

## Letters to the Editor

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## President's Report

### 2007 ... A GREAT YEAR FOR FENCING VICTORIA!

2006 was an unusual year for fencing in Victoria for a number of reasons. The Commonwealth Games in Melbourne resulted in a significantly modified season; furthermore, the Commonwealth Fencing Championships was a prime focus for many Victorian athletes. These events disrupted the natural flow of what nevertheless turned out to be another highly successful year for Fencing Victoria both on and off the piste. I have already covered many of the highlights of 2006 in previous issues of AtB and the President's Reports at the various VAFA Council Meetings. However, a number of events bear comment.

Victoria made up the bulk of the Australian Team that competed in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Belfast in September: **Marcus Best** and **Chris Jones** (Men's Foil), **Elli Wellings** (Women's Foil), **Ross Austen**, **Martin Camilleri**, **Will Dolley** and **Nick Heffernan** (men's epee), **Genevieve Hartley**, **Catherine Mackay**, **Amber Parkinson** and **Elli Wellings** (Women's Epee), **Peter Osvath** (team manager), **Andrew Ius** (assistant manager), **Vlad Sher** (coach), **David Mok** (referee). Congratulations to Amber Parkinson for her silver medal, Catherine Mackay for her bronze, and Nick Heffernan for his 7th place – all in the epee, in what was an otherwise disappointing performance by the Australian Team, after their 'high' in Newcastle four years earlier.



The entire contingent for the 2006 World Championships in Torino hailed from Victoria: **Amber Parkinson** and **Evelyn Halls** (women's epee), **Ross Austen** (men's epee), **Peter Osvath** (team manager), **Vlad Sher** (coach). Furthermore, we had two officials appointed by the International Fencing Federation (FIE): **Helen Smith** (DT member ) and **David Mok** (FIE referee).

Evelyn Halls' top 32 result in the world championships individual epee was nothing short of spectacular, considering her absence from competitive fencing for most of the year, and the birth of baby Gabriella only a few weeks beforehand. Perhaps we could devise a whole new strategy to achieve similar results...

The highlight of the year was without doubt the announcement by the Premier, the Hon Steve Bracks that fencing would be getting a dedicated venue, purpose-built for fencing, valued at around \$2M. This will be part of the redevelopment of a number of AFL grounds around Melbourne. Victorian Fencing was the only sport other than football to get a mention in his announcement! If all goes according to plan, by the end of 2008 we will be housed in a building that will enable us to grow our sport in a truly professional manner. Much as I love the "Fencing Factory", the thought that there will be no need for buckets on the strips whenever it rains is a very welcome one! But I warn you, the work is not over – it has only just begun. And we are required to make a contribution of the same magnitude as we previously undertook – which means either we will be raising money or servicing our debt – either way, however, for the same annual outgoings, we will be in world class premises. So be forewarned that your cheque books aren't safe!! I have to say that there is an air of purpose and excitement in the air, and we are looking forward to getting heavily involved with the planning of our new venue in 2007.

The other very significant event of 2006 was that our Constitutional amendments and name change become a reality. **Vale Victorian Amateur Fencing Association (VAFA)**

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and welcome, **Fencing Victoria (FV)**. If you look around, you can see that the world has not fallen apart, and there has been no grab for control. All that has happened is that we have a more understandable and workable management structure, the dividends of which will begin to appear in 2007 with a better delivery of services to our stakeholders. The new name reflects the more modern image of our sport, and in the next few weeks we will be in a position to unveil the logo that reflects the modern and dynamic nature of Fencing Victoria.

The first steps in modernising our organisation have been taken. You will have noticed a steady stream of emails from Adam Reynolds, the mastermind behind our new website. Recently I became the experimental 'guinea pig' as I keyed my affiliation details and credit card numbers into our se-

cure site, as the first person to sign up online. It's the beginning of a much more streamlined delivery service, designed to simplify the administrative side of your fencing experience, so you can focus on getting onto the piste! The next steps will be online competition entries, and a website that informs and entertains you, keeping you up to date with everything happening in your fencing world and beyond.

There's a lot on our plate, from beginner fencing classes for small children through to the World Veteran Fencing Championships in Sydney in September, and everything in between. I'm looking forward to sharing an exciting and challenging year's fencing with you all. Good luck and enjoy!

**Peter Osvath**

**FV President**

## ***Fencing Victoria Launches Its New Website***

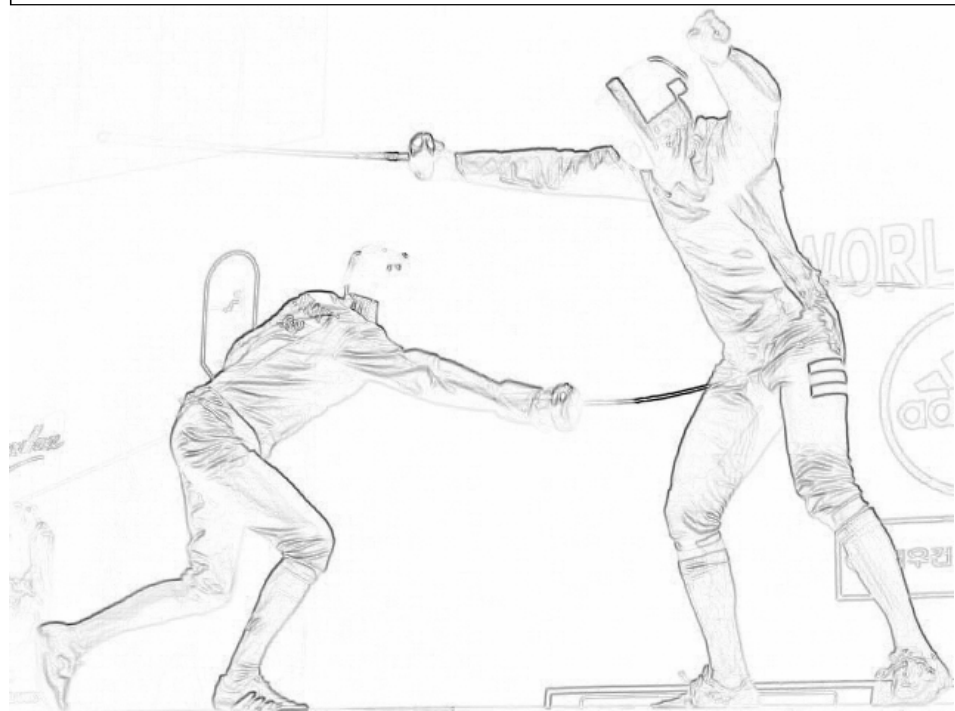
[www.fencingvictoria.org](http://www.fencingvictoria.org)

Late in 2006, Fencing Victoria commissioned SportingPulse to assist in developing a new website, with the main objective being the ability to maintain member information and process member financial transactions. This website went live in January, and since then has had more than 6,000 "hits". Currently, we receive an average of almost 200 hits per day, with this increasing as we populate the site with more information for fencers (and potential fencers), coaches, clubs, and administrators. The website includes information about the Club Star Program, fencing events for the year, interstate fencing, camps, and social events.

