

FENCING CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Time: 8:15pm-9:30pm
Date: Monday, 12th May 2025
Location: online google meets

MINUTES

<i>No.</i>	<i>Item</i>
1	<p>Present (Quorum is at least half, i.e. at least 4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will Bishop (Chair) - Liam James - Russell Johnson - Robert Clement - Una Johnson - Nathan McKnight - Becks Witteman - Nicole Martin - Stephen Peterson <p>Apologies:</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moved true and correct - Will
	<p>Matters Arising – Action List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fen.Central Website update- Harry still has access to the website/webmaster duties. Handover to Jonathan to be organised. ● Online Referee Course- Still waiting on quote from Michael nelson in Australia. Preferred time/dates discussed, looking at around July 2025 to hold this over a weekend. ● NZ Development Camp- Due to short notice and unenthusiastic committee response, Fencing Central will decline to host this. ● Gear allocation proposal – To be put on hold for the time being. Clubs must be affiliated with FeNZ and Fencing Central to be eligible for this. No clubs have approached us about immediate needs for gear.
4	<p>Financial & Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monthly Financial Report – presented by Robert ● Fencing Central looks like it will to down \$800 to \$900 after everything is finalised after National U15 and U17's at Easter. There are a few payments still outstanding from this comp. The reason for the loss is Central deciding to pay a higher Per Diem (\$75) as opposed to the standard FeNZ per diem of \$50 for refs. David Elder expressed concern around this decision as Refs will now expect the higher rate. Nat U15 and U17 comp that has a higher number of refs and Central are actively trying to help develop more junior Refs in our region. SP asked if there had been a budget for Nat U15/U17. There had not been a budget. As there was no budget supplied and Central's decision to pay higher per diem, Fenz will not cover the loss we have incurred. Central in is a position to cover the loss. Sp expressed concern that we as a region do not set ourselves up to

	<p>continually run competitions at a loss, and should look at increasing entry costs to cover this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Islands has a budget in progress. Entry cost have been set at \$60 per weapon and thanks to Nathan's efforts we have a grant in place to cover venue costs. 3 refs are coming out of region for the North Islands to help bring costs down. SP suggested that we could be more organised in future (with budgets, grants and entry fees) so that we can be in a better position to have FeNZ under write our losses if necessary. NM pointed out that we have run this competition several times in the past so we can be pretty confident on costs, but agreed that it does relay on number of entries. ● SP asked for treasurer's report to be sent out monthly before the meeting. RC apologised for this month as he has been busy tiding up after U15/U17. ● No update on affiliation numbers. ● Treasurers report will not be approved until seen by committee. (Sent out to members 13.5.25)
<p>5</p>	<p>FeNZ Matters/Central Matters.</p> <p>Will thanked Liam for stepping in to represent him at the last FeNZ meeting. The latest FeNZ meeting was about the constitution review and how its new structure will affect the regions. (ie) how the regions board structures will be affected. It is thought that this will not affect Central greatly as we already run under the default committee structure (executive positions and general executive positions). Do we wish to change our structure, to have each club in our region represented or are we happy with the current structure. Discussion and thoughts about it should be underway now as suggested by Grant Tweddle, so that we are prepared and ready to go when the new constitution comes out. When it is available, Will will send it out to the committee as soon as it is possible.</p> <p>The other suggestion is that each region should have an Athlete representative on the committee.</p> <p>Nicole brought up that in the past she had tried to have each club represented on the committee, but people felt forced into the position other than people volunteering themselves to be on the committee. Centrals committee structure appears to be the most popular structure to follow, from discussions with other regions the country.</p> <p>The selection policy should be ready to go to vote once the deadline has past this week. Then 2 options will be presented the FeNZ. It looks as though the most popular choice will be the policy relying on ranking point as opposed to other conditions.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Competition Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently completed: Nat U15 and U17's. A well run competition overall, despite so last minute hiccups. Entry wise this was the biggest Nat.U15/U17 comp since Covid. A lot of new refs coming on board. One health and safety incident reported in competition. Feed back has positive. A very busy competition overall.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming Up. North Islands. Preparations coming along well. Good number of referees, looking to do more development of referees. David Elder not coming down for North Island. No streaming will be available for this competition due to tight schedule. This unfortunate. As long as we have video format for finals we can look to put that up later. Weapons control Una will be getting in contact to see if people are able to help out and to thank them for their contributions at U15/U17's • Under 9/11/13 coming up in 2 weeks being hosted by Hutt Valley.
7	<p>Club Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVFC- Hutt Valley had a health and safety incident 2 weeks ago. New fencer, coming along to have a go, broke his leg fencing. Will asked for a health and safety incident report to be sent so he can send onto FeNZ. • WSC- • Fielding Sabres-
8	<p>Health & Safety As above a broken leg at Hutt Valley. Sprained thumb at U15/U17's.</p> <p>SP brought up our previous discussion about the process to find a new Health and safety officer. If nothing has been done, the secretary should send out an email to ask for expressions of interest in a Health and Safety officer position, to the wider Fencing Central community, detailing the position requirements. Will and Becks to discuss after the meeting.</p>
9	<p>Grants Fencing Central Grant Funding update provided by Nathan</p> <p>Next grant to apply for will be the video refereeing system. David Elder will supply Nathan with a list of requirements to set the system up. Looking at a couple of options for this grant, and trying to submit this month.</p> <p>The grant from Wellington City council for North Island gave \$800 up front with the remaining \$400 to come after the event once a report has been submitted explaining how the event went. SP brought up that we need to be doing some Thanks you's for the grant, the information pack and entry form cover this as well as a public thank you at the competition.</p>
10	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP brought up the previous question he made at the last meeting re concern for Will. This has come from a place of concern for Will and the workload he has taken on with Central and Fenz. SP also brought up that this concern had also arose from conversations he has had with FeNZ board meeting where the general feeling was that FeNZ board meeting had become quite combative. The collective response from the Central committee was No, there were no concerns on the committee's behalf about Will.

