British Fencing



**Huntingdonshire Fencing Club**

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| **Secretary**  | Ian Warburton 01480851597 *S****ecretary****@huntsfencingclub.co.uk*  |
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| **Public Relations**  | Tracey Coates 01480 461749 *PR@huntsfencingclub.co.uk*  |
| **Club Coach (BAF qualified)**  | Chris Convine 01480 495292 *captain@huntsfencingclub.co.uk* |
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Club web site - www.huntsfencingclub.co.uk August 2021

# A very warm welcome to Huntingdonshire Fencing Club

This letter sets out to give you information about the club, which we hope you and/or your child will find useful. You will find more information on the clubs web site- [www.huntsfencingclub.co.uk.](http://www.huntsfencingclub.co.uk/) Should you have any questions about fencing or the club please do not hesitate to contact anyone of the committee members whose names & telephone numbers are shown above.

The club uses an e mail system to tell members of events, circulate club newsletter and other club related information. To avoid any misunderstandings all e-mails that go to junior members only from club officials will always be copied to the parent/guardian plus other club officials.

The club was formed back in 1978 and was originally called the Fenlands Fencing Club. Several name changes has now brought us to our current name. The club has been meeting at the St Neots Sports Centre (now called One Leisure) ever since the centre opened in March 1991.

The Club meets on Thursday evenings, 7.00 pm until 10.00 pm. Main Sports Hall. One Leisure St Neots, Barford Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots, PE19 2SA. Leisure Centre Telephone No. - 01480 388700, E mail address - oneleisurestneots@huntsdc.gov.uk

We currently have 3 qualified coaches who will be very happy to assist you in the advancement of your fencing. Coaching in all 3 weapons is available. Warm up sessions & 1 to 1 sessions take place most club meetings with club class lessons several times a month. All coaching is included within your club membership fees.

The club has significant quantities of fencing equipment in all 3 weapons which is available for use by members on club nights. This includes electric weapons and foil & sabre lame jackets. You will be required to provide your own breeches, socks & trainers.

Fencing on the clubs electric scoring equipment is available every club night.

**To fence at the club and/or club Membership.**

Apart from paying club fees (For club fees, please see attached) you must be an individual member of British Fencing Association or the equivalent association of another FIE affiliated country. See Para below headed **“British Fencing Association”**

**You are also required to complete the attached club registration form and return to the club secretary. It is important that the club is informed of any medical condition or allergies that may be relevant should you and/or your child fall ill or are involved in an accident at the club. We also require two emergency telephone numbers.** This information is kept within the Club and is not passed to any other body or organisation except as where required by statutory bodies or to medical services in the case of an emergency. However, contact details maybe passed to the County Captain if you were selected to fence for the County and details may be passed to the British Fencing Association where required to check membership requirements or similar have been met.

If you have your own fencing equipment it should comply with the current protective clothing requirements of BFA, see club rules, copy attached for full details and also available on our web site. Although the club has more than sufficient fencing clothing equipment (with the exception of breeches) it is always nice to have your personal equipment and the club can help you with the purchase of such equipment. The club does qualify for discounts with some manufacturers.

We therefore strongly suggest you consider purchasing your own equipment. Start with the breeches, then the under plastron (800N), followed by a mask and so on. We would suggest an 800 N under plastron (compulsory when using No 5 electric blades), 350 N for the rest but you can always obtain higher quality if you wish.

There are a number of fencing equipment suppliers, here are the names of a few Leon Paul, Duellists, Allstar & BPT. Our club currently has an account with Leon Paul a manufacturer of fencing equipment in London and PBT. Leon Paul offers the club a 12% discount & PBT a 15% discount, if equipment is ordered through the club account. If you are interested please contact Mike Ellis who can process your order through the club account.

When attending the club please always make sure your name is on the weekly sign-in sheet (on the club notice board) and that you tick against your name under the current date as you arrive and cross through the tick when you leave. This is important for the centre fire regulations.

# Non-Fencers at the club

Parents, guardians, carers, relatives and any other non-fencers are very welcome to stay at the club and watch the action from the allocated area (by the wall where the benches are sited) Whilst at the club you must be aware of the potential dangers of moving around the hall whilst fencing is in progress. Fencers will not always be aware of non-fencers, so collision let alone being hit with a sword is a danger. Your face and eyes are not protected. If you have a concern ask an adult fencer for help, there is always fencers resting nearby.