In early March, we implemented the online affiliations function on the website, allowing members to affiliate and pay affiliation fees quickly and easily – no more paperwork, cheques, forms – the process is secure and ensures that member details are correct and up-to-date.

In the coming months, we will start putting up competition results as they start rolling in, and we will add the ability for fencers to enter local and national competitions, and to enrol for camps, coaching courses, and the like.

The new website is a joint initiative of Fencing Victoria and the State Government's Department of Victoria Communities (Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs).



### **Upcoming events**

- 21–23 April**    **AFF Circuit #1 - Adelaide**  
(entries close 30 Mar)
- 29 April**      **Fencing Victoria Dinner and**  
**Presentation Night**
- 5-6 May**        **Asia Pacific Challenge (details**  
**to be posted on the FV website)**

### ***The closing date for submissions for the May edition of AtB is 1 May 2007.***

Please forward requests for anything you'd like to see included. What a great way to advertise your club, your next social function, anything. Even better, send us an article! Tell us all about your club, your fencing experiences. This is **your** newsletter, so help us make it bigger, brighter and more topical. I urge you all to contribute...



#### **Trivia Snippet:**

*Monday 26th March 2007 marks  
500 days to the Opening Ceremony  
of the Beijing Olympic Games*

# AFF results

<b>Australian Open Championships Oceanic and Australian Veteran Championships 2-6 December 2006</b>					
<b>Men's Foil</b>					
1. BARTOLILLO, Frank	NSW				
2. HEMERY, Charles	VIC				
3. MILLAR, Jake	WA				
3. WILLIAMS, Dean	VIC				
5. PAYNE, Nick	VIC				
6. HOSKINS, Michael	NZL				
7. MOK, David	VIC				
8. NUTT, Nigel	ACT				
9. COTMAN, Hugh	NSW				
10. JAMROZY, Marek	WA				
11. SLOWIACZEK, Jozef	NSW				
12. GOURLAY, Craig	VIC				
13. HARCOURT, Michael	QLD				
14. PLESS, Stephan	QLD				
15. WATT, Landon	NZL				
16. SPACCATORE, David	VIC				
17. TALBOT-WRIGHT, Ben	NSW				
18. ETO, Shaun	QLD				
19. PURDIE, Richard	NSW				
20. DOOLEY, Stephen	NSW				
21. EDWARDS, Luke	SA				
22. CROOK, Paul	QLD				
23. BOUCHIER-HAYES, Paul	IRL				
24. VILAGOSH, Zoltan	VIC				
25. YUE, Ashley	NSW				
26. GILLOOLY, Nick	WA				
26. HYDE-PAGE, Edward	QLD				
28. CARTILLIER, Luc	QLD				
29. FAULKNER, Ehren	NSW				
30. YENG, Feng	NSW				
31. HILL, James	QLD				
32. FOX, Mitchell	NSW				
33. HROVAT, Volker	NSW				
34. HART, Jeremy	QLD				
35. BARTLETT, Craig	VIC				
36. HOELLER, Michael	SA				
37. DAVIES, Nicholas	NSW				
38. NEWTON, Jackson	QLD				
39. BENVENISTE, Tim	SA				
40. McFADYEN, David	QLD				
41. HOELLERER, Markus	AUT				
42. DAVISON, Nick	QLD				
43. ANDREW-KABILAFKAS, M.	NSW				
44. NELSON, Michael	QLD				
45. LOEWE, Brian	QLD				
46. REYNOLDS, Adam	VIC				
47. SARMIENTO, Ramon	QLD				
48. KALNINS, Chris	SA				
49. ENEVER, Rod	QLD				
50. GALLOWAY, Duncan	QLD				
50. SKEAT, Robert	QLD				
52. REID, Shannon	VIC				
53. DOMINGUEZ, Tony	NSW				
53. SIKALAS, Frank	QLD				
			<b>Men's Foil Teams</b>		
			1. NEW SOUTH WALES 'A'		
			2. VICTORIA 'A'		
			3= NEW SOUTH WALES 'B'		
			3= WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
			5. QUEENSLAND 'A'		
			6. SOUTH AUSTRALIA		
			7. VICTORIA 'B'		
			8. QUEENSLAND 'B'		
			<b>Men's Epee</b>		
			1. DOLLEY, William		
			2. ROBINSON, Seamus		
			3= CARTILLIER, Luc		
			3= HEFFERNAN, Nick		
			5. CASAGRANDE, Zac		
			6. LANGSFORD, Steven		
			7. NUTT, Nigel		
			8. SLOWIACZEK, Jozef		
			9. LEWITH, Richard		
			10. SUTHERLAND, Alistair		
			11. GRANT, Mark		
			12. JAMROZY, Marek		
			13. CAHAN, Rock		
			14. WILLIAMS, Dean		
			15. AUSTEN, Ross		
			16. MOK, David		
			17. LEWITH Victor		
			18. DAVISON, Nick		
			19. MADDERN, Will		
			20. MUSUMECI, Paul		
			21. SUMMERFIELD, Simon		
			22. YETER, Haluk		
			23. SALEMI, Joseph		
			24. CHAMPLIN, Matthew		
			25. BECKWORTH, Rowan		
			26. SHELLEY, Jeremy		
			27. BOUCHIER-HAYES, Paul		
			28. FARRELL, David		
			29. GAUDRY, Francois		
			30. OSVATH, Peter		
			31. SPACCATORE, David		
			32. DETERING, Glen		
			33. DOWNES, John		
			34. MILLAR, Jake		
			35. PURDIE, Richard		
			36. KEENE, Mitchell		
			37. PRESTON, Matthew		
			38. EDWARDS, Luke		
			39. LOEWE, Brian		
			40. MARSHALL, Stuart		
			41. NELSON, Michael		
			42. EMMANUEL, Bobby		
			43. SKEAT, Robert		
			44. CROOK, Paul		
			45. KOPIEC, Rene		
			46. NEWTON, Jackson		
			47. PAY, Shayne		
			48. BATT, Chris		
			49. McENIERY, Peter		
			50. HROVAT, Volker		
			51. ELLIOTT, Ted		
			52. HYDE-PAGE, Edward		

