

# FENB Board of Directors Report

FENB AGM Saturday, November 5, 2022

## *2021-2022 Season*

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect fencing in the 2021-2022 season, but that season, particularly towards the end, began to show some promising signs of recovery. There was only one tournament in NB in fall 2021, but five in winter/spring 2022.

Another major part of the 2021-2022 season was the deployment of our 2023 Canada Winter Games selection process. After the ADC developed a document with the selection process and criteria for the team, a training squad was formed and they participated in the many tournaments and training camps that were part of the selection process.

The 2021-2022 season also saw significant shake-ups in coaching personnel with the retirement of Barbara Daniel and arrival of two experienced coaches to the province: Martin Stoev and Marc-Andre LeBlanc.

## Participation

### Membership

	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
<b>Provincial</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>1st time / Rec.</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>School</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>182</b>

The 2021-2022 membership numbers represent an improvement over those of the previous season, in part bolstered by the school program numbers. However, what isn't captured by these numbers is that of the 82 provincial members (now referred to as "Fencing Members" in our registration system), 14 of those initially registered as "Recreational Members" and later upgraded in order to participate in events like tournaments. With even more events to motivate

new and recreational fencers, hopefully this season will see even more fencers transition to competing.

## **Tournaments**

Two of the major changes to tournaments from the last season were the adoption of Fencing Time for running the tournament and the use of Interpodia to register and pay tournament fees. In terms of the former, it has certainly improved running tournaments and posting results. For the use of Interpodia, it does streamline some of the secretariat work in terms of verifying membership status, and it does cut down on the need for cash and cheques and paper waivers, so that is a plus.

Alfred Knappe: Because the Alfred Knappe had to be cancelled in January due to COVID restrictions, the UNB Club graciously allowed FENB to combine the Alfred Knappe with the NB Shield, so we ran a 1-day version of the tournament with Open and U15 Team events.

East Coast Games: Due to miscommunication with the ECG organizers we were forced to reschedule and reduce the scope of the ECG to a one-day event with a youth focus, but the tournament was still a useful developmental opportunity.

NB Provincials: The provincials were held in Saint John with a variety of events including Open Team events and was well attended.

## **Excellence**

### **Athlete Development**

The ADC developed a document outlining the selection process and criteria for the 2023 Canada Winter Games. The CWG / Provincial training group launched with 20 participants. FENB hosted 3 all-weapon camps and 3 single-weapon camps to help develop the team's skills and to foster some cohesion within the group. FENB also sponsored the coach and team manager travel to the Quebec Youth Circuit tournament in Longueuil in December 2021 and to the Canadian National Championships in Toronto in May 2022.

The CWG fencers participated in tournaments to accumulate points between September 2021 and June 2022 in order to qualify for the Core Team of 18 (up to 3 fencers per weapon per gender).

### **Athlete Performance**

#### **Provincials**

Congratulations to our 2022 provincial winners:

Cadet Sabre: Rowan MacDermott

Cadet Foil: Vir Singh Ranger

Cadet Epee: Vir Singh Ranger

U13 Sabre: Flynn Stevens

U13 Epee: Ethan Han

Open Sabre: Raphael Bradley

Open Epee: Patrick Craig

Team Sabre: Beaches Left (Raphael Bradley, Jim Stevens, Flynn Stevens)

Team Epee: UNB (Declan Hartery, Calum Skidmore, Long Him Tam)

## **2022 Nationals**

U15 Women's Foil: Dominique Richard: 12th; Clara Richard: 13th; Sophia Sun: 25th; Hafsah Seifeldin, 31th

U15 Men's Epee: Guanxun (James) Lu: 17th; Gabriel Strickland: 37th

Cadet Women's Sabre: Claire Han: 16th

Cadet Women's Epee: Claire Han: 11th

Cadet Women's Foil: Claire Han: 9th; Clara Richard: 20th; Dominique Richard: 29th; Sophia Sun: 35th; Hafsah Seifeldin, 48th

Cadet Men's Sabre: Logan Nugent: 36th; Vir Singh Ranger: 46th

Cadet Men's Epee: Guanxun (James) Lu: 45th; Gabriel Strickland: 51st; Rowan MacDermott: 55th; Vir Singh Ranger 66th;

Cadet Men's Foil: Vir Singh Ranger: 34th; Michael Robichaud: 43rd; Rowan MacDermott: 47th

Junior Women's Foil: Sophia Sun: 11th; Dominique Richard: 21st; Clara Richard: 27th

Junior Men's Epee: Sebastien Fournet: 40th; Long Him Tam: 70th

Junior Men's Foil: Michael Robichaud: 39th; Rowan MacDermott: 57th; Long Him Tam: 60th; Guanxun (James) Lu: 61st

Senior Men's Epee: Long Him Tam: 97th; Sebastien Fournet: 100th

Veteran Women's Sabre: Wendy Yano: 1st

## **Commonwealth Fencing Championships**

Five of our provincial athletes were selected to attend the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in August, and returned with several medals. Clara Richard and Claire Han both fenced in the cadet women's individual event, as well as winning bronze in the Team event. Dominique Richard fenced in the cadet women's individual sabre event as well as the junior women's team epee event. Veteran fencers Wendy Yano and Jim Stevens earned bronze in their respective individual veteran sabre events, with Wendy leading the Canadian team to silver, and Jim leading the Canadian team to bronze.

## **Coach Development**

Barbara Daniel and Jim Stevens acted as co-evaluators for 2 coach evaluations. 1 coach was certified in Instructor Beginner in 2021.

Barbara Daniel and Jim Stevens also attended Learning Facilitator training for the Comp. Int Modules.

Comp Int. Part 1 was delivered online across a series of sessions with 6 coaches in attendance. Although technically outside of the purview of the previous season, Comp. Int. Part 2 was delivered in July 2022 to 3 coaches with a group of fencers receiving individual lessons and piste-side coaching.

## **Officials Development**

Alexis Lague was identified as a prime candidate for referee development. Matt Tucker was brought in for the NB Provincials in order to mentor him and help provide a pathway for his further development.

## **Awareness**

Community programs (done with George St. Middle School and the YMCA of Greater Saint John) helped to build our membership as well as spread awareness of the sport.

## **Capacity**

### **Funding**

Since COVID-19 was still a factor in our participation numbers and programs, our funding structure from the province remained the same from the previous season.

### **Board, Staff, and Volunteer Recruitment**

Sally Goodwin stepped down as Executive Director at the end of the 2021–2022 season. We would like to thank Sally for her hard work and commitment to FENB these past two seasons. Annette LeBlanc has been contracted to replace Sally Goodwin as Executive Director, and we are excited to have her join the FENB team.

FENB would like to thank the people who served on the Athlete Development Committee this past year: Marc-Andre LeBlanc, David Collins, Mathieu Paquet, and Jim Stevens for the work they have done in developing the Canada Winter Games Selection program. We would also like to thank Barbara Daniel for serving as our Coach Developer, and we wish her good travels this fall.

As always, we are grateful for the many people, coaches, parents, community members, and many more, who give their time and expertise to support FENB's events and activities. We could not operate without these individuals, much less thrive, without all of this generous support.