

ACTFA President Report for 2015

Presented at the ACTFA AGM on February 27, 2016

Firstly, I extend my thanks and the thanks of the ACT Fencing community to the committee and others who have helped run all our activities throughout the year.

I would also like to remind members that you are welcome to attend as an observer at any committee meeting and would recommend that you do so at least once this year. Or, if you would like to be more directly involved in the processes of ACTFA, please nominate yourself to a position on the committee or take a turn as your club delegate.

In 2015 we trialed employing a part-time administration officer, Alice. The initial training and handover took a while, but everyone felt it was worthwhile and we are looking to refill the position as Alice had to leave us for personal reasons.

Several stalls & demos were held including ANU at ADFA Open day, CAP Expo, ACTSport Expo, Fencing Mob at Parliament House (which had around 40 participants), Phat&Layzee Picnic in Tuggeranong and 2x Just Play gala days. These events are important to raise the awareness of fencing among the general community as well as attract new members to clubs. We have registered for the CAP Expo in 2016 and will look for other opportunities to promote fencing in the community.

2015 was a year of firsts in ACT competitions – the first friendly ACT vs NSW team match at the ACT Opens, Our first year of paying referees, the inaugural schools competition and the first Aged competition weekend. Congratulations must go to everyone who helped in making all the ACT competitions run so smoothly.

ACT fencers are starting to make their presence felt at Interstate and National competitions, with entry numbers increasing, for both individuals and teams, and medals received across most age groups, in all weapons. International competitions are becoming a real goal for several fencers with a couple competing overseas earlier this year and a contingent of veterans aiming for Commonwealths in New Zealand. Our young fencers have also been participating in the AFF High Performance camps at the AIS – thanks Chris for being the liaison and coordinating our involvement.

ACT Fencing was welcomed at the ACT Olympic Council (ACTOC) AGM in 2015. The AGM for this year will be on March 21st.

ACTSPORT closed down as an organisation, though the current office leases are being honoured by ACT Property Group, there has been no indication whether they will be renewed in the future.

The ACTFA website and FB page have seen increased activity with more articles being posted and events/posts being shared and liked.

It's nice to see the level of cross promotion, co-operation and shared coaching that is occurring between clubs.

Yet again we hosted a fantastic Championships - many thanks to Garry and all his team. I heard nothing but praise from everyone, including the French Polynesian and Caledonian contingents.

Looking forward

The agreement for ACT hosting of The Australian National Open & Veteran Championships ends after the 2017 competition. Bids are open this year for the next 5 year period (2018 to 2022) so we need to consider if we want to continue hosting. There appears to be Australia-wide support for us to do so.

Under the guidance of Bill Ronald, we have been investigating the feasibility of bidding to host the 2018 Commonwealth fencing Championships. While there are risks in financial and human resource terms, this would be an excellent opportunity for ACT Fencing to showcase our event facilities and the Canberra area.

Coaches, team managers and referees are important in the support of ACT Fencers competing outside of the ACT. ACTFA would like to acknowledge this by providing financial assistance to those who fill these roles.

As our sport grows, the need for equipment grows. In 2015 we had opportunities to purchase second-hand equipment being disposed of by a local private school and Finesse Fencing. In 2016 we will look at whether new equipment is needed to support growth in particular areas.

With PE Pulse successfully launched late last year and supported by ACT Government we will have solid avenues to explore in PD for teachers, hiring equipment to schools and running introduction to fencing courses in schools.

2015 was a very good year for fencing in the ACT and 2016 looks to be even better.

Cerri Murphy

ACTFA President for 2015