## (Continued from page 3)

1. CAMPBELL, Norman	
(40-49 Winner)	QLD
2. VILAGOSH, Zoltan	
(50+ Winner)	VIC
3= HILL, James	QLD
3= INGLIS, Tim	WA
5 PAY, Shayne	SA



## Our National Champions

**William Dolley**, 22 of VRI Fencing Club, became the joint youngest men's Australian épée champion at the 2006 Australian National Championships in Brisbane. The only other fencer who has secured the title at the age of 22 is Olympian Seamus Robinson. It just so happened Dolley won the title in a head to head battle against Robinson. He picked up another gold medal when the Victorian Team won the teams competition. He has been a member of the Victorian team since 2003, and at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Belfast in 2006, he was selected by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation to receive a gold medal for sportsmanship, where he was placed 12<sup>th</sup>. Dolley is studying Psychology at university, and one day aspires to become a sports psychologist. He is now setting his sights on Beijing, and is looking forward to the Olympic qualifications starting in 2007.

**Amber Parkinson**, one of Australia's top epee fencers, won the 2006 National epee title following a hard-fought bout against dual Olympian Evelyn Halls. Parkinson capped off a successful year, in which she won the silver medal in both the individual and team epee the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Belfast in September. She then went on to compete at the World Fencing Championships in Turin. Parkinson works full-time as an editor for Harcourt Education, specialising in editing Italian and French. With her sights now set on qualifying for the Beijing Olympics, Parkinson says 'It's going to be a challenging but exciting 18 months ahead and I'm really looking forward to it.'



Winners are grinners: Amber and William

**Jo Halls** completed the rare and remarkable "Grand Slam" for 2006, winning every AFF National Competition of the year! The extent of her domination of women's foil this past year is even more impressive than simply four gold medals. Looking at the direct elimination tables from the four competitions makes interesting reading. She won her gold medal matches 15-5, 15-2, 15-3 and 15-1. Having represented Australia in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, she now has her sights firmly set on Beijing 2008. Her campaign begins in May 2007 with a gruelling seven week World Cup tour covering four continents.

## Victorian Fencers busy on the World Cup Circuit...

If there seems to be a lot of focus on events outside Victoria in this issue of AtB, I make no apologies. The 2007 fencing season in Australia has barely begun in earnest. With the rearrangement of the AFF program, that sees the Australian Junior and Schools Championships moved to the end of September, the flurry of activity that we are used to at the start of the year was replaced by an extra few weeks holiday for our fencers. Rest assured that the next issue of AtB will be filled with news and results from all our local competitions.

Over the summer while the rest of the Australian Fencing Community has been sweltering in the heat, a large number of Victorians have been travelling the world, competing in World Cup Events, both Junior and Open.

**Dean Williams** has been competing on the Junior World Cup foil circuit. In December, he finished a very creditable 22nd in a field of 112 in Germany, and at the end of January he finished 46th of 109 in a Junior World Cup competition in Italy. He has also competed in Junior World Cups in Hungary and Austria, and a Senior World Cup in Germany.

**Ross Austen** has competed in seven World Cup epee events since January, finishing 22nd (of 51) in Iran, and narrowly missing the top 64 in competitions in Qatar and Portugal.

**Seamus Robinson** competed in five World Cups in the same period, finishing 20th (of 51) in Iran and 57th (of 132) in Italy. This last result is especially significant because this competition has been designated as one of the qualifiers for the 2007 World Championships.

**Will Dolley** has also been attempting to qualify for the World Championships, competing in four world cups.

The women's epeeists have also been out in force, crossing swords with the world's best in numerous world cup events: **Genevieve Hartley** (4), **Catherine Mackay** (2) and **Amber Parkinson** (5) as well as getting valuable experience in team world cup events.

**Evelyn Halls** has been dragging baby Gabriella and husband Peter across the world, to share the experience of competing in three world cups. Evelyn finished 64th (of 157) in the Czech Republic and a most impressive 24th (of 136) in Italy. Both these world cup events have been designated as qualifiers for the 2007 World Championships, so in fact Evelyn has now qualified to compete in Saint Petersburg in late September. Congratulations!



## “Chris Jones’ Excellent Adventure....”

Well.... “Je ne sais quoi” as the saying goes. What can you say about the city of love, lights, fashion, food and fencing?!

Having returned from 3½ months of living in Paris following on from 1 week fencing in Belfast (Northern Ireland) with the Australian Commonwealth Team, Melbourne doesn’t seem as fast or as furious.

I spent every waking day in Paris soaking in the tradition and culture of a country very familiar to many people and still such a long way away from most of us. Paris was nearly everything I expected in the fencing sense – Elite athletes and incredibly experienced coaches, huge clubs, great friends, footwork classes before each session, intense bouts and competitions run well, but, well they are French – not everything is on time or logical....

My accommodation was in a dorm style apartment, a 20 min train ride just South West of central Paris. A large European park magnificent in Autumn colour, with a breakfast café, a full time Restaurant a short walk from the training venue with 20 strips available for our use. 3 national squads (women’s sabre, junior men’s and women’s foil) trained there every day as well as my Maître d’Armes companions. The Maître’s (masters) were the elite of their field – Epee, Sabre, Foil, and it was a pleasure to train and learn with / from them.

