

Ashton
Fencing
Club



WELCOME TO
**ASHTON
FENCING
CLUB**



WELCOME

Thank you for joining Ashton Fencing Club. We're delighted to welcome you to our inclusive and friendly community. This short booklet will introduce you to how our club operates and what you can expect as a valued member.

Founded in 1951, Ashton Fencing Club has proudly supported fencers from all walks of life, helping over 60 members become national champions, with some competing internationally. We are committed to creating a welcoming space for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, whether you're just starting out or aiming to compete at local, regional, or national levels.

We foster a supportive atmosphere where everyone is encouraged to develop their confidence, fitness, and fencing skills. Members have represented Britain at every level, including the Commonwealth and four Olympic Games.

Fencing is a very safe sport. In over 70 years, the club has never had a serious accident. Still, we ensure a qualified First Aid person is present during every session.

CLUB NIGHTS

Each Monday and Thursday evening, we offer warm-ups, footwork drills, group or individual coaching sessions, and electric scoring bouts. We provide suitable kit for beginners and share information on competitions for those keen to participate more widely.

What We Expect From Our Members

We want everyone to enjoy a positive experience in a safe, respectful setting. Members are asked to:

- Take care of borrowed equipment and return it after use
- Handle scoring equipment (boxes and spools) with care
- Complete a short, confidential medical form so we can ensure appropriate support if needed
- At all times adhere to the club's safety guidelines

We promote a culture of kindness, support, and respect, on and off the piste.

WHAT TO WEAR

We provide protective fencing gear for all genders and most sizes. To participate comfortably and safely, please wear:

- A lightweight T-shirt (as you'll wear two layers over it)
- Loose, high-waisted tracksuit bottoms (shorts are not allowed for safety reasons)
- Non-marking sports shoes
- Long hair should allow a mask to fit snugly
- Avoid hair gels and large earrings (studs are fine)
- Glasses can be worn under a fencing mask

OUR EQUIPMENT

We maintain a wide selection of kit to make the sport accessible to everyone, regardless of personal circumstances. This helps newcomers explore fencing without the burden of upfront costs.

After around three months, we encourage those continuing to consider purchasing their own kit, starting with personal items like body wire, plastron, glove, and mask.

All our equipment is funded through evening fees, subscriptions, and community support.

Reporting Faulty Equipment

Equipment may naturally wear out. Please hand any faulty kit to a coach or official so it can be labelled for repair by our armourer. Safety is a shared responsibility.

BUYING YOUR OWN KIT

There's limited fencing retail locally, but kit can also be bought online or at competitions.

We're happy to offer guidance to help you:

- Choose equipment that suits your needs and level
- Ensure items meet British Fencing safety standard
- Avoid items deemed unsafe or not permitted at club or competitive level
- We sometimes have reliable second-hand kit available for new fencers at lower cost.

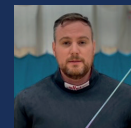
MEET THE COACHES

Our volunteer coaching team brings passion, experience, and dedication to helping members of all ages and backgrounds enjoy fencing in a safe, welcoming environment. All coaches are DBS-checked and trained in safeguarding.



Barry Massey
Chairman & Coach

British Fencing-qualified coach for 8 years. Level 1 certified in both Foil and Sabre. Barry also serves as the club's armourer and is committed to making fencing accessible and enjoyable for everyone.



Phil Chatterton
Head Coach (Foil)

With 28 years of fencing experience, Phil competed at domestic and international levels in his teens and now fences competitively on the Veterans circuit. He has been coaching Foil for 7 years and holds a British Fencing Level 2 certification. Phil brings a calm, experienced presence to the coaching team.



Irina Homes
Coach (Foil)

Irina has an extensive background in Foil, having studied the discipline for many years in Russia. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sport with a specialism in fencing and is a British Fencing Level 2 certified coach. Her technical approach and friendly nature support fencers of all abilities.



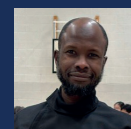
Steve Lees
Coach (Foil)

Steve has been fencing for 16 years and coaching Foil for 6 years. He holds a British Fencing ITCF Level 1 coaching qualification. Steve enjoys helping fencers build confidence, especially those new to the sport.



Grant Punnett
Coach

With over 5 years of fencing experience, Grant coaches both group Foil and Épée sessions. He holds a British Fencing ITCF Level 1 certification and enjoys encouraging new fencers to explore multiple weapons.



Alpha Ba
Coach (Foil)

Alpha has been fencing for 3 years and brings energy and commitment to coaching group sessions in Foil. He holds a British Fencing ITCF Level 1 certification and is passionate about making the sport inclusive and engaging for all.

WHEN & WHERE WE MEET

Mondays at Fairfield Road Primary School, Fairfield Road, Droylsden

Thursdays at Astley Sports Village, Yew Tree Lane, Dukinfield

Juniors (up to 17): 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Adults: 8.30pm – 10.00pm

Adults may attend earlier to help set up, referee juniors, or fence with younger fencers.

MAKING IT AFFORDABLE

We strive to keep our club affordable and accessible:

Juniors Weekly subs £5.00 if you're a member

Juniors Membership £30.00 per year

Juniors Weekly subs non member £8.00

Adults Weekly subs £10.00 if you're a member

Adults Membership £40.00 per year

Adults Weekly subs non member £12.00

Individual coaching will incur a fee of £5.00 per lesson (Thursday nights only) to be paid to AFC. To be paid at the time of booking. *Refunds or rescheduling will not be made due to non attendance. Should there be a need to cancel lessons due coaching availability the lesson will be rescheduled.*

We aim to reduce barriers so everyone who wants to fence can do so.

COMPETING

If you'd like to enter competitions beyond club nights, you'll need British Fencing membership and a Licence Number.



CONTACT US

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