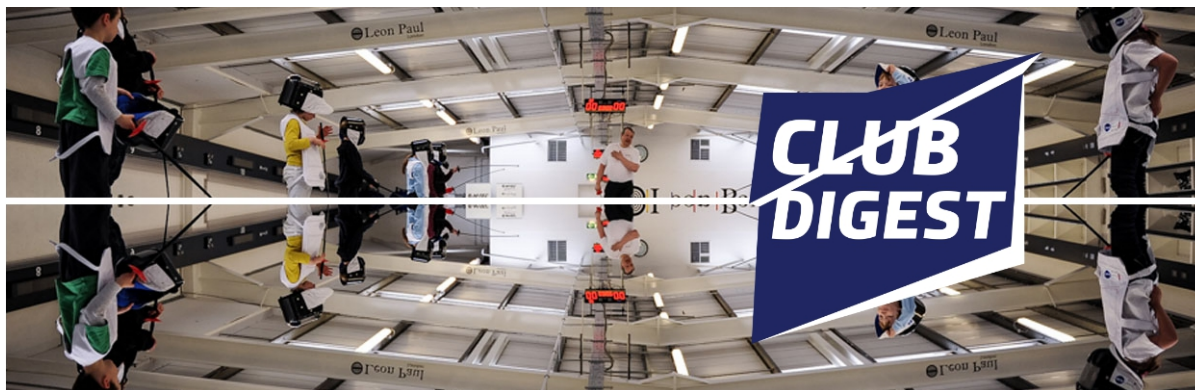




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Hi Friend, are you ready for a new season of fencing?

Welcome to a new year of Fencing, I hope you've enjoyed the summer!

Hello from Hannah

As this is my first digest to you all I thought I would introduce myself. I joined the team at the start of April and thank you for the warm reception into the community. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with new people as well as discovering a new network of volunteers, referees, coaches, athletes and supporters a like. For those of you that don't know my role primarily is to liaise with all the regions and clubs to help them to drive and sustain their membership as well as maintaining and developing relationships with those regions.



I have always been heavily involved in sport, I started as a swimmer back home in Bolton where I was county champion and also qualified for the nationals. I also studied dance including ballet and almost attended ballet school when I was offered a place at 11 but decided instead to continue with my studies at secondary school. With sport being such a big influencer in my life it is no surprise that I went on to study sport coaching at Bath and also completed a post graduate degree at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Whilst at Bath I found a new sport, rowing. I owe a lot to joining that club as it has shaped a lot of what I have done since. My post graduate degree was part of a scholarship position with British Rowing where I remained based in the South West working with specified clubs to help develop and grow their junior sections. This role gave me a taste of not only coaching but also an exposure to the inside workings of sports community clubs. I have been part of the club structure a lot of my life and career and have seen and experienced the barriers and challenges they face. I am excited to start to get to grips with a new community of clubs and work with them to maintain and potentially strengthen their causes.

I really hope to do this role justice and work to develop its purpose not just for the regions but to British Fencing as a whole. As I have said I am looking forward to meeting more of you as we go along and definitely doing an introduction course at some point!



MEMBERSHIP

Please remind all your club participants that British Fencing offer a variety of memberships that cover a range of activities;

INTRODUCTION MEMBERSHIP

This is a relatively new membership that was introduced in April 2018. It offers participants a 90 free trial, ideal to go hand in hand with any Introductory Course you may be running!

STARTER

This serves as our entry level membership, perfect for those fencers who compete at inter-club matches.

RECREATIONAL

Basic Recreational Membership for Fencers in Clubs & Schools

COMPETE

This membership is designed for the competing fencer. This covers regional/county/national training and competitive events.

SUPPORTER

Non Fencer category. For typical volunteer activities that are undertaken in fencing (parents, armourers, referees, club welfare officers etc.) whether performed on behalf of themselves, your region, your club or competition.