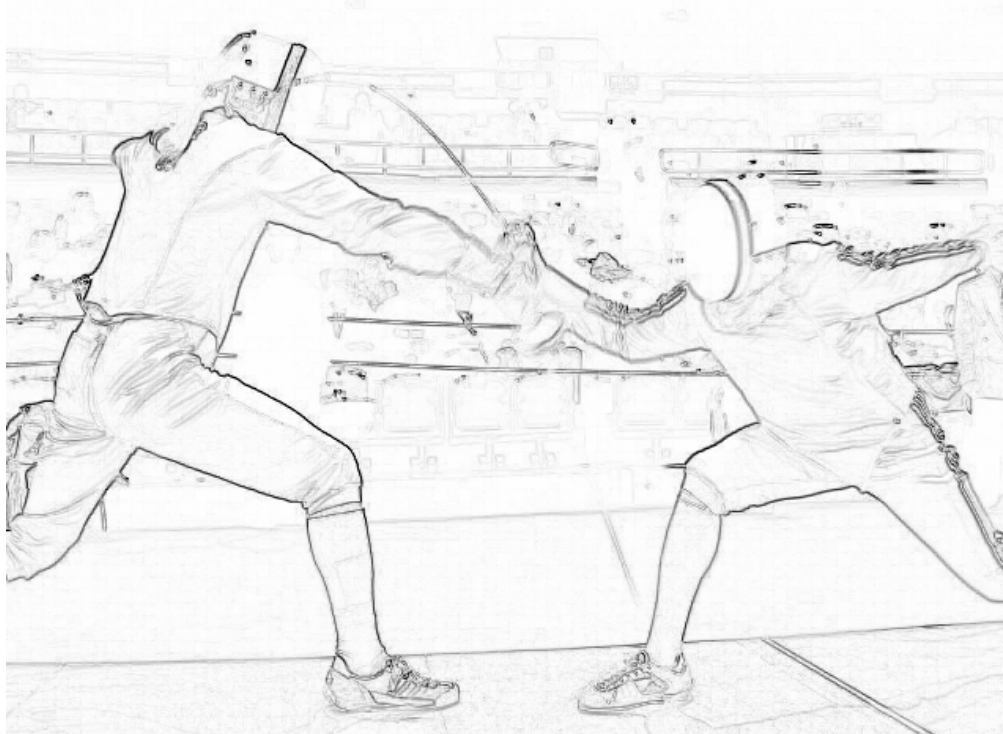
At 8 every morning we would make our 2min walk from “petit déjeuner” (breakfast) to training for 3x2 hr sessions of each class. I had secret pleasure in entertaining everyone with Australianisms – “g’day”, “no worries” etc and most were surprised in the first 2 weeks that I could actually fence, especially when I regularly beat them! Sabre and Foil bouts were great fun and even in practice you can’t tell a fellow master when they are wrong! Being the outsider was a bonus, I was often used to referee foil and sabre as an unbiased observer.

I learnt an incredible amount about balance, technique, distance, timing and the required repetition in each weapon. Even though Australia has 1/60<sup>th</sup> of the French fencers 60,000! We still have a place on the map, and with hard work we will still be formidable opponents on the continent. Epee is the weapon most likely to be a success and other “non-traditional” fencing countries are heading that way - Portugal, Switzerland, Reunion Island, to name a few.

If you want to be a success the only answer is practice, practice, practice. Most evenings were 15 hit matches with a ref (another fencer) who exchanged places with the loser and so on. Everyone in the clubs refereed its great practice for you and should be encouraged at your club. One of the biggest hurdles for us is good ref’s so encourage it. Another observation is space – Aussies have a lot of it! And that often translates onto the piste. In most Parisian clubs each piste is only 1m wide and sometimes 4 bouts are going within 4m with a master walking in between! Thus tighter hand technique and less windmill or helicopter actions are tolerated. Better technique equals less target – that can only be good. I am lucky that I am fast – even for an older guy within the sport (I was old over in Paris!) but fast feet comes also with practice and I cant recommend more highly doing footwork and making it fun – music is a great way (but be careful of the beat or rhythm).

I left France with an incredible experience and information which I hope I can pass on to future generations of Aussie Champions. Teaching at schools, universities and the odd club will hopefully be a great start. I recommend Paris as a fencing destination, if you would like any further information and a chat, please contact me.

**Chris Jones**





# Aussie Fencers in the UK...

*Lisa Lagergren (with notes from David Cook)*

*Editor's Note: David and Lisa are both stalwart Victorian fencers who, despite having lived in Scotland for a couple of years, still maintain strong links with Fencing Victoria...*

Finding our way around the UK competition circuit has been an interesting experience. They do things differently!

First, a quick primer on British Fencing. There is the BFA, as national governing body equivalent to the AFF. Then each of the home countries has their own governing body - Scottish Fencing in our case, which is sort of equivalent to Fencing Victoria.

National rankings are determined by points earned from competitions. The BFA calendar includes a large number of Open events, which along with FIE events contribute national ranking points. How many points you earn at a competition depends on the size and strength of the event as well as where you place.

Strength is determined by how many of the top-50 ranked fencers (Notional International Fencers, AKA "The Nifty Fifty") and international fencers are present - which leads to a certain amount of discussion as people try to determine who is coming and decide whether it is worth showing up.

Open events are run by independent committees.

So if you want a national competition in your home town all you have to do is put together a committee and get it included in the BFA calendar. From that point on market forces take over.

There are a \*lot\* of open competitions. In theory we could average a competition every two weeks - if we were wealthy and insane. How to choose between them?

Some competitions develop a reputation for being particularly well organised or good fun - the Highland Open is a relatively small Scottish competition (20 in Women's sabre, 40 in Men's Epee). The organisers take their job seriously, chasing up sponsorship so that they can provide good prizes, glossy pamphlets and signs, and mostly keep the day running on schedule even with 2 rounds of pools.

Some are simply well located and easy to get to, or are known for their excellent venue, others cultivate a "friendly" reputation. The biggest factor of all however is the NIF count. (The measure of how strong the competition is, and how many points you will win for your national ranking). Naturally this is self-perpetuating, a big score one year

means more people will show up next year, making for an even higher score.

At first this seems an ideal market-driven solution. All these independent events competing against each other, fencers free to choose the best competitions and avoid any that are badly run or overpriced. Sadly, there are a few problems.

