

Northampton Fencing Club

68th Annual General Meeting

8.00 pm Thursday 15th January 2015

Pitsford Road Sports Hall, Moulton College

Agenda

1. Minutes of 67th Annual General Meeting
2. Subscription rates 2015
3. Officers reports
 - i) Captain's report
 - ii) Secretary's report
 - iii) Treasurers report
4. Election of Officers*
 - a. President (two years)
 - b. Chairman (one year)
 - c. Secretary (three years)
 - d. Armourer (three years)
 - e. Vice Captain (one year)
 - f. Ladies Captain (one year)
 - g. Welfare Officer (one year)
 - h. Ordinary Member (three years)
5. Presentation of trophies
6. AOB (items for this should submitted to any committee member in advance for consideration of inclusion)

* Please note that in order to vote at the AGM you must be a fully paid up member of Northampton Fencing Club on the date of the AGM. On votes of a financial nature (i.e. subscription rates) the votes of junior members are transferred to their parent or guardian)

Northampton Fencing Club
68th Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting:

Northampton Fencing
Club Annual General
Meeting

Date: 15/1/2015

Time: 8pm

Location: Pitsford Sports
Hall

Present:

Apologies:-

Absent:-

Chair: Nic Partridge

Minutes: Stephen
Conroy

Opening

Nic Partridge (NP) opened the 68th Annual General Meeting of Northampton Fencing Club after establishing a quorum.

1. Previous Minutes

Stephen Conroy (SC) summarised the minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting,

2. Officers Reports

- i) Captain's Report (Graham Beech, GB): GB noted that 2014 had been an impressive year full of records and firsts. GB praised the impact of the piste markings added to the sports hall, allowing more fencing and less time taken up to prepare pistes for competitions. Northampton Fencing Club now has coaches qualified at every level, and acknowledged the achievement of Jamie McClement (JM) in attaining his Level 4 coaching award. GB praised the impact of Jonathan Katz's coaching, noting a subtle if not miraculous improvement in the quality of all fencers at the club. GB asked members to make themselves known to him that if they wished to gain coaching qualifications.

Competitively it was another busy year in 2014, with success measured beyond medals and trophies. GB acknowledged the increased presence of female club members on the national circuit and thanked them for their efforts, and noted how close Abby Brown was to becoming the county's first female Master-at-Arms for some years. GB summarised efforts of club members competing outside the county, stating that there were almost too many success stories to list in too short a time. A

major point of pride was the selection of three juniors to the East Midlands Squad for the Cadet Winton Cup, congratulating the selected fencers.
GB set three objectives for members for 2015: 1) to improve footwork; 2) to try a competition that one has not attended before; 3) to try a weapon that one has not tried before.

Passing of Captain's Report proposed by Robert May (RM), seconded by Bob Grange (BG).

- ii) Secretary's Report (SC): SC summarised that 2014 had been a good year in terms of socials, communications and club image. Thanked NP for running the Quiz Night, Lynda Norrie (LN) for organising volunteers for Hollowell, and Abby Brown for organising the Christmas meal. Club communications have increased hugely, with mostly positive feedback on frequency and content. Communication with prospective members has improved, but SC noted that at times it can be easy for a backlog to build up. However, interest has been good and responded to well, and any low intakes for beginner courses have been more due to drop-outs from signing up. Thanks were given to Paul Wilmott for his continued efforts in running the beginner course, delivering on what is promised in communications describing the course. More can be done to attract more beginners like simple posters, pop-up events, but image of the club is somewhat higher due to better relations with Northamptonshire Sport and doing events such as that at Kingsthorpe College. Opportunities for coaching and club officer training also available through Northamptonshire Sport.

Passing of Secretary's Report proposed by N. and seconded by N.

- iii) Treasurer's Report (Paul Drake, PD): PD presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that the club ran at a deficit in 2014, but not a loss. Pointed out key figures in report sheets distributed at start of the meeting. Outlined what sundries were. Summarised that the charity donations were exceptionally large in 2014, but that was due to 2013's charity takings being unclearly recorded and therefore combined with the 2014 charity money and donated as one. Abdul Al-Tayib (AT) asked for clarity on the issue, to which PD elaborated on.
No other queries.

Passing of Treasurer's Report Proposed by PW, second by Marco Maccoroni.

3. Subscriptions for 2015

PD stated that the club's financial position was healthy, and that the club's subscription fees had not risen in almost four years. However, the result of the Kit Audit carried out in 2014 revealed that the cost to replace all club equipment in the event of an accident would be approximately £13,000, therefore money in the club account is reserved in contingency for this purpose. To be able to replace equipment that is faulty or has gone missing, PD suggested an increase of subscriptions by £20 for seniors and £10 for juniors.

JM asked if junior epees had been bought as per the request in 2014, to which PD confirmed. Abby Brown (AB) asked how many, though PD could not recall, it was a small number.

Motion to increase subscriptions for 2015 proposed by BG, seconded by PW.

Votes in favour: 27

Abstentions: 0

Votes against: 1

Motion passed.

