



Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

President's Report 2018

To say 2018 has been a busy year for Fencing New Zealand, both on and off the piste would be a big understatement, and as with most years there have been some highs and some lows.

We had near full teams representing New Zealand at the Cadet, Junior, Senior and Veterans Commonwealth Championships and represent us well they did. For the first time in many years New Zealand was on the medal table at a Commonwealth Championships.

I would like to congratulate Lena Jacob for her two individual medals and helping the girls' cadet foil team to win bronze, and I would also to thank the entire teams for representing New Zealand well.

One of the important areas for us this year has been to improve the experience for those involved in these overseas tours. There has been a focus on tour management and coaching and we have raised the bar I am pleased to say. On this note, I would like to thank all the 2018 tour managers and coaches who have played their part in delivering on this.

Domestically we have consistently delivered a series of high-quality national events and I would like to thank the regions and local organising groups who have made this happen.

It is disappointing however to see a continued reduction in competition entries despite high quality organisation. This must be a focus area for us in the coming year and I am pleased to see some work underway on this already.

One of the reasons these competitions run the way they do is due to the small but dedicated team of referees and DT volunteers, and my thanks go out to all of you for your hard work. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work by Nicola Shackleton on the referee development programme which is already showing great results.

Whilst we are still seeing growth in overall fencer numbers, this is not resulting in growth at our National events and this is something we need to change. One of the challenges has been the large number of fencers who do not affiliate to Fencing New Zealand, and this is something we are determined to change. One of the initiatives aimed at changing this is the new social or club membership which is in the process of being rolled out.

The lack of value often gets raised as a reason why people do not affiliate so I would like to focus on a few initiatives which I believe shows some of the value Fencing New Zealand does deliver to its members.

During 2018 we introduced a comprehensive insurance cover package for all Fencing New Zealand members and I would like to thank Richard Johnstone for making this work for us.

We delivered an excellent Foil and Epee coach development programme through 2018 which was very well supported by coaches from across the country. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Kyle Macdonald and Dave Barson and financial support from the IOC for making this happen.

Fencing New Zealand, through the generosity of the FIE, has nearly \$20k worth of fencing equipment which will be used for the grass roots development of fencing in the regions.

Health and Safety has also been a major focus for the Fencing New Zealand board and through 2018 we have implemented incident reporting processes and appointed national and Regional health and safety co-ordinators.

In my 2017 report I highlighted five core areas of focus and it is a personal disappointment that we have not made as much progress as I had hoped at the start of the year.

I am pleased however to report that work on the Governance structure, operational resourcing, development programmes, communications and funding is now gaining traction.

The Fencing New Zealand Board and Commission heads have started the year with a strategic planning session and actions covering all these areas and more have been prioritised. We expect to publish the 2019 /2020 Strategic Priorities over coming weeks.

I would like to acknowledge Bryce Gracie, who stepped down as Fencing North president, for his hard work and contribution to the Fencing New Zealand board.

I would also like to thank Amanda Hopkins for her hard work as Secretary General as well as stepping in as acting Treasurer early in the year, your hard work and support is appreciated.

My thanks also go out to the Fencing New Zealand board and commissions for all the hard work and time they have put into the sport in 2018. Much of this work goes unseen yet it is essential for the running of the sport.

It just leaves me to wish you all the best for the 2019 Fencing year and am looking forward to working with all of you on growing and developing the sport we all love.



Mark Rance

President – Fencing New Zealand

15th March 2019