



Member Bulletin – December 2017

A NSW SUCCESS STORY: ALEXANDRE DOUGLAS – JUNIOR, UNDER 23 AND NOW OPEN AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION!



Adding the Australian Open Sabre Championship to his gold medal tally this year, Alexandre Douglas led a successful NSW contingent to the Australian Open and Veteran Championships in Canberra last week. Full story below.

A MESSAGE FROM KAYE

In the last Member Bulletin of the year, NSW Fencing's President, Kaye Mahoney, reflects on the year past and looks forward to the challenges ahead.

We can all look back with satisfaction on a year of achievement for fencing in NSW,

First, we realised our dream to have our own venue. In February, we said goodbye to Marrickville and moved to the NSW Fencing Centre in Alexandria. No longer did we have to share space and time with other users. Once bedded down, the Centre has performed well. While it is smaller than we would like, it is as large as we can afford. It lends itself to an intimacy that creates a great atmosphere – none better than when a throng of 13 year olds are cheering their friends on as they did at the Koala Mini Challenge/Friendship cup a couple of weeks ago.

Above all, it's our home.

The Centre gives us the exponential opportunity to train and compete and we can run competitions at our convenience. It has already successfully handled State, National and International events – the NSW Schools Fencing Championships, AFC3, the Asian Cadet Circuit Sabre and the Koala/Friendship Cup. These competitions have been run efficiently and smoothly by our DT crews and officials. Events have started and finished on time.

We would like more space for spectators and bags and to improve ventilation but these goals require large sums of money and can only be achieved in the near term with donations, sponsorship, government funding or an increase in fees. Our alternative pathway is to continue to gradually build our membership and services so as to afford such improvements – which is what we are doing; until then, it is a constant balancing of priorities.

That said, I am pleased to be able to report that in its first year of operation the NSW Fencing Centre has run profitably.

On the performance front, NSW fencers have done well. We have retained the Australian points trophies for Opens (though the Victorians got one hand on the Cyclone Cup in a historic tie), Under 23s, Cadets, Under 15s and Veterans. We lost our grip on the Junior points trophy – all the more incentive for our Juniors to work hard to get it back! NSW fencers have also done very well in international competitions – we'll all remember Sholto's fantastic effort to reach the top 16 in the recent Turin World Cup.

Looking ahead, 2018 will bring new challenges.

First, we are re-structuring the NSW Schools Championships – in consultation with the leading fencing schools – to give school fencers an 8-week schedule in Terms 1 & 2, alternating each Saturday between individual and team events. This will position fencing as a regular school sport and we hope it will encourage more schools to take up fencing as a designated school sport. NSW Fencing has been accepted by the NSW Government as a provider of its new Active Kids Program which offers a \$100 voucher for every child participating in our school fencing program.

Then, in mid-year we'll be hosting the Australian Under 15 and Cadet Championships in the first of a 5-year schedule in which this competition, the largest in Australia, is allocated to NSW. In conjunction, we are also looking at the viability of hosting an Asian Cadet Circuit foil event at the same time.

Later, we'll be hosting AFC#4 under a new AFF timetable that offers fencers four Australian Fencing Circuit Open/Veteran events plus the national championships.

Early in the year we will be finalising our '2020 Vision' Strategic Plan setting our priorities for the next three years. The emphasis will be on participation, participation, participation.

We must build our numbers to grow a stronger base of fencers in NSW and to support the AFF's Strategic Plan to increase participation throughout Australia. Thank you to the members who made thoughtful submissions on the new strategic plan. We'd like to hear from any member who has ideas about how to make fencing a bigger and better sport in NSW.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the efforts of all the members of NSWFA who have contributed to another successful year. We are largely a volunteer organisation and your co-operation and support is vital to deliver our programs week by week and to take our wonderful sport forward.

A heartfelt thanks to all of our club and school coaches, referees, competition managers, DT members and café volunteers who have all done a wonderful job. And a special mention for our Head Coach, Antonio Signorello and his team.

I hope you all have a relaxing holiday and spring back into the fray next year.

Thank you all.

Kaye Mahoney



WE KEEP – BUT SHARE – THE CYCLONE CUP



NSW and Victorian fencers share the Cyclone Cup on equal points.

The 2017 national fencing calendar culminated in the Australian Open and Veteran Championships at the AIS Arena in Canberra last week. Again, NSW fencers were a force to be reckoned with.

We retained the premier fencing trophy – the Cyclone Cup – albeit sharing this honour with Victoria in the first tie ever in the 57 year history of the Cup with each State on 590 points. NSW Fencing has held the Cyclone Cup for seven years running since 2011.

Strong team results secured the Cyclone Cup with three team golds (Women's Foil, Women's Sabre and Men's Sabre) two silvers (Women's Epee, Men's Foil) and five bronzes (Women's Epee, Women's Foil, Women's Sabre, Men's Foil and Men's Sabre). NSW teams contested five of the six finals.



Open Women's Foil Team Champions NSW A (Katherine Kwa, Freya Clarke, Krystal Jessup, Violet Hull) and third placegetters NSW B (Courtney Buchanan, Rebekah Shiba, Christina Bui, Alisa Tyshchenko).



Our gold and silver winning Women's Sabre teams – from left: Thi Nguyen, Veronika Vasileva, Grace White, Natasha Jones, Sian Webster, and in front: Alexandra Hely, Sophia Mekertichian.



