



GREAT YARMOUTH & WAVENEY FENCING CLUB



Minutes of the AGM 2011

Held on Thursday 1st September 2011, at Potters Leisure Resort, Hopton.

The meeting commenced at 19.51.

Members present: R Johnson (Chairman), P Johnson (Treasurer), S Blackwell (Captain), A Johnson (Armourer), A Brown (Jun Of.), A Scarff (President), C Beamish, O Beamish, B Beane, C Beane, R Beane, C Brown, P Gostick, D Kingston, C Pitman (Hon. Mem), E Stretton, S Stretton, R Taylor, B Warren, K Warren, R Weiner, G Yaxley. A total of 22 members.

Apologies: A Barnard, K Barnard, L Bloice, B Debbage, M Rawlings.

Quorum: The Chairman announced a quorum was present.

Minutes 2010: The minutes for the 2010 AGM were discussed and approved.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman announced a successful year, as the Club has trebled its membership from 2010. The first beginner's course was held in September 2010 and the member retention rate from that course is 70%. The second and third beginner courses were held in March and July 2011 respectively and there was also a good retention rate from those courses. A taster session for Scouts was held in February 2011, which was deemed successful.

R Johnson and S Blackwell achieved the BFA Level 1 coaching award in December 2010.

The Club has raised money for charities during the year via fetes and galas and will continue to do so.

Various Club members attended competitions throughout the year and won medals, which demonstrates the continuing success of the Club.

Treasurer's Report: The accounts for the year ended 31 August 2011 were presented by the Treasurer and a loss of £1,145.44 was announced. Subs for the year have doubled compared to 2010. Expenses have risen due to the Sword Price Fighters kit issue, the hire of an external coach and coaching courses. Expenses next year should decrease as there will be no new cupboards, 1st Aid courses or leaving presents needed. The Club hopes to make a profit next year.

The accounts were accepted by all.

Stock take Report:

The stock report was discussed. It was announced that glove 22 and a foil wire had gone missing during the year and two lames had also broken.

The general level of stock has increased from 2010 as some old kit was returned to the Club during the year. Stock of mini weapons has decreased due to the sale of some weapons to Margaret Warner. Stock of steam sabres has decreased due to the sale of the weapons to Club members. Old redundant masks have been disposed of in the year. Chest protectors were purchased in the year as new rules state that the old cups are not to be used. Stock of large jackets has decreased as the Sword Price Fighters kit cannot be used at present.

The stock report was accepted by all.

Election of Officers:

The resignations during the year were as follows: Mark Dyball (Web Administrator), Lee Jackson (Social Secretary and Assistant Armourer) and Robert Johnson (Assistant Armourer).

The elected committee for the year 2010/11 are as follows:

Chairman: Robert Johnson
Secretary: Robert Johnson
Treasurer: Pat Johnson
Club Captain: Simon Blackwell
Armourers: Alan Johnson and Simon Blackwell
Web Administrators: Robert Johnson
Social Secretary: Sue Stretton
Junior Liaison/ Welfare Officer: Aarron Brown
Press Officer: Simon Blackwell
Parents' Representative: Sue Strettonp[;

Hon. President: Amanda Scarff

All of the above members were elected with the majority preference of the quorum present.

It was also agreed that Amanda Scarff (former Club President and Coach), would be made an honorary member of the club.

Club Constitution:

The Club Constitution was read by all. It was proposed that a labour charge could be added to the cost of armoury repairs, this was deemed not necessary by the Armourers. It was agreed that no changes were to be made to the Constitution.

The Club Rules were also discussed and accepted by all.

**Club
Membership:**

The current level of subs was discussed. The majority of members agreed that they are happy with the current level and for no changes to be made. The Club is currently the cheapest in the county which makes the Club more accessible.

It was resolved that Club membership is raised from £5 to £10 per annum in order to subsidise any courses (coaching, training, presiding or armoury) members wish to attend. This will take effect from 5 January 2012.

Monthly subs were also discussed. This allows members to pay on the first Thursday of each month to cover them for fencing during that month, at a discounted rate compared to weekly subs. It was resolved that online banking transfers for payment of monthly subs is to be an accepted payment method.

It was proposed that trophies should be purchased for the Best Senior and Best Junior on the Club ladder at the end of the year, which would then be presented at the Christmas meal. It was agreed that standard trophies with no engraving would be purchased. Other possible trophies were proposed including Clubperson of the Year (to be voted for by members) and Best Competitive Fencer – this incorporates a points system where Club members are awarded points for entering competitions; the trophy is awarded to the fencer with the most points. The points system is to be uncapped; a fencer may enter as many competitions as they wish. It was agreed that trophies would be purchased and awarded for Clubperson of the Year and Best Competitive Fencer (Junior and Senior).

