



Club Report

18 July 2020

- The club is now entering its second year since reincorporation. Committee members are Club captains Rachel Clarke and Hamish Clarke, Administrator Karen Johnston, Treasurer Chris Aynsley. In January of 2019 the committee co-opted Steve Clarke as the Coach Advisor and Lee-Bin Tee in 2020 to replace Hugh Reynolds who stepped down.
- Our Full Club Membership fee of \$400 is being reduced to \$330 for 2020/2021 due to the Covid 19 lockdown and an early bird discount of \$300 if paid before 31st July. Paid up members at the end of 2019/2020 were 62.
- We were very fortunate during the Covid 19 Lockdown that the Council did not charge us rent for 3 months. We have passed that on to our members through the discount. Covid 19 had meant a slowdown in fencing activity although this may improve shortly due to the upcoming competitions.
- The Council is now asking for regular updated participation data on people and supporters using the Fencing Institute. This shows some interesting data. During the month of February, the Fencing Institute was used by at least 1,132 people.
- This figure includes:
 - Fencers at club nights of Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
 - Group lessons and individual lessons for fencers
 - Takemusu Aikido Canterbury adults and children
 - VBase staff and contractors that support Orangetheory Stadium

Growing the Membership Base

The focus of the year has been on growing club membership and increasing the numbers of beginner fencers. We experience a drop off in members once they leave high school. We also want to offer alternative pathways for our current fencers. Not all fencers wish to be competitive fencers.

The Fencing Institute is now doing the administration for classes that Kate Brill currently offers. Fencers who are not currently Full Members who are involved in these classes have joined the Fencing Institute as Starter Members. This will bring in about 50 new members. It was thought important to show these young people and adults that they are part of a club and that there is a pathway for them to become full club members. They will be able to participate in social activities, purchase club clothing and participate, along with Full Members, in a new Fencing Development Class.



We have had strong interest in joining the club and giving fencing a go by both adults and young people. This has in part been due to our website and facebook presence and will be boosted by our new signs on the building that Mikhail Lopez is currently designing.

It has also been due to reaching out to local schools and offering Have a Go sessions. Ao Tawhiti (Discovery School) is one such school where we are now offering 10 sessions as part of their Physical Education. Their teacher is particularly keen and is also taking lessons. Other schools at the beginning of the year expressed interest in fencing however the Lockdown has delayed those initiatives.

The Fencing Development Class, will be run by Martin Brill on Sunday afternoon 4-5.30pm that covers fitness, technique, mental skills and tactics. Both starter fencers and full club members are welcome to attend as part of their club membership. We wanted to utilise a day that the facility is not used and when it suited most people.

Current Classes

Primary & Intermediate age Beginner

Primary & Intermediate age Intermediate

Adult & High School Epee

High School Epee

Youth Advanced

Club Competitions and Activities

High School Teams Challenge – this started on Friday night July 17 and will continue for 4 more Friday nights. Due to the lockdown it is more casual with fencers turning up and being put into teams.

Winter Cup – Sunday 26th July

Games of the Future – Sunday 2nd August

Spring Cup – Sunday 27th September

Our club members will also have a major presence both competing and organising at the Mid South Schools – 22/23 August, NZ Secondary Schools 4-6 September at Pioneer Stadium and the Mid South Open/ South Islands 3/4 October venue to be confirmed.



We held a successful demonstration of fencing at the Horncastle Arena in October 2019 as part of the Health and Fitness expo.

We held a parent's have a go session at the end of 2019 which was a great success and we will hold another session. It has also been suggested that we could hold a family teams event. This sounds more appealing in that we would be working with our children rather than being hit by them. We will also offer the Have a Go sessions to organisations as a fund raiser for us and a team building session for them.

Great Southern Fencing Camp 2020

This was a great success with 18 fencers from Dunedin, Christchurch and Auckland for an intensive camp involving Saturday, Sunday and Monday and Tuesday nights.

Coaching was from Martin and Kate Brill and Bill Ronald. It was great to have Sarah Osvarth also assisting and providing advice on how to train to be a competitive fencer. We are in discussions with Bill and Sarah (once the Coronavirus has gone) to take a group over to Sydney to train in 3 clubs – University of Sydney, Macquarie University and University of Technology prior to a regional event on a Sunday.

Exchanges

Prior to Covid 19 we were in discussions with Arianna Buschini's Turin club about exchanging fencers and coaches between clubs. The suggestion is that our fencers could go to their club in our summer and vice versa. We and they would billet the fencers. This will now have to wait.

Website

Our website www.thefencinginstitute.co.nz is continually updated and in this lock down environment we have added some useful technique and training videos, sourced by Martin Brill so that fencers can use them to keep their skill levels up while at home.

Venue

In our last year's Club Report, we discussed how we had made significant gains in upgrading equipment and the venue and that we needed to focus attention on being a club. That is now well under way. We are now thinking of the future when a new stadium is built, and the current site is probably redeveloped along with the surrounding areas.

One of the reasons why it is imperative that everyone that enters the building must now sign in using the QR scanner is to show to the council how many people are using the building. This figure is sent to the Council every month and we need to show that we are worthy of another venue provided or subsidised by the Council.