Our gold and silver Men's Sabre Teams – from left: Sean Andrews, Garry Huang, Alexandre Douglas, Jack Snell, James Boyd-Hoare, Christian Hely, George Yako, Davide Wheeler.

OUR VETERANS ALSO KEEP THE SILVERWARE



Our veterans also held onto the Centenary Shield winning with 550 points with WA next on 294. They have claimed the shield since it was first presented in 2013.

The Australian individual veteran champions for 2017 are:



Sarah Osvath (Epee) – seen here with 60+ winner Julie Seggie and bronze medallist Cathy Syme.



Du Min Yi (Sabre)



Andrey Tyshchenko (Men's Foil)



Davide Wheeler (Men's Sabre)

WHEELCHAIR FENCING

Our Development Manager, Caitlin Taylor, reports that NSWFA was contacted by Wheelchair Sports NSW, indicating a further interest by their patrons to include fencing in their “Junior Wheelchair Christmas Camp”. Other sports included during the camp were cricket and track & field, aided by Sports Ambassadors Madison de Rozario (Paralympian), Louise Sauvage (Paralympian), and Bryan Fletcher (Rugby League). Caitlin and Mitchell Fox took the participants through the ins and outs of wheelchair fencing. The Christmas Camp took place over the weekend of the 9th and 10th of December at the Sydney Academy of Sport in Narrabeen. On Caitlin’s initiative, NSWFA is developing wheelchair fencer with regular training sessions at the NSW Fencing Centre.



THE FULL LIST OF NSW MEDAL WINNERS AT THE 2017 AUSTRALIAN OPEN AND VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open Individual

Men’s Sabre – Alexandre Douglas (gold), Jack Snell (bronze).

Women’s Foil – Violet Hull and Katherine Kwa (bronze).

Women's Sabre - Sian Webster (silver), Caitlin Taylor & Grace White (bronze).

Open Teams

Men’s Sabre

Gold – NSW A (James Boyd-Hoare, Alexandre Douglas, Garry Huang, Jack Snell)

Bronze – NSW B (Sean Andrews, Christian Hely, Davide Wheeler, George Yako)

Men's Foil

Silver – NSW A (Patrick Daley, Sam Mooney-Grand, Jesse Morris, Edouard Renneville)

Bronze – NSW B (Matthew Dallasen, James Hull, Mark Morris, Jack Van Vreumingen)

Women's Foil

Gold – NSW A (Freya Clarke, Violet Hull, Krystal Jessup, Katherine Kwa)

Bronze – NSW B (Courtney Buchanan, Christina Bui, Rebekah Shiba, Alisa Tyshchenko)

Women's Sabre

Gold – NSW A (Thi Nguyen, Veronika Vasileva, Sian Webster, Grace White)

Bronze – NSW B (Alexandra Hely, Natasha Jones, Sophia Mekertichian)

Women's Epee

Silver – NSW A (Rosa Dyson, Lisa Gemmell, Karen Nonis, Sarah Osvath)

Bronze – NSW B (Courtney Buchanan, Juanita Koschier, Sara Scott, Katherine Wang)

Veteran Individual

Men's Epee – Taewon Song (silver)

Men's Foil – Andre Tyshchenko (gold), Michael Prince (silver), Vincent Newton (bronze)

Men's Sabre – Davide Wheeler (gold)

Women's Epee – Sarah Osvath (gold) Cathy Syme (bronze)

Women's Foil – Annabelle Ballard (gold)

Women's Sabre – Du Min Yi (gold). Harriet Jordan (silver)

Veteran Teams

Women's Epee

Gold – NSW A (Annabelle Ballard, Sarah Osvath, Cathy Syme, Melissa Yeung)

Silver – NSW B (Marion Blender, Tanya Buchanan, Benita Ramage)

Mixed Sabre

Gold – NSW A (Du Min Yi, Harriet Jordan, Radu Vintila, Davide Wheeler)

Mixed Foil

Bronze – NSW A (Vincent Newton, Michael Prince, Adam Reynolds, Andrey Tysjchenko) and NSW B (Edward Bridge. Adrian Finch. Davide Wheeler)

Men's Epee

Bronze – NSW A (Edward Bridge, Paul Kurtyka, Chris Nonis, Taewon Song)

FIE OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY PROGRAM

The FIE, through its Olympic Solidarity program, conducted a Technical Course for Epee Coaches in Melbourne in November. This was a high level course and the presenter was Frenchman Daniel Levavasseur. Daniel is considered to be one of the world's best epee coaches. Fortunately, he brought with him one of his students, Sarra Besbe (FIE Rank 11) and these two ran a brilliant intensive course which benefited many of the Australian leading coaches. The course was conducted over one very intensive week and the New South Wales coaches in attendance were Richard Emmerick and Bill Ronald.

As well as Australian coaches from all states there were a number of international coaches present. These coaches came from New Zealand, Korea and Guam.



Richard Emmerick with fellow epee coach Anthony Comacho from Guam at the FIE coaching course

NSW FENCING CENTRE HOLIDAY HOURS

The NSW Fencing Centre will be closed from 23 December 2017 until 3 February 2018. NSW Squads resumes on 5 February 2018. We also remind all fencers that if the temperature exceeds 35 degrees, fencing practice is cancelled.

AN INEXPENSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT

Looking for a gift idea this season? When you are next at the NSW Fencing Centre, why not pick up some fencing hand towels stylishly monogrammed with NSWFA's logo.

Only \$9 a towel.