**Parents and guardians please note.**

We ask you to read our clubs "Child & Vulnerable Persons” and privacy Policies, see next para below. If you have any queries or concerns we are happy to discuss them with you.

The following is an extract from the policy which we feel you should be fully aware of.

*Access to the One Leisure Sports Centre.*

*The One Leisure Centre is a public building and as such we have no control over other users of the centre, in particular the centre changing rooms. The club area of the hall is open access; however, fencers will observe who is in the area.*

*In general, junior and adult fencers are free to mix throughout the evening as the one room layout minimises the opportunity for inappropriate behaviour. There are several areas that require special attention as described below.*

1. ***Arrival****. Club responsibility for juniors starts when they enter the hall at or after 7 pm, all fencers are expected to sign in for fire regulations. If juniors are dropped off outside the centre, the club cannot take any responsibility for them until they have entered the hall after 7 pm and have signed in. It is the club’s preference that parents come into the hall and sign their child in.*
2. ***Getting equipment out of the storeroom.*** *Club equipment is stored in the centre storeroom, if juniors help get this out there must always be at least two adults in the storeroom at any one time.*
3. ***Leaving the hall during the evening.*** *If juniors leave the hall during the evening the club will not take responsibility for them, however they can request that two adult fencers/responsible adults accompany them.*
4. ***Leaving the centre at the end of the evening.*** *The fencers are required to sign out to signify that they have left the building. As for sections a) and c) the club does not take responsibility for juniors who have signed out and left the hall. Parents who do not agree with this clause are requested to come in to meet their children. It is the club’s preference that all parents come into the hall to collect their child and sign them out. Parents/guardians should arrive no later than 10 pm as they club closes at 10.30pm and the One Leisure Centre very shortly after*

# Young and Vulnerable People and Privacy

The club has a Child and Vulnerable Person’s policy, a copy of which is available to download on the club web site, a copy can be e mailed on request plus hard copy is available for reading at the club. The club coaches have been screened for their suitability for working with young people and have a current enhanced DBS/CRB certificate.

We also have a club welfare officers (see letter head for details) who can advise or discus any worries you may have about this subject. We welcome all parents/carers to visit the club and we value their support. Committee members are always available and will make time to discuss any aspect in your child’s fencing development or club membership.

In addition, the club has a privacy policy, which is also available on the website or by request, which covers the way in which we handle your data.

# Coaching

All coaching is carried out by or under the supervision of fully qualified coaches. The club has qualified coaches in all three weapons, Foil, Epee & Sabre. All club members may have individual lessons (this is included within the club fee). Individual lessons can be booked by putting your name down in the weekly lesson book. We cannot guarantee a lesson every week (depends on demand) but your name will be carried forward to the next week. If you are unsure please speak to one of our coaches listed below. **Individual 1 to 1 sessions are the very best way to improve your fencing.**

# Beginner Courses

Each year we hold a beginners course (Sept). Each course lasts for 10 weeks, for more information please contact the club captain or go to the club website for full details.

# Club Coaches

Chris Convine – Club coach, BFA & BAF Qualified in foil.

Mike Ellis – Senior coach, BFA & BAF Qualified in all three weapons, foil, epee & sabre.

Ian Coates – BFA & BAF Qualified in foil & epee.

# Club Referees

The club has a number of BFA qualified referees -

Mike Ellis – Foil, Sabre & epee.

Ian Coates – Foil

Tracey Coates – Foil.

Chris Convine – Foil & epee.

Fran Nottingham - Epee

Any questions on the above subject and rules of the fencing any of the above would be pleased to help you.

# British Fencing Association

The club is affiliated to the above, which is the national governing body for fencing in the UK. Due to changes in the rules of the BFA, HFC cannot allow any people to fence unless they are individual members of BFA/BAF or another recognised National/Country Union/Association who belong to the FIE and have insurance equal to or better than that of the BFA. The BFA offers different levels of membership to suit varying fencer requirements, from just a social fencing at one club, through to an international fencer. Please see the HFC club secretary for details or the BFA web site.

Committee members are always available and will make time to discuss any aspect of your own and/or your child’s fencing development or club membership.

