



FENCING IRELAND RELAUNCHES NEWSLETTER

PLAN FOR THREE ISSUES A YEAR

Welcome to issue number 1 of the relaunched Fencing Ireland newsletter!

We are planning on bringing you this publication three times a year: once at the start of the season, once mid season, and once at the end of the season. This first issue is our 2025/26 mid season issue.

In this issue and over the coming seasons, we are excited to bring you a range of important and exciting content, including Fencing Ireland news and updates, competition results and photos, and much more.

Our newsletter will be emailed directly to each of our members and will be available in the news section of the Fencing Ireland website.

01

- New Fencing Ireland newsletter

02

- Club Championships 2025/26
- Fencing Ireland rules

03

- Youth committee - Get involved
- Stay up to date with Fencing Ireland

04

- Coupe d'Europe 2025
- Ophardt membership system
- New Fencing Ireland shop

05

- Fencing After Breast Cancer

06-07

- Photos

08

- Results

09

- Upcoming events



Dawid Kulka of Brian Boru (L) faces Trinity's Liam Zone in the final of the Men's Épée event at the 2025/26 Club Championships.

THREE CLUBS CROWNED CHAMPIONS AT 2025/26 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The six titles on offer at the 2025/26 Fencing Ireland Club Championships in Stepaside, Dublin, were shared between three clubs with Trinity College (Dublin University Fencing Club) taking home three titles, UCD Fencing Club winning two, and Ambush Fencing winning one.

UCD dominated the sabre events by winning both and making significant improvements on their women's silver and men's bronze in the sabre competitions last season, upgrading them both to gold.

Trinity's command of the foil competitions continued with their third successive year winning both the men's and women's titles! In the end they won both their finals by comfortable margins with UCD the runners up in both,

The épée events proved the deepest and hardest fought competitions. One of Ireland's newer clubs, Ambush's women retained their title from last season in a tight final. In the men's event they had to settle for bronze in their title defence while Brian Boru faced Trinity in the final. It was the students who took the win in the last competition of the weekend.

Having won both the 2023/24 épée titles, Brian Boru's épéeists may well consider themselves hard done by as, for the second year in a row, they went home with silver medals in both the men's and women's épée events. The results are a credit to the club's strength and consistency in épée but the championship titles remained just out of reach.

FENCING IRELAND RELEASES RULEBOOKS

Fencing Ireland is pleased to announce the creation of a bespoke set of rules for fencing in Ireland. Historically, we have broadly applied the international rulebooks. Adaptations were often necessary to those rules, however, as they are written for international events rather than national or local competitions. These adaptations have previously been organised in a casual manner with no clear guidelines for when competitions could depart from international norms and when they should stick with the rules as written.

Our new rulebooks will remove that ambiguity and provide clear rules and standards to follow in Irish competitions.

The rules can be found on our website: www.fencingireland.net/rules



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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Fencing Ireland Youth Committee is expanding, and we are looking for a few new members to join us. Our goal is to support and grow the next generation of fencers in Ireland. To do this, we are seeking enthusiastic people who:

- Are passionate about youth development and the future of fencing in Ireland
- Have ideas they can bring to the Youth Committee
- Can commit some time and energy to collaborative projects
- Want to help create more opportunities and a stronger pathway for young fencers

If you are interested in getting involved, please send a short email to youth@fencingireland.net outlining:

- Your connection to fencing (e.g., parent, coach, fencer, volunteer)
- Why you would like to join the Youth Committee
- Any ideas or experience you feel could support youth development

We will review all expressions of interest and will be in touch shortly to discuss how we can work together. We look forward to opening this new chapter in Youth Development and to welcoming new members to the team.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH FENCING IRELAND NEWS

There are many ways to stay up to date with news from Fencing Ireland. As well as this newsletter, you can get information from a range of other sources, including:

- the **news section** on the home page of www.fencingireland.net
- Our **WhatsApp channel** - use the QR code below to join and get Fencing Ireland news directly to your phone!
- Our **Instagram** page: www.instagram.com/fencingireland
- Our **Facebook** page: www.facebook.com/FencingIreland



Fiadhnaid McDonough (Rebel Fencing, L) against Laoise Gillic (University of Galway, R) in the Irish Open Women's Foil event.



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Trinity's team box celebrates watching during the women's foil competition at the Coupe d'Europe in Heidenheim

IRELAND REPRESENTED AT EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS IN GERMANY

Having won their events at the 2024/25 Fencing Ireland Club Championships, three teams representing two Irish clubs traveled to Heidenheim Germany recently to compete in the Coupe d'Europe - the European Fencing Club Championships.

The stand out result was from the Ambush Women's Épée team who took a 44-43 win over Sweden's Kalmar FK to make the cut into the Direct Elimination rounds where they finished in the quarter finals against a strong Hungarian team, MTK.

The other Irish club represented was Dublin University (Trinity College) who flew the flag in both the men's and women's foil competitions. Despite getting no wins, the competition was not a loss as strong performances from the fencers allowed for a valuable experience to build upon.

FENCING IRELAND SWITCHES TO OPHARDT FOR MEMBERSHIP AND COMPETITION SYSTEMS

This season Fencing Ireland has swapped our membership management system to the fencing specific system, Ophardt.

Members can now purchase licences, enter competitions, and see their rankings all in the one place.

The system can be accessed on fencing.ophardt.online. For guides and support on the new system, please see www.fencingireland.net/membership.

