



COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION

JUNIOR & CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

FINAL REPORT

Prepared by the CFF Technical Commission

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Fencing Federation (CFF) wishes to thank the Fencing Federation of South Africa and, in particular, Western Cape Fencing, for hosting this fourth edition of the CFF Junior Championships (individual and team) in Cape Town. These Championships were particularly significant in that they also marked the first time that a Cadet event (individual) was being held under CFF auspices.

The response to this new combined event was overwhelmingly positive and both the CFF and its member nations agree that this format should be encouraged and possibly expanded to allow the holding of Cadet team events. The popularity of the Commonwealth Championships keeps growing, with participation numbers at this most recent event exceeding 360 entries from 15 nations.

DATE AND LOCATION

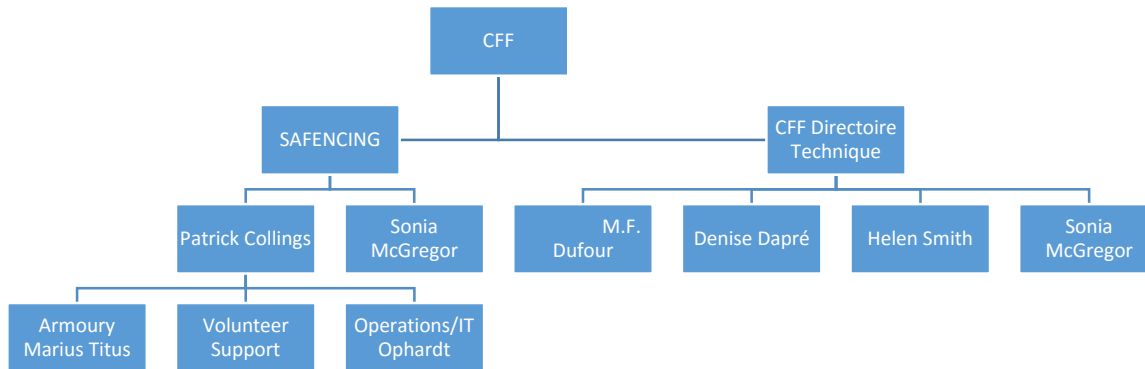
This fourth edition of the Championships was held from the 11th to the 17th of July 2015, in the sports hall of the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOIRE TECHNIQUE

We gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance provided by the members of the local Organizing Committee (OC) headed by its Chairman, Mr. Patrick Collings, President of Western Cape Fencing, and Fencing Federation of South Africa Technical Director Sonia McGregor, who also most ably represented the OC on the Directoire technique.

The Directoire Technique (DT) was headed by CFF Technical Commission Chairman Marie-France Dufour, responsible for referee assignments and management, assisted by Commission member Denise Dapré, responsible for protocol and Sonia McGregor, with Helen Smith, President of the CFF, as ex-officio member.

Event organizational chart



VENUE AND EVENT

Facilities had been rented at the University of Cape Town, including the entire main sports arena, which had been subdivided to accommodate:

- 6 (later 7 for the Junior events) pistes in the main hall;
- the middle section being retained for the finals piste surrounded by the coloured pistes; and
- the furthest section (curtained off) used for the armoury and weapon check, a training area equipped with 4 pistes as well as a baggage holding area.



An elevated mezzanine ran above the central portion of the hall, allowing the DT direct view on all pistes at all times (see video below) and easy access to team managers and referees.



SouthAfrica2015 024.AVI

Lighting was just adequate, but additional lighting would have added prohibitive costs to the event; the unheated hall was quite cool, at times uncomfortably so, as this was winter season in South Africa. However, one became accustomed quickly enough and it was ideal for the athletes.

Seating capacity was limited to a single stand of bleachers located in front of the finals piste, and accommodated several hundred spectators; it was gratifying to note that the stands were quite often full in the course of regular fencing and it was standing room only during the finals.

Training and warm-up areas were available close to the main fencing area, with the training roster left up to the delegations to work out collegially. This area was in near constant use and could probably have benefitted of a bit more space to accommodate 1-2 extra training pistes.

Changing rooms were large and reasonably clean; although there were showers, many fencers were content to wait till the shuttles brought them back to the hotels to shower and change due to the lack of central heating at the venue.

