

Fencing Victoria

Vice President Report for 2019

2019 was my first full year on the Board of Fencing Victoria (FV) and has given me a better insight into the many issues and activities required to keep fencing operational as a vibrant and growing sport in Victoria.

In addition to some general support to the President (Ms Kayt Spano), I:

- assisted in the running of a number of fencing competitions including AFC 1 at the Victorian State Fencing Centre, the setup for the Arnold Classic at the Melbourne Convention Centre and driving a truck laden with pistes and scoring equipment to Adelaide and back. Fencing Victoria lent this equipment to SA Fencing for the Robyn Chaplin Memorial Tournament (AFC 2 in 2019).
- Reviewed and developed a new Piste Policy for the Fencing Centre. I wish to acknowledge the many persons who had contributed their suggestions, especially Robyn and Alex Hunter whose extensive background information and suggestions were invaluable.
- Negotiated a number of new contracts for the centre at Arden Street including a new cleaning contract and a new four (4) year electricity contract.
- Organised the building of some additional storage facilities at the centre.
- Assisted in a number of interviews with members of the fencing community and with representatives of the State Government.
- Prepared the extensive paperwork required to sponsor Mr Vsevolod (Seva) Diachenko for an Australian residency visa under the “Elite players, coaches, instructors and adjudicators contracted to a sporting organisation” criteria 408.222(3) scheme. Although submitted, the scheme is currently on hold due to the current Corona Virus restrictions.
- Prepared and submitted proposals for funding through:
 - The “**Victorian 2018-2019 Sporting Club Grants**” scheme for the amount of \$4,850. Unfortunately we were not successful in this application.

- The **“Together More Active 2019-2013”** program. Funds were available under two different components being:
 - Project Funding
 - Foundation Funding
- Fencing Victoria was successful in being awarded the following funding from the **Victorian Department of Jobs , Precincts and Regions**
 - **Project Funding** – \$10,000 in each of two years (i.e. a **total of \$20,000**) to improve and increase the number of sabre coaches and referees in Victoria.
 - **Foundation Funding** – Fencing Victoria was awarded \$20,000 per annum for 4 years (i.e. a **total of \$80,000**). This is to be used for:
 1. **Fencing Club Development** – work with clubs and schools to ensure they have good access to the Fencing Victoria administrative system and are fully aware of and compliant with all obligations under the Fair Play and Child Protection codes. Fencing Victoria will also work with clubs and schools to help “sell” the benefits of fencing as a sport and as an excellent way to keep fit to the wider community and to attract new participants to the sport.
 2. **Provide some additional coaching to a select number of young fencers** (one male and one female in each of the three weapons) to assist in their development as **High Performance Fencers**.
 3. **Raising the Standard of Fencing Coaches and Referees in Victoria**. The rationale is to provide more opportunities to develop a number of additional coaches and referees to attain higher levels of qualifications that are recognised at national and international levels.

Fencing Victoria has started to action some of the above activities but has had to put most on hold due to the restrictions under the current Corona Virus environment.

- Although not specific to Fencing Victoria, I was instrumental through the AFF Veterans Commission in getting the paper certificates presented to veteran age categories winners replaced by **actual medals**. This has already benefited a number of Victorian veteran fencers to get medals.

I hope to be able to continue to contribute to the activities and well-being of the sport of Fencing in Victoria during 2020 and beyond.

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the other members of the Fencing Victoria Board and the many volunteers who have made 2019 a very successful year for fencing in Victoria.



Norbert Riedl

Vice President
Fencing Victoria