



**Worthing Fencing Club**  
**Extraordinary General Meeting**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 (online)**

**Attendees:**

- Hazel Jones
- Steve Jones
- Jo Bushby
- Brian Hearne
- Simon Jones

**Apologies:**

- Nick Stevens
- Mark Barrowcliffe
- Emma Parkin
- Ian Cutler
- Claire Ward
- Gemma Olliver

**Resignations:**

Simon and Jo stood down from the positions of chairperson and treasurer/secretary

**Actions arising -**

- Replacement committee members to be nominated
- Transfer of financial control of WFC to new chairperson
- Handover of latest accounts to new treasurer

**Nominations:**

The limited numbers in the EGM precluded a thorough discussion. However, assistance has been volunteered by Nick Stevens and Jo Banks, which is gratefully appreciated.

As of next year, the proposed committee structure is:

Chairperson: Steve Jones

Treasurer: Hazel Jones

Secretary: Brian Hearne

Club Welfare Officer: Nick Stevens

Chief Coach: Mark Barrowcliffe

Volunteer Support: Jo Banks

#### **Actions arising -**

- Steve to use the committee role BFA template to define the specific tasks/duties/responsibilities for each position
- Relevant courses/training/qualifications to be arranged for relevant roles (i.e. Club Welfare requires BFA safeguarding training)
- The role of chairperson will need to be filled in Easter when Mark has indicated he will finish at the club. Steve will take over as head coach, which necessitates stepping down as chairperson

#### **Accounts:**

Despite COVID issues, the first term after restarting the club ran with a small profit due to the reduction of coaching fees.

Term revenue: £1,327.00

Term costs: £1,120.32

Hall hire - £628.32

Coaching fees - £400.00

Sundries - £92.00

This puts the club reserves at about £500; still very low but roughly double to what it was at the commencement of the term. This gives us some headroom in case low headcount results in evenings making a loss, replacing some of the children's kit and supporting the members training for Level 1 coaching.

#### **Club situation:**

The first term of 2021 was very much a 'taster' to see whether it was possible for the club to survive following lockdown, and numerous other existential threats.

- Attendance  
This has generally been good and covered costs most weeks. In addition to some 'old' regulars coming back to the club, we have welcomed some new regulars which is always good for a community-orientated club
- Committee  
Simon and Jo indicated at the start of 2021 that they wished to step down after many years' service to the club. This vacated nearly all the committee positions which need to be filled for the club to operate and enjoy the legal and financial

coverage offered by its membership of the BFA. Response to initial requests for volunteers was dismal, but we now have enough to provisionally fill the required roles. Members should note that survival of the club will also depend on there being enough assistance with the committee side of things, and the more that volunteer, the less there will be for any one person to do

- **Coaching**

Mark has extended his commitment as Head Coach until Easter 2022. However, after this point, there is only one Level 2 coach who can occupy this role, meaning that a new Chairperson will need to be elected.

Having a single coach to run the adult/junior sessions would have been untenable and required the club to close or radically alter the nature of the sessions provided. Numerous alternatives were explored for additional/supplemental coaching but none panned out; there is a general shortage nationally.

Nick and Adam have agreed to train as level 1 coaches and can be assessed by Lewis McInley before Mark's departure. This will give us one level 2 coach and 2 level 1s, capable of running lesson plans or filling in if someone is unavailable for a week's training. This should put us on a solid foundation for coaching cover, with the option of seeking additional help as funds allow

#### **Actions arising:**

- Nick and Adam to begin shadowing/training with Mark and Steve from January.
- Additional coaching qualifications and certificates to be secured; much of this can be done online in a relatively short period (Steve to assist with the requirements)
- Lewis to assess and qualify coaches when they are ready; they will be Lv1 certified by the British Academy of Fencing

It would be fair to say that we have had a few challenges along the way, and I am certain that there will be many more, especially with the current COVID variant calling the proposed restart next year into question. However, the club has survived, has an engaged membership, and hopefully by Easter will be able to start a coordinated development program for fencers, with input from the new coaching staff.

#### **AOB**

- The COVID situation needs to be constantly monitored and may require further changes at short notice. The [club website](#) and [Facebook page](#) will be the primary methods of communicating the latest information
- Junior kit and dressing remains a concern. Ideally, they should be able to dress themselves . . . some ideas as to how to help this:
  - Selecting their kit before the warm-up and having this nearby to change into when the lesson commences
  - Having a bag in which their selected kit can be placed in the main bags, so this is easier to locate
  - Paying a deposit to bring kit home (this enables parents to launder the kit as well)

- Video resources on the site/facebook running through the kitting up procedure

**Actions arising**

- Anything requiring additional funds will be put to a club poll
- Other idea can be tried to see if this results in less time/contact for kitting up