NEW FENCING IRELAND MERCHANDISE SHOP

Fencing Ireland are delighted to announce our new apparel store with Irish sports manufacturer McKeevers Sports!

The shop can be found on www.mckeeversports.ie/collections/fencing-ireland.

Get yourself kitted out in the finest Fencing Ireland branded t-shirts, tops, coats, and more now!



The Fencing Ireland team takes part in a breast cancer fencing rehab session and local sightseeing in Italy

FENCING AFTER BREAST CANCER: BUILDING A NEW PATHWAY FOR RECOVERY

Fencing Ireland is working closely with the French Fencing Federation (FFE) and the Italian Fencing Federation (FIS) on an innovative rehabilitation programme for people recovering from breast cancer.

Fencing After Breast Cancer (FAB) is a rehabilitation initiative which adapts fencing techniques to support recovery following breast cancer surgery and treatment. Building on proven European initiatives such as "Solution Riposte" in France and the "Pink Ribbon Initiative" in Italy, Fencing Ireland is now designing a national programme tailored for the Irish context.

The programme will offer participants a non-clinical, community-based pathway to regain upper-body function, reduce tiredness, and rebuild confidence and self-esteem. Alongside the delivery of sessions, we are working with a sport scientist to evaluate participant outcomes, ensuring the programme is both safe and effective.

Six Irish coaches have answered the call to spearhead this pilot initiative. As part of their training, they will shadow established programmes in France and

Italy, observing adaptive fencing methods, before co-designing the Irish model. The coaching group brings a wide range of expertise, including physiotherapists and health professionals, placing Fencing Ireland in a unique position to make a meaningful contribution to community well being.

The first of these shadowing visits took place in January, with our coaching team traveling to Italy. The visit was a great success. Our Italian partners were exceptionally welcoming and engaged, reflecting just how close to the heart this project is for everyone involved. Coaches had the opportunity to observe sessions, speak directly with participants, and witness first-hand the positive impact the programme has on physical recovery, confidence, and connection.

A corresponding visit to France is planned for later in the spring. In the meantime, work continues developing the Irish programme, refining delivery methods, and preparing for pilot implementation.

This project is funded through an Erasmus+ grant awarded in 2025 and represents an important step in expanding the role of fencing as a tool for health, rehabilitation, and lifelong participation.



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IRISH OPEN FIE ÉPÉE SATELLITES 2025



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IRISH OPEN FOIL & SABRE 2025



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IRISH OPEN

WOMEN'S ÉPÉE - FIE SATELLITE

1. Aube Vandingenen (BEL)
2. Lena Chevaux (AUT)
3. Anna Vergnes (LTU)
3. Beatrice Cagnin (ITA)

MEN'S ÉPÉE - FIE SATELLITE

1. Tristan Tulen (NED)
2. Alvaro Fernandez Calleja (ESP)
3. Jorge Valderrama (CHI)
3. Yordan Galabov (BUL)

WOMEN'S SABRE

1. Bethany Brierley (Premier Sabre Academy)
2. Kirsten Dowd (UCD)
3. Olivia Ingrid Ben Lundgreen (Trekanten København)
3. Manon Nouvian-Flynn (DUFC)

MEN'S SABRE

1. Andrea Guida (DUFC)
2. Brian Crowley (Ambush Fencing)
3. Michalis Kirimlidis (Salle Dublin)
3. Maximilian Dostal (Cobra Fencing Club)

WOMEN'S FOIL

1. Margherita Gagliardi (DUFC)
2. Fáinne Howard (TSG Weinheim)
3. Erika Sanvito (DUFC)
3. Fiadhnaít McDonough (Rebel)

MEN'S FOIL

1. Kyle Welch (Moe FC)
2. Saverio Schiavone (DUFC)
3. William Mac Donald Hughes (DUFC)
3. Jonathan Connery (QUB)

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

1. Ambush Fencing Club
2. Brian Boru Fencing Club
3. Dublin University Fencing Club

MEN'S ÉPÉE

1. Dublin University Fencing Club
2. Brian Boru Fencing Club
3. Ambush Fencing Club

WOMEN'S SABRE

1. UCD Fencing Club
2. University of Galway Fencing Club
3. Dublin University Fencing Club

MEN'S SABRE

1. UCD Fencing Club
2. Dublin University Fencing Club

WOMEN'S FOIL

1. Dublin University Fencing Club
2. UCD Fencing Club
3. DCU Fencing Club

MEN'S FOIL

1. Dublin University Fencing Club
2. UCD Fencing Club
3. Dublin University Fencing Club



JANUARY

11, Pentathlon Centre	Épée Youth Series 2
17-18, Trinity College	Duffy Memorial Team Épée
18, Loreto Dalkey	Exaclibur Cup (Youth competition)
24/25, Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Open

FEBRUARY

14, Trinity College	Trinity Team Foil
15, Trinity College	Trinity Cup
21/22, University of Galway	West of Ireland Open
22, Pentathlon Centre	Épée Youth Series 3

MARCH

14/15, UCD	East of Ireland Open
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APRIL

11/12, University of Galway	Intervarsities
12, Pentathlon Centre	Épée Youth Series 4
18/19, TUD Blanchardstown	Senior National Championships
25/26 (TBC)	Irish Youth Open

MAY

24, Pentathlon Centre	Épée Youth Series Grand Final
30, UCD	Veteran Irish Open (EVF Circuit event)

