

## Scottish Fencing

### 2021 Proposal Form – Election of Directors

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I, Mhairi McLaughlin, 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.	Alex Papadopoulos		
2.	Zoe Counter		
3.	Sarah Harvey		
4.	Robbie Brown		
5.	David Barbour		
6.	Don Mckenzie		

#### Supporting statement

My name is Mhairi McLaughlin and I have been fencing for over 10 years now. I started off through a taster session at my state primary school in Edinburgh, which had definitely not seen any fencing before. Since then, I have progressed through YDS', LPJS', Scottish Opens, the first ever Scotland trip to Challenge Wratistavia and now European, Commonwealth and World Championships.

I believe I would bring a fresh perspective to the board due to my current involvement in national and international competition, University fencing and Youth Coaching. As well as my first-hand experience of the ups and downs of a developing fencing career in Scotland in recent years.

Decisions made by the board affect me, my friends, my teammates, and I want to ensure the interest of everyone is not only heard but listened to.

I would like to set up better access to taster sessions at state schools and try and make the enjoyment of fencing open to people from any background, by taking steps now to widen access to the sport we can change the future.

Another of my main aspirations for fencing in Scotland is to get more women and girls involved in the sport, not only at clubs and competitions, but in places of prominence. I would like to encourage more female coaches and board members and bring female role models into the forefront at Scottish Fencing. A massive hole has been left with the recent retirement of Charity McArdle who was one of only a few great female coaches running a Fencing Club in Scotland. There are some fantastic female coaches out there, but we need more.

When I was younger, I was desperate for a female fencer to look up to. I wanted someone that I could aspire to be like, but instead of seeing great women around me I had to rely on stories about them. It was years before I was introduced to any older female fencers. Having these figures for young people is vital in piquing and keeping their interest in this sport, because when you see yourself in someone else, you realise that their success could be possible for you too.