

Devon County Fencing Union

Hon. Secretary Report 2020

Perhaps needless to write, up until March 2020, the year 2019/2020 had all the potential of being a very successful one. Our competitions had maintained a level of support and out of which, we had put together teams for the Excalibur that had every possibility of winning this event again.

As a measure to turn a negative, of a lower than expected turn out for the Junior Foil, into a positive, we had tried out the new idea of 'Drop in and Fence'. It had received support. Fencers saw it as an opportunity to spar with those from other clubs who in the normal run of affairs, you only meet on the piste in a competition. It removes the caution for which one might opt in a competition and gives in its place, the chance to test a wider range of tactics and technique.

We had planned to add 'Drop in and Fence' to other competitions, where there would be spare pistes, or as an event in itself and in various locations around the County. Perhaps even to widen the concept and make it a promotional opportunity, and invite members of the public to have a 'taster'.

Over the years another way of working together as a 'committee' has evolved. There now seems to be an 'executive' usually comprising The Chair Person, The Competition Secretary, the Hon Treasurer and myself as Hon Secretary. This smaller group discuss the ideas and plans and when put together into a form, present them to the whole committee for their information and comment. While it has proved a far more streamlined and efficient way of working, maybe others would like to be involved in the planning stage.

As far as the rest of 2020 is concerned, no competitive events are visualised, but perhaps there could be support for an Armourer's Course, or taking a point that Alex raises. of widening the group who know how to run a competition, a course on that subject: all the way from booking a hall, taking the entries, checking the gear, finding the referees, using Fencing Time, Medals and the Presentation.

Let's look forward to a great 2021.

Jim Pilkington
9.8.20