

GHS Fencing Booster Club
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 13, 2016

Attendees: Steve O'Connor (presiding), Chris Balestracci, Charles Chiu, Debbie Fisk, Christine Friel, Andrew Kaplan, Michael Kostoss, Linda Lepeak, Anne Maxwell, Bob McNamara, Ann Nelson, Sara Sessions, Barbara van Leeuwen, Jing Zhang

Club Business

Minutes of prior meeting (December 9) were approved.

Finance

Anne Maxwell updated finance spreadsheet of the Club. The budget for the Senior Night is \$245.

Currently, 31 club dues had been received. An email reminder will be sent to parents of the uncollected. The dues are used to cover the cost of tee-shirt/sock and banquet dinner for all fencers.

Coach's Update (Coach Balestracci)

Under further consideration, the upcoming State Individual tournament will be held on March 6th (Sunday) instead of March 5th, at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. The State Team event will remain on March 12th at Madison Daniel Hand High School.

Guilford Sideliners received the request from the fencing team for a grant to subsidize the purchase of metal strip and will have a decision on Jan 19th. Off-line discussions have been positive for approval of funding.

Coach Balestracci had secured the trophies and medals for the upcoming Novice Tournament. There are awarded to the top eight fencers for each of the 3 weapons and 2 genders. The total cost is \$304.88.

Post-meeting notes: The Sideliners has approved the request of \$1,500 matching fund for metal fencing strip purchase. The GHS Fencing Booster Club has also approved its own funding of \$1,292 to complete the purchase. Coach Balestracci and Mezzi are in the process of setting up purchase order and picking up of strip.

Parent Information

Banquet Planning

The Banquet is set on March 23rd (Wednesday) at Woodwind.

Charles Chiu will coordinate the gifts for the Seniors and the State Team.

Warm-ups and Tees

Most of the payments were received. Warm-ups and tee-shirts were delivered by Shelly Talbot to fencers on January 12th. There was a mix-up with the order of socks that will be delivered soon.

Fund Raisers

Bob McNamara contacted Palumbo's and confirmed that they are available for the Spring Car Wash fund raising. It was initially proposed to be held on Sunday (May 1st), but most people thought Saturday (April 30th) would have more traffic and better success.

Post-meeting notes: Bob McNamara has reserved May 21st (Saturday) for car wash fund raiser at Palumbo's.

Pictures and Club Fencing Website

Andrew Kaplan provided a quick tour of the Club Fencing website (<http://guilfordfencing.org/>). All fencers and parents are welcome to visit and upload their fencing pictures to the site.

Senior Night

Senior night is scheduled on February 29th (Monday) with visiting team from North Haven High School. It was noted that helium balloons should be avoided because of the possibility of triggering sprinkler system in the event of accidental fly-away. Charles Chiu will follow up with the organizers (Kim Nelson and Shelly Talbot) with the budget (\$245) and helium balloon issues. Coach Balestracci will follow up with Coach Mezzi for the number of visiting seniors from NHHS to help with the preparation of gifts.

General Information

40th anniversary of GHS Fencing Program

There are no new updates.

Novice Tournament

The Novice tournament (Jan 23rd) is rapidly approaching. Coach Catino requested an increase in the organizing cost from \$700 to \$800 since the tournament now involves two new weapons (epee and saber) in addition to foil. The request was unanimously approved by the club officers and tournament organizing committee prior to the meeting.

Coach Balestracci's proposal on the sales of sponsored advertisements in the print of Novice Tournament program was very well received and his pre-work on quote with Royal Printing was greatly appreciated.

In view of the short time frame before the Tournament and lack of experience in the solicitation of sponsorship, this project will be better served for the next season and actively pursued earlier.

Coach Balestracci will confirm with Coach Mezzi the presence of a physical trainer at the day of the Tournament and to ensure the Club will be invoiced promptly.

Inventory of tee-shirts was conducted and 8 more size XL black tee-shirts have been ordered. Andrew Kaplan indicated that he and the Evereds might each have a box of tee-shirts and supply.

Spreadsheet for concession stand donations is up and running. More continuous supports from parents are needed to ensure a successful fund raising event.

Earlier email communications from Coach Catino indicated 4 schools with 63 competing fencers had registered. Registration deadline is set on January 15th and the fee is \$10 per fencer and \$15 at the door.

Post-meeting notes:

As of January 14th, the registrations of competing fencers are

Foil: Men 30, Women 24

Epee: Men 10, Women 7

Saber: Men 12, Women 12

Topics for Next Meeting

- Novice Tournament re-cap.