

University of Warwick Fencing Club
Meeting Minutes
25/08/2020, 19:00-20:30pm

Attendees: John, Ellie, Ben, Lera, Damian (19:00-19:30pm), Anne, Charles
Guest: Conor (head coach)

1. **Session off campus**

a. Searching for the best facility

Charles will look into all the available halls in Coventry and Leamington.
There might also be an option near Westwood Games Hall.

b. Tomy's availability

Anne must get in contact with Tomy to understand what days and times he is available. So that we can try to book the external facility when it suits him the best.

c. About the session

The session should be 2 hours long, so that we do not have to face diminishing returns. The coach is needed for the whole session because of the guidelines for Covid-19.

In case if needed Conor could make it to the session if it is on Thursday.
John would not make it to the session if it is during work hours.

We need to ask SU for demographic reports so that we know how many postgrads attend our sessions, because we wouldn't want to cut them off of the sessions.

2. **The sessions on campus**

a. Conor's availability

Conor can make it on Mondays and most Saturdays.

b. How to instruct novices in groups of 6?

- I. Testers are impossible to run.
- II. Training 6 fencers a time would take around 30min for Conor.
- III. If the kit has been used, it will have to be washed after every use – better solution is to loan the kit on deposits and have faith in the novices.
- IV. We could clean the kit ourselves for the first 2 sessions.

- V. Limited amount of people can attend the session – it would be the best to have Beginners course. It would consist of 10 week long course that people would have to buy the tickets for through SU ticketing system. In case people buy tickets but still don't show up could consider selling more tickets. The amount of tickets has to be no more than the amount of people that can be in the hall at the same time. Main goal – to get them hooked into the sport.
 - VI. "Floating coach" – can run multiple groups at the same time with experienced fencers helping out as assistants, who make sure the novice group is doing everything correctly.
 - i. clarification from BF is needed
 - ii. space & availability of coaches (there might be different rules for uni clubs as all the members are adults)
 - VII. Monday session Conor is completely with novices – 2 blocks with 2 or 3 groups of 6. Each block has 30min long session.
 - VIII. Saturday session Conor is with novices for the first hour and partially the second hour. (Similar to Monday sessions)
 - IX. This way we would be able to support from 60-90 people a week.
- c. Guidelines
- I. To keep the distance fencers should be encouraged to do lunges. This leads to people eventually improving their distance work.
 - II. Epee has been the easiest to manage. Mostly hits to wrist to keep the distance.
 - III. Foil is the hardest to manage because of its target area.
 - IV. Because of this Conor would like to keep novices on sabre and introduce the other weapons when the guidelines are not that strict anymore.
 - V. More focus should be put on footwork.
 - VI. Steam fencing – the normality.
 - VII. Warwick Sport should have a system to know who is attending sessions.
- d. Fees
- If the sessions for novices are only 30min long, we should decrease the session fees.

3. **Performance and Sportsmark**

This years Sportsmark is expected to be better than last year. As we are in the Performance Potential programme as well, we can hope to get better session times next year.

4. **Henry**

Henry is a coach at Coventry, and he will be coming to Warwick. Hopefully, he will agree to join the BUCS team, as well as come to train together with us.

Need to mention to performance sport that we need help with attracting the professional fencers in our university to attend the sessions.

5. **KES**

- a. We are very happy to work together with KES.

Lera wants to show that we are cooperating with KES (post pictures together with them from the summer camp)

Kris wants to see university fencing (might visit us at term 1 or 2)

6. **Novices**

Novices might not happen this year because of Covid-19. This would lead to working on losses this year. However, if it does happen, it will most likely be in term 2.

7. **Things to discuss with Development officer**

- a. Usually talk more about long term goals.
b. Need to discuss the external session.