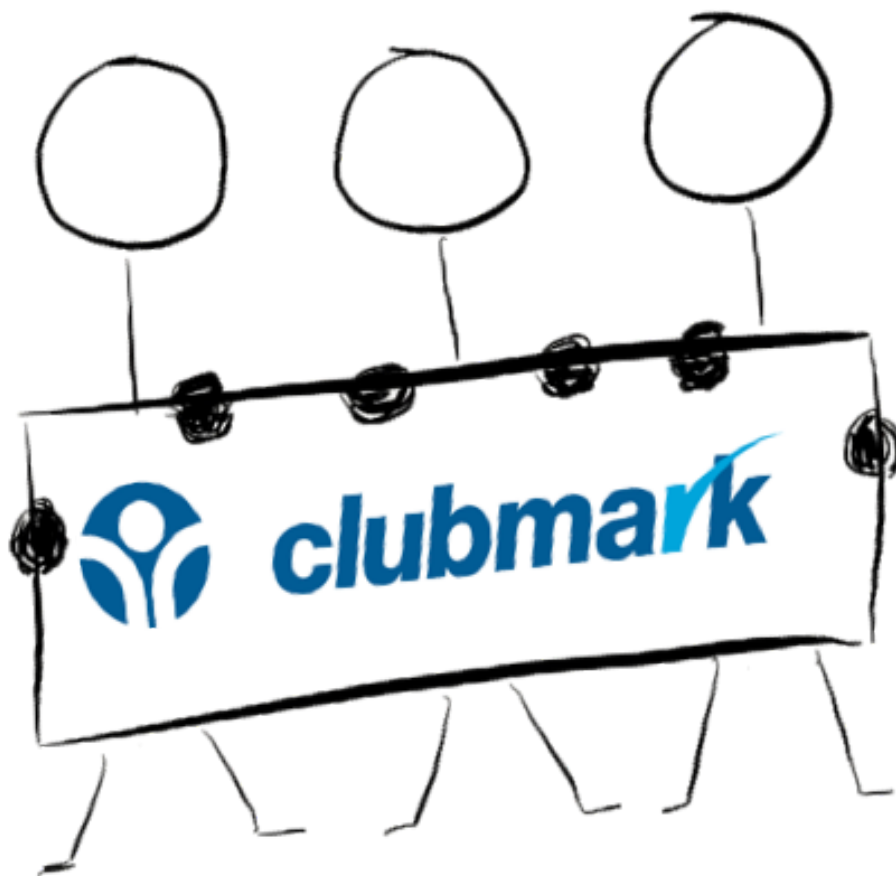
All memberships come with free access to online copies of our in house magazine The Sword and various levels of insurance dependant upon your membership type.

Please encourage your members to check out our website for more information; click [here](#).

The screenshot displays the British Fencing website's 'MEMBERSHIP TYPES' page. The header includes navigation links: BF Shop, Activity Finder, Become a Member, Volunteers, Our Partners, and Login Register. A sidebar on the left lists various site sections like Explore Fencing, News, Events, Results & Rankings, Members, GBR Fencing, Upcoming Courses, Welfare, About Us, and Become a Member. The main content area features three membership options, each with a photo of fencers in action: 1. Introduction Individual Membership (3 month, All Ages) on a red background. 2. Starter Individual Membership (Annual, All Ages) on a dark blue background. 3. Recreational Individual Membership (Annual, All Ages) on a light blue background. A Privacy Policy icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the website screenshot.

CLUB MATTERS

Sport England announced in July that their Clubmark programme would cease to continue after November this year. The decision was made after an independent review of the scheme looked into the efficiency and effectiveness of its suitability as a tool to help clubs work towards higher standards. It was found that whilst the resources made available as part of the scheme were of definite use, the actual accreditation programme was seen as potentially too generic and as a result many NGBs were adopting their own product.



What does this mean for British Fencing?

Clubs that currently hold a valid Sport England Clubmark accreditation will remain to do so until it expires. Sport England have assured that the award will still be acknowledged for the length of its term. Also, a toolkit will be made available via the Clubmatters website to these clubs to continually help them maintain and improve the standards that the Clubmark process has inspired.

Any club that is currently in the process of working towards their Clubmark accreditation has until mid-November to complete the course. Final applications were made in August this year. These clubs will continue to utilise the Clubmatters dashboard and portal as normal before the scheme ends.

The Clubmark scheme and Clubmatters website has been a welcomed asset to British Fencing as they have provided a way to give expert and structured information to clubs to help them improve what they do. Not only does the wealth of knowledge available help provide answers to everyday queries and challenges but it has stimulated the aspiration of a high standard of practice. This is something that British Fencing wishes to emulate and continue in the future; therefore, a review of an accreditation award will take place and a decision will be made regarding what this will look like going forward into 2020.

Clubmatters will still remain as an important tool to help clubs develop and offer advice on a range of topics and areas. You can access the toolkits whether you have a active Clubmark award or not so why not have a look [here](#) today!