A **DirectoireTechnique area** was made available on the bridge spanning the hall, looking down from one side upon the coloured and final piste area, and on the main hall from the other, which meant the DT members could follow all action on the floor and had easy access to the field of play. However, we could have made use of walkie-talkies when anyone was out of line-of-sight or to communicate more readily with one another in the vast hall.

Meeting rooms were available at the venue and at one of the selected hotels downtown. This room remained available throughout the competition and was often used by fencers for recreation. A room in the sport's hall was made available for the referees where they could rest, take coffee, water and snacks, but as it was not a secure area, we recommended they leave their valuables either at the hotel or with the DT.

Referees provided extremely reliable service, were pleased with the arrangements regarding their prompt remuneration, and expressed satisfaction with accommodation and meals. The onsite meal was catered by the tuck shop at the sports hall and consisted daily of a variety of sandwiches and samosas.

The referee corps at CFF Championships usually consists of a cadre of CFF referees chosen to represent as many Commonwealth zones as possible, supplemented by the addition of 2-3 FIE grade non-CFF referees. The extremely high cost of travel in this instance meant we had to amend this usual formula

and reduce the number of CFF referees invited to attend. The CFF wishes to thank the Fencing Federation of Egypt for having so kindly answered our request for assistance and providing three referees without whose invaluable help we would have been hard-pressed to present such successful Championships. The refereeing team consisted of

Michael Thornton (SCO- also CFF Technical Commission member assisting with Referee Assignments)
Samantha Auty (AUS)
Eugene Chua (SIN)
Stephen Darragh (AUS)
Adrian Speakman (ENG)

Mannad Ghazy (EGY)
Tamim Ghazy (EGY)
Mohamed Shousha (EGY)

Benjamin Denzer (GER)
Robert Lange (GER)
Lisa Kernchen (GER)

Shih-Ya Huang (RSA)
Louise Lombard (RSA)
Marcus Titus (RSA)

Equipment control was of variable quality, mostly due to the inexperience of some members of the armoury team. It was ably headed by Marius Titus, who did his best to instruct the team members as they went along. The 10- (eventually 11) piste setup meant we never had to double-flight any poules; all pistes were fully equipped with radio-controlled scoring apparatus. The pistes were kept in good working order by our armourers, who proved remarkably reliable when asked to trouble-shoot at the piste. Referees were expected to keep their own score and fill out the sheets as there were insufficient numbers of volunteers available to assist as scorers. For the most part, the whole competition ran smoothly and mainly according to the posted schedule, at times well ahead of schedule.

Marshalling and protocol was only undertaken for the final bouts. There were a few hiccups on the first day as there were few volunteers and the armourers had never done a weapon control in the chambre d'appel before. The layout allowed extremely easy access for all concerned from the chambre d'appel to the finals area and, for the most part, the fencers proved extremely collaborative.

Doping Control was not required; however, if there had been a need for it, the national authorities had been advised that the event was taking place.

Accreditation and Security were handled by the Organizing Committee and all fencers/officials/team members were issued with ID/ access cards. These worked reasonably well, as most delegation members remembered to wear them. Overall, there was good order in the fencing area and most people were cooperative. A few incidents of missing equipment were reported to the DT; some items were eventually turned in and returned to their owners. However, there were security concerns as several thefts took place involving wallets and phones/Ipods disappearing from fencing bags. Unfortunately, none of the stolen items were ever recovered, but given the size and open nature of the area and the number of people circulating freely, there were significantly few incidents of this type reported.

Information and Publicity were extremely low-key, with only a few posters spotted advertising the Championships. There was no television coverage of the event, though reports appeared daily in the local press. The most successful publicity efforts were achieved through social media as reported by athletes, team managers and other mandated individuals.

Catering was provided to all on site, with sandwiches to the referees, and hot snacks made available to fencers at a very reasonable price at the concession. The variety of foodstuff was adequate and it was plentifully available throughout the day. The organizers also hosted a very successful closing reception at an exclusive country club, along with presentation of awards and certificates to key individuals.

Transport was reliable and always punctual, with chartered buses shuttling athletes and officials from both event hotels. The schedule was flexible enough to allow several departures a day and was modified as required on a daily basis. Times were well advertised and posted, and were strictly adhered to, though the service was delayed if the fencing final and medal ceremony went over schedule.

