

# La Riposte

The Swords Club Newsletter  
No. 20, November 2013



## THE END OF A VERY SUCCESSFUL CENTENARY YEAR!

2013 has been a most successful year for The Swords Club, celebrating 100 years of fencing in style. Our Swords Club fencers have been out and about fencing in Club, State and International competitions. As the year draws to an end our U/11 and U/13s have been preparing with much excitement and dedication for their State competition this weekend, whilst our adult members have been preparing for the Nationals in December. At our own Club we still have the much loved Nils Saksen Mixed Handicap Foil Competition to look forward to. So save the date (14 Dec) for a great day of fencing and socializing.



Club members preparing for competition in their Centenary T-shirts!

## FAREWELL TO VIVIENNE!



It was with much sadness that the Committee informed our members and the wider fencing community of Vivienne's decision to step down from teaching fencing at the end of 2013. However we are pleased that she will continue to oversee coaching training at TSC and be available to assist her pupils transition to other TSC Club coaches during 2014. Vivienne has been an integral part of the Club since 1975 and has had an enormous influence on generations of fencers and their families.

Vivienne will continue to hold the title of Head Coach. Due to her foresight, we have plenty of well-trained coaches ready to take over her classes. The fencing program will continue with classes on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays next year as well as individual lessons.

Vivienne is aiming to spend more time travelling, and we would like to wish her all the best.

**VIVIENNE PAST AND PRESENT:**

**SPOTLIGHT ON VIVIENNE WATTS**

**From BARRAGE MAGAZINE N30 JUNE 1990**

When I was 5 or 6 years old I saw a demonstration of fencing at my school fete and although at the time I had no idea what it was all about, those people dressed all in white, wearing masks and wielding swords made a big impression. At the age of 10 I asked my mother to find out about fencing lessons (WHAT lessons?) but as the only place available was in the city, and as I was too young to travel alone and no-one was prepared to take me, end of story. Well almost!

It wasn't until after I left school that I was finally able to try the sport and in retrospect I am doubly glad that I happened to begin lessons with Professor Joan Beck at The Swords Club back in the days of the Bjelke-Petersen Building in Castlereagh Street. Not only did I enjoy myself enormously, but Professor Beck gave me excellent technical grounding which at the time I took for granted. She was a marvelous teacher and gave much of herself to the sport.



Woman's Day 13/8/1979

Some time after attaining A grade, my training programme, topped off with snow skiing, finally made my knees decide to go on strike, destroying hopes of continuing my competitive career. I was already helping out with coaching at the club, and when Professor Beck decided to retire, she asked me to take over her classes, and so the coaching began in earnest. Since then I have seen many talented fencers come and go. My pupils have been successful at state and national levels and gone on to represent Australia in World and Oceanic Zone events.

To date I have been involved with the sport for 21 years, the last 13 of which I have been earning my living (or trying to!) as a full-time professional coach. After years of practice at watching my pupils compete I still can't sit calmly through their bouts. I try my best to help everyone in preparation and during competition but when they are out on the strip it's totally down to the individual no matter how much my muscles twitch in sympathy! Whether winners or losers, however, to me it makes no difference just as long as each fencer can compete to the best of his/her ability and with good sportsmanship. A fencing coach wears many hats – psychologist, technical expert, tactical wizard, mother/father, friend, mentor – and the list goes on. It's hard to have the responsibility of always saying the right thing at the right time and I believe one must be flexible, continually coming up with new ideas and keeping tabs on developments.

Contact with people of all ages and backgrounds are things I do enjoy in my profession. Unfortunately I don't get many opportunities these days to just chat with fencers as I teach over 100 people per week both in clubs and schools. The many friendships I have formed over the years are definitely a plus and it is great to hear from ex-fencers keeping in touch. ....Vivienne E. Watts

## VIVIENNE PAST AND PRESENT:

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH VIVIENNE TUCKER 2013

#### **Why have you decided to retire?**

I have found there is no good time to retire as something exciting is always happening! My husband retired several years ago and has been patiently waiting until I stopped as well so that we can have more time to go away together without time constraints. After being part of TSC celebrating 100 years, it will be a high note on which to finish.

