



Dear Club Members (and Parents/Guardians of Club Members)

The policy and ethos of Durham Phoenix Fencing Club ("The Club") is to promote and teach the sport of fencing to all interested parties, to encourage beginners to take up the sport and experienced fencers to improve their skills. At Durham Phoenix, we welcome members from the age of 8/9 to 90 plus, regardless of creed, race, gender etc. The Club is affiliated to the British Fencing, the UK governing body for the sport and is listed in their online club directory <http://www.britishfencing.com/clubs>. This letter gives members (or their parent/guardian) information regarding The Club, and the expected conduct of both the coaches and fencers at the club. This includes rules addressing matters from general conduct to the fundamental safety rules for fencing. We ask that fencers (and their parent/guardian if appropriate) read this letter, print a copy, sign, date and return it to the club to show they agree to abide by the (we think quite reasonable) conditions we request.

THE CORE COACHING TEAM (supported by other qualified club members)

Chris Morton (BF), Clive Madgin (BAF), Simon Welsh (BF), Richard Forster (BF), Duncan Moyse (BF), Sean Mulloy (BF), Professor Pat Pearson (BF).

(BF=British Fencing, BAF=British Academy of Fencing)

See http://www.britishfencing.com/courses/coach/coach_register for details of registered BF coaches.

CLUB SESSIONS

We hold weekly sessions from 7.00 to 9.00 pm on Thursday evenings at Hetton School (DH5 9JZ). The sessions are closely monitored and directed by the coaches. Fencers must participate in both footwork and blade work (to get the most out of the session) before moving into the "free fencing" part of the evening; ie fencing opponents of own or directed choice under close supervision from the coaches. As well as class groups, coaching volunteers will also take fencers for individual lessons (one to one)..

The Club routinely runs year round, only breaking for a week or so over Christmas and New Year. As well as training regularly, members are encouraged to enter both local and national competitions. Chris Morton will keep the group informed of developments which are also put on our own web pages: www.durhamphoenixfencing.co.uk.

Public Facebook page: www.facebook.com/DurhamPhoenixFencing or

Members Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/285698454433/>

AWARD SCHEMES

Members are also encouraged to participate in the Achievement Award Schemes of which there are two, currently operated and administered by Clive Madgin. British Fencing has multiple numbered grades and the British Academy has bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. There is a minimal charge by both associations for the badges and certificates. These awards can also be used for Scout and Guide badges and as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

FEES

We normally operate an "honesty system" of fee payments and the fees are payable weekly and are marked off on the attendance register which is updated weekly. Fees cover access to both class and individual lessons. The Club is not run for profit and all payments banked by The Club are used to replenish broken blades, repair electric equipment, buy equipment, pay hall rental, launder club equipment or replace worn out gear. There may be slight fluctuations in fees from time to time to cover rises in costs, but the aim of the club is to keep prices down to a reasonable level. (Current weekly price: £4.00)

The Majority of the coaches are volunteers and give their expertise at no charge to the club. Chris Morton uses the clubs gear in schools and other clubs in order to increase the spread of fencing in the region.

INTER CLUB TRAINING DAYS & COMPETITIONS.

During the year and in addition to the usual Thursday training, The Club will arrange interclub trainings days on a proposed 4 to 6 week cycle. Teams from various clubs in the region (including Emmanuel College, Durham Phoenix fencing Club, Tynedale fencing Club, Teesside fencing club etc.) will be invited to attend. Training day details will be circulated as and when appropriate and listed online. On a less frequent schedule, interclub competitions are also proposed.

EQUIPMENT

Our equipment conforms to the current regulations, is in good order and regularly checked. Our equipment was purchased using Lottery and other grant funding. It is available to all for use in the club, but of course anyone is welcome to buy their own kit. The club has an agreement with Leon Paul which attracts a 10% discount on gear purchased through the club and there are links to other suppliers which attract a discount too. Coaches are happy to advise fencers on the type of equipment required. The Club will also lend equipment where required to those fencers participating in competitions under the Durham Phoenix banner. A "lending record" is kept so that we can ensure club equipment is returned.

CONDUCT

With a relatively large number of members, for health, safety and the efficient running of the club a high level of conduct and fencing etiquette must be maintained. The club operates to the current "child protection and good running order of clubs" that is laid down by British Fencing, as part of the Swordmark (Clubmark - Sport England) accreditation. Copies of this can be obtained from the relevant websites.

No abuse either verbal or physical towards volunteers and/or students will be tolerated. Volunteers, coaches and students expect to work in a pleasant environment with a modest level of noise. It goes without saying that obscene language will not be tolerated and that

drugs and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. It is expected that fencers remove their own litter. Any infringement involving minors and considered by the committee/coaching team to be of a serious nature will be passed on to the local British Fencing child protection officer to be logged, and if necessary investigated. We appreciate that all of this may sound very severe, but we feel it is important and in everyone's interest to have clear policies and safeguards in place and to make everyone aware of the conduct expected.

SAFETY

Normal fencing safety rules apply (as would be found at any good club or competition) see the list in our "Salle Safety Rules" document. Masks must be worn for all fencing and blades carried point down when not fencing. Spectators must keep well away from fencers. Where fencers wish to referee, if limited space is available between pistes during sparring/training bouts, then fencers should continue without a referee, honestly and clearly declaring hits landed against them.

Over time, breakages and damage to equipment occurs-please ensure it is reported to a coach so that remedial action can take place.

SPECTATORS AND WAITING PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Anyone is welcome to wait and watch, but as we do not have a dedicated and separated spectator area, anyone wishing to watch is advised to keep well to the side lines away from piste ends and as far from the fencers in action as possible. Any spectator wishing to take photographs or video of the group must make themselves known and be registered by one of the coaches. From time to time The Club may take pictures and/or video for publicity or coaching purposes. Any members not willing to be included in images or recordings should let the club know when joining.

DISABLED AND WHEELCHAIR FENCING

Wheelchair/seated fencing for those with restricted balance/mobility requires some very specialized equipment Duncan Moyes one of our club coaching volunteers is an experienced wheelchair fencer and is in charge of delivering wheelchair seated fencing tuition. We also work regularly with people with learning difficulties and autism. Ask Chris Morton for more details.

I agree to the Durham Phoenix Club Conditions

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

For members aged 15 and under, parents or guardians are also requested to sign.

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