RESULTS

Competition management and results were processed using the Ophardt competition management system software, which ran fairly reliably, except where teams were involved as this program does not recognize teams consisting of five (5) potential members and, therefore, requires operator involvement to manually allow it to run team events. M.-F. Dufour would like to commend the efficient work of Mr. Martin Schneider in the Secretariat in creating the necessary interfaces to download results to stream on the Championship website operated by Ophardt (nearly completely successful), team managers in keeping social networks constantly updated in real time, and Ms. Smith for relaying all results and DT requirements to delegations via e-list distribution. The monitors installed at the venue were nearly 100% reliable and proved very helpful; however, there were many delays and oversights in the information appearing on the Ophardt website and we received many complaints regarding this failure of communication. This was due in part to the fact that we were test running a new version of the Ophardt system and not all major bugs had yet been resolved. Most information was eventually made available, but once the competition was over and the Ophardt team departed, they did not follow up and download the missing files to the website (at the time of writing, some team results are still missing – MF and WS). This is a serious failing and no amount of follow-up on our part has been able to help us secure Ophardt's assistance to date in completing the files appearing on the archived site.

Results synopsis:

WEAPON	# FENCERS	DELEGATION	MEDALISTS
MF JR	39	ENG ENG SIN NZL	G Alexander LLOYD S Kamal MINOTT B Ryan ONG B Felix BOYCE
WF JR	33	SIN SCO ENG ENG	G Amita BERTHIER S Chloe DICKSON B Kate BEARDMORE B Katrina FEKLISTOVA
ME JR	42	ENG ENG NZL RSA	G Tomas CURRAN JONES S Harry PECK B Felix BOYCE B Pavel TYCHLER
WE JR	35	ENG ENG JAM SCO	G Jessica GUNDRY S Elisabeth POWELL B Tia SIMMS-LYMN B Molly HUDSON
MS JR	35	IND ENG ENG WAL	G Karan SINGH S William DEARY B Jacob GANDER COMPTON B Henry TALBOT
WS	22	SCO ENG SCO SCO	G Jessica CORBY S Isabel TURNBULL B Kate DAYKIN B Sarah-Jane HAMPSON
MF CDT	29	SIN ENG ENG ENG	Ryan ONG Harry BIRD Ben BATES Nicholas KAMERON
WF CDT	25	SIN SIN ENG ENG	Amitha BERTHIER Maxine WONG Jade ROWLAND Rachel SHAW
ME CDT	39	ENG ENG AUS WAL	Benjamin SCHNEIDER Matthew DICKINSON Lachlan CROOK George MORRIS
WE CDT	25	SIN	Kiria ABDUL RAHMAN

		ENG AUS JAM	Laura SHEFFIELD Emily PRINCIPE Tia SIMMS-LYMN
MS CDT	29	ENG IND AUS ENG	George SUDDARDS Karan SINGH James SIU Nicholas HOWES
WS CDT	14	SCO WAL AUS ENG	Jessica CORBY Megan WARE Alexandra HELY Shreya ANIL
MFTeam			G ENG S RSA B NZL
WFTeam	7		G SCO S ENG B NIR
METeam	9		G ENG S RSA B WAL
WETeam	7		G ENG S IND B SCO
MSTeam	8		G ENG S WAL B SCO
WSTeam			G SCO S ENG B IND

In terms of comparison with the first editions of these Championships, the trend is most encouraging with participation at this combined event showing the Juniors holding their own at some 210 entries and the over 160 Cadets entries ensuring the viability of this event in future editions.

The India Trophy was once again decisively won by ENG, followed by SCO and WAL. The CFF has updated the trophy, which is now a permanent plaque retained by the CFF. The CFF Executive Board will need to decide on the eventual introduction of a trophy dedicated to Cadet fencing and invites member nation recommendations to that effect.



CONCLUSION

This edition of the CFF Junior-Cadet Championships has proven a resounding success thanks to the support of the Fencing Federation of South Africa and the financial assistance of the FIE President through the Foundation for the Future of Fencing, as well as the hard work and vision of Sonia McGregor and Patrick Collings from Western Cape Fencing. The CFF's collaborators at this event delivered a world-class international event, which demonstrates, yet again, the Commonwealth's relevance as a significant fencing partner of the FIE. These Championships in South Africa might have been for some of these young fencers their first experience abroad and will hopefully encourage them to pursue their fencing careers.

Submitted 6 September 2015 by

M.-F. Dufour (CFF Technical Commission Chair)