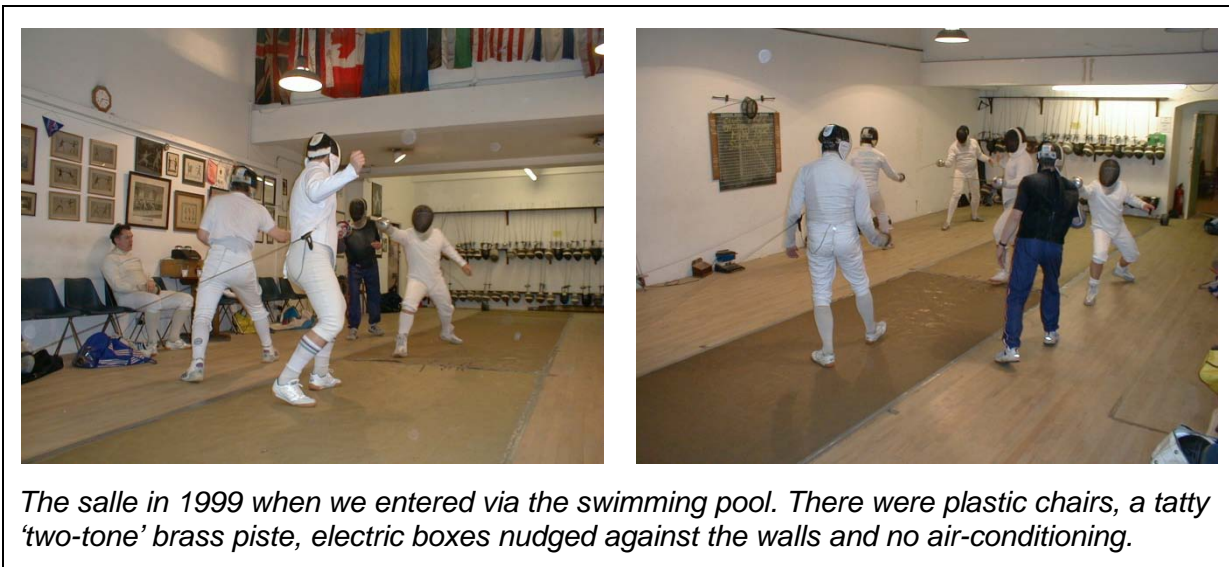


The 2010 Fencing Committee Election

The Committee is delighted to inform you that we have agreed a system for electing members to the Fencing Committee. The system we have agreed is a secret ballot via the internet. The following document briefly explains how the Salle d'Armes is run, how to stand for the Committee and how the yearly elections will be organised.

The past ten years

You would not recognise today's Salle d'Armes from the one we had in 1999. It opened four nights a week between six and eight-thirty, there was one tatty brass electric piste, no bag room, no fencing gallery, no air-conditioning and we entered the Salle via the swimming pool. We only had fifty-two members who were only allowed to fence twice a week. In consequence, the Club was questioning the validity of having a Salle d'Armes and were seriously considering converting it into a gym.



The salle in 1999 when we entered via the swimming pool. There were plastic chairs, a tatty 'two-tone' brass piste, electric boxes nudged against the walls and no air-conditioning.

The Fencing Committee persuaded the Council not just to keep the Salle d'Armes, but also to invest in its redevelopment, and in 2001 the Salle went through a facelift: a viewing gallery, three electric pistes, electric boxes, bag room, air conditioning, new seating and a new entrance. It was the first major overhaul in the Salle's history.

It wasn't just a matter of how the Salle looked – it was also important to make changes in the way that it was run. A good example of this was when the Fencing Committee developed the Stewards system in 2003 to allow fencing without a master present. This involved detailed discussions with both the Club management as well as the British Fencing Association. Seven years on, the system is robust and accountable, allowing our members to fence more often in the Salle.

In the same way the Fencing Committee has set up the Beginners Course, the Summer and Christmas parties, the Olympic Pathway, the Lansdowne International Challenge Cup, the website and Junior Fencing. It is no surprise that membership increased to two hundred in 2006 and has been hovering around that level ever since.

We are also proud of the calibre of Fencing Masters employed by the Lansdowne Club: Maitre Jeremy Parkins and Professor Ziemek Wojciechowski with Professor Steven Paul teaching private lessons on Wednesday and replacement coaches, Professor John Ince and Andy Pavaday. This exceptional line-up of professional fencing masters means that our members get unparalleled instruction throughout the year.

