

READING

FENCING

CLUB

SINCE 1948

MEMBERSHIP PACK

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Reading Fencing Club Welcome Pack

Welcome to Reading Fencing Club! The information contained in this pack will tell you all you need to know about RFC: how to join as a member, what to do once you've joined, the Rules of the Club, coaching, kit, competitions, tracksuits, and information for juniors.

How to Join

It's easy to join the club. Simply fill out a Membership Form (see [Appendix 1](#)), and either [email](#) it to us or hand it to one of our committee members. You will also need to pay your subscription fees – details of which are in the next section.

Fees

Our membership rates are extremely competitive, and we offer a range of subscriptions which are displayed in the table below; these can also be found under the '[Membership](#)' section of our website:

Category	Standing Orders & Online Payments			Payments by PayPal or Cash		Guest
	Annual	Quarterly	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	
Adult	£185.00	£46.25	£15.42	£195.00	£16.25	£10 per visit***
Student	£145.00	£36.25	£12.08	£152.00	£12.67	
Under 17	£95.00	£23.75	£7.92	£100.00	£8.33	
Over 50	£145.00	£36.25	£12.08	£152.00	£12.67	
Family*	See below					
Country**	£110.00	£27.50	£9.17	£115.00	£9.58	
Services****	£145.00	£36.25	£12.08	£152.00	£12.67	

*Under this offer, one member pays the relevant full annual subscription, plus just £30 for each additional family member.

**Country membership is offered to infrequent visitors. It is an annual rate, entitling the holder to 2 visits per calendar month; any additional visits will be charged as a Guest fee.

***Payment of Guest fee is deemed acceptance of the Rules of the Club.

You can pay either by filling out a Standing Order Mandate (see [Appendix 2](#)) or, if you have Internet banking, then you can pay online (account number: 02493258; sort code: 30-91-11). If neither of these options suit you, then you can pay by PayPal – via the '[Membership](#)' section of the

website – or by good ol’ fashioned cash. Again, these details can be found on the ‘[Membership](#)’ section of our website.

How the Club Works

Reading Fencing Club is open virtually every week through the year, twice a week. Our opening times are 19:30-22:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays; you can keep up-to-date by checking out the ‘[Calendar](#)’ section of our website, which has a list of when we’re open/closed and also details of upcoming competitions.

RFC is lucky enough to have a lot of electrical scoring equipment for members to fence – we have a total of 16 sets of electrical scoring “boxes”, as well as 2 metallic pistes. We encourage all members to help with setting up the equipment at the beginning of the evening, and packing it away at the end, so please help if you can (and if you’re not sure what to do, then just ask someone).

Normally you’ll go on and play a match against whomever’s already on the piste, and fence to a number of hits according to how much of a queue there is... once the match is over someone else will come on and, when you’ve finished fencing them, simply unplug yourself and queue up for another go.

We have a wide range and variety of members at the club, from complete beginners to fully-fledged internationals. If you’re a beginner then don’t worry – you’ll either play with someone roughly your level, or if it’s someone a lot more experienced than you, then they’ll give you help and hints at how to improve your game.

Fencing Equipment

Anyone who has completed one of our beginner courses will know that the club kit we have is reserved for those classes. You may hire the club’s kit for £5/evening – to be paid to a coach or committee member; this includes a mask, plastron, jacket and glove. This does not include breeches, bodywire or weapon, and whilst the coaches and club members will do their best to lend you these, it cannot be guaranteed.

If you're keen on the sport you'll want your own gear, and nowadays fencing isn't expensive. The club kit we have is reserved for our beginner courses so it's better to have your own, and RFC is very lucky to have an equipment manufacturer at our club so you can talk with him face-to-face. PBT UK is run by Ian Briggs (who visits the club most evenings) – but we also have agreements with most other manufacturers in the country, so always remember to ask them before buying!

We also have some second-hand kit for sale; for more details check out the '[Resources](#)' section of the website.

What to buy first? Most retailers offer beginner packs that are well priced, but if you're on a budget then don't feel obliged to buy everything all at once. The best things to get first would be a pair of breeches, weapon (épée) and bodywire. Following that you can get a jacket, mask, glove, socks, underplastron, and even a bag. It's always useful to have a spare weapon in case one develops a fault or breaks, and basic épées can be as cheap as just £30. As for shoes – try to avoid buying fencing-specific shoes (they're over-priced), and in fact the best épéeists actually tend to wear squash shoes. Just make sure that they're comfortable, have non-marking soles, grip well and have a rounded heel.