#### **What have you enjoyed most about being a fencing coach?**

I always enjoy seeing the smile on the faces of beginners when they learn how to parry quarte riposte, quarte riposte, (i.e. counter ripostes), and watching the excitement when they find out how you can use feints. I have met so many amazing people, talented or otherwise, and it's been great to teach them, see them improving over time, being involved in their lives, and making a personal best result in competitions.

#### **Could you share a memorable moment that you witnessed during a competition?**

There are so many it is very hard to choose but one comes to mind. Several years ago a rule was introduced making it a black card offence to throw your fencing equipment whilst on the piste. At that time one of my fencers, Chris, was competing in the Australian U/20 championships in Melbourne and during his DE bout there was a pause in between hits and Chris removed his mask to wipe his face. The referee told the fencers to replace their masks but as he said this he turned away and as Chris put his mask on, he missed his head and his mask bounced behind him on the floor. The referee immediately wanted to give him a black card but as everyone else was laughing so hard he listened to my explanation and no card was given.

When Alexandra King was 16 and competing in the U/20 Australian Championships in Melbourne, she won gold. It was so exciting for both of us. She went on to win the title again another 3 years running, equalling the record set by one other fencer, Andrea Chaplin (Olympian). I will also never forget watching a bout between Alwyn Wardle and Alvin Leopold about 30 years ago – they were both extremely talented.

#### **Do you have a favourite fencer that you liked to watch compete? If so, why?**

I like to watch all my fencers compete. I do especially like to see classical style and technique and Tim Stephens fits this bill perfectly, but on the other hand Karl Grenet is a great fighter – both I love to watch in action.

#### **What qualities do you believe make a good fencer?**

Starting young and loving the sport helps, plus lots of time spent fencing. I have seen many persistent fencers with no natural talent go on to win.



**What are some of the changes you have seen to the sport of fencing?**

When I began fencing women only competed for 4 hits each bout in pools. Perhaps we were considered too weak to cope with the 5 hits that men were scoring! When DE was introduced, bouts were to 8 for women and 10 for men – once again I suppose females just couldn't cope! Years ago when flicking became popular it altered the game and now with the different box timing, fencing has changed again.

**What do you think you will miss most about coaching at TSC?**

I will miss all the wonderful children and adults that I regularly see each week. I will especially miss being part of the development of the junior fencers as they grow older. There are many extremely talented fencers at the club at the moment.

**What country are you looking forward to travelling to?**

My husband wants to visit his brother in Scotland so as we are going all that way, we'll also go to Paris, Rome and other European cities. Hawaii is also on the list.

**What is in your thermos?**

In the past English breakfast tea, coffee, and now green tea.  
*(ed. note: so it doesn't contain the elixir of youth after all!)*

**A BIG YEAR FOR KELVIN**

Young Epeeist Kelvin Peh has wrapped up a very successful year, earning a place in the State Epee teams at U15, Cadet and Junior level.

Kelvin took up fencing in 2010, and joined his school team at St Aloysius' College in 2011, where he is coached by Jeff Gray and Frank Bartolillo. Having started with foil, Jeff persuaded him to enter the State Schools Championships U15 Epee event, which to his great surprise he won! The epee has now turned into his preferred weapon, and among his successes this year have been wins in the Roberta Nutt and State U15 championships, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the State Schools Championship, and a top 16 finish in the U15 Nationals.



Kelvin also helps out with refereeing U13 events, and has been a great help to Vivienne helping out with the 10am class on Saturdays and the Challenge Round. We look forward to reporting more of Kelvin's successes in 2014!

## SWORDS CLUB COMPETITIONS RESULTS

TSC was a hive of activity this week as The Swords Club hosted 3 foil competitions for its members. Our men and women fencers competed on Tuesday and Thursday respectively for the Jubilee Cup. (The 1st Jubilee Cup competition was in 1963 to mark the 50th Anniversary of TSC –the Golden Jubilee.) The Men are still to fence their DE. But the winner for the women's foil was decided late Tuesday night, with Vivienne refereeing the final bout (now that was worth waiting around for). The tightly fought bout, between Claire Graham-White and Jackie Budniak, was finally resolved with priority and 20 seconds to go with Claire declared the winner.

