

La Riposte

The Swords Club Newsletter
No. 12, May 2012



www.theswordsclub.org

COACHES CORNER

Point control, distance and timing – without these three you won't get very far in fencing. If your point direction is off you may be lucky to hit somewhere on your opponent, but if it's good, you can deliver hits to whichever tiny area of target is open e.g. shoulder or flank (low line). Regarding distance, if you are too far away you won't reach. If you are too close your opponent has a wonderful opportunity to hit you because you won't have time to parry. Timing your actions is also vital. If you are too fast you will 'crash', mostly by getting yourself parried. If you are too slow, once again, your hits will be parried. A good fencer can fence at all speeds, always just a little faster than their opponent. Vivienne

VIVIENNE IMMORTALISED IN PRINT!

Look out for a book from an award winning childrens and young adult author, Michael Stephens, called *The Road to Belgrandia*. Michael is the father of Tim, who fenced with TSC from the age of 12 and won most of the junior State and Australian National Championships during his fencing career. Vivienne's influence as his coach obviously had a huge impact on Michael, who included a character clearly based on her in his latest book. (Vivienne has suffered over the years from a knee injury caused in fencing training). Vivienne says that she thoroughly enjoyed reading it. "Michael has a wonderful way with words and an amazing imagination, and I am both flattered and humbled to be included in his book," she said.

After lunch was sword practice, which sometimes took place in the fencing hall above the barracks, sometimes on the archery strip, and sometimes on the battlements or stairs leading down from them. They fought with thin, Delphine blades, the main subject of the lessons being techniques of defence.

"If anyone, no matter how strong, aims a blow at you," Mistress Vivienne would say, "a Delphine blade used skillfully can deflect it. And with skill and speed you may even be able to counter-attack."

Vivienne wore the black, padded jacket that all fencing masters and mistresses wore, as well as an extra long, padded glove. She was short, her fair hair was streaked with grey, and she walked with a limp from a knee injury that she had got in the war. Despite this, it was weeks before Marcia or Lewis could get anywhere near the speed of her blade work.

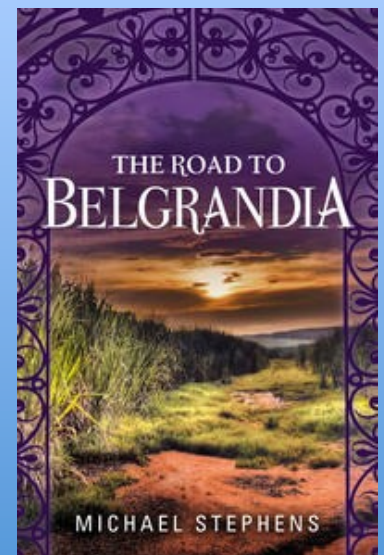
"Most important of all," she would say, "is footwork. You must be able to get your feet into the correct position without having to think about it. You have to practice, practice, practice, so that it becomes automatic."

Vivienne will be away on Tuesday 15th May – there will be no adult training class but the club will remain open for fencing and lessons with other instructors.

FRANK'S THURSDAY CLASS

Don't forget that there is a one-hour training session on Thursday nights from 7pm- 8pm run by Frank Bartolillo at the club.

It is open to all Swords Club members, and popular across the board – from age 7 to Veterans making the most of the focus on footwork and fitness. The cost is just \$10 per session.





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FAREWELL MARK!

Mark Fry, a regular at adult fencing training on Tuesday and Thursday nights, is unfortunately moving to Brisbane for work. We would like to wish him well in his new adventure and will miss him around the club. He has promised to drop in for a fence whenever he is back in Sydney!

IN SHORT.....

Congratulations to Mario Ferraro and Claire on the birth of Ruby Elizabeth on the 26th April 2012. All are delighted with the arrival of the little one who weighed a healthy 2.56kg. Dad can't stop smiling!

And congratulations also to the winners of the 2012 Jubilee Cup – Hayden Raybone for the Men's and Jackie Budniak for the Women's event.

Are you on Facebook?
Don't forget to 'like' our Facebook page:
The Swords Club

Don't forget now that the cooler weather is here that we have Swords Club tracksuit tops for sale – in both adult and children's sizes. Please see Suzanne Newton or Vivienne if you would like to buy one – they are a bargain at \$49!

Right: The happy couple!
Far Right: Jackie Budniak, Vivienne Tucker and Fiona Budniak at the reception

UPCOMING EVENTS

20 th May	State U15 Epee Championships	M 9.00 W 9.00
	State U15 Foil Championships	M 1.00 W 1.00
3 rd June	State Cadet Epee Championships	M 9.00 W 9.15
	State Cadet Foil Championships	M 1.00 W 1.00
9 th -12 th June	AFF #2 Adelaide	
24 th June	Club Epee Teams	M 8.45 W 9.15
	State Junior Epee	M 1.30 W 1.30
	State Junior Foil	M 12.00 W 12.00
30 th June – 4 th July	Australian National U15 and Cadet Championships, Sydney	

RESULTS

Roberta Nutt U15 Foil	3 rd =	Emmanuel Lapitan
ACT State Open Championships, Womens Foil	3 rd =	Jackie Budniak
National School Senior Female Foil	2 nd	Claire Graham White
DH McKenzie Open Women's Foil	3 rd =	Jackie Budniak

ERIN TIES THE KNOT!

Congratulations to Club fencer Erin Jones-Drummond on her recent marriage to Sean Andersen. The two originally met at a fencing competition but lost touch for a few years, meeting again at a hospital where Erin was working as a nurse

and Sean training to be a doctor. Following their reception at Berowra Waters, they left for two weeks honeymooning on Bora Bora. We wish them many happy years together!