If want advice on anything then ask one of your coaches, an experienced fencer at the club, or [email](#) us.

Coaching

You'll improve a lot by just practising at the club with the other members. However, to keep you on the right lines or to work on something specific, it's always worth getting a lesson from one of our experienced coaches.

Lessons last about 20-25 minutes for adults and 15-20 minutes for juniors, and cost £7 for adults and £5 for Under 17's (paid in cash to the coach). To sign up for a lesson on the night, just scribble your name on the whiteboard when you arrive and lessons are given in order.

A few helpful tips: don't feel obliged to have a lesson every week, as you'll get better just by fencing and with time; when you have a lesson with a coach, try to give them some ideas about

what you'd like to improve on; finally, if you're fencing a more experienced fencer at the club then make use of them – ask for tips!

Juniors

RFC has a large and growing junior contingent. On busy club nights one piste (the one nearest the car park) will be set aside, for junior fencers only, until 9pm. No big horrible adults will be allowed on the piste 'til then – so make the most of it!

Many of our youngsters compete in local and national competitions, either individually or as part of a team.

Local competitions are small and take part in the area, and for more details have a look at the [Competitions](#) section.

Other competitions that are very much worth considering are the [Elite Epee Junior Series](#), and [Leon Paul Junior Series](#) – they offer the opportunity for youngsters fence with and against those of similar ages from all over the country.

To find out more just speak to one of our committee members, or [email](#) us.

Competitions

No matter what age you or ability you are, RFC encourages its members to take part in competitions. They provide you with the opportunity to meet and fence new people and, as our members tend to dominate both local and national events, you'll by no means be alone.

In order to compete, you'll need a British Fencing licence – this lasts for a year and lets you compete in any domestic competition. Click [here](#) to go to the BFA website and find out more, or get a new licence. As always, if you have any questions then either speak to a committee member or [email](#) us.

Membership Form (Appendix 1)

Welcome to Reading Fencing Club. Please fill out this form and either [email](#) it to us, or hand it to a club committee member.

First name:	
Family name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
BFA Membership No. (if applicable)	
Email address(es):	
Home telephone:	
Mobile telephone:	
Date of birth:	
If under 18, name of parent/carer:	
Emergency contact name:	
Emergency contact number:	
<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">Medical information:</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Please detail any important medical information that RFC should be aware of (e.g. visual or hearing impairment, physical or learning disability, epilepsy, asthma, diabetes etc.).</p>	

IMPORTANT:

By completing, signing and returning this form, I acknowledge that by becoming a Member of Reading Fencing Club that I am required to comply with the Rules of the Club, and that if I fail to comply with those requirements my membership may be suspended or cancelled.

I understand that it is my responsibility to keep the Club updated with all relevant information, including emergency contact and medical details.

I also understand that photographs and videos of Club Members taking part in Club activities and others attending Club activities may be taken. I consent to the Club using appropriate photos and videos of me relating to the promotion and marketing of the Club and its activities; I will bring to the attention of the Club if I object to my photograph being taken, and will then expect the Club to make reasonable efforts to prevent such pictures of me being taken. However, I understand that the Club cannot guarantee this.

Reading Fencing Club will use the information you provide to keep you informed about Club events, and for the management and administration of the Club. Your information will not be passed on to any third parties.

Reading Fencing Club, its coaches, instructors or its Members shall not, in any circumstances whatsoever, be under any liability to the applicant for any loss, damage or injury (including death), whether accidental or otherwise, arising during or resulting from participation in fencing activities with the Reading Fencing Club premises or on the Club's behalf.

Signature (by parent/carer if under 18):	
Print name:	

Date:	
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Standing Order Mandate (Appendix 2)

Please complete all boxes below and then email it to us, hand to any RFC committee member, or send to our postal address.

Please put a cross in the relevant box:

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

New instruction

Amendment of previous Standing Order

ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED

Bank Name: _____

Bank Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Sort Code: - -

Account Number:

Account Name: _____

BENEFICIARY DETAILS

Bank: *Lloyds TSB*

Bank Address: *18 Broad Street, Wokingham*

Beneficiary Name: *Reading Fencing Club*

Sort Code: *30 - 91 - 11*

Account Number: *02493258*

Reference (print name): _____

PAYMENT DETAILS

Amount of First Payment: £____.____

Date of First Payment: / /

Amount of Usual Payment: £____.____

Amount of Usual Payment in Words: _____

When Paid (please tick): Monthly Quarterly Annually

Date of Usual Payment: _____

Customer Signature(s): _____

Date: / /

Customer Contact Telephone Number: _____