The Leicester Open had a reputation for being badly organised, but because it had a high NIF many fencers still felt obliged to go lest they slip in the rankings. It is only after things fell completely apart at last years event that there seems any hope of a correction, and it remains to be seen whether the lure of the NIF will prove too much to ignore again this year.

Some parts of the year are more popular than others for holding competitions, making for a very uneven spread that makes little sense in terms of training cycle or preparing for other levels of competition. Smaller competitions not wanting to compete with the big ones must give way, so you

end up with clusters of very strong competitions all concentrated together in a short time span.

There is also the problem of popular events outgrowing their venues while smaller competitions struggle to survive. Most of the big competitions are now faced with the difficulty of having too many fencers for the venue, but not enough to afford a larger one (even if there are other options in the area). Experiments and suggestions so far include not allowing late entries,

limiting the number of entries in each event, raising entry fees, and moving toward more single-weapon competitions. Too many fencers. It's a hard life.

Aside from the Opens, the home nation governing bodies schedule closed events for their members. The actual organisation of these is also delegated out to committees. There is also a separate junior circuit, and at club level you get "48ers" (successive rounds of pools so you finish the day in a pool with people of equal skill level) and novelty events like the "Alternative Triathlon" in Edinburgh - points earned for every epee bout and chess match won, and for every beer consumed.

At the other end of the spectrum, a number of FIE satellites are held in the UK. Oddly, these are very poorly attended. UK open comps do not require FIE kit, and the locals are every bit as reluctant to pay for it as the average Aussie fencer. The standard is relatively high, as you'd expect, but the organisation didn't quite match our provincial ideas of what an FIE event would be like. The Cole Cup this year was pretty good though - all metal pistes, bags and specta-

(Continued on page 10)





## Trivia and Snippets From the Vault

This is the second of a series that appears (ir)regularly in AtB with articles of interest, as the name suggests, from the 'vault' - the veritable archives of fencing, both here in Australian and worldwide. If you are one of our "older" fencers, or even a younger fencer with access to interesting and colourful snippets from the past, send them to the Editor for inclusion...

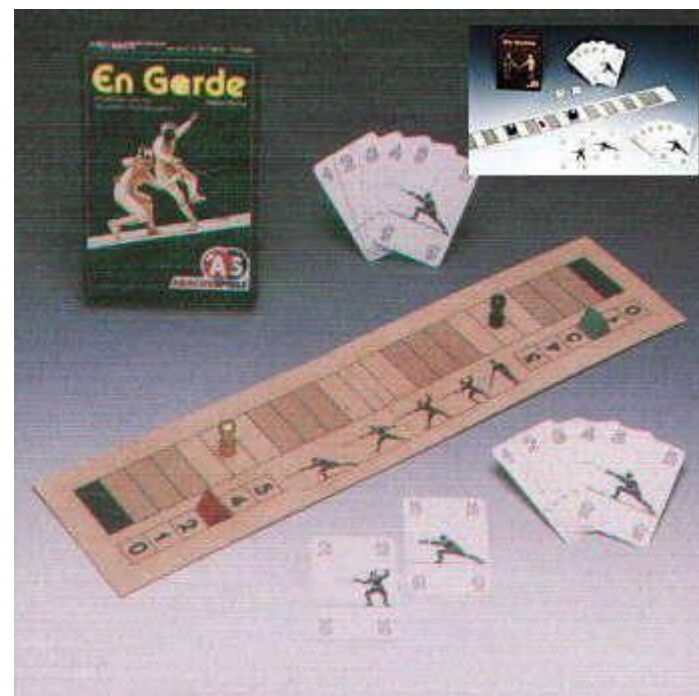
Anything deemed worthy of publication will earn one free entry to a Fencing Victoria Competition!

### *You don't get enough fencing at the club?*

Well, my first answer would be "why don't you come along to the Fencing Factory and take part in some of the exciting competitions that we hold there most weekends. But if you are a real fencing nerd, and already live and breathe the sport, I'll be there is one thing you haven't done yet!

In 1995, the World Fencing Championships were held in Essen, Germany. To put it in perspective, in Essen, Golubitsky could only manage a second place. Kolobkov was already World Epee Champion there. Interestingly enough, Kolobkov won again ten years later, when the World Championships were next held in Germany. Our own Marcus Best was there, but he was in his twenties. A teenager called Evelyn Halls was also fencing there, fencing foil... Enough of the history lesson.

A famous game designer (Reiner Knizia—prize winning creator of more than 300 board games; [www.knizia.de/english.htm](http://www.knizia.de/english.htm)) created a card game called "En Garde" to coincide with the opening of the World Championships. It's a weird and wonderful game for two. It is played using two metal dobbies which are placed at the two ends of the segmented board, 23 sections long, representing the piste. The aim is to score five hits on your opponent before he does the same to you. Each player is dealt five cards randomly numbered between 1 and 5 which are used to move up and down the piste. Cards are played one at a time to move and are replenished each turn as one jockeys for position, perhaps forcing the opponent to the end of the track or conserving 'good' cards to build up to an attack. An attack is performed by laying a card that would move you exactly onto your opponents space. You can then add cards to that to build up the strength of the attack. This either results in a parry (by playing the same number of cards to exactly match the total attack number) or a hit. If you successfully parry, it is possible to riposte (counterattack) by immediately laying a card that would move you onto the attacker's space. Once a hit is scored by either player, you return to the en garde line, and start again. You can find out more at [www.gamecabinet.com/sumo/Issue13/EnGarde.html](http://www.gamecabinet.com/sumo/Issue13/EnGarde.html). So if you are a real 'fencing tragic, this is the ideal game for you. Good luck trying to get hold of a copy!



### **Stop press**

Congratulations to Maestro Joeseph d'Onofrio and the members of Fioretto Fencing Club on their wonderful new Sala in Clayton. The new centre was officially opened on the 10th March by the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, the Honourable James Merlino MP. The next issue of Around The Bouts will have a detailed article and pictures showing the new home of this flourishing fencing club. We salute you!





# Two Years in Fencing

*Amy Reynolds, U13 Epee, VRI Fencing Club*

The crashing and the banging of swords and the endless bouts of fencing all become normal after almost two years of fencing. At the start, it feels awkward, hard, and very scary, with swords coming at you, and not having enough knowledge to fight back. But now, after starting just that time ago, it feels like the most natural thing in the world.