SAFEGUARDING

Please see the below note from CEO Georgina Usher regarding Safeguarding in Clubs

British Fencing (BF) is committed to creating an environment that is safe, fun and inclusive for participation in fencing. As a National Governing Body of Sport, BF is also required to play a role in implementing minimum standards of safeguarding and has duties and responsibilities under the Working Together to Safeguard Children Act 2018 (England only) and similar legislation in other home nations. This legislation requires all organisations working with children and young people however small to have certain things in place to promote their welfare.

As part of implementing these standards, BF is required to ensure that there is a welfare structure in place and framework for delivery and that there are minimum standards for coaches, particularly those that come into contact with children. Our work in this area is reviewed annually by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit and should we fail to meet minimum standards we will not be able to apply for government funding which will significantly impact our ability to support our fencers, clubs and coaches.

Over the last few years we have been working closely and supporting our clubs as they have been adopting these standards. BF have continued to provide low cost (and where possible free) training and additional guidance.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the clubs that have met the standards and continue to support efforts to create the best environments for children and young people to participate in fencing. We are delighted that we have a growing network of welfare officers who play such an important role in our clubs, and coaches that place participant welfare at the heart of our sport.

We would also like to thank England Fencing, Scottish Fencing, Welsh Fencing and NI Fencing for their efforts in this regard.

Regrettably there remain a number of clubs still affiliated that continue to offer fencing without meeting minimum welfare operating standards and who have not been in touch with us to discuss their situation. Clubs without welfare provision and/or using unregistered coaches present an increased risk of safeguarding incidents occurring.

If they wish to do so, athletes (or their parents) can check themselves whether there is a risk they will be fencing 'unattached':

1. Check there is there a Club Welfare Contact (independent of the coaching structure) listed on your club website.
2. Check your Club Coach(es) is/are on the BF Coach Register [here](#).

If an issue arises with either check please do contact your Club Secretary in the first instance.

More Information for Club Secretaries

1. Minimum Club Operating Standards - <https://www.britishfencing.com/club-membership/>
2. Becoming a Registered Coach - <https://www.britishfencing.com/members/coaching-zone/get-involved/coaching-standards/become-a-registered-coach/>
3. Becoming a Welfare Officer - <https://www.britishfencing.com/welfare-zone/welfare-officer/>

If you are a Welfare Contact or a Coach looking for training or assessments please sign up here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form?EQBCT=7786e7433b5543bb99264b7e32be642c>

VOLUNTEERING



VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Following Volunteer week in June, we at British Fencing have launched a survey to find out more about the people who volunteer in our sport and how we can do more to support you.

We would like to hear from anyone who gives up their time to help participants and members get involved. It doesn't matter if it is once a week or once a year, we want to hear about every experience.

Please note that this is for volunteers only, not paid coaches or any other paid staff. The survey is has been live all through the summer and will be closing on **Sunday 15th September**. The survey is made up of 24 questions and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

Click [here](#) to access the link and please pass on to anyone you feel is relevant!

NEWS

Gilwell Reunion Scout Event

On September 7th 2019 British Fencing was invited to the Gilwell Reunion Scout Jamboree. The event sees Scout leaders from across the UK come together to gather information on the range of activities available.

Whilst at the event we took the opportunity to train up a new set of Core Coaches that will now be able to head back to their troops in order to deliver fencing.



The numbers below indicate how many people from each Scout region completed the Expression of Interest Form as they have an interest in introducing fencing to their Scouts:

East Midlands – 5 groups

East of England – 2 groups

Greater London – 6 groups

North East – 3 groups

North West – 1 group

South East – 6 groups

South west – 2 groups

West Midlands 2 groups

Nine of the groups are interested in having a link with their local fencing club (if there is one in the area) and 24 of the groups are keen to set up a Core Coach course. This in turn will lead to up to 12 Scout leaders being up-skilled to introduce fencing to their groups, with a possible reach of a nearly 300 Scouts exposed to the sport, as a starting point.

If you think this is something you could support in your region please get in touch

Job Opportunity at British Fencing

British Fencing are looking to recruit a Projects and Programmes Manager - Education and Community.

Please check out the full description and details [here](#) on our Careers page and please pass on to anyone you think maybe interested!



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RESPECT
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Please Note: The Club Digest is targeted at England based clubs and will focus on England initiatives. Some content maybe relevant and useable for other Home Country based clubs. More information is available on the British Fencing website.

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