

Hannah wins SILVER at the Norfolk Open

This weekend past was the Norfolk Open a 6 weapon tournament.

We had a number of HFC members who made the trip to the Sportspark, ARU, Norwich for the Norfolk open.

Saturday was the men`s and women`s foil events.

We had Hannah Smyth and Tracey Coates in the women`s foil and Josh and Ian Coates in the men`s foil.

Hannah Smyth (age 16 and ranked 15 in the UK) had the best result of HFC fencers in taking silver in the women`s foil event coming 2nd to Chiara McDermott who is currently ranked 7th in the UK and who has won the Norfolk Open for several years.

Hannah was ranked 2nd after the first round of pools (she won all of her fights) and was ranked 3rd after the second after the of pools (she lost 1 fight to Emily Warrender 4-5, Emily is ranked 9th in the UK and comes from Fighting Fit club in London)

Hannah went through her first round of DE`s easily and went on to the Quarter finals where she meet Amanda Mond of Fencing Club London. Hannah won 15-10 and was now set for the semi final.

Hannah`s semi final was against Oxana Mikhaleva (Current UK ranking 16) of Salle Boston of London which she won 15-12.

Now the final against the current holder Chiara McDermott of Crawley Fencing Club and currently ranked 7th in the UK.

Hannah fought very hard but her attacks could not penetrate Chiara`s great defence and was being hit with riposte`s. After the first break Hannah changed her tactic`s and tried to draw Chiara in to attacking her but Chiara`s greater experience proved to much for Hannah and loosing 15-7.

Final result

Chiara McDermott 1st Gold

Hannah Smyth 2nd Silver

Emily Warrington and Oxana Mikhaleva (not in photo, had to leave before presentations)
Joint 3rd Bronze.

Photo left to right Emily, Chiara & Hannah

Tracey Coates came 8th and took the highest place Veteran trophy. (see photo)

In the men`s foil,

Chris Mollard of Saxon club took gold beating Chris Lennon of Liverpool University 15 – 12
HFC still had something to be proud of as Ian Coates took the highest place VET coming 24th. See photo (Ian with his wife Tracey both winning highest place VET)

Josh Coates came 16th.

Sunday was men`s and women`s epee and sabre events.

HFC member Liz Bujor was in the women`s sabre and in the men`s epee we had George Partridge, Andrew Brown and Andy Luckman.

Liz Bujor had a good day coming 7th in the women`s sabre being knocked out by the eventual winner Lucy Wright of Seacourt Fencing club in Hampshire 15-11.

HFC epee members did not have a great day with the following results.

Andy Luckman, 17th Men`s epee

George Partridge, 21st Men`s epee

Andrew Brown, 31st Men`s epee

Although I have to say one of the best bouts of the day for drama and tension was when George fought Myles Ashforth of Colchester and District club in the last 32 DE George was not on form and was down 8-1 at the first break. He was struggling badly with his distance control and mental approach but all due credit when he came pout for the second period he had pulled himself together and fought back like a tiger. It went right to the wire at 14 all and it was all on the final hit but Myles held himself together after such a great fight back by George to take the last point beating George 15-14. Bad luck George but a great fight, I should know I was the ref.

Other HFC members that were there was Fran Nottingham refereeing in the men`s and women`s epee events and Mike Ellis refereeing all weapons on both days.

Mike refereed both the men`s and women`s foil finals and the one of women`s sabre semi finals plus many other bouts.

Mike