- SP and Will had a conversation around how Will felt his conversations with FeNZ went and how we all interact with each other.
- Will responded that yes there had been some combative FeNZ meetings. There are one to two different agenda items that other FeNZ board members are also combative towards each other about. Will has always tried to represent Centrals viewpoints clearly, always after they have been discussed with our committee, or that he believes represents Fencing Central correctly. However some of these view points have run into resistance in some parts of the FeNZ structure. Will admits that he has put his hand up to a lot of tasks within FeNZ but this is due to the lack of resources and volunteers. Central however run very effectively as a region itself and does not require much input from Will. This has been the reason for Will being happy to put his hand up for roles within FeNZ. A lot of these things Will is involved with are about to come to an end.
- Will brought up that if anyone has any concerns about him to please either bring it up during the meeting, or approach him afterwards to discuss with him.
- SP brought up that it is hard to get people to volunteer in these positions (FeNZ and Central) due to busy lives. Potentially these volunteers do not perform tasks as well as we would like them to do, and it is important to be supportive of these people and remember that it is not a professional organisation. SP is not in the FeNZ meetings with Will but it is hoped that Will is taking a constructive, respectful and supportive approach to others, rather than a negative approach. SP is concerned that if a more negative approach is maintained that it will drive people away from volunteering, and make it harder to get things done.
- Will can safely say that he has not been behaving in a manner that no one else from Fencing Central would behave in the same situation.
- LJ contributed that he has been around Will, while he has been in these meetings, and that he has also been in a FeNZ meeting to stand in for Will in his absence. Liam has not noticed anything particularly combative in Will's behaviour, maybe disgruntled at how slowly things move, as FeNZ is a "slow moving animal". Liam has found the same thing when he has attended meetings. He stated that there are a lot of people within FeNZ that care very deeply about the sport, and it would be great for these people to agree on how to collectively care and work together rather than to single out one person.
- SP stated that if Will is comfortable about how he represents us and is not disrespectful towards others, and the process of being in these FeNZ meetings is not causing undue negativity for him, then SP is happy and thanked Will for his continued service and hope that we can continue on like this. Will thanked Stephen.

11	Date of the Nex <i>9th June 2025 at 8:30 pm. Meeting invite pending.</i>