



Club Report

5 August 2019

- The club was reincorporated on the 28 June 2018. Committee members are Club captains Rachel Clarke and Hamish Clarke, Administrator Karen Johnston, Treasurer Chris Aynsley, Armourer Hugh Reynolds. In January of 2019 the committee co-opted Steve Clarke as the Coach Advisor.
- A club membership fee of \$400 was introduced for the year or \$60 for a month. Paid up members currently 68.
- We conducted a survey of what members wanted the new club to provide. Overall, the survey pointed to the need to improve several key areas; running the Fencing Institute as a club and not as a venue. This means striving for unity, being inclusive and welcoming of others, being respectful of one another, celebrating fencer achievements, putting in place fencer development pathways and providing a varied programme of activities and events. The second key area was facilities and gear; ensuring that gear was in working order, heating and a general tidy up of the building. Third, people wanted more space and more pistes as they felt they were waiting too long for bouts on club nights. Fourth club nights. Most people wanted some structure for club nights so that there would be more space within the time allocated for warm-ups, footwork and importantly for bouts. It was felt that this would ensure less friction over usage on club nights. The rest of this report is structured along those four areas.

Club not Venue

It would be fair to say that we have some way to go with this however, some progress has been made.

- Communication to club members has improved through:
 - Emails club wide
 - Facebook page and group
 - Revamped website. A special mention should be given to Mikhail Lopez who has supplied the wonderful logo for the new club and photographs for the website.
 - A roll up sign advertising the club for use at competitions and other venues.
 - A competition calendar based on the Mid South calendar has been posted on the club noticeboard and has been very well utilised
 - A promotional brochure has just been printed to try and attract more fencers and will be circulated around the schools and city

- We have purchased a software system that Mid South also uses – Revolutionise- so that it is familiar to our members. We use this for organising our competitions and now for our membership system.
 - We have purchased Fencing Time software to run our competitions and provide live results to our website.
 - Xero, an accounting package has been purchased.
 - There is some confusion among young fencers about whether they are members. Currently fencers who come for group classes with coaches are not required to join the club. They therefore do not receive any correspondence from the club.
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- A priority is to now to get signs put on the building alerting people to the Fencing Institute. Approval has recently come through from the CCC.
 - We have provided a programme of activities and events. We have continued with the following club competitions:
 - Autumn Cup 18th May with a poule format. 16 Foil entries and 25 Epee entries
 - Games of the Future 22-23 June. 24 Foil entries and 9 Epee entries
 - Mid Winter Teams 27 -28 July. 12 Foil entries and 23 Epee entries
 - To come is Spring Cup 14-15 September
 - On the suggestion of some high school students we have begun a High School Challenge for 10 Friday nights during terms 2 and 3. We have 5 Foil teams from Christ's College, Burnside High, two from Cashmere and a composite. 3 Epee teams from CBHS, Hagley and composite. In all 32 fencers are involved along with managers, referees and coaches.
 - In October 2018 we hosted a FeNZ Level 1 Foil Coaching course which was run by Leon Thomas from Australia as the Oceania representative. It was well attended. We will be following that up with an online module from Sport Canterbury as part of full accreditation with FeNZ. The trainee coaches also require a First Aid certificate. This will be organised as well.
 - In December we held an end of year BBQ.
 - A Fencing Masterclass was held in the weekend of 19th and 20th June with further fencing the following week. Martin Brill invited Australian coach Bill Ronald from Sydney to run his Speed, Agility, Fitness and Footwork class. This was very well attended with 22 coaches and fencers coming from all around New Zealand. Of those 15 came from Mid South. The following consolidation week we had 13 participants from Mid South including 4 coaches.
 - A follow up weekend camp is currently being organised with Bill Ronald and Martin Brill for early in December this year.



- We held some workshops at the beginning of the year on season planning and equipment preparation. Because of low numbers of attendance we are now reviewing the timing of those workshops as we realise that members are already at the club for many nights a week.
- We have organised club clothing with plenty of choice.
- The committee's vision for the Fencing Institute is to be a progressive club with an established and agreed upon club programme that is delivered by club coaches. The club would have a culture that is explicit, and people know 'what we do around here'. We wish fencing in Christchurch to grow and the club to grow in membership. It should be athlete focussed, coach delivered and organisationally driven. The current situation is that we do not have a club programme or strategy and there are coaches delivering their own programmes. We want to aim to deliver a set programme of fencing. This is a work in progress. We have had 2 meetings with coaches.
- Because of Health and Safety issues (addressed below) there is soon becoming a time where everyone who participates in fencing at the venue needs to be a club member. We are thinking of introducing a class membership category with a small fee so that we know who is using our building, that they are aware of our health and safety rules and that they also know that they are part of a club that is promoting the sport and that there is a pathway for them.
- The club organised fencing for Hagley College as a one off 5 weeks have a go and more recently CBHS and CGHS have moved to the club for their sessions on Wednesday afternoons.

General Tidy up of Gear and Club

A huge amount of work at the Institute was carried out over the summer by members.

- a general clean-up and paint
- Pistes were cut in half
- bag and gear areas organised for each member
- better arrangements for clothing racks
- blinds installed
- wireless sets purchased. We now have 7 permanent pistes, 3 wireless sets and a lovely freshlooking Salle. The 2 FMS pistes are stored and easily accessible and transportable for tournaments outside of the Institute.

We have purchased gas bottles and undertaken health and safety compliance. This has certainly taken the chill off the winter nights but is costly.



We still need to organise

- Piste grounding of the wireless sets.
- repeater lights at the opposite end of the scoring boxes
- cleaning contract rather than VBase and Spotlight
- new toilet seats, fixing broken door and various small maintenance matters

More space and more pistes

This has been achieved with the work over the summer, cutting pistes in half and purchasing training pistes.

Ideally, we would like to use the entire building including the storage facilities that VBase use. However, the income we receive from those tenants amounts to \$140 and \$575 a month which equates to \$8,580 or the equivalent of an additional 21 full club members. If we can grow our membership base then maybe we could have more space.

Club Nights

We have improved the structure of club nights and there is less friction over usage on club nights, but we do need to do more. We would like club nights to follow a set structure. Whilst it is every member's right not to participate, they cannot disrupt the club activities or other members. We will be putting forward a discussion proposal on this shortly.

Club nights have still not been organised with a duty manager to run the speed and agility sessions and then assist members to bout when it is a very full night. This is a priority.

Health and safety on club nights is becoming an issue because of the number of club members coming along to club nights. We have therefore drawn up 'Club Night Rules'. Because we have pistes that are so close together we are particularly concerned about the possibility of a fencer being struck by a weapon when they do not have their mask down. This issue has dictated that we act. All members will be required to agree to these rules if they wish to be active members. Your safety must be our top priority.