



King's Swords Fencing Club

The King's Club, Woodhayes Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4TT

Chairman's Report for 2017

I am pleased to present you with my first formal Chairman's Report for King's Swords Fencing Club (KSFC), for 2017.

KSFC is a registered member of the British Fencing Association and has the enviable title of one of the largest all-weapon youth fencing clubs in, or around, London.

Following our incorporation in August 2016 we continue to grow and prosper. Having lost the financial assistance afforded to us by The King's College School in July 2016 it has been a busy and exciting 12 months since that change and we have worked hard to keep this fantastic club running smoothly as well as continuing to attract new fencers to join us. I believe that we have succeeded in our goal of creating an independent and sustainable community fencing club.

At this time in 2016 we had 72 members and cash in the bank of £4,261.34. Today we have a total membership of 82 members and cash in the bank of £17,196, and this provides us with certainty of operation for the foreseeable future and the ability to weather the numerous operational challenges which present themselves on a regular basis.

Membership

Following the exit of a number of university age members at the end of the summer term, and the seasonal draw of weekend school sports for many of our students in the autumn term, membership and its impact on our financial position is of keen interest for the club.

I am delighted that our reputation as a provider of excellent fencing coaching has reached far and wide and that we continue to attract new members, of all ages, from across the region.

A series of successful advertising campaigns at local schools in January and June 2017, as well as attracting a number of students from the now closed St Paul's fencing club, mean that our membership numbers are stronger than ever. The launch of our plastic sword club for younger fencers, Prep Fencing, has also proven popular and this provides a natural segue for those members into the metal sword classes from the age of 8 years old.



King's Swords Fencing Club

The King's Club, Woodhayes Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4TT

As of today our membership, by weapon, is as follows:

Weapon/Class	Active Members
Epee	16
Foil	36
Prep	14
Sabre	16
Total	82

MemberMojo Membership

Following the introduction of our Membermojo membership system in 2016, usage continues to be popular and intuitive for the vast majority of parents.

The current annual usage charge is just £30 and I trust that our members find that a reasonable cost to maintain this service and facility for the coming year.

Membership Fees

As a not-for-profit club we keep our fees at a level to balance the books and we have achieved that in the past financial year however the club lacked capital to help it weather any increases in external costs such as hall fees, fencing coaches' salaries, or the purchase of new equipment.

With that in mind the committee tasked our Treasurer, Ibbly Sherratt, to evaluate fees options to reduce some of that risk and, following her review, at the beginning of the autumn term we took the difficult decision to marginally increase the fees for the 2017/2018 season. I hope that you will judge them to have been very fair.

Also new for this term was the offer of a discounted annual membership to fencers who wished to commit to the club for a full 12 months. This option proved popular for many parents with 29 members now annual members.

KSFC Website

Launched shortly after our incorporation, in September 2016, our website has proven to be a successful informational tool for our members, and to attract new fencers to the club.



King's Swords Fencing Club

The King's Club, Woodhayes Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4TT

Committee

We have had a dedicated Committee to help to run the club and it is this group who, behind the scenes, ensure that the club continues to run smoothly. Their involvement, organisation and participation, facilitates all the training sessions and updates which our members receive throughout the year.

The Committee Members are:

Chairman - Adam Sherratt

Club Secretary - Mark Bellward

Treasurer - Ibbly Sherratt

Events Manager - Elaine Harper-Jones

Sponsorship/Grants/Fundraising Manager - Elaine Harper-Jones

General Committee Member - Brian Riseley

General Committee Member – Kate Smith

General Committee Member - Steve Waddington

I would like to thank all the Committee members for their support, at our meetings and throughout the year.

As announced to the club earlier this term, I will not be seeking re-election as chairman at this AGM. Like many of our fencers I want to deliver the very best performance that I can, always. Unfortunately work, and a number of other commitments, have meant that it has been incredibly challenging to dedicate as much time as I would like to the club of late and this feels like the right time to stand aside and allow someone else to drive it forwards with the passion and energy which it deserves.

During the AGM we will be looking to nominate a new Chairman, as well as Treasurer, Website / Media manager, and Fund-raising manager.

Competitions and Awards

Whilst many of our fencers train each week for the enjoyment of the sport, to socialise and to learn new skills, we also have a number of members who compete on a regular basis in both local, regional, national and international competitions.



King's Swords Fencing Club

The King's Club, Woodhayes Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4TT

In the past 18 months alone we've had great success with a national champion in the Under-11 girls foil category, Great Britain silver medallist at the Under-12 girls' foil, gold medallists in the Leon Paul Junior Series Under-11 and Under-13 girls' foil, and a Great Britain bronze medal in the Under-11 girls' epee. I am very proud that both Sofia Hossain and Amy Sherratt have received their call up to the English National squad during this year and we wish them incredible success into the future.

We also have a number of fencers who qualified for the national youth fencing championships in Sheffield this year and this continues to demonstrate how this club is able to produce top class fencers who can compete on the national stage.

Finances

I refer you to the non-audited Accounts for the year-end 31st October 2017, produced by Ibbly Sherratt our Treasurer. I am very pleased to report that our Total cash at bank has increased this year by approximately 400% to £17,196.04 (2016 - £4,261.34) however this is inflated versus our position at this time last year due to the receipt of annual membership as noted earlier in my report.

Based on expected annual expenditure and costs, and assuming that our membership continues at existing levels for the rest of this year, we expect the club to finish the summer term with reserves of £5,261. This balance is after assumed expenditure of £4,000 on club-owned equipment, and after a provision of £1,000 for repairs.

The committee has been faced with a number of challenging financial scenarios in the past 12 months as we continue to balance the books.

In the spring term of 2017 the committee decided that a reduction in costs was necessary in order to remain profitable during the 2016/2017 season. Regrettably, it was necessary to pass the motion to reduce our Epee coaching staff costs with Kate Smith and Neale Thomas alternating their attendance to help achieve this goal. Our thanks goes to them both for continuing with their dedication to the club whilst we build up class sizes.

Second only to our instructors' fees our hall rental fees are substantial with annual costs of circa £5,000 per year. We continue to maintain a good relationship with the King's College School and have managed to fix these costs for the following 12 months, inclusive of the use of the school's equipment and armoury. For this we are truly thankful.



King's Swords Fencing Club

The King's Club, Woodhayes Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4TT

Thanks must go to Ibby Sherratt, our Treasurer, for her detailed accounting and budgeting that goes on behind the scenes throughout the year.

The Future for KSFC

We just cannot give up on this club and I call on you all to continue your marvellous efforts as best we can. We all have lives outside fencing, but however small your contribution is during the year, you can be assured it's very much appreciated and welcomed by all, to achieve what we do for our young members and for fencing. If you have any ideas about how this club can run better, more efficiently, to raise our profile in the local community and to attract new members, or raise new funds for equipment, then please let any of the Committee members know. We are always in desperate need for new volunteers!

The only real way we can grow is with more members and their parents volunteering, to implement our future plans. I know that by volunteering, you will find it is fun and will bring you closer to this wonderful sport.

"Thank you" all.

I would like you all to enjoy your winter breaks when they arrive and look forward to another very eventful fencing year for KSFC, in 2018.

Adam Sherratt
Chairman
King's Swords Fencing Club, Wimbledon.
Dated 18th November 2017