4. Hollowell Steam Rally

LN summarised results of volunteering for helping at the Hollowell Steam Rally. £1500 received from the organisers in 2014, with the club getting over £5000 from the event over the last few years. LN noted how every year the funds from Hollowell allow to club to make major investments, such as paying for coaching, and getting the piste markings. LN reminded members that volunteering for the event can only last for three hours, and therefore the benefits are great for relatively little effort.

LN asked for new faces to volunteer, in order to increase numbers and make up for LN no longer running the Tea Tent. LN continued to outline the application process and considerations in how clubs and societies get shares of the steam rally's funds.

BG added that volunteers get free entry, food and drink at the event, and that volunteering or not the event is a fantastic day out.

Chris Gibb asked for clarification of what Hollowell is for members unfamiliar with it, to which LN provided.

PD asked for a round of thanks to LN for her efforts in organising volunteers once again for the event.

5. Election of Officers

a) President: Incumbent Nic Partridge standing down. Bob Grange nominated for post. Proposed by PD, seconded by PW. No other candidates. Voted in unanimously, BG elected President of NFC

b) Chairman: Incumbent Paul Wilmott (prop. RM, second. LN) vs. nominated Abdul Al-Tayib (prop. NP, second. SC). PW and AT made speeches outlining their background, credentials, and objectives. Candidates temporarily dismissed from the meeting while voting took place.

Votes for PW: 18

Votes for AT: 14

Candidates invited to return, result announced, PW re-elected chairman of NFC

c) Secretary: Incumbent Stephen Conroy standing (prop. PW, second. NP). No other candidates. Voted in unanimously, SC re-elected Secretary of NFC.

d) Treasurer: Incumbent Paul Drake standing (prop. PW, second Helen Gaskarth). No other candidates. Voted in unanimously, PD re-elected Treasurer of NFC.

e) Armourer: Lee Robinson nominated for position (prop. PW, second. Hayden James). No other candidates. Voted in unanimously, LR elected Armourer of NFC

f) Vice Captain: Incumbent Robert May standing (prop. GB, second. LN). No other candidates. Voted in unanimously, RM re-elected Vice-Captain of NFC.

g) Ladies Captain: Incumbent Lynda Norrie (prop. RM, second. GB) vs. Abby Brown (prop. AB, second. PW). LN declined to make a speech. AB made a speech outlining background, credentials, and objectives. Candidates temporarily dismissed from the meeting while voting took place.

Votes for LN: 10

Votes for AB: 19

Candidates invited to return, result announced, Abby Brown elected Ladies Captain of NFC.

h) Welfare Officer: Incumbent Helen Gaskarth standing (prop. NP, second. BG). No other candidates. Voted in unanimously, HG re-elected Welfare Officer of NFC.

i) Ordinary Member: Bob Grange resigned for President's position, Paul Wilmott and Abby Brown both nominated, disqualified due to being elected to other posts. Barney Byron nominated (prop. LN, second. Hayden James). No other candidates. Unanimously passed, Barney Byron elected Ordinary Member of NFC.

Gill Cheney nominated to continue as Honorary Auditor. Conflict of interest in

nomination noted, but no objection raised. Proposed by NP, seconded by HJ. Gill Cheney re-confirmed as Honorary Auditor for NFC.

6. Presentation of Trophies

NP introduced SC and PW to summarise awards given on the nomination by committee members and coaches. SC outlined how close the Most Improved Fencer Award was, given the general improvement across the club. Announced the winner as Shelby Long.

PW summarised the history behind the Jane Daniel Sportsmanship Award. SC described how difficult awarding this trophy was to vote on, due to the excellent nature of the club's members in their conduct. Award came down to outstanding sportsmanship in great victory or heavy defeat, and ability to referee higher level fencing with confidence and control whilst maintaining good humour. Sportsmanship Award winner for the year given to Daniella Johnstone.

7. A.O.B.

NP asked for volunteers to help set up Pitsford Sports Hall for the Elite Epee Event being held later this year and generally help out at the event.

PD made a speech on the state of equipment cages, and that equipment continues to go missing at an alarming rate. PD stated that solutions had been discussed multiple times during committee meetings, but none deemed adequate enough. PD asked members for ideas of their own to solve issue, prompting the following contributions:

- Sylvia McGuinness: sign in/sign out book
- Abdul Al-Tayib: members taking out equipment must do it via a committee member
- Bob Grange: financial deposit (PD: too much of a hassle for all involved)
- Jamie McClement: engraving NFC logo/name onto guards
- Tessa James: use certain tapes for foil ends
- Mr Hogg: take kit in and out in pairs so more than one person knows who has it
- Daniella Johnstone: numbering kit (PD responded that it is numbered)
- Abby Brown: more awareness and involvement from parents
- Grainnie May: markings inside guards
- Jamie McClement: suggest members should check bags tonight/ASAP
- Abby Brown: replace padding of weapons to make more distinctive

PD thanked members for their contributions on the matter. Asked all members to inform him/the armourer of broken club kit, emphasising that there was no harsh punishment for it and that it was better that the armourer to know. Abby Brown suggested a "broken weapons box", while SC pointed out the safety aspect in ensuring the armourer knows about faulty kit.

Meeting closed at 21:08