

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 CAPITOL DIVISION, US FENCING
 31 JANUARY 2016
 DC Fencers Club
 Silver Spring, MD

Attendance:

2015–2016 Executive Committee	Present	Absent
Officers		
Chair	David Ruskin	X
Vice-Chair	Arnold Wynn	X
Secretary	Bettie Graham	X
Treasurer	Rebecca Chimahusky	X
Representatives		
Chevy Chase Fencing Club	Gayatri Bhalla-Ladd	X
DC Fencers Club	Diane Trice	X
Capital Fencing Academy	Nick Ferrara	X
Rockville Fencing Academy	Malcolm Patterson	X
Terrapin Fencing Club	Sean McGovern	X
Royal Imperial Fencing	Gitty Mohebban	X
National Capital Fencing Club	Todd Bukowski	X
National Fencing Foundation	TBD	X
Z-Parta	Aleksey Muravyev	X
Members at-Large		
Aaron Ruby—CFA		X
Raymond Finkleman—CCFC	X	
Valerie Asher—DCFC	X	

David Ruskin, the Chair, Capitol Division, US Fencing, called the meeting to order at 1: 25 pm.

1. Actions Taken by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee approved the following:

- a) **AED.** The AED has been installed at DCFC. It was recommended that coaches and bout committee managers be trained to use the device.

Action items:

Valerie is to:

- (1) get the AED registered with Montgomery County and
- (2) contact Jill Feldman to get the name of an individual who can do the training, including a discussion of scheduling and cost.

- b) **International Travel Grant.** There were two actions taken:

- (1) Jim Adams will be awarded a travel grant due to his participation as co-captain of the 2015 US World Veteran Championships Team.
- (2) The following changes were made in the eligibility language of the award:

Former grant wording:

For the 2015-2016 season, the Capitol Division is pleased to make international competition travel grants of \$400.00 available to individual fencers who are members of the Division. These grants are being made to fulfill our mission, as outlined in our bylaws, to assist Divisional fencers to reach their full potential in fencing. **These grants are available to reimburse expenses related to attendance at cadet, junior, and senior US Fencing designated international competitions and at Veteran World Championships.**

Fencers are eligible for one grant per season.

Current grant wording:

For the 2015-2016 season, the Capitol Division is pleased to make international competition travel grants of \$400.00 available to individual fencers who are members of the Division. These grants are being made to fulfill our mission, as outlined in our bylaws, to assist Divisional fencers to reach their full potential in fencing. **These grants are available to reimburse expenses related to competing in cadet, junior, and senior US Fencing designated international competitions and at Veteran World Championships and to attending those same competitions as a member of the official US Fencing delegation.**

Fencers are eligible for one grant per season. **Grants are available for expenses not fully reimbursed from other sources.**

2. Update on the Cherry Blossom Open (CBO)

Nick submitted, via e-mail, a progress report on the CBO (see appendix). Some items/issues remaining are:

- a) More sabre referees are needed.
- b) The Committee might consider giving free registration to the first four, rather than the first three, A rated fencers who register.
- c) The waiver for youth fencers needs to be updated.
- d) The type of prize and the design of the T-shirts need to be considered as soon as possible.
- e) The club needs to apply for a developmental grant, which it is allowed to do annually.
- f) The recipient of the Mike Brown Award should be named in the spring.

3. Other

- a) **Financial Report:** The Capitol Division currently has \$23,808.00 in its account.
- b) **Team Events.** The committee discussed the need for more fencers to participate in team events. DCFC is looking into providing an opportunity and venue for such activities. The committee also encouraged individual fencers to self-organize such opportunities.
- c) **Yoga for Fencers.** Gayatri knows a former fencer who now has yoga classes geared to fencers. She has scheduled a session for her daughter and will report back to the committee if this is something the Executive Committee should pursue.
- d) **Reschedule of the Champagne Challenge.** This event was cancelled because of the snow and will be rescheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

APPENDIX

Message #2 from Nick on January 19

As an update to my previous email: Gary from Absolute Fencing has been in touch; they'd love to come down again for the event this year and have added the event to their calendar.

Nick

Message #1 from Nick on Jan. 19

Hi all,

I will be out of town and unable to attend this weekend's division meeting, so I am submitting my update on the Cherry Blossom Open in writing.

Venue

The venue and date for the Cherry Blossom Open have been confirmed with the University of Maryland; the event has now been posted on AskFred. Please start spreading the word to fencers at your respective clubs.

Hiring

I began hiring for the CBO on December 28, 2015, and have hired six referees for Saturday and six have been hired for Sunday thus far, and I have two-three more referees outstanding that I am considering. This is about one-third of the 18-20 referees that have been historically hired for the CBO over the last three to four years. Mary Frye has been hired to serve as head referee.

I expect hiring the remaining referees to be particularly difficult this year. We will have to compete for NY/NJ referees with an RJCC in Boston that is paying almost twice as much as the CBO. As a result, I may need to fly in referees to hire enough quality right-of-way referees (particularly for sabre), which would drive up costs.

I may choose to hire fewer referees this year. I found that 18-20 referees was more than enough for last year's the CBO, even with the increased number competitors over the year before. I plan on consulting with Jill Feldman, last year's Bout Committee Chair, to determine whether we can do with one to three fewer referees this year.

Next on my to-do list is to hire a Head Armorer and Bout Committee Chair.

Equipment Vendor

I emailed Absolute Fencing about coming down for the CBO. They would be providing the strips, scoring machines, and pistes for us to use. I have not heard back as yet as I have only emailed just today.

Hotels

I have been in touch with Joellyn Furmage at the Holiday Inn in Greenbelt that we used for hotels last year. Because they were starting to fill up, I have already requested that they put nine rooms on hold

for us; this is on par with what we requested last year. I will need to put down an initial 50% deposit by March 15, 2016 to continue holding these rooms. I will pay the deposit and submit a request for reimbursement at that time.

Prizes

No decisions have been reached yet on prizes. I have some initial ideas for trophies, but nothing nailed down yet. Stephanie Turner suggested some great cherry blossom themed snow globes, but we found them to be prohibitively expensive. Recommendations and suggestions from the committee on innovative prizes would be much appreciated.

Budget

I have asked Sean McGovern to create a budget based on the template we used last year for the upcoming CBO. We will use this document to track hired referees and other expenses moving forward.

Miscellaneous

I have started creating a check list for tournament organizers on the CBO's Google Drive. This check list will cover all activities necessary to hold a successful CBO from its initial planning through execution. It's still only a draft, but I plan to update it as we plan out the upcoming CBO and a version 1.0 draft after the tournament's completion.

Regards,
Nick