



President's Report 2009

This is my 9th submission of annual report as President of UTS Fencing Club. In reflection, the past year has been the most challenging for me personally as an administrator and as an active competing representative of the club.

The 2009 Australian Open Fencing Championships was the first in 37 years whereby neither a NSW fencer nor a NSW Team won a Gold medal in the Open events. In this gloomy scenario, I found solace in the fact all 3 NSW highest place getters -silver medalists - in the individual events were UTSFC / Advantage Program members; and that UTSFC medal tally continued to outnumber the aggregated total of NSW clubs in national competitions. These results along with the 4 NSW club team championship titles; 10 golds, 6 silvers and 11 bronzes in individual state open competitions in 2009 reinforced the club's reputation as a leading fencing club in Oceania.

I am proud to say that UTSFC remains as resilient and committed in all elements that have made it a very successful university sporting club. Foremost, the contribution and development of UTS Students' sporting life through the club's learn-to-fence beginners classes; mentoring, provision of international standard coaching and subsidies to UTS student members. Though the club's AUG teams were often small, over the years they produced a high rate of medal winning and individual best results. The 2009 UTS fencing AUG team was no different. I would like to extend my congratulations to Joe Slowiaczek, a winner of the UTS Union Half Blues award in 2009 for his admirable efforts of 1st place in AUG Men's Foil; Green & Gold Team selection; and 1st place result in 2009 AFF National Competition #3 tournament. I would also like to acknowledge Simon Baxter for his admirable result of achieving a finish of 8th place in AUG novice foil competition.

UTSFC is very much part of the university life, members participated in orientation/club days; took part in the fencing demonstration during information day. The club also undertook activities that resulted in the enhancement of public awareness and image of the UTS Union and university. These included activities such as volunteer works at the NSW schools fencing league and the musketeers' children fencing program. In addition, the club takes special interests in developing athletes of all levels and across all ages; and put a great deal of efforts in ensuring regardless of individuals' sporting experience, fair opportunities to realize their potentials as individuals and competitors. Overseas touring opportunities; ample of quality coaching and training advice and a social activities are available. These endeavors have generated a high level of goodwill in the national fencing scene; and produced many national representatives in the Junior and veteran levels. I would like special make note of the achievements by Lishan Sung who won two junior level national titles and represented Australian in the junior Commonwealth Championships in 2009. Other juniors who have achieved personal bests included Patrick Daley, Hayden Fitzgerald; and Eunice Fung. Each of these junior fencers was selected to representative teams, winning a swag of medals and great results between them. At the veteran level, Julie Seggie, Dave Andrew, Duncan Fairweather maintained their high competitive standards, and Anna Slowiazcek made all

Australian fencers proud with a finish of 8th place in Women's Foil in the 2009 World Veteran Fencing Championships, Moscow.

Regular international engagement has long been a development strategy employed by the club. In March 2009, at the invitation of the UTS Union, Shanghai Finance University fencing team visited the club and jointly offered with UTSFC the highest standard training sessions the Australian fencing scene has ever experienced. A friendship match between the renowned Shanghai Province Foil Team and UTS Foil team was held at the UTS during the same visit; with the UTS team narrowly lost to the visitors in an exciting and closely contested match. Reciprocal tours by UTS Fencing are scheduled for 2010, with its junior tours departing for Shanghai on 1st January 2010 and a senior tour scheduled for Sept 2010 to provide lead up preparation for UTSFC members competing in the 2010 Commonwealth Fencing Championships.

In the coming year, the club will need to more closely assess its position and ways best to achieve its strategic priorities. Greater attention and more effort will be made in student recruitment, development and the alignment of club to Union's goals. Investment in coaching of saber will be made in an assertive manner to revise the club's proud and strong tradition in the discipline. The club will also examine ways to invest wisely in the development of a new generation of epeeists and foilists. The capstone of these investments is to augment the club's continuing endeavors to service the university as a successful and student orientated sporting club.

Of course, any future, current or past achievement would not be possible without the dedication of the lean but hardworking club administration. The club has been able to withstand a difficult year because of a group of wonderful supportive administrators, coaches and members. I would like to thank the club executives - Michelle McAuslan, Beverley Chan and Michael Prince – and the coaches of UTSFC for their tireless work in 2009. On behalf of all members at UTSFC, I would like to express the gratitude to the UTS Sports Office Team and UTS Union Ltd for their generous and continuing support to the club.

Melissa Yeung

President, UTSFC

2009