

Dear Fencer/Parent,

We are very pleased to announce the opening of **Luso International Fencing Club**.



Together we have taken over the Luso Fencing Academy from Carina and created a new organisation in its place. We would like to thank Carina for her hard work up to this point and appreciate everything she has done for us as I am sure many of you do too.

As well as the name change to differentiate the old club from the new club, there will also be some changes in the club structure and emphasis.

The main change will be a small shift in the focus of the club. Up to this point, the club has had a large non-competitive side as well as a fairly small, strong competitive side. We would like to see a shift in this pattern to a more competitive focus. We will not be eradicating the casual side of the club, however, as we very much would like to see those non-competitive fencers stay with us and continue to improve.

We are looking to hold club sessions from a single base in the area rather than traveling around to different venues. We have a couple of sites in mind that will offer a large, clean and affordable hall. We are also looking at how fees work and the best way to run the club, pay for the staff and venue.

With the Coronavirus pandemic still very present, we are working on ways to keep everybody safe.

Unfortunately this will make sharing kit very difