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February 2007

THE EDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Fencing Association



U15 Women's Foil at the Red Deer Open 2007



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The Edge is the Alberta Fencing Association's official newsletter. It serves many purposes, including:

- Keeping each part of Alberta's fencing community informed about each other's activities.
- Bringing interesting and valuable information to fencers of all ages and skill levels.
- Giving fencers a forum to speak about their fencing experiences.
- Serving as a historical record of fencing in Alberta in this time.

The Edge has been through many incarnations, from a monthly paper newsletter in the 1960s, to an occasional publication through the 1970s and 1980s, to its current incarnation as an e-newsletter, emailed to all members with valid email addresses, and published on the AFA's website.

The Edge is published quarterly, in February, May, August, and November. If you have articles to submit, or an idea for an article, please forward them to the AFA head office by January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15. The AFA accepts and reviews the following for publication:

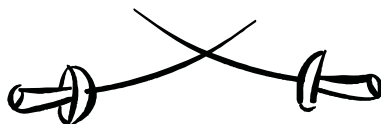
- Club, camp, and tournament reports
- Movie and book reviews
- Editorials
- Informational articles
- Humour, anecdotes, and original fiction
- Short biographies
- Images for photo articles or the front cover

OUR SPONSORS



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WE NEED YOU!

Do you have ideas for upcoming Edge articles? Have you seen a fencing movie or read a fencing book that you'd like to tell the rest of the fencers in Alberta about? Maybe you'd like to share the story of how you got started in fencing. The Edge needs your contributions! Email abfence@telus.net, or call 780 427 9474 to talk about contributing to the Edge!

AFA ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Clubs

The AFA would like to extend warmest welcomes to two new fencing clubs! Priori Epee of Calgary was formed in August 2006, and is coached by Denis Fournier. En-Garde Fencing Club of Edmonton was formed in November 2006, and is coached by Mirosław Chruschinski. We wish you all the best in your inaugural years, and look forward to seeing you at tournaments, and around the province!

Canada Winter Games Team

The AFA is pleased to announce that Team Alberta Fencing for the 2007 Canada Winter Games has been confirmed! Please congratulate these outstanding individuals, and wish them luck as they compete with other fencers from across Canada in Whitehorse during the first week of March!

Men's Epee

Calvin Pritchard
Roger Hill
Lucas Duguay

Women's Epee

Karis Langvand
Alanna Bowie
Kinga Kovacs

Men's Foil

Anthony Prymack
Sinatrio Raharjo
Sam Hardwicke-Brown

Women's Foil

Jerrica Gu
Alanna Goldie
Jessica Gingras

Men's Sabre

Paul Almaev
Eric Goldie
Andrew Gergely

Women's Sabre

Rhiannon Kirkland
Elyse Richards
Olga Guintchitskaia

Staff

Jujie Luan, Coach
Leslie Palmi, Coach
Jill Thompson, Manager

Congratulations!

Congratulations go out to Brita Goldie and Anthony Prymack, who were both invited by

the CFF to attend the Junior and Cadet World Championships in Belek, Turkey, this coming April!

Free Fencing Around the Province

Several clubs in the province offer free fencing on certain days for all AFA and CFF members. These days are opportunities to fence people from different clubs outside of tournament situations, and help foster increased communication and community between clubs.

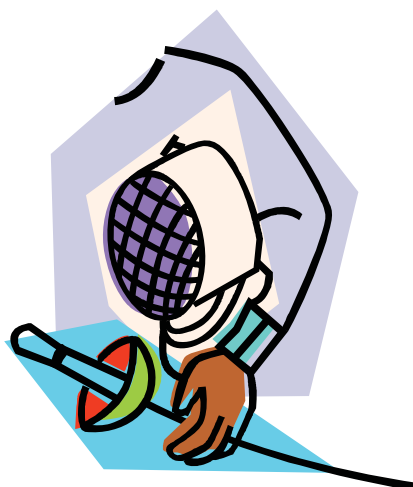
Epic Fencing Club of Calgary offers a Free Fencing Friday once a month. Come fence at Epic's new facility on 9 February from 6:30 to 11 pm. See their website for more details: <http://www.epicfencing.net/>

Priori Epee of Calgary offers Free Fencing to all AFA and CFF registered epeeists every Friday beginning 27 January 2007! See their website for more details: <http://www3.telus.net/Priori/>

Upcoming Events (Winter 2007)

Check the AFA website for information about all these events!