As this is the end of the old Committee system, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who have so willingly given up their time to serve on the Fencing Committee over the past fourteen years. They are:

Jim Ashley-Down

Alan Bergman

Tony Bowran

James Chambers

Chairman – 1987 to 1998

Tony Cotton

Chairman – 1978 to 1987, 1998 to 2002

Rupert Davies-Cooke

Chairman – 2009 to Present

Lucinda Gallant

William Hodgson

Lawrence Kershen QC

Charles Lavington

Chairman – 2002 to 2008

Patricia Lopez Castillo

Alda Milner-Barry

Janet Munro-Nelson

Eleanor Shanks

Paul Standing

Dr Stephen Steinberg

Chairman – 2008 to 2009

Satvinder Sahota

Mary de Tuerk

Katie Turner

Jennifer Yao

Presentation of Electoral Process

The Chairman of the Club has asked that, instead of holding an EGM, we hold an event entitled "Presentation of the Electoral Process". It will be an evening at the Club with a glass of wine and an opportunity to hear about the electoral process.

Why not join the Committee?

As the Salle d'Armes continues to evolve there will be many challenges, especially as we approach the Olympics. Would you like to get involved?

Here are some of the jobs that need doing:

- to represent the fencers on the Lansdowne Club Sports Committee
- to organise parties and fencing events
- to organise competitions as well as organise teams for National competitions
- to oversee the maintenance of Salle d'Armes equipment
- to run the website and organise e-mail
- to organise events for fencers aged 16 to 24
- to organise events for novice fencers
- to organise the yearly election of committee members
- to organise fencing courses
- to organise replacement Fencing Masters
- to write articles for the Lansdowne Club Magazine as well as for the website

Please note that working on the Fencing Committee will commit you to working a few hours each week on fencing matters.

The New Fencing Committee

The Fencing Committee will consist of seven Members, including the Chairman. Roles and Responsibilities will be allocated by the Chairman to Committee members at the first Committee meeting following the election.

At the first election anniversary, two members of the Fencing Committee will step down for re-election. The first two members to stand for re-election will be the two members with the least number of votes at the 2010 election. At the second anniversary, the next two members to stand down will be the next two members with least number of votes at the 2010 election. At the third anniversary, the last three members will stand for re-election having served a full three years. From that year, Committee members will regularly stand down on completing a full term of three years.

Fencing Committee members are able to be elected for a maximum of two elections after which they need to take a year's break before being eligible to stand again.

Candidates

To stand as a candidate, you must be a member of the Salle d'Armes. You must also have been a paid-up member of the Lansdowne Club for at least three years from the date of calling the election which for this year will be the same day as the "Presentation of the Electoral Process".

The proposal forms will be available online and will include a general biography, fencing experience, photograph, relevant skills and the work you would like do for the Salle d'Armes.

Once the candidates list has been drawn up, the election will be run using an internet service called Survey Monkey. Fencers will be notified of the election by email. For those fencers who do not have email addresses, the notification will be by post. The election will also be posted on the Salle d'Armes website and notice-board. Those members who do not have access to a computer can vote via a computer in the Club Business Centre. Members can vote for a maximum of six candidates but fewer if they wish.

Voting will close after fourteen days, collated and the results posted on the Fencing website. Members with honorary Membership are not entitled to vote.

The Chairman

To ensure continuity, the Club has asked me not to take part in this election but to remain as Chairman for the next twelve months. I have agreed to this request, but I also feel it falls short of what the members at the AGM asked for: an election of all committee members. So I have asked for, and the Club has agreed to, a compromise.

The compromise is that I will stand, like the others, for a three year term. You will be asked to vote on this issue on a separate page on the election site. The question will be "Do you agree to Rupert Davies-Cooke standing as Chairman for a three-year term", and your choice will be either 'agree' or 'disagree'. I will only remain as Chairman for the full three year term if 75% of votes cast are in favour. If not, then I will stand down from the Committee after a year, having overseen the transition to the new elected Committee.

Please note that this will be the only time the Chairman will be elected by the members and that after this election, the system agreed with the Club is that the Committee will choose one elected member as Chairman and this appointment will be ratified by the Club Council.

Conclusion

On a personal note, I am proud of what the Committee has achieved over the past ten years, but I believe it is what happens in the next ten that counts. To that end, if you feel you have the time and energy to help run the Salle d'Armes, then please consider standing for election.



Rupert Davies-Cooke
Chairman (2009 – Present)

May 2010