It was also resolved that a Club member can win a trophy two years in a row and above.

**Great Yarmouth
Foil Invitation:**

The GYFI was held on 28 August and overall the Club made a profit of £74.60. The level of entries was sufficient and the competition went well, however next year the Club proposes to combine the junior events and allow the senior event to have an earlier check in time. The entry fee for 2012 will be decided by the Committee nearer the time. It was discussed that a further two competitions may take place next year – a team competition and also an epee/sabre competition.

Club nights:

The current coaching system was discussed and the majority of members agreed that this should continue. It was announced that epee lessons will continue and sabre lessons are to commence soon and also the BFA Level 2 award will commence in January. It was resolved that more interclub competitions are to be arranged,

the ladder night is to be the first Thursday of every month, the lesson list is to be reinstated, juniors and seniors are to have combined group lessons and there are to be separate coaches for juniors and seniors in these group lessons.

**Sword Price
Fighters:**

The issue with the kit was discussed, the Club can still use the kit if a risk assessment and adequate inspections are undertaken. However the BFA has still not made a decision regarding the use of the kit and therefore it was resolved to try to sell the Sword Price Fighters kit on eBay. The club will not provide SPF Jackets, Breeches or Plastrons to any club members.

**Matters Arising
From Members:**

Members were reminded that they are to pack away lames and bodywires properly in order to prevent breakage; if members need assistance then they should ask for help. Members were also reminded to walk the spool wire back to the spool and not let go of it as this will damage the spool, which is very difficult to fix.

The Chairman announced that a rule states that blades are not to be straightened on the piste whilst fencing, instead they must be straightened off piste. It was also announced that Club blades are not to be straightened on the floor, instead they are to be straightened using the fencer's hands.

**News from
NCFU:**

A list was passed around in order for Club members to indicate which coaching/armoury/training/refereeing courses they are interested in; the list will be circulated to the relevant person in the region.

It was announced that the Eastern Region AGM is to be held Sunday 23rd October at 10am in Colchester, which all members of the club are able to attend.

Acle Sessions:

It was announced that the Acle Sunday training sessions are to hopefully be resumed next week and that the sessions may alternate between Acle and Lowestoft. Club members will be kept up to date with any news.

**Beginners
Courses:**

The Club hopes to run three courses a year, depending on kit. It was agreed that no new kit is to be purchased. Those attending the courses are to be asked for measurements to ensure that everyone can be catered for.

**New kit
Purchases:**

Members were reminded that there is a buyback scheme in place for members wishing to sell their old kit. Members were also reminded that there is an instalment scheme for those who wish to buy their kit through the club – this requires members paying a 20% deposit and the remainder is to be paid over 4 weeks.

It was suggested that if a Club member breaks a Club blade, a contribution towards the cost of a new blade should be made by the member. The majority of members present voted against this suggestion.

Website:

It was resolved that Rob Taylor should provide the hosting for the Club website. It was agreed that the website provides enough information for potential new Club members. It was also agreed that a section is to be added to the website to advertise kit for sale. The Chairman reminded members that the Club has a Youtube channel, which is available via a link on the Club website and also the Club's Facebook page.

Social Events:

It was proposed and agreed that the Club's Christmas meal is to take place on Thursday 22nd December. Any venue suggestions are to be made to either the Social Secretary or the Chairman.

The last week of fencing is to be Thursday 15th December. It was suggested that Thursday 29th December could be a possible fencing night; the Chairman is to enquire whether the hall will be available.

Merchandise:

It was announced that the two remaining hoodies had been sold during the year. It was resolved that t-shirts and further hoodies are to be produced, with a cost of around £10 for a t-shirt and £15-17 for a hoodie. Enquiries are to be made regarding the most cost effective way of producing the merchandise.

The Chairman announced that cloth badges are to be produced and given free to those Club members who own their own kit or enter competitions. The Club logo is to stay the same unless a design is created and approved by the Committee.

It was suggested that sponsorship for the merchandise could be obtained in order to promote local businesses, which would incorporate a sponsor's name or logo on the reverse of a t-shirt or hoodie; however the majority of members voted against this. It was resolved that sponsorship for team events, competitions or the Club website would be looked into.

AOB:

There was no other business.

The meeting was officially closed at 21:50.