

Secretary's Report for AGM 2024

Seven Committee meetings have been held since the last AGM, predominantly via Zoom, but we also held one physical meeting at Swindon which proved very productive. Using Zoom has the advantage of a reduced carbon footprint and reduced expenses, but physical meetings give a better forum to debate complex topics and develop relationships within the committee.

Newsletters and general updates were sent throughout the year using Mailchimp. Gillian has taken over from Nicola producing the newsletter which is widely appreciated by members – particularly the caption competition! Surveys were sent out after competitions using Survey Monkey. Feedback from the surveys has been discussed by the committee with a view to improving the standard of events.

Competition rules have been updated and selection criteria have been changed this season to allow our world champion to defend her title – which was a pleasurable decision.

The last twelve months saw Henry de Silva celebrate his 90th birthday shortly followed by the fencing community mourning his death. A minute's silence was held on each day of the Nationals in his memory. The veterans movement owes much to Henry, who was a real force of nature and who will be much missed.

Special thanks go to John Mason who continues to help with the website, the entry system and database training. John is the rock behind the system which makes everything work and his input is both appreciated and invaluable.

Thank you for all your support over the last year and I look forward to communicating with you all over the next 12 months.

Lucy Wright

2024