Even after nearly two years, I have now learnt about all the different weapons, starting in foil, doing sabre classes for Girl Sport Victoria, and then turning to epee. And epee is where I plan to stay. Even when I started epee, it was almost as if I had started again, because lunging for legs and arms felt really different. But now I could say that it wasn't uncomfortable or weird. It wasn't even embarrassing to do a sport that nobody in my class at school knew about. It was normal.

Some people think that about two years in fencing is a long time. But once you've done it for that long, it feels like you've fenced for five minutes, with the learning stages and the uncomfortable fencing positions forgotten. I plan to keep on fencing for as long as I can. Even now, I've been in many competitions, and I'm planning on going to nationals later this year. For me, going to nationals is a great thing. But where I really want to be, in say, 2012, or 2016, is at the Olympics.

In short, almost two years in fencing makes everything fall into place. If you've just started, it will feel strange. But it's all normal after two years. And all you have to do is plan the future. Fencing can be taken anywhere. After two years in fencing, anything is possible.



## Team Announced for Junior and Cadet World Championships

Congratulations to the fencers who have qualified for the Junior/Cadet World Championships to be held in Belek, Turkey from the 10th to the 18th April, 2007. A special mention to Katie and Dean. Good luck, fence well and have a great time. The full team is:

### Junior Men's Foil

Ben TALBOT-WRIGHT (NSW)\*  
Jozef SLOWIAZCEK (NSW)  
Dean WILLIAMS (VIC)

### Junior Women's Foil

Katie BOYLES (Vic)  
Elise BUDNIAK (NSW)  
Jade SARAH (QLD)

### Junior Men's Epee

James LEWIS (WA)  
Chris PERKINS (WA)\*  
Jozef SLOWIAZCEK (NSW)  
Dean WILLIAMS (Vic)

### Junior Men's Sabre

Sutherland SCUDDS (WA)  
James WALSH (QLD)

### Junior Women's Epee

Seri WILSON (SA)

### Cadet Men's Foil

Ben TALBOT-WRIGHT (NSW)

### Cadet Women's Foil

Katie BOYLES (VIC)  
Elise BUDNIAK (NSW)

### Cadet Men's Epee

Chris PERKINS (WA)

### Cadet Women's Epee

Elise BUDNIAK (NSW)

### Cadet Men's Sabre

Sutherland SCUDDS (WA)

### Officials:

Leon THOMAS (Team Manager/Coach)  
Mathieu MERIAUX (Assistant Team Manager/Coach)



## Fencer's Library

### *Schools and Masters of Fencing. From the Middle Ages to the Eighteenth Century* – By Egerton Castle, 1885 (Reprinted by Dover Books in 2003).

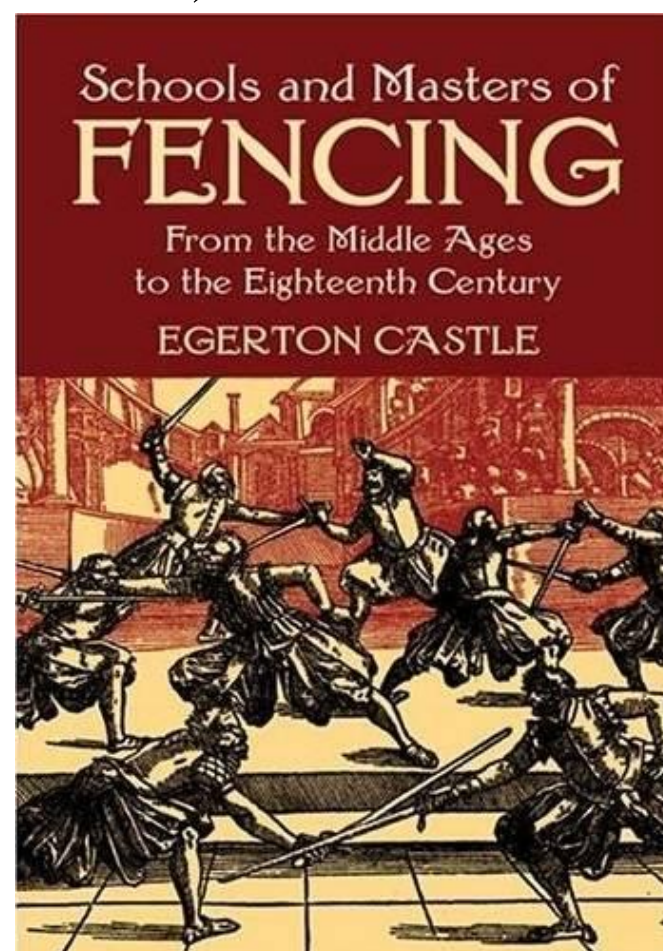
Have you ever wondered who first documented the attack by point, thought of the lunge, and then improved and refined the lunge? Who first documented swordplay – French or Italian? Have you ever seen “The Princess Bride” and wondered what they were talking about while they fought on the Cliffs of Insanity. Well this book will tell you, and that is only the first half. This book covers the evolution of swords and fighting to the beginnings of the sport of fencing. If you are interested in where and how fencing evolved this book is a must.

My favourite quote (page 43) which is over 120 years old and based on comments from more than 350 years ago:

*“The masters of the sixteenth century had already found out the truth of a principle which is not sufficiently regarded in our days, namely, that to become a proficient swordsman a fencer should not attach too much importance to hits received in practice, and never show temper, but rather take his mishap as a lesson, and learn to prevent its recurrence in good style...”*

Getting the reprint is relatively easy and cheap. Amazon booksellers generally have copies available. Getting hold of a copy of the original is a somewhat more difficult proposition. I have seen one copy on eBay in the last two years, and that sold for over £100.

**Schools and Masters of Fencing is available online through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for \$US 13.22 (plus postage and handling).**



## Contributions welcome.

If you have read a book, watched a movie or bought a DVD that features fencing, please feel free to contribute your review. Good, Bad or indifferent, maybe you will introduce someone to a great movie or save someone the pain of trawling through absolute rubbish. Please email your review to [peter.osvath@gmail.com](mailto:peter.osvath@gmail.com) by 1 May 2007.

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tors kept clear of the pistes, and excellent signage.

