our two most recent, headline events had been impossible to overcome in November/December 2022. As a result, it had not been possible to mount either the U11 Fencing Festival or the London Region CAPITAL OPEN, both of which had been hosted at the Westminster School Sports Centre in 2021. Alternative sites such as Redbridge and Sportsdock had been explored but had not proved practicable, each being focussed heavily on responding to demand from sport NGB's or already having been booked for other annual events. Numerically, the most disappointing event had been the London Region Intermediate Championship/GB Cup Qualifier. This had seen a fall of over 40% from the previous year's 56 entries to an all-time low of 32 and we had not been able to send a full cadre of 2 fencers for each weapon to the national finals. It was felt that BF's decision to hold the finals on the same days as the National Championships and Team Championships had impacted significantly, but the GB Cup had never seemed to generate particular interest. It remained to be seen whether next year's renewal would be better subscribed. It was possible that the event would require subsidy in the future. This, together with the rising costs of major event venues, underlined the importance of running profitable events wherever possible and maintaining a strong bank balance. Space limitations meant the Team Competition had hosted the same number of teams as 2021 but it was, in contrast to the LRIC/GB Cup, very popular. Indications suggested that should the resources ever exist to mount a second such competition each year, it would be received enthusiastically. Entries across Novice & Intermediate events had risen by over 11% from 129 to 144 and contestants continued to enjoy the sociable fencing opportunities provided. The largest event of the year had been the Regional Youth Championships/BYC Qualifiers. Entries rose almost 12% from 267 in 21/22 (highest since current London records began) to a new all-time high of 299 of whom 192 went forward to the Finals. Unavailability of our usual venue meant we had to mount the event across one day at St Benedict's School and one at the Leon Paul Fencing Centre. Venue costs were thus higher than the previous year and this, together with the reimposition of the BF entry levy, made the event far less financially successful than the previous renewal despite the increase in competitors. London Region continued to enjoy excellent support from its customers, referees, and volunteers - without whom none of the Region's activities would have been possible. The Chairman thanked all those who had been involved for their invaluable contribution to making fencing sustainable and enjoyable. Together with the London Team and wider fencing family, he looked forward to continuing to deliver robust and enjoyable events providing good opportunities for fencers and promoting fencing as a sport for all.
	Treasurer's Report

JK advised that it had been an active year as set out in the Chairman's Report and this was reflected in the accounts.

At the beginning of the AGM period our current account (opening) balance had stood at £26,778.48.

Income, solely from competition entries, had been £20,014.00.

Costs across the year had risen, largely due to increases in venue and referee costs. Expenditure paid out during the year had been £12,289.66.

Expenditure accruals proper to the year but not paid within the AGM period itself were £2330.00. These almost entirely related to venue invoices yet to be received.

Income net of expenditure (including accrued expenditure) had thus been £5395.33.

The year-end current account (closing) balance had been £34,503.81, which sum included the expenditure accruals remaining to be paid out.

In conclusion, JK was pleased to tell the meeting that the Regions finances remained robust for the future.

SS thanked JK for the report and for his efforts throughout the year. He then sought a response from the meeting. LH proposed that the meeting agree and accept the accounts. RG seconded the proposal. The motion was carried nem con.

JK then presented a summary list of LRF equipment which stood at:

- 2 Favero Boxes
- 4 Favero Reels
- 4 Foil Fencing Weights
- 4 Epee Fencing Weights
- 8 Fencing Weapon Gauges
- 2 Electric Kettles
- 1 Small Electric Urn
- 3 LRF Display 'Penguins'
- 1 Portable Piste Template

all of which items had been expensed at purchase and were thus not proper to be classified as financial assets.

	Elections JK and RG had expressed their willingness to continue to serve on the London Region Committee in their current capacities. James Kneller's re-election to the post of Treasurer was proposed by RG and seconded by LH. Rosemary Gilmour's re-election to the post of Secretary was proposed by JK and seconded by HH. Each was unanimously re-elected.
	Any Other Business Clare Halsted (LRF Welfare Officer) was unable to attend but had indicated that there were no serious incidents to be reported.
	Finally, the Chair thanked everyone who had taken the trouble to attend and wished them all well for the coming year. The Meeting then closed.
	Chairman Date