



**Fencing-Escime NB**  
**2014 Annual General Meeting**  
July 2013-June 2014  
Board Report

As a volunteer-led non-profit sport organization, Fencing-Escime NB (FENB) had an active year. It was with great sadness that we saw Xavier Boulet resign as Provincial Coach and Barbara Daniel not reoffer as the Executive Director. We appreciate the contribution, dedication, and passion that each of them have brought to fencing in New Brunswick. Despite the challenges presented over the past year, we are optimistic for the future of this sport as we work towards the continuation of the Provincial Program through our P-CEP government granting body and welcome in our new Executive Director, Michael Ivankovic. The FENB Board of Directors, club leaders, and members will need to work together to secure our future and take fencing in New Brunswick to the next level.

### **Athlete Development**

#### **Provincial High Performance Program**

The Provincial High Performance team consisted of eight fencers coming from Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John. The training program consisted of 5 foilists, 2 sabreurs, and 1 epeeist. The training operated with weekly group training and individual lessons in Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John. This quality of instruction has made a significant increase in the technical-tactical skills of these fencers and increased their confidence at competitions. FENB had success with Zoe Richard who won bronze in her age category at The Easterns; Wendy Yano, who qualified for the National Team, represented Canada in Turkey where she trained and competed; Cedric Richard made podium winning gold in Cadet and silver in Junior, both were achieved at the Easterns; Meghan Lynch finished in the top eight at the Easterns; and, Willow Wilson, Will Dobson, Ryan Downey, and Matthew Cole all achieved higher results at the Provincials.

## **Provincial Competitive Training Camps**

Four provincial camps were organized: Oct 5-6 in Fredericton, Nov 30 - Dec 1 in Saint John, Feb 8-9 in Saint John, and March 29-30 in Saint John. An additional eight participants from Saint John and Fredericton clubs took part in the training. A few other fencers were invited to these camps and chose not to participate. One out-of-province camp was held in Toronto leading up to both Easterns and Nationals.

## **FENB Competitions**

*The NB Open* (fourth annual), held on Nov 16-17, was hosted in the Fundy region for the first time and took place at Harbour View High. Overall participant numbers (82) were similar to previous years, but with a 50% drop in participation from out-of-province fencers. In previous years, NB Open tournaments were held in the South-East region as an encouragement to PEI and NS fencers. This could possibly be a deciding factor in where this tournament will be held in future seasons.

*The Alfred Knappe Team Tournament*, held on Feb 1-2, was hosted jointly by UNB and Damocles clubs. A record 31 teams took part: fifteen open (3-weapon) teams, eight under fifteen (3-weapon) teams and eight teams in a new event - under 13 foil.

*NB Provincials*, held on March 22-23, was hosted in the Fundy region in line with the annual rotation (Fredericton>Moncton>Saint John). There were 66 participants.

Tournament organization personnel: Kathy Wallace and Angela Cushing took care of Secretariat responsibilities for both the NB Open and Provincials. Bill Preeper and Paul Richard took care of armoury services and there was excellent volunteer support from the Fundy region for both events. However, there is a need and urgency to recruit new volunteers to be trained in secretariat, armoury and floor management.

## **Technical Leadership Development**

### **Coaching**

Three coaching development workshops were led by the Provincial Coach and were well attended by coaches from Renforth, Moncton, and Chaleur with additional participation from Fundy, Damocles, and UNB.

The first workshop took place on September 14-15 at the Damocles club in Fredericton with 11 coaches. The second and third workshops were combined with a youth development camp which provided the coaches with young fencers to practice their coaching skills under the Provincial Coach's guidance. The Dec 14 workshop, held at the Early Childhood Centre in Saint John, involved 10 coaches and 17 fencers. The third workshop, held at Ecole le Mascaret, in Moncton involved six coaches and 17 fencers.

## **Officiating**

One referee development workshop, led by Barbara Daniel, was held in Saint John on the second day of the Feb 8-9 Provincial Training camp. There were five participants, including two experienced referees, who acted as mentors during the practice session.

A curriculum for two levels of referees (Club and Provincial level) and an evaluation process was reviewed during the workshop. No one was certified at this clinic.

The majority of people who referee at New Brunswick tournaments have not been evaluated for provincial certification. This coming fencing season will have a mandate to include Provincial Program participants and experienced fencers, who have a good level of skill in the interpretation of fencing actions. The new Executive Director, Michael Ivankovic, will play a major role in referee training and evaluation.

## **Armoury**

One armoury clinic was held at the beginning of the season hosted by the Damocles club and lead by Ed Matchett.

## **Membership and Volunteers**

### **Membership**

The membership numbers are up from 202 last season to 243. The CFF put into place a new registration process which requires individual members to register online for their CFF licence and provincial membership. Clubs will need to consider how they can ensure that all their members have valid affiliation.

### **Recognition of Volunteers**

On behalf of all members in the province, we thank all the people who volunteer their time to help FENB and clubs deliver programs and run tournaments. A huge thank you goes out to all the coaches who have given their time to pass on their knowledge and passion for this beautiful sport to their fencers. A big thank you to all the parents who have supported their children in discovering this wonderful sport. FENB appreciates your generous and kind support throughout the fencing season.

We'd also like to thank Mark Dobson for his contribution to Board work during this season and his years as the FENB registrar. Unfortunately, Mark had to step down from the Board this summer after accepting a new opportunity that required him and his family to relocate elsewhere in Canada. They will all be greatly missed.

## **Future of FENB**

### **Armoury and Equipment**

Two new reels and floor cords were purchased in keeping with the plan of adding one set of reels and floor cords until all old FENB scoring units are replaced. At the start of the 2014-2015 season, there will be two FENB scoring units that do not have floor cords.

### **Focus on Sustainability**

This past summer the FENB Board sent out a membership survey and the three biggest call out were identified (1) A need to certify coaches and referees in our province, (2) A need to better promote our sport as many people don't know that we have fencing clubs in NB, and (3) Membership recruitment.

### **Future**

Sustainability of our sport remains a primary focus for the coming year.

### **Development**

Building upon the funding receiving for the Provincial Coach will depend on how well FENB Board Members and club coaches can work together. We need to have a mutual understanding of the benefits we get from having a Provincial Coach. This is crucial for the growth and development of both coaches and athletes who want to compete outside the province and country. Together we can all do better at communicating and this is one of the Board's goals this year.

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**2013-2014 Board of Directors:** Bill Preeper, Melodie Piercey, Anne Bardou, Mark Dobson, and Diane Raiche-Phillips (President).