

# FENCING CLUB

# NEWS

**MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

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- **SPOND APP**

We have been looking at Spond to use for communication and management of the club. It is an app, easy to use and much safer than whatsapp and facebook for juniors. All club members will be emailed with an invitation and a guide on how it works etc. The main Advantages include the use of a guardian / junior feature, event organisation and membership features.

- **Competition News**



Mhairi Gifford has been in good form recently, travelling in April to competitions south including the Birmingham Open, the Glasgow Open and the British National Championships. Following these 3 events, Mhairi moved her British ranking from 55<sup>th</sup> to 33<sup>rd</sup>, a great achievement given how difficult it is to travel to top competition from Shetland.

In the Birmingham Open, Mhairi competed against a top UK field, coming 27<sup>th</sup> out of 88 fencers. She went out to Sophie Pear, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked fencer in the UK. Next came the Glasgow Open. Mhairi won last year but was beaten in a very close final, 15-14 to Scottish rival Lucy Grant. Videos of the semifinal and final can be watched via the links below. At the end of April Mhairi achieved an entry to the British National Championships, with only the top 60 UK ranked fencers invited to compete. Mhairi came through a very tough direct elimination fight to beat a higher ranked fencer, then to meet the the highly ranked fencer she met in the Birmingham going out to finish the top Scot in 31<sup>st</sup> position.

### **Video stream: Womens epee semi final Glasgow Open**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbwT7AQIJxE&list=P LApSNqd3QYh1wPVTx68MvMjIiUYqS9XH &index=1>

### **Video stream: Women epee final Glasgow Open**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmeDv3iY8GQ&list=P LApSNqd3QYh1wPVTx68MvMjIiUYqS9XH &index=8>

The Glasgow Open was also successful for Shetland Fencers Matthew Blance, reaching the L16 in the epee and Jason Hughson

and Harrison Wylie, who fenced in both events building experience against far older and more experienced fencers.

- **Events this year to put in the calendar**

The main events this year we would like maximum numbers from the club to enter are;

- 1. Shetland Summer Festival June 20/21<sup>st</sup> Clickimin Centre**

Please follow link to event and make sure you can enter if you can.

[Summer Festival](#)

- 2. Orkney Trip – Training and Inter County October 10/11<sup>th</sup>**

Follow Link to event info [Orkney Weekend](#)

There is also the Highland Open at the end of September and watch out for the next recreational comp for May Club championships will be held in late August or early September, to include students and avoid exams.