

Scottish Fencing 2021 Proposal Form – Election of President

I, George David Liston, hereby offer to stand for election to the post of President of Scottish Fencing Ltd.

I 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.	Martyn Foley		
2.	Ross Morrison		
3.	Hugh Kernohan		
4.	Neill Tannock		
5.	Sheila Anderson		
6.	Jennifer Sancroft		
7.	Glenn Sancroft		
8.	Jo Cook		
9.	Mike McEwan		
10.	Peter Drummond		

Supporting statement

What a difference four years can make! During my tenure as both President of SF and Chair of the Board, the Directors and Staff Team have directed and delivered significant improvements within SF. I do not claim credit for these, as this has been very much a team effort, but I believe that I have contributed to the improvement in SF's relationship with sportscotland, which is now very much stronger and the improved confidence in SF as a governing body has placed us in a strong position to obtain improved investment in fencing within Scotland.

My Board experience is not limited to sport. Following over thirty years' service in the RAF, I currently serve as a non-executive director on the Board of an NHS Trust, and my exposure to how complex organisations tackle a very broad range of issues means, I hope, that I bring this transferable knowledge to the SF Board.

I believe that the SF leadership is positioned well to guide our emergence from the effects of the pandemic and that my continuity in the role will help to smooth this process. Recruitment from beyond our own sport has been a healthy step and our engagement across a range of sports enables us to deliver more on themes we have in common. Additionally, our improving gender balance on the Board has improved the representation of our membership.

I intend to ensure that the refresh of SF's Strategy reflects the reality of recovery in the near term, yet retains ambition in the medium term. Major issues facing us include improving inclusivity within fencing in Scotland, offering as many as possible the chance to experience our amazing sport – whether they seek to be recreational or competitive, whether they are able-bodied or not, within existing clubs or in areas which have either never had clubs, or have lost them. All of this will help to develop a strong base for sustaining and growing a thriving community of fencers, coaches, officials

and volunteers, using clubs as the building blocks. Additionally, fostering an improving relationship with BF and CFF will increase our opportunities to influence broader developments that will benefit those who seek to hone their skills furth of Scotland.

Within the Scottish Government, sport sits squarely within the public health agenda, and increasing the opportunities for participation has to be one of SF's top priorities. Opportunities occur in areas that may never have been considered previously: an example is Project Forte, where fencing was used as the vehicle to offer life-changing experience to individuals who had suffered violence or trauma. Supported by engaged clubs, SF has taken these opportunities, yielding benefits for the sport, as the awareness of fencing has reached those, both participants and within the broader community, whom we may never have touched; moreover, SF's engagement has improved its profile within governing bodies and is now viewed as a reliable partner in a range of endeavours. As Scotland looks to emerge from the worst effects of the pandemic, I shall look for SF to continue in this vein.

This past year has been frustrating as progress has been impeded; however, I believe that my breadth of experience – as a member of clubs in Scotland, England, Germany, the USA, Italy and France, as well as an individual competitor and team member – offers a perspective that is almost unique among the Scottish fencing community, and I am keen to offer that to SF for a further four years. I ask that you consider supporting my nomination to the office of President for the coming term