### **Aussie Fencers in the UK**

A few things which strike us as weird or worth a mention:

Very few, if any, metal pistes. The Welsh Open has 56 pistes, 8 of them with conductive strips. This is a standard ratio. Putting sabreurs on a metal piste is a sure way to provoke rebellion among the epeeists so I only fenced on metal strips twice in two years until the Cole Cup. As such I have become a great fan of polyurethane floors - grippy with just the right amount of bounce.

(A note from David : Most competitions run over 2 days, even for a full 6-weapon event. They do this by having lots of pistes, of which only a few are metal. This gives competition organisers more freedom in scheduling their comp. than in Australia, since they aren't tied to public holidays and long weekends. Personally, I think this would be worth trying in Australia, despite the likely grumbling coming from the epeeists.)

A reasonable size competition has 40 in the women's sabre, 60+ is a good comp, 84 in the Hamlet Open was amazing. I've had to learn important lessons in making every point of every pool bout count. I don't know how I'll cope when I go back home... 20 seems so small now.

(Another note from David: The smallest epee comp. I've been in over here had 34 entries, and the larger Opens

have well over 120, up to 200 at last year's Bristol Open. Quite a different experience to Opens back in Australia, especially the state ones.)

The sponsoring equipment vendor has a store present at the opens. The Leon Paul portable store is particularly impressive, especially watching it get packed up and wheeled out. Some opens also have armourers set up with a serious array of equipment, ready to rewire your epee for a modest fee. This means that a scary number of quite decent fencers don't actually know how to fix their own equipment.

There is no weapons check. Many fencers have never checked their weapons before a comp and get a terrible shock when they fail at international events - and then don't know how to do quick field repairs.

Most sports centres have very carefully hidden their water fountains, in others they don't seem to have any free water at all. The food for sale tends toward the greasy end of the spectrum, many do serve alcohol.

The venue of the Bristol Open last year was a former aircraft hanger with a very Soviet feel. The Welsh Institute of Sport is a veritable warren, you could probably lose an entire men's foil event in there and no one would ever find them. The Scottish Open venue made all fencers go in the back way lest we damage their staircase.

Incidentally, we were delighted to hear that you'll be getting a new purpose built fencing venue - hope it's done by the



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2007 Fencing Victoria - Program of Events						
COMP. DATE	ENTRIES CLOSE	EVENT(S)	D.T.	VENUE	FEE	ELIGIBILITY
MAR 4	12:30 PM	VICTORIAN CLUB TEAM FOIL #1		FF	\$30	OPEN
MAR 18	10:00 AM	NOVICE FOIL #1	LA TROBE	FF	\$17	NOVICE
	1:00 PM	NOVICE EPEE #1		FF	\$17	NOVICE
MAR 25	9:30 AM	VICTORIAN JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL #1 U13 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$10	U13
	9:30 AM	U20 FOIL (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$10	U20
	11:30 AM	U15 EPEE (M & F)	&	FF	\$10	U15
	11:30 AM	U20 EPEE (M & F)	BDFC	FF	\$10	U20
	1:00 PM	U15 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	1:00 PM	U20 SABRE (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
MAR 31	10:00 AM	VRI OPEN EPEE (M & F)	SQUAD	FF	\$17	OPEN
	1:00 PM	BELA VALYAN OPEN SABRE (M & F)	VRI	FF	\$17	OPEN
APR 1	9:30AM	VETERAN’S FOIL #1 (M & F)	VRI	FF	\$10	VETERANS [40+]
	11:00 AM	VRI OPEN FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$17	OPEN
APR 8-16		JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	FIE	TURKEY		BY SELECTION
APR 11-14		TBA	OCEANIA CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS		NEW CALEDONIA	
APR 14-15		TBA	AFF	FF	TBA	BY INVITATION
APR 21-23		MAR 30	AFF	ADELAIDE		\$45 OPEN
APRIL 28	APRIL 8	FV DINNER & PRESENTATION NIGHT		TBA	TBA	ALL WELCOME
APR 29	9:30 AM	VICTORIAN JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL #2 U13 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$10	U13
	9:30 AM	U20 FOIL (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$10	U20
	11:30 AM	U15 EPEE (M & F)	&	FF	\$10	U15
	11:30 AM	U20 EPEE (M & F)	BDFC	FF	\$10	U20
	1:00 PM	U15 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	1:00 PM	U20 SABRE (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
MAY 5	10:00 AM	OPEN EPEE #2 (M & F)	SQUAD	FF	\$17	OPEN
	1.00 PM	OPEN SABRE #2 (M & F)	MFC	FF	\$17	OPEN
**NB**	2.00PM	ASIA-PACIFIC CLUB FOIL TEAMS (FV #2)		FF	\$30	OPEN
MAY 6	10.00 AM	ASIA-PACIFIC MEN'S FOIL (FV OPEN #2 )	BLACK-	FF	\$17	OPEN
	10.00 AM	ASIA-PACIFIC WOMEN'S FOIL (FV OPEN #2)	LORDS	FF	\$17	OPEN
MAY 12-13		TBA	AFF	FF	TBA	BY INVITATION
MAY 22		AROUND THE BOUTS ISSUE 2/07				
MAY 24	7:30 PM	VAFA COUNCIL MEETING		FF		ALL WELCOME
MAY 26-27		APR 21	FIE	SYDNEY	TBA	BY SELECTION
JUN 2-3		MAY 30		MELB	TBA	BY INVITATION
JUN 8-11		MAY 18	AFF	PERTH	\$45	OPEN/CLUB
JUN 17	9:30 AM	UNDER 15 & UNDER 17 STATE CHAMPS U15 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$17	U15
	10:00 AM	U17 SABRE (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$17	U17
	11:30 AM	U17 EPEE (M & F)	&	FF	\$17	U17
	11:30 AM	U15 EPEE (M & F)	MFC	FF	\$17	U15
	1:00 PM	U17 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$17	U17
	2:00 PM	BUY, SELL & SWAP MEET		FF		ALL WELCOME
JUN 23-24		TBA		FF	TBA	U15 & U17
JUN 29-JUL3		JUN 8	AFF	SYDNEY	\$45	U15 & U17
JULY 1-9		ASIA OCEANIA JUNIOR ZONE CHAMPS			KAZAHKSTAN	
JUL 15	10:00AM	NOVICE FOIL #2	BLACK-	FF	\$17	NOVICE
	1:00PM	NOVICE EPEE #2	LORDS	FF	\$17	NOVICE
JUL 21-22		TBA		FF	TBA	BY INVITATION
JUL 25	7:30 PM	VAFA COUNCIL MEETING		FF		ALL WELCOME
JUL 28	10:00 AM	OPEN EPEE #3 (M & F)	SQUAD	FF	\$17	OPEN
	1:00 PM	OPEN SABRE #3 (M & F)	FIORETTO	FF	\$17	OPEN
JUL 29	9:30 AM	VETERAN'S FOIL #2	RMIT	FF	\$17	VETERANS [40+]
	11:00 AM	OPEN FOIL #3 (M & F)		FF	\$17	OPEN
AUG 4-6		13 JUL	AFF	QLD	\$45	OPEN
AUG 5		LEVEL 1 COACHING COURSE		FF	TBA	
AUG 10-12		AFF EPEE ASIA-OCEANIA TRAINING CAMP		FF		BY INVITATION

