

La Riposte

**A Newsletter of The Swords Club
No 10 March 2012**



WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR — AND A NEW WEBSITE!

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2012. We all look forward to a very successful year of fencing for all members. We are also delighted to announce the launch of our new website at www.theswordsclub.org. Please take a look and let us know what you think! Many thanks to Jackie Budniak and Ivey Caburian for all their hard work to make the website operational. And check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/theswordsclub too and 'like' us!

Following the AGM held at the end of last year, there have been some changes to the committee. We welcome Vince Newton as President, Jackie Budniak as Vice-President, and Michael Seibel as a general committee member. We would also like to acknowledge Nigel Cotman, who stood down as President after many years of dedicated service to the Club. Thank you Nigel, for all your efforts.

NILS SAKSEN COMPETITION 2011

2011 marked the 60th Anniversary of the Nils Saksen Competition, a mixed handicap foil challenge.

The 60th Anniversary saw 45 male and female fencers compete with each other over the course of a day on December 10. The competition started at 9am with 6 pistes in operation, and ended with the final bout at 6pm with Hayden Raybone declared the winner.

The competition was described by a young fencer in 1957, as *the best competition of the year*, and for many it remains so. Hayden now stands in prestigious company with past champions including Ivan Lund, Hil Van Dijk, Brian McCowage, David McKenzie, Peter Witkop, John Feathers and Frank Bartolillo.

The Nils Saksen has been held every year at The Swords Club since 1951. Nils Saksen took up fencing at fifteen, under the instruction of Frank Stuart, the founder of The Swords Club. He went on to concentrate on period dueling, and made films with Owen Weingott and Jock Gibson. In addition to his love for period dueling he was a keen sailor. One night he collected a newly purchased old navy whaler from Cronulla, and set off to Botany Bay where he intended to repair it. He set out alone, ran into a storm, and was lost.



The winners of the 2011 Nils Saksen Competition

Frank Stuart was greatly affected by the tragedy, and gave his full support to holding a mixed handicap foil in memory of Nils.

The first Nils Saksen Competition was held in 1951 with an entry of 72. In 1955, an entry of 122 fencers necessitated the holding of the competition over two days. In modern times the competition is run for members only of The Swords Club due to the logistics of running the competition as a day only event.



2013—THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWORDS CLUB

Next year will be the 100th Anniversary of The Swords Club, making it the oldest continuously operating Fencing Club in Australia. And even more amazingly, the Club has had just three head coaches in the 99 years of operation! We are putting a committee together to plan events to celebrate the centenary, and would like to hear from anyone interested in being part of that committee.

MEMBERSHIPS DUE—2012

A reminder that membership fees are now due for 2012. A copy of the membership form has been emailed with this newsletter, and is available from our website www.theswordsclub.org

Memberships are due by the end of March to ensure that members are covered by the State insurance policy, so please ensure you pay as soon as possible.

HOUSE-KEEPING

Please remember that when you are fencing at The Swords Club, your legs need to be covered. No shorts! Wear either long tracksuit pants, or breeches and long socks.

And please no ball games on the basketball courts outside the hall while lessons are on.

CHALLENGE ROUND WINNERS 2010

Congratulations to the winners for 2010. The Junior Trophy was awarded to Emmanuel Lapitan, Top Banana (i.e. No. 1) for a total of 17 weeks, and the Senior Trophy to Claire Graham-White, Top Banana for 15 weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 March	Roberta Nutt U15 Foil/Epee	Boys 0800 Girls 0800
4 March	Roberta Nutt U11 Foil	Boys 0845 Girls 0845
	Roberta Nutt U11 Epee	Boys 0915 Girls 0915
	Roberta Nutt U13 Foil	Boys 1300 Girls 1300
	Roberta Nutt U13 Epee	Boys 0915 Girls 0915
10 March	NSW Epee Camp, U11—Junior	0800—1200
24 March	Novice Epee	Men 0800 Women 0800
21—22 April	Autumn Camp	0800—1200
29 April	City of Sydney Open Foil	Men 0845 Women 0900
	Tony Dominguez Open Epee	Men 1145 Women 1145
	Veteran Epee	Men 1400 Women 1400
	Veteran Foil	Men 1230 Women 1230

All competitions and camps at Marrickville. Please check the NSWFA website for final details. And good luck to all our younger fencers who will be competing in schools events over the next couple of months.

JUBILEE CUP



The Swords Club

Jubilee Cup 2012

Men's Foil

Tuesday 13th & 20th March

Women's Foil

Thursday 15th & 22nd March

Roll Call: 7pm

Entry: \$15