

## Scottish Fencing 2021 Proposal Form – Election of Directors



I, Matt Pocock, hereby offer to stand for election to the post of Director of Scottish Fencing Ltd.

My proposal is supported by the following Voting Members of Scottish Fencing:

	Name	SF no	Preferred email address for confirmation of support
1.	Malcolm Downie		
2.	Paul Dourley		
3.	Malcolm Holford		
4.	Maggie Tait		
5.	Paul Thomson		

### Supporting statement

I started fencing in 2008 while studying at the University of Stirling and have been involved in university fencing ever since. I have worked in many fencing roles beyond competing as an individual; as a club committee member, referee and youth-weapon co-ordinator for Scottish Fencing.

However, my main forte is as an event organiser - having created and been the driving force behind Stirling Sword for 9 years, growing it into the largest fencing event in Scotland. I organise the Manchester Sword annually and volunteered with the wheelchair fencing at the 2011 European Championships. This has given me a broad knowledge of the different requirements fencers expect from competitions.

My interest in fencing and sport development brought me back to the University of Stirling to complete an MSc in Sports Management specialising in governance and events. While there I carried out research on the fencing event landscape in Scotland, the recommendations from which were adopted by other Scottish event organisers.

The work I did for my MSc has evolved into a full PhD research project which I am now undertaking examining fencing development - research which will benefit the whole Scottish Fencing community.

Away from academia, my work as a sports consultant led me to working on sports development projects in the UK, France, Austria and Liechtenstein, giving me a knowledge of the sporting landscape in these countries.

Since May 2020, I've been Fencing Chair for Scottish Student Sport, working to support our student fencers during this most difficult of times. I currently lead SSS' Indoor Sports Group which combines the efforts of indoor sports struggling with the impact of COVID-19. Together we have worked to keep clubs engaged while they are unable to train and compete.

While Chair, I've been able to use the downtime caused by COVID-19 to review SSS' existing fencing programme and made several reforms and enhancements to it. These reforms will reduce overheads, raise funds and provide better competitive experiences for student fencers. All at a lower cost to the students themselves. I also helped shape the SSS-Scottish Fencing Strategic Partnership which set out a development plan for all our university fencing clubs for the next 2 years.

It is my combination of practical experience and academic knowledge across all levels of fencing that I wish to bring to Scottish Fencing, so that when we restart from COVID-19, we can come back better than ever.