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2007 Fencing Victoria - Program of Events (contd.)						
COMP. DATE	ENTRIES CLOSE	EVENT(S)	D.T.	VENUE	FEE	ELIGIBILITY
AUG 18	10:00 AM	FV OPEN EPEE #4	SQUAD	FF	\$17	OPEN
	1.00 PM	FV OPEN SABRE #4	VRI	FF	\$17	OPEN
AUG 19	10:00AM	VICTORIA CUP WOMEN'S FOIL	VRI	FF	\$17	OPEN
	10:00 AM	FV OPEN FOIL #4		FF	\$17	OPEN
AUG 21		AROUND THE BOUTS ISSUE 3/07				
AUG 20 - 25	TBA	ASIA/OCEANIA ZONE CHAMPS		NANKIN		BY SELECTION
		VICTORIAN SCHOOLS TEAM CHAMPS				
AUG 26	10:00 AM	FOIL TEAMS (M & F)	VSFC &	FF	\$25	PRIMARY OR
	1:00 PM	EPEE TEAMS (M & F)* PRE-ENTRY ONLY*	BRUNSWICK	FF	\$25	HIGH SCHOOL
		LEVEL 1 COACHING COURSE	FV	FF	TBA	
		STATE U13 & U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS				
SEP 9	9:30 AM	U13 FOIL (M & F)	VSFC &	FF	\$10	U13
	9:30 AM	U20 EPEE (M & F)	VRI	FF	\$10	U20
	11:00 AM	U20 SABRE (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
	12:30 PM	U20 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
SEP 16	10:00 AM	NOVICE FOIL #3 (M & F)	MONASH	FF	\$17	NOVICE
	1:00 PM	NOVICE EPEE #3 (M & F)		FF	\$17	NOVICE
		LEVEL 1 COACHING COURSE	FV	FF	TBA	
SEP 14 - 16	TBA	WORLD VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS	FIE	SYDNEY		BY SELECTION
SEP 23-26		U20 NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP		FF		U20
SEP 23-28		AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES		GOLD COAST		UNI STUDENTS
SEP 28-OCT 2	SEP 7	AFF U20 CHAMPS/SEC. SCHOOLS TEAMS	AFF	FF	\$45	U20
SEP 28-OCT 6	TBA	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	FIE	RUSSIA		BY SELECTION
OCT 6	10:00 AM	OPEN EPEE #5 (M & F)	SQUAD	FF	\$17	OPEN
	1:00 PM	OPEN SABRE #5 (M & F)	MELB UNI	FF	\$17	OPEN
OCT 7	9:30 AM	VETERAN FOIL #3	PENINSULA	FF	\$17	OPEN
	11:00 AM	TOM MILLS MEN'S FOIL (OPEN #5)	MELB UNI	FF	\$17	OPEN
	11:00 AM	SBV WOMEN'S FOIL (OPEN #5)		FF	\$17	OPEN
		STATE NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS				
OCT 14	10:00 AM	FOIL (M & F)	MFC	FF	\$17	NOVICE
	1:00 PM	EPEE (M & F)		FF	\$17	NOVICE
		JOHN FETHERS GOLDEN FOILS (VJI#4)				
OCT 21	9:30 AM	U15 (GRADED & UNGRADED)	VSFC &	FF	\$10	U15
	11:00 AM	U13 (GRADED & UNGRADED)	VRI	FF	\$10	U13
	12:30 PM	U20 (GRADED & UNGRADED)		FF	\$10	U20
		STATE CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS				
OCT 27	10:00 AM	EPEE (M & F)	SQUAD	FF	\$30	OPEN
	1:00 PM	SABRE (M & F)	FIORETTO	FF	\$30	OPEN
OCT 28	10:00 AM	FOIL (M & F)	LA TROBE	FF	\$30	OPEN
		LEVEL 1 COACHING COURSE	FV	FF	TBA	
NOV 4		LEVEL 1 COACHING COURSE	FV	FF	TBA	
		VICTORIAN SCHOOLS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPS				
NOV 11	9:30 AM	U13 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$10	U13
	9:30 AM	U20 FOIL (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$10	U20
	11:30 AM	U15 EPEE (M & F)	&	FF	\$10	U15
	11:30 AM	U20 EPEE (M & F)	PENINSULA	FF	\$10	U20
	1:00 PM	U15 FOIL (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	1:00 PM	U20 SABRE (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
		STATE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS				
NOV 17	10:00 AM	EPEE (M & F)	SQUAD	FF	\$17	OPEN
	1:00 PM	SABRE (M & F)	FIORETTO	FF	\$17	OPEN
	1:30 PM	VETERAN EPEE (M & F)	FIORETTO	FF	\$17	VETERANS [40+]
NOV 18	9:30 AM	VETERAN FOIL (M & F)	MONASH	FF	\$17	VETERANS [40+]
	11:00 AM	FOIL (M & F)	MONASH	FF	\$17	OPEN
NOV 20		AROUND THE BOUTS ISSUE 4/07				
NOV 22	7:30 PM	VAFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		FF		ALL WELCOME
NOV 24-25		AFF EPEE TRAINING CAMP		FF		BY INVITATION
NOV 30-DEC 4	NOV 9	AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPS	AFF	SYDNEY	\$45	OPEN