



Club Operations

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Training

Training sessions take place every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7pm-10pm in the Main Hall (Level 2) of the Physical Education Centre.

- Tuesday sessions are aimed at more experienced members and as such, attendance of newer (or beginner) members is restricted to 'invite only' at the discretion of the Head Weapon Coaches.
- Wednesday evenings are open to all QUB Fencers, with both group and individual coaching.
- Friday training can be attended by all members and tends to focus more on fencing practice than structured lessons.

For individual coaching lessons, fencers should consult the appropriate Head Weapon Coach (see **Coaching**).

Beginners are advised to bring along plenty of water, a sturdy pair of trainers and suitable active-wear. All other equipment is readily available from the club.

Coaching

QUB Fencing aims to provide its membership with high-quality coaching in all 3 weapons. To ensure consistency in the coaching provided to fencers, only qualified and QUB Fencing-registered coaches may operate during QUB Fencing training sessions.

The approved Head Weapon Coaches for 2017/2018 are as follows:

- Gerard Madden – épée (gbreadenmadden01@qub.ac.uk);
- Katie Gillespie – foil (kgillespie05@qub.ac.uk);
- James Allen – sabre (jallen681@qub.ac.uk).

During occasions when coach availability is limiting, assistant coaches may be selected by the Head Weapon Coaches from the QUB Fencing Coaches Register to aid them as directed. Furthermore, experienced club members may be chosen at the discretion of the Head Weapon Coaches to assist them when no other registered personnel are available.

Coaching at QUB Fencing encompasses more than just individual lessons. It includes fencing demonstrations, paired blade work exercises, supervised practice with assistant coaches and technical advice from the side-lines during bouts.

The approved external coaching staff for 2017/2018 includes:

- Katie Arup (Fence Like an Olympian);
- Johnny Davis (Fence Like an Olympian);
- Mike Westgate (NIF Performance Director and Coach Developer).

Equipment & Storage

All club members are entitled to borrow QUB Fencing equipment during practice sessions, under the supervision of the committee and/or Head Weapon Coaches. However, in the event of a varsity competition, competing fencers have priority for all club equipment.

Henceforth, a 'weapon' refers to any completed electric and/or non-electric epee, foil or sabre. A 'blade' refers to any epee, foil or sabre not containing any electrical, tip or grip components.

Fencers are responsible for the proper care of all QUB Fencing equipment borrowed i.e. the moment from which it is removed from the store up until its return. Each individual is afforded one broken club weapon per year without penalty. The borrower shall be liable for the cost of a blade as compensation for any subsequent weapon broken during that year, enforced at the discretion of the committee.

The Armourer and Head Weapon Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all fencers are instructed in the appropriate use of club equipment, to prevent harm from befalling club members and to limit damage to the equipment itself. Club members found to be intentionally or consistently misusing equipment may be denied the right to borrow kit at the discretion of the committee and Head Weapon Coaches.

The store must remain locked at all times when not in use. Only committee members and Head Weapon Coaches are entitled to retrieve the store key.

- Clothing equipment should be washed at least once per semester, preferably in advance of beginner sessions when there is high usage of all kit.
- Where possible, weapons should be placed on weapon racks/holders, blade point-down, in an easily accessible manner. If weapon racks/holders are unavailable, weapons should be stored in a sword bag with blade points inside the bag.
- Masks should be placed on mask hangers/shelves in a fashion by which they will not become dislodged or fall.
- Clothing equipment should be placed on hangers and arranged logically i.e. all jackets hung together, all plastrons hung together etc.
- Electrical equipment (body-cords, scoring equipment) must be stored away from the clothing equipment to prevent moisture damage.

NB: QUB Fencing members may leave their personal equipment in the store at their own risk.

Fundraising

Fundraising activities enable the club to maintain and repair equipment essential to the running of the club. They also enable the club to engage in social activities and to facilitate the preparation of club events.

Merchandise may be marked up, however the specific mark-up cost shall be decided at the discretion of the committee and, where possible, will not exceed 20%.

Other ways to fundraise include try-it-out events (with steam weapons and/or midi-fence kit), quizzes (in conjunction with QUB Quizmasters), raffles and sponsorship.

Grant applications open from around mid-September and close around mid-October, but exact dates and deadlines will be emailed out. Sources of financial help include the:

- Recurrent Grant (to promote the club's aims and objectives);
- Hosting Grant (available to support the QUB hosting of a recognised intervarsity event in that academic year);
- Capital Grant (to aid in the upgrading and/or repair of equipment);
- Queen's Annual Fund (supports projects that enhance the Student Experience);
- Clifford Arbuthnot Fund (to provide amenities for clubs or to defray expenses incurred in furthering the University's interests, maximum award of £2500).

Social Media Policy

Our social media platforms are designed for open and friendly communications. Their purpose is to connect with our membership so please express your views, leave comments, photos, videos and links. However, when doing so, please remain respectful of others and stay on-topic. Our group administrators reserve the right to remove posts and comments, without notification, which they deem:

- Are racist, sexist, homophobic, sexually explicit, abusive, or otherwise objectionable;
- Disrupt, bully, or harass an individual, group or organisation;
- Are deemed to describe or encourage activities which could endanger the safety of others;
- Contain offensive language;
- Violate the law;
- Are deliberately disruptive statements meant to hijack comment threads or throw discussions off-track;
- Are inappropriate, in poor taste, or otherwise contrary to the purposes of the forum;
- Violate copyright, intellectual property rights, defamation, and contempt of court;
- Is spam, link baiting, or contains viruses that could damage the operation of other people's computers or mobile devices.

By posting and commenting in the social media groups you are indicating that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the 'Online House Rules' laid out above. Anyone repeatedly posting material that falls into the above categories will be removed and/or banned from participating in our groups.

If someone posts something that causes you offence or embarrassment, a polite request to the group administrators for removal will suffice. If the problem continues, don't hesitate to report the abuse using the links provided on the social networking site.

Please note that QUB Fencing does not endorse any opinions that are not specifically posted by us. Additionally, QUB Fencing is not responsible for the accuracy of the claims, information, advice, or comments posted by its online followers.

If you have any questions about this policy or wish to report any abuses of it, please send an email to: fencing@qub.ac.uk.

Feel free to head on over to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/100596513363110/> or <https://twitter.com/qubfencing> and post or tweet to your heart's content.

Complaints Procedure & Handling

Any member of QUB Fencing is entitled to make a complaint and/or raise a concern. Complaints should be lodged in writing to the committee via email to qubfencing@qub.ac.uk. Following this, the committee will open an investigation and the action to be taken shall be decided and carried out by the committee.

If the issue involves a member of the committee, that committee member will be excluded from the investigative process. When required and at the discretion of the rest of the committee, the offending committee member should be suspended pending investigation.

Members are permitted to appeal the committee's decision, at which point the issue will be brought to the attention of the appropriate extramural QUB Sports and Societies authorities.

If a complaint against any QUB Fencing member(s) is upheld, it is the responsibility of the committee to inform the Vice-President of Clubs and Societies (clubsandsocieties@qub.ac.uk).

If a member wishes to preserve their anonymity, they may contact an individual member of the committee. It is the duty of the committee member to uphold the complaint/concern in the strictest confidentiality. Alternatively, the club member may voice their concerns directly to the Vice-President of Clubs and Societies if they are uncomfortable communicating directly with the committee.

Depending on the nature of the complaint/concern, the committee may decide to hold a public club meeting where all members are encouraged to attend and discuss the issue(s).