AWG 2008 Coaching Clinic, 10-11 February
Women's Coaching Seminar, 17 February
Canada Winter Games, 2-9 March
Calgary Open, 23-25 March
Alberta Provincial Championships, 13-15 April
Western Canadian Championships, 20-23 April



PRE-TOURNAMENT EQUIPMENT CHECK

By Douglas Carsted

So you're registered and ready for the upcoming fencing tournament, but is your equipment? Fencing equipment serves two functions. The first is to protect your personal safety. The second is to make it possible for the scoring equipment to function properly.

The armourer at a tournament is responsible for the correct functioning of the equipment needed to conduct the tournament, like pistes, reels, and scoring boxes. He or she is also responsible for carrying out the mask check and the resistivity check of body-wires. It is not the armourer's responsibility check a fencer's other personal equipment, although they will if asked.

It is the responsibility of each fencer to ensure that his or her personal equipment is in good repair. Below is a list of items that should be checked prior to attending any tournament, as well as at least once a month. By ensuring your equipment is working properly, you will avoid problems and disappointment on the piste.

Mask

This piece of equipment is extremely important for your safety, and should be checked at least once a month. First, check to ensure that the bib is securely attached to the wire mesh. No holes should be present in the bib material that could catch your opponent's blade. Ensure that the seal around the wire mesh that forms the joint between the wire mesh and the sides of the mask has not come unglued. A mask where the glue has become loose will fail a safety check. If the seal is coming apart, it can be re-glued with contact cement or some other strong glue.

Body Wire

Your body wire, though not a safety item, must pass a resistivity test. The resistivity must not exceed 1 ohm of resistance as checked by a digital ohmmeter. The usual cause of high resistance between the two ends of a body wire is poor contact between the screws and the wire. Loosening the screws slightly, then tightening

them several times usually fixes the problem. Be careful not to over tighten the screws, as you can break the small screwdriver slot. If you have questions, ask your club armourer or the armourer at your next tournament.

Fencing Jacket, Sous-Plastron and Breeches

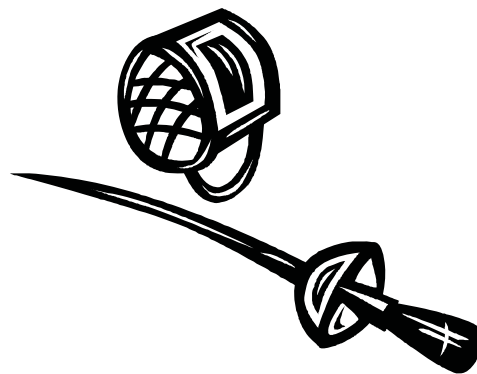
Your jacket and sous-plastron are important safety equipment and must be in good repair. Before a tournament and at least once a month, you should check to make sure there are no visible holes in the material, and that the seams have not come unstitched. Repairs should be done with material of the same strength as the jacket.

Fencing Glove

Your glove is designed to prevent your opponent's weapon from penetrating up your jacket sleeve. The cuff should extend up over your sleeve and should be secured with Velcro.

Lamés

While your lamé is not part of your safety equipment, it is an important part of the scoring system. Check for dead spots on the lamé where wires might be broken. If you have a dead spot, either have a patch placed over the area, or replace the lamé.

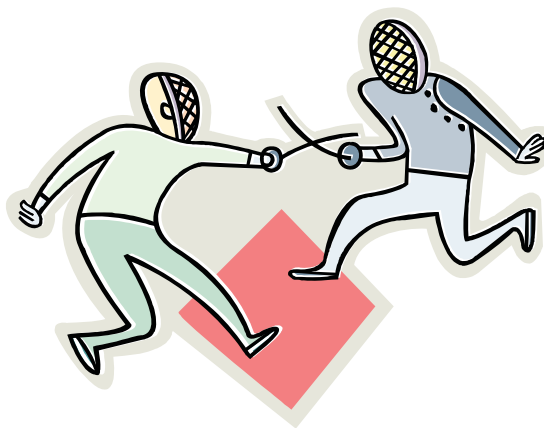


THE HUMOUR CORNER: CBET

By Nathan Bell

As of 2004, the Canadian Fencing Federation is implementing a new coaching development program under the CBET (Competency Based Education Training) model. However the CFF has been slow to provide detailed information of how the new system works. We at the UCFC strive to make the mysterious culture of fencing as clear as possible, so here then, is a basic explanation of the new four-level system for your convenience.

LEVEL	FRENCH TITLE	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT	IDENTIFYING TRAITS
1	Aide Moniteur	Target Dummy	If the Maître is demonstrating a boneshattering flèche to the knee, this is probably the poor bastard on the receiving end. He is learning the first lesson of coaching – humility – by standing still while someone beats the stuffing out of him.
2	Moniteur	Approachable One	Has a good technical knowledge of the sport, but usually defers questions to the Prévôt. In a free-fight, will beat you by a small margin, but will insist he isn't very good. Most comfortable when teaching from behind the mask.
3	Prévôt	Mr. Know-It-All	Will tell you his opinion of everything, and irritatingly, is usually right. Technically is pretty good, but has forgotten the lesson he learned as an Aide Moniteur. Takes a little too much delight in whooping the less experienced fencers during free-sparring.
4	Maître d'Armes	He Who Is Wise	Surprisingly fast for a man with a pot-belly, the Maître shows absolute control over the weapon. Will give himself completely to students who train sincerely, but will readily spit in the beer of those who don't try very hard. Relaxes by beating the Prévôt 15-0 to the riotous cheers of the rest of the club.



THE RULEBOOK

In this edition of The Rulebook, we take a look at what is expected of fencers when they enter a competition. These rules come from Section 5 of the FIE rules: Disciplinary Rules for Competitions. These rules apply in principle to all competitors, from the fencer entering his first competition, to an Olympian taking part in her second Olympic games.

3. The competitors

(a) Pledge of honor

t.84 By the mere fact of entering a fencing competition, the fencers pledge their honor to observe the regulations and the decisions of the judges, to be respectful towards the members of the jury and to scrupulously obey the orders and injunctions of the Referee (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120).

(b) Refusing to fence an opponent

t.85 No fencer (individual or team) may take part in an official competition if he refuses to fence against any other fencer whatsoever (individual or team) correctly entered in the event. Should this rule be broken, the competitor concerned, individual or team, shall immediately be disqualified and the USFA shall consider whether there are grounds, and to what extent, for taking sanctions against the national federation to which the disqualified competitor belongs (cf. FIE Statutes 1.2.4 and Rules Article t.120).

(c) Presence on time

t.86 The fencers, completely equipped, with all equipment conforming with the regulations (cf. t.43–t.45) and ready to fence, must be present at the time and place appointed for the beginning of the pool, match, or bout of direct elimination, or at the time appointed for the checking of their equipment before their bout (cf. t.43), as well as during the competition, whenever the Referee requires it.

When presenting themselves to fence a bout, the fencers must arrive on the strip completely ready to fence – regulation clothing, jacket fastened, hair correct, sword hand gloved and holding the weapon, bodycord connected to the plug inside the guard. The mask should be carried in the unarmed hand. Under no circumstances should the fencers dress or undress in public except in the case of an accident duly recognized by the doctor on duty or by the representative of the

Medical Commission (Cf. t.45, 1), t.114, t.116, t.120).

They must arrive on the strip, to fence their bouts, with two weapons (one as a spare) and two bodycords (one as a spare) which satisfy the Regulations and are in perfect working order (cf. t.45, t.114, t.116, t.120).

For any fencer not present, or any team which does not have all its members present, when called for the first time by the Referee at the time published for the beginning of the pool, match or bouts of direct elimination, there will be two further calls, at intervals of one minute, to be followed by exclusion from the competition by the Referee if the fencer or the entire team have not presented themselves by the third call (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

In the course of the competition (individual or team), when a fencer has been warned that it is his turn to fence and if he does not present himself when called by the Referee, the Referee will similarly repeat the call twice, at intervals of one minute, and will exclude the fencer concerned from the competition if he has not presented himself by the third call (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

Should a fencer abandon a bout by leaving the strip (cf. t.18/3), he will be penalised as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

During a team match, should there be a modification in the order of bouts in the match, either intentionally or unintentionally, the team which has made the modification loses the match (cf. t.120, o.44)

(d) Fencing etiquette

t.87 The competitors must fence faithfully and strictly according to the rules laid down in these

THE RULEBOOK CONT...

Rules. All breaches of these rules will incur the penalties laid down hereinafter (cf. t.114–t.120).

All bouts must preserve the character of a courteous and frank encounter. All irregular actions (flèche attack which finishes with a collision jostling the opponent, disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the strip, touches achieved with violence, touches made while falling) are strictly forbidden (cf. t.114–t.120). Should such an offence occur, any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

Before the beginning of each bout, the two fencers must perform a fencing salute to their opponent, to the referee and to the spectators.

Equally, when the final touch has been scored, the bout has not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the referee and the spectators - to this end, they must remain still while the referee is making his decision; when he has given his decision, they must again perform a fencing salute and must shake hands with their opponent, with the unarmed hand.

If either or both of the two fencers refuses to salute or shake hands in compliance with these rules, the referee will penalize him/them with a Group 3 Red card, followed by a Black Card upon a second failure to salute. (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120). The points or titles obtained at the moment of the offence remain acquired.

During the first and second periods of a direct elimination bout, and the first eight bouts of a team match, when both fencers make clear their desire to stop fencing or show evident passivity, the referee will immediately call 'halt!' and the two fencers will in individual direct elimination take their regulation one minute rest, in team matches will proceed to the next bout.

If passivity is determined during the first two minutes of a pool bout, or during the first two minutes of the third period of the direct elimination bout, the referee will call halt, and determine priority. The fencers will then fence

a one minute period, without sudden death. The bout will end when one fencer reaches the maximum score (5 or 15 points) or time expires.

Should there be manifest passivity or unwillingness to fence during the third minute, the referee will neither give a warning nor stop the bout.

When the final touch has been scored, the bout is not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the audience and the Referee. To this end, they must remain still while the Referee is making his decision. When he has given his decision, they must proceed with the fencer's salute, which is performed by lifting the weapon guard up to the chin, and must shake hands with their opponent, with the unarmed hand.

The fencer, whether on or off the strip, must keep his mask on until the Referee calls halt. He may under no circumstances address the Referee until the Referee has made his decision (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120).

Under no circumstances may fencers remove their clothes on the strip, even to change their bodycord (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120).

Immediately after the end of a pool or a direct elimination bout the fencers must sign the pool or bout score sheet, under the responsibility of the Referee who must check the accuracy of the results on this score sheet. Before the score sheet is returned to the Bout Committee, the Referee must indicate in writing if a fencer refuses to sign it. No subsequent appeal relating to the results will be allowed.

(e) Personal effort

t.88 Competitors must fence to their utmost ability in a sportsmanlike manner until the end of the competition in order to obtain the best possible classification, without giving away touches or seeking to be favoured by being given touches by anyone (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

CLUB REPORTS: WINTER 2007

En-Garde Fencing Club

A new club is born!

We are proud to announce that on January 9th 2007 the En-Garde Fencing Club opened its doors in the west end of Edmonton under the expert supervision of Fencing Master Mirek Chruscinski.

Our Open House in December last year produced a great response, and classes are now being held three days a week in a temporary but excellent gym within Ecole Notre Dame at 15425 - 91 Avenue, Edmonton.



The space was very kindly made available by a most supportive Principal, Monsieur L'Abbe. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced classes in Foil and Epee are being offered.

We wish to use this occasion to congratulate one of our members, Felix Hodgkinson, for winning Bronze at the Red Deer Open in U13 Men's Foil – the first medal won by the club but definitely not the last!

We thank the Board and Executive of the AFA for granting us probationary status, and we look forward to working with the fencing community in Alberta to further expand participation in this fantastic sport.

Nicole Beaudoin
President
En-Garde Fencing Club

Red Deer Fencing Club

RDFC has fortunately been able to secure a facility five nights per week. We are continuing to train in both epee and sabre, but with the additional time we now have, our emphasis

will be on recruitment of new members. As our membership seems to be growing slow but steady, we are now looking at the possibility of hiring a full time coach.

Our two circuit events are now in the past, and although there were some difficulties, for the most part, both were quite successful. The shortage of referees continues to be the biggest problem, slowing events down, and drawing out the day. We pride ourselves on doing our best to run these events in a timely fashion, and will endeavour to keep to that goal for our tournaments next season.

Our non-circuit epee events (Pizza Challenge) are becoming larger, drawing fencers from Double E Fencing Club, Carstairs Corsairs, and the UofC Fencing Club this past December.

We are certainly proud of the efforts of our members, especially the three young ladies that will be attending the Winter Games; and we wish the whole team the best of luck.

Best regards,
Norm Wiebe
President
Red Deer Fencing Club

University of Alberta Fencing Club

The UofA fencing club recently held its winter open house, and we saw a surprising number of people attend for a January open house. Both our beginner classes (foil and sabre) for the winter have started up now, each with about 15 to 20 fencers.

Recently while browsing the archives of the UofA student newspaper we discovered that the UofA fencing club was started in the 1934/35 school year, confirming that it is among the oldest athletic clubs on campus. We had known the club was old, but it's nice to have a date.

CLUB REPORTS CONT...

We are planning to buy some new equipment for the foilists in the near future to match the large amount of sabre equipment that was purchased last year.

Tara Stieglitz
President
University of Alberta Fencing Club

Double E Fencing Club

Double E Fencing Club is in the middle of a very busy season. We had a large registration in September – over 20 fencers in two classes. Although registration is down in January, those who returned are very enthusiastic and anxious to compete. They were encouraged by Cody Sahlin's silver medal at the Red Deer Pizza Competition before Christmas, and their eyes glisten with visions of gold, silver and bronze whenever competitions are announced.

We are building depth within the club as parents and grandparents become familiar with the sport, competitions and the Association. Vanessa's patience and skill in guiding our registrar through the intricacies of the registration program with a stubborn computer has been marveled at on more than one occasion. In addition to challenges in creating capacity for the club, we continue to see the need to increase our visibility within the community of Edson. The local newspaper has been very co-operative in publicizing the club and we continue to look for opportunities to put the club in the local limelight. The continuing enthusiasm of the fencers and their parents is providing the impetus for the club's growth.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McNabb
President
Double E Fencing Club

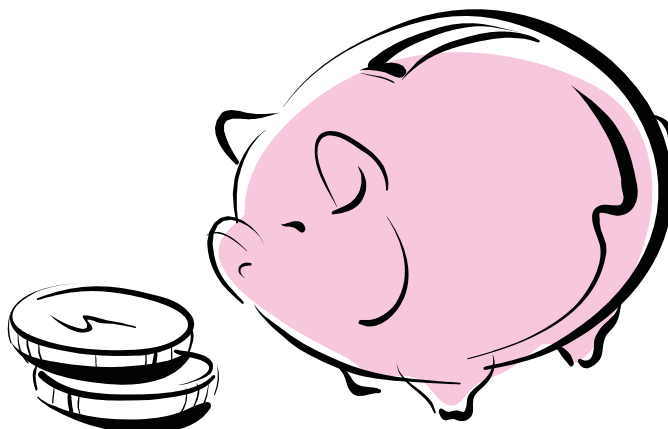
FENCING AND TAXES

Legislation is currently before Parliament that could make fencing for children tax deductible.

The Children's Fitness Tax Credit is a proposed non-refundable tax credit on eligible amounts of up to \$500 paid by parents to register a child in an eligible program of physical activity. Eligible programs are those that are ongoing, supervised, suitable for children, and include a significant amount of activity that contributes to cardio-respiratory endurance plus one or more of: muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, or balance. In this case, as those of us who fence know, fencing fits the bill!

What does this mean for you? It may mean that part of the club and camp fees you pay for your child could be claimed on your tax return. What does this mean for clubs and for the AFA? It may mean that they need to determine how much of their fees cover eligible activity, and issue receipts indicating the amount or percentage accordingly.

This tax credit is only available on fees paid in the 2007 calendar year, and then only if the legislation is approved by Parliament. The first year for this tax credit will be the 2007 tax year. For more information, please visit <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/fitness/>.



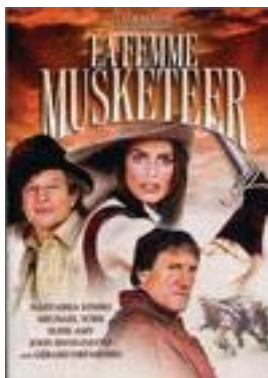
MOVIE REVIEW

La Femme Musqueteer

Year: 2003 (miniseries)
Director: Steve Boyum
Sword Master: Peter Hric
Assistant Sword Master:
Kim Turney

Starring: Gérard Depardieu,
Michael York, Nastassja
Kinski, Susie Amy

Review by V. Bjerreskov
(2004 September 08)



Take Disney's *The Three Musketeers*, move the action a generation forward, and add some feminism, and you have *La Femme Musqueteer*.

It's a real challenge to find one original plot point in this film. I'm not kidding when I say it's an update of Disney's take on Dumas. The addition of feminism, a royal intrigue, and a kidnapping subplot stretch this film to three hours (add commercials, and you have a four-hour TV miniseries), but I recognised the story from the outset. Not to say it isn't amusing, because it is. I was laughing most of the time, and not always because it was so outrageous. The actors, director, and writer don't take themselves or their material too seriously, which would have been the kiss of death. Instead, it becomes an amusing romp through familiar story-lines. The film is television quality, with all that entails, but Boyum does a good job driving the story through, although he does use slow-motion action a bit more than he perhaps should.



The cast is excellent, and they really saved some of the more trite sequences. The younger set, led by Susie Amy as Valentine D'Artagnan, are perhaps not the best actors in the world, but they're good enough to pull it off, and they certainly aren't the worst actors I've seen do TV movies. The older generation, with Michael York as D'Artagnan, Gérard Depardieu as Cardinal Mazarin, and John Rhys-Davies as Porthos (as if he wasn't born to play him sometime!), do a lot of justice to their roles. I didn't really buy Nastassja Kinski as Mme Bolton, the femme fatale, though. She appeared to be very weak and frail, especially compared with Rebecca de Mornay from Disney's version. Still, overall, the casting and acting were good.



Fencing was ever-present; after all, it's a Musketeer film! Form was definitely more flashy than correct, and in the initial scenes of the film, the actors seemed to have trouble with the weight and momentum of their weapons, but that did seem to change over the course of the film. Gratuitous use of slow-motion, close-ups, and gymnastics moves aside, it certainly wasn't as bad as it could have been.

As long as you absolutely, positively do not take this film seriously, it's a pleasant way to waste three hours. I give it two and a half out of five stars.

*Until next time, we leave you with these
words of wisdom!*

*“Those who beat their swords into
ploughshares may one day find themselves
ruled by those of us who kept their swords.”*

~ Unknown ~

EnGarde... Allez!
ALBERTA FENCING ASSOCIATION