# Club Equipment

The club has a considerable amount of fencing equipment that members may use on club nights. This includes some very expensive electric foils, epees, jackets & recording equipment. **We ask users to handle all club equipment with care and ensure when you put it away it goes back into the correct box and clothing is folded or hung correctly. It is extremely important that any damaged or suspect club equipment be reported to the armourer or any committee member at the earliest opportunity. Such equipment MUST NOT be used if you have any suspicions about its safety. Look for any blade looking badly bent, masks with dents, and clothing with holes or seams coming undone.** Please treat/handle club equipment as if it was your own and put it away with care when you have finished for the evening.

If you break club equipment (usually sword blades) the club expects you to pay 25% of the replacement cost.

If you have problems with equipment, club or your own our club armourer is there to help and for a small fee (for personal equipment) may be able to repair or service it.

We have club badges to sow on to your fencing jacket or tracksuit, currently £5.00 each, available from the club secretary.

The club also has a range of club clothing, sweaters, hoodies, tracksuits etc. for full details contact Tracey Coates club PR officer.

# Club Rules

Your attention is drawn to the Club Rules, a copy of which is attached and is also available on the club web site. **Please ensure you read & understand them.** Fencing is a very safe sport as long as you follow the basic safety rules which are detailed in the section SAFETY in the club rules.

There are a number of sections covering various aspects of the club including code of practice for members, coaches & all officials plus parents/guardians, risk assessment & disciplinary procedures.

# In an emergency

The club keeps a first aid kit at the club at all times and is stored in the wooded wardrobe style storage cupboard. This is regularly checked and contents kept within use by dates. The club has a numbers of its members who have attended emergency aid courses: Ian Coates, Chris Convine and Mike Ellis. One Leisure Sports Centre also keeps a first aid kit and has first aid aiders. It is important that we have at least two emergency telephone numbers for all members in case of an emergency, please see club registration form.

# Club Constitution

Is available to view on our web site, on request a copy can be e mailed to you or a hard copy is available on request.

# Competitions

## Cambridgeshire Fencing Association

The Club is affiliated to the Cambridgeshire Fencing Association. The C.F.A. runs a number of competitions throughout the season to help introduce the novice and intermediate fencer in to competition fencing. The CFA also holds competitions specifically for younger fencers. For details of CFA competitions go to their web site, see club notice board or ask any committee member for details.

## Open Competitions

There are Open competitions held all around the country, almost every month there are several such competitions held somewhere in the country. The club notice board will have details or go to the BFA web site “Events”. The CFA run an Open every January which is held in Cambridgeshire. It includes all three weapons for both men and women and is held over a weekend early in Jan. There is also an epee open-air competition held in Cambridgeshire each July.

There are a number of age group competitions run by Leon Paul all around the country; these are known as the Leon Paul Junior Series. Split in to U9, U11, U13, U15 for boys & girls. Go to Leon Paul web site for details. Those in the South will be on the club notice board.

For details of all open competitions see the BFA web site or the Sword Magazine.

Please note to fence in competitions you must be a member of the BFA.

You must be 13 on the day the event is held or older to fence in adult competitions.

If any further details are required on the Club, the CFA, BFA or on fencing please do not hesitate to ask.

Hope you found the above information useful and of interest.

Happy Fencing!

Yours sincerely

## Ian Coates Ian warburton

## Chair Secretary

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| **MEMBERSHIP TYPE**  | **ANNUAL FEE**  | **DIVIDED BY 3**  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ADULT  | £150.00  | £50.00  |
| UNDER 18 (JUNIOR)  | £105.00  | £35.00  |
| PART TIME COACH  | £75.00  | £25.00  |
| FULL TIME COACH  | £0.00  | £0.00  |
| RETIRED (+65)  | £105.00  | £35.00  |
| UNDER 25 IN FULL TIME EDUCATION  | £75.00  | £25.00  |
| FAMILY MEMBERSHIP = 2 adults (Partners) + 1 of their children (U18) paying full club fees, other of their children (U18) would be included as members.  | £405.00  | £1.00  |
| VISITOR FEES  | £5.00  | PER VISIT  |
|   |   |   |
| B`GIN COURSE FEES STARTING  | £80.00  | PER 10 WEEK COURSE  |