On Saturday afternoon it was time for our young fencers to compete for the McEvoy Cup. There were so many pistes in action that some of our coaches moved outdoors to train their students. After some tightly fought battles Emmanuel Lapitan won the Boy's McEvoy Cup with Joseph Mayer coming 2nd and Grace Gallur was our winning girl with Morgan Kelly 2nd.

Special thanks to Edwin Lapitan for stepping up and being an awesome DT, and a big thank you to all the referees.

### Jubilee Cup Women's Foil 2013

1 Claire Graham-White  
2 Jackie Budniak  
=3 Fiona Budniak  
=3 Grace Gallur  
Suzanne Newton  
Isabelle D'Armour  
Anna Krolikowska

### McEvoy Cup Girl's Foil 2013

1<sup>st</sup> Grace Gallur  
2<sup>nd</sup> Morgan Kelly  
3<sup>rd</sup> Isabella Newton  
4<sup>th</sup> Lily Mortensen

### McEvoy Cup Boy's Foil 2013

1<sup>st</sup> Emmanuel Lapitan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Mayer  
3<sup>rd</sup> Lachlan Finch  
3<sup>rd</sup> = Kenzo Jeanson

**DON'T MISS THE  
FOLLOWING  
EVENTS AT THE  
SWORDS CLUB  
IN DECEMBER!**

### **NILS SAKSEN**

Saturday 14  
December  
Mixed Handicap  
Foil  
Entry \$20  
Sausage Sizzle,  
drinks and cakes  
available for sale!

### **CLUB AGM AND CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Tuesday 17  
December  
7pm onwards



**FOLLOW THE SWORDS CLUB  
ON FACEBOOK –  
FOR NEWS, PHOTOS  
AND EVENTS**



McEvoy Cup Boy's Foil 2013 competitors



McEvoy Cup Girl's Foil 2013 winners



www.theswordsclub.org

## SECOND HAND CLOTHING POOL UP AND RUNNING!

We are delighted to announce that a second hand pool for fencing clothes and gear has been set up at the Club. You can pass on your used items for donation to the Club, or for sale to other members.

The pool will be available to members on a Saturday morning, where you can both donate and purchase, thanks to Cathryn Kelly. Please also feel free to email Cathryn if you would like to add them to the list of available items at [ckelly@eande.com.au](mailto:ckelly@eande.com.au)

**The NSWFA held the Super 8 Competition on November 10<sup>th</sup> where the top 8 fencers from each weapon category were invited to compete. TSC members gained 4 of the 16 spots available in the foil divisions – congratulations to Fiona and Jackie Budniak, Claire Graham-White and Emmanuel Lapitan.**

*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)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

22<sup>nd</sup> November Pre Championship Camp: U9, U11, U13  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 Friendship Cup: U9, U11, U13 Teams  
24<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Koala Mini Challenge: U9, U11, U13

## RESULTS – CONGRATULATIONS!

State Championships Open Women's Foil	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jackie Budniak
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Claire Graham-White
2013 Open Clubs Women's Foil Team Championships		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	TSC 'A' team
		Jackie Budniak
		Claire Graham-White
		Fiona Budniak
U13 Boys Gilt Foil	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joseph Meyer
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Mohamed Abou Ghaida
U13 Girls Gilt Foil	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Sinead Kelly
U11 Boys Gilt Foil	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jonah Newton
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ken Kawaura
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Kieran Zucconi
U11 Girls Gilt Foil	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Hanna Lake
Novice Men's Epee State Championships	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Michael Siebel
NSW Open's Super 8 Foil	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jackie Budniak
Veteran Men's Foil State Championships	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Adrian Finch
	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Vince Newton
Veteran Women's Foil State Championship	1 <sup>st</sup>	Suzanne Newton
Veteran Men's Epee State Championships	3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Adrian Finch

NSW State Championships Open Women's Foil medalists, including Jackie Budniak (second from left) and Claire Graham-White (far right)

