

NSW HC REPORT—JULY 2010

NSW FENCING KEEPS GOING FURTHER.

Just recently a numerous contingent of NSW fencers (or trained in the State) has participated to the senior Asian Championships in Korea representing Australia. A huge step forward considering the level of the event, second only to the senior World Championships, and the age of most of the athletes, some still cadets! Fencers (not one or two but a whole team!) are now choosing to face the real world with no fear, confident that only by trying can they achieve the right experience at that level. Their courage surely will be rewarded with a fundamental feedback useful for their future career. Plus, their experience will be passed to the others who are training with them at home. Stephen Darragh, NSW Head Referee, was also representing Australia and did an excellent job presiding some finals too.

While some of our fencers were busy in Seoul, NSW cadets and u15s competed at Nationals in Sydney, showing once again how our State is not second to anybody in the country. Our neighbours are improving and countries like New Zealand and Singapore (good to have them here) have chosen a centralized system with a professional Head Coach leading them. But NSW, in its own way, is keeping the pace.

NSW teams have beaten the other States in all foil events but u15s men, practically dominating the main weapon fenced in Australia. Despite the loss of some of the State's best fencers (moved to the older age categories); the whole group of foilists has proved they have reached a general consistent improvement in their performance. State and club Coaches must be very proud of their young ones, and NSWFA thank them for the magnificent work.

Sabre has performed well, winning medals in all events, especially considering the very young age of some fencers. Mostly 15s and one 13! In this weapon the future has already started!

Epee is at the beginning of a new cycle, therefore all results must be read under this light. In the meanwhile a special guest gave NSW some welcomed victories in Men's epee events. And among the guys some athletes have been very much appreciated for their fencing, showing how the future isn't that far.

One note for the referees. The level is going up. Still some mistakes, but a young generation is doing a great job well guided by AFF head referees. This will help the development of fencing and vice versa. Every element needs the others.

In August some coaches will be assessed to become Level 2, continuing what started with Level 1. Coaches are coming from all over the State, showing the clear intention from the clubs based out of Sydney to belong and participate in NSW fencing's future activity.

From now on one of the main objectives of the State will be, while reinforcing the existing system and improving the overall fencing level, to assist and develop those areas far away from the centre in Sydney to build a true NSW Fencing Association. We can all get stronger by staying together (and fighting on the strip).

NSWFA will call for clubs and coaches expressions of interest in running Regional camps, competitions and squads. Then, when everything will be ready to go, the State coaches will periodically run all different clinics to support the Regional clubs in their growth, both in Sydney and at their own towns. More, NSWFA if possible will help these clubs also with equipment, referee and armourer courses often to be held in the same weekend of a competition to make it more worthwhile for them coming to Sydney.

Soon AFF 3 will take place in Perth and the Commonwealth Championships followed by Junior Nationals, will be held in Melbourne. Good luck to all participants!

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