

Secretary's Report:

As always, the club has had a busy year. The committee has worked hard to support the club and club members have been involved in an increasingly broad range of activities and competitions.

The beginners courses continue to recruit well and give good value under guidance of Paul Willmott and helpers.

The junior section has grown again this year with some of the juniors also fencing with the seniors. Thanks to Rob, Grainne, Jill, Lee, Paul Drake and Paul Willmott for keeping the junior sessions ticking over.

The seniors continue to have access to all three weapons and the opportunity to participate in a wide range of club competitions without leaving the club premises. Thanks to Captain Levi for organising such an impressive range of events, ably supported by Vice-Captain Jason, computer man Rob, medals woman Linda, publicity person Paul and the various armourers, kit organisers and washers and general helpers that generally go unnoticed during a competition. Competitors and club members are also fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Jonathan Katz, one of the country's top coaches – and someone who actually understand the rules of sabre!

I'd like to give thanks to all the members of our committee and our coaches for their work and freely given time this year. Additionally, I would like to give some special thanks to certain individuals on the committee whose work is often not seen:

The club exists, and remains in a sound financial position, thanks to the work of Paul Drake as our treasurer and we all benefit from the discounts he has negotiated with kit providers. Paul is not going far, but he is standing down as treasurer due to his increased work commitments. Thanks for your work and dedication as treasurer.

Jill is also stepping down this year, having been our safeguarding officer, and I would like to thank her too for her dedication in this important post. Jill also organises the 2nd Hand kit, organises the cages, supports the new fencers to the club and ensures that the beginners kit is washed and inviting. Thank you Jill.

Our president Paul Willmott is not standing down, but deserves a special thank you anyway for the hundreds of things he does throughout the year to keep the club running and successful. I'm not going to list them – other than to thank you for passion and encouragement. Thank you.

Finally, I'd like to give a mention to our Vice President – Lynda Norrie. Lynda hosts our committee meetings and ensures that there are medals and trophies for our competitions. Thanks to the efforts of Lynda Norrie, the club continues to benefit financially from the club's involvement with Hollowell Steam Rally. These donations have supported kit purchases and helped keep membership fees down, so please try to keep some hours free during the first weekend of July to help out this year. Thank you Lynda.

We had another visit this year from the BFA, this time British Fencing sent two representatives: Hannah Gavin and Rob Cawdron, who both commented on the friendly and positive atmosphere at the club. They were keen to work with the club in the future. Particularly in regards to grass-roots development. Thanks to Hannah and Rob for their interest, and thanks to all those members who have made us the 8th most active club in the country and are clearly getting us noticed nationally.

That ends the Secretary's report. Thank you.