



## **Russell Swords Annual General Meeting 2014**

Date: 18/10/14

Time:18:00-20:00

Location: Oasis building, Splott, Cardiff

Those present: Peter Russell (Chairman), Francesca Whalley (Sectary), Thomas Martin, Chris Powell, Sierra Goldberg, Sarah Dawe, Steve Dawe, Fred Howarth, Jem Hayes, Mike Swainson, Andy Westwell, Rebecca Fouracre. Tara Webb, Pete Webb, Alan Boore, Simon Corcoran, Zach Clabon, Isabella Gibbon

### 1. Election of Officers

Peter Russell brought to attention that our committee was looking a little thin on the ground. At present the chairman is Peter Russell, Secretary Fran Whalley and Treasurer Paul Russell, with Fran also taking on the role of Welfare Officer. These officers stood for re-election and no positions were contested.

It was decided by vote that Rebecca Fouracre should also stand as Welfare officer as she is the most qualified and is willing to take on the role. As we are a large club Fran and Rebecca will share the role. It was also thought prudent to have a Welfare Officer who is not a member of the coaching team. Rebecca was elected by unanimous vote.

Thomas Martin was voted to take on the new role of Senior Fixtures Officer. Tom will be organising trips and matches for the senior fencers. Steve Dawe was voted to the position of Junior Fixtures Officer to do the same for the younger fencers, including the organisation of the Paris Trip.

Sarah Dawe and Kath Hayes were voted to take on the role of Social Event Officers after successfully organising the Christmas Party last year, in the hope that we can have more social outings throughout the year.

Russell Swords Committee now stands as:

- Peter Russell – Chairman
- Fran Whalley – Sectary and Welfare Officer
- Paul Russell – Treasurer
- Rebecca Fouracre – Welfare Officer
- Tom Martin – Senior Fixtures Officer
- Steve Dawe – Junior Fixtures Officer
- Sarah Dawe – Social Events Officer
- Kath Hayes – Social Events Officer

### 2. New Venue

Peter Russell outlined current plans for the business (not the club) to buy and convert a building into a fencing centre. This is intended to consist of a 6 piste hall, large enough to accommodate all the clubs

training sessions, changing rooms and a cafe/shop area. Additional space for a small gym/weight area also planned if possible. Finance was available and the project's viability had been assessed. The main concern was to find a freehold property of an appropriate size (min 3000 sq/ft) and location (within walking/cycling distance of Cardiff University).

Ideas proposed by members for the new venue were:

A space for armoury including a bench and vice (Tom Martin)

It was also drawn to our attention that there were a number of people that could help out in different areas:

- Tom is an structural engineer
- Rebecca is an interior designer
- Simon is an electrician
- Zach and his father work in metal fabrication
- Sierra builds sets for TV/Theatre

Tom also suggested looking into development grants.

Fred suggested contacting Business Angels to see if they could help.

Peter agreed to keep everyone informed of progress through facebook and email.

### 3. Finance

A brief report was given by Peter to inform everyone that the club was in a healthy position financially and has no immediate plan to make any major investments. Previous plans to increase club fees (static since 2007) have been shelved, as the current membership income is sufficient to sustain the club. The only predicted expenditure (aside from hall hire) is the club Christmas Party.

### 4. Welsh Fencing Relations.

It was explained to everyone that the Club is still the "new kids on the block" within fencing, as the club has only been established for 7 years, so we don't as of yet have the relationship with WF that we would like. Fran explained that we were trying to change that and actively get involved with our governing body, but have so far had a luke-warm reception from some board members (though others are encouraging and engage with us).

Peter further explained that there were personal issues with some officers of Welsh Fencing and related concerns about how this may impact upon our students. This was confirmed by some of the members present. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored (and if possible improved), but no other action would be taken.

Members of the meeting pointed out that our results speak for themselves and they were not concerned about this in the short term.

The situation to be reviewed at the next AGM and an action plan agreed if no progress has been made.

### 5. Merchandise

With Christmas around the corner we asked the members about any club products they would be interested in buying. Peter mentioned that we are planning to do a new tracksuit order and hoody order with embroiled logo.

Fred mentioned that some sweat resistant t-shirts would be good, as the current cotton t-shirts are not ideal. Fran will look into this.

Mike mentioned other clubs having club gloves at competitions

Water bottles and mugs were also proposed and Fran agreed to do some research and find prices.

#### 6. Photographer

Fran suggested the idea of having a photographer come to club and take photos of people in full kit as mementos or Christmas presents. The idea being that individuals, siblings, or teams/friends can pose with a background a bit like school photos.

Simon mentioned that he has backgrounds and other kit available

Tom said he wouldn't mind devoting time to this and take the photographs

#### 7. Christmas Party

Fran informed everyone that the club Christmas party was to be on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> December. Members suggested that we run along similar lines to last year and get the 'photobooth' back, due to its popularity with the kids. The possibility of 'sumo-suits' or similar will also be looked in to.