

# La Riposte

The Swords Club Newsletter  
No. 19, September 2013

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## 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS!

The Centenary of The Swords Club was celebrated on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July in elegant style at the suitably fitting venue of WaterView at Bicentennial Park, Homebush. One hundred and sixty people joined in the celebrations including the AOC Secretary General, Craig Phillips, NSWFA representatives, Olympians, past and present TSC members, representatives from other fencing clubs, and several fencers and coaches from interstate.

Formal proceedings began with well-executed The Grand Salute performed by twelve, mostly junior members of The Swords Club. The Grand Salute is a choreographed routine of fencing movements performed without a mask to an even tempo. For many in the room, it was the first time they had witnessed a Grand Salute, but for just as many more, it brought back many memories of having to perform it themselves. Well done to our young TSC fencers!



As guest speaker, Craig Phillips, Secretary General, Australian Olympic Committee presented a brilliant, entertaining speech, which really added to the tone for the whole evening. Indeed his history as a pentathlete led him to comment later “he felt like he was amongst family”. (The NSWFA have reprinted Craig Phillip’s speech in the July edition of NSWFA newsletter).

The President of The Swords Club, Vincent Newton, acknowledged the contributions of members, coaches and volunteers to The Swords Club and the wider fencing community over the last 100 years. He also exhorted guests to focus on developing the Club into the next century thus maintaining an already important legacy to fencing in Australia.



The formal proceedings came to a conclusion with a presentation to Vivienne Tucker, by former TSC and NSWFA President, Linda McLaren. When Vivienne took to the stage, the room erupted in a spontaneous, standing ovation. This is a testament to the high regard she is held in, by all.

Interspersed between the sumptuous courses were three fencing bouts, which demonstrated the scope and talent of fencing in Australia. The event was joyous, as people reconnected with each other and those newer to fencing relished the opportunity to meet together and share in the history of The Swords Club. (Indeed we are now nearly 8 weeks on from The Swords Club Centenary Dinner and members of our Club are still being congratulated from individuals in the fencing community for hosting a wonderful, memorable event). Thank you to all those involved in making the night a success, including the people involved in the fencing demonstrations, the junior fencers who participated in the Grand Salute, Steve Venn for being MC, Karl Grenet for being official photographer, Jacobus De Beer for creating the invitations and promotional material, Vivienne who quietly worked away at this and that to make it all come together and the entire TSC Committee for their contributions. Finally a very special thank you to the entire Budniak family, especially Fiona and Jackie who played the key role in organizing the evening – what a night!

*Top: Vivienne accepting her award from Linda McLaren  
Centre: Nandi Sucic, Suzanne Newton, Craig Phillips and Vincent Newton  
Bottom: Rose Anne White, Bob Budniak and Jackie Budniak*



*The Committee is looking for someone to take over the job of preparing and distributing La Riposte from the end of this year. Please contact Katy McEwen for further information at [katym@ozemail.com.au](mailto:katym@ozemail.com.au)*

## THE McCOWAGE FOIL EVENT



During August, the NSWFA held the McCowage Foil event. This event is named in honour of Brian Patrick McCowage, a Swords Club legend! Born in 1935 in Sydney, McCowage was an Australian champion fencer. Not only did he hold the title of National Foil Champion for seven years, between 1958-1964, he represented Australia at three Olympic Games: the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Olympics in Rome and the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. McCowage also competed in the British and Commonwealth Games in 1958, 1962 and 1966.

During the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, McCowage created a sensation when at the age of 22, despite only winning two previous bouts in the qualifiers he beat the then world champion, Jozsef Gyuriczw of Hungary 5/3.

He took up sabre after 1960 at the encouragement of his wife, Marie, once a 'moderate' fencer herself. He tied for 1st in the 1963 and 1964 national championship.

Brian McCowage remained committed to the sport of fencing all his life. He died in 1994, at the relatively early age of 58.



www.theswordsclub.org

## Hurry to catch the En Garde Exhibition!

If you haven't already seen it, hurry to North Sydney Library to catch the *En Garde!* exhibition which celebrates 100 years of fencing at The Swords Club. It is a fascinating collection of historical artifacts, equipment and photographs. The exhibition will close on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

For all art lovers, make sure you visit the current exhibition, *Sydney Moderns: Art for a New World* at The Art Gallery of NSW. The Exhibition features over 180 works by Australia's most iconic artists, exploring the making of a modern city in the 20s and 30s.

The *Sydney Moderns* exhibition includes an interpretation of the modern living room designed by Sydney graphic artist Hera Roberts for *The Burdekin House* exhibition in 1929. Hera Roberts was also a fencer with The Swords Club. Frank Stuart described her in 1919 as 'one of the finest woman fencers in the Southern Hemisphere' [Triad: October 10, 1919, p37]. Last year The Swords Club was contacted by The Art Gallery of NSW for assistance in researching Miss Hera Roberts. Our Club even rates a mention in the Exhibition catalogue.

*Sydney Moderns: Art for a New World* is on until the 7 October.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

13 <sup>th</sup> October	U11 Gilt Foil	B 1330	G 1330
	U13 Gilt Foil	B 0845	G 0900
20 <sup>th</sup> October	State Foil Club Teams	M 0900	W 0900
27 <sup>th</sup> October	State Open Foil	M 0845	W 0900
	State Open Epee	M 1300	W 1300



L: Fiona and Adrian, winners of the McCowage Veteran Foil competitions  
Above: Suzanne, Grace, Jackie, Claire and Fiona at the Presidents Cup competition

## RESULTS – CONGRATULATIONS!

Presidents Cup Open Women's Foil	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Jackie Budniak
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Claire Graham-White
McCowage Open Women's Foil	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jackie Budniak
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Fiona Budniak
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Claire Graham-White
Presidents Cup Veteran Men's Foil	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Adrian Finch
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Vince Newton
McCowage Veteran Men's Foil	1 <sup>st</sup>	Adrian Finch
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Michael Seibel
McCowage Veteran Women's Foil	1 <sup>st</sup>	Fiona Budniak
State Championships Junior Women's Foil	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Claire Graham-White
Gilt Series U9 Boys	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Elias Lapitan
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	John-Paul Macks
NSW Central Western Regional Championships Open Women's Foil	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Odina Kliffen
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Morgan Kelly