

# **Bellahouston Fencing Club**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting 17th October 2011**

Venue: The Pearce Institute, 840 Govan Road, Govan  
Minuted by Jonathan Webley, Secretary

### **1 Minutes**

The AGM minutes from 2010 were read and accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **2 President's Report, Tom Sorbie**

We still have a large turnover of people. They come for one or two weeks and then don't come back. I'm not sure what the problem is. Is it a lack of a formal class for adults or are we just not meeting their needs in other ways? Do we need to introduce meeters and greeters?

On 7th June I ran a fencing taster session at St Saviours and Riverside Primary Schools. On 19th June I ran a fencing taster session at Bellahouston Sports Centre. This was organised through Kevin West of Glasgow Sport. It was well received but did not result in any new members for Bellahouston. On 20th September I ran a taster session for the Cubs at Sherbrooke St Gilberts Church in Nithsdale Road. We had two visitors to the club as a result.

We had an approach requesting a course for children and there was an attempt to start a class for youngsters running from 6.00 pm to 7.00pm on Mondays at the Pearce. However, it was not possible to confirm enough people willing to pay sufficient to cover hall rental, equipment hire and coaching expenses. We might try and revive this in the future.

Further to my visit to St Saviours and Riverside Primary Schools I am discussing the possibility of running an after school course or courses with the intention of this acting as a feeder club to Bellahouston. If a room is available at the school this may start in January.

#### **2.1 Club web pages**

I would again thank David Bell, the Vice President, for creating and hosting the club web pages. We have had a number of referrals because of this. Please visit the website to keep up with what is happening at the club and please contribute to it. Please let us have competition results or photographs.

## **2.2 Equipment**

Our thanks should be given to Kevin West of Glasgow Sport, part of Glasgow Culture and Sport, for the donation of the promotional sign for the club.

I note that the club foils have had a bit of hard use and we may need to replace some shortly.

## **2.3 Welfare**

I would remind everyone that Karen is our welfare officer.

## **2.4 First Aid**

I would remind everyone that we have a first aid box and that all incidents should be recorded. See any of the club officials.

## **2.5 Competition Achievement**

The club's sole life member, Sheila Anderson, still fences competitively and I am pleased to note that she still fences under the Bellahouston banner.

We must congratulate Christiana Bissett for her fencing achievements in what must have been a very busy year for her. It's nice to have a Scottish champion as a club member.

## **2.6 Aims for coming year**

- Encourage people to purchase their own kit.
- To encourage people to join Scottish Fencing.
- To have at least four electric boxes in use each session.
- To have more people fencing electric.
- To have more people entering competition.
- To encourage people to take advantage of training courses for club volunteers and to help with the coaching.
- To find more time for individual lessons.

My thanks to Andrew for coaching and to Jonathan, John, David and Karen for their work over the past year. Special thanks to Iain for his work with the register, for supervising the sabreurs, for bringing all the equipment out of store and packing it away again.

### 3 Treasurer's Report, John Bissett

John Bissett presented the treasurer's report. The club has about £3000 in cash and in the bank. Expenses over the last year were about £1900, including about £350 on purchasing new equipment. The main expense by far was hall rental. The club's income was about £1800, a slight decline on the previous year (fewer people are attending the club).

There is no need to increase subscriptions this year.

### 4 Election of Officers

The following nominations were made:

President	Tom Sorbie
Vice President	David Bell
Secretary	Jonathan Webley
Treasurer	John Bissett
Competition Co-ordinator	Christiana Bissett

There being no other nominations for these posts, the above were duly elected.

Karen Macleod was re-appointed to the committee as welfare officer (child and vulnerable adult protection).

### 5 Any Other Business

There was a short discussion regarding the use of SMS to inform members of the cancellation of a club night due to bad weather. This system will be used again this winter and members are reminded to make sure that their details are up to date.

Christy Bissett initiated a discussion concerning competitions. She volunteered to accompany members to their first few competitions. She intends to start a competition newsletter (printed so it can be taken home and given to parents).

She also suggested a competition fund, which will need to be discussed by the committee.

Due to the concerns that beginners leave after one or two lessons, it was decided that beginners should be directed to join the club on the first Monday of each month, and that they pay an initial fee of £10 to cover lessons for the whole month, as an incentive for them to stay with the club for at least that month.