

Devon County Captains Report 2020

Firstly my apologies for not being able to make the meeting, however joint Vice Captains Izabela Sosnowska and Grace Williams are willing and able to deputise and obviously have my full support.

As everyone will know, 2020 has been a very difficult year not just for fencing. No fencing took place at all for months and now some clubs, but by no means all, have been able to restart activities although in a much restricted way.

Competitions have stopped and it is by no means certain when they may start again.

For obvious reasons Excalibur was cancelled this year however that should not distract from the excellent and very competitive fencing that took place prior to team selection both at the Devon Senior Championships and on club nights.

I feel that we had a very strong team this year and would have expected a performance on a par with if not exceeding the excellent results we have had in recent years.

I think just about every club in Devon was represented from Plymouth to Sidmouth and up to Barnstaple with many Excalibur veterans but equally pleasing to see some new faces to the Devon team across all 6 weapons.

I know that some years it has been difficult to acquire a full team of fencers in some weapons but this year if anything the opposite was true in that there were more willing and highly competent fencers in some weapons that could be accommodated onto the team, making selection a little difficult, however an abundance of fencers is a nice position to be in and encouraging that fencing in the county is moving in the right direction. I hope that continues after things have returned to normal, whenever that might be.

Disappointing that we did not get to test ourselves against our peers in April hopefully we will get our chance next year.

I am happy to continue as captain unless anyone else wishes to put themselves forward in which case I am equally happy to hand over. Additionally, should they wish to continue, I would fully support Iza and Grace remaining as joint Vice Captains and I wish to thank them for their invaluable help and advice this year.

Dave Atkins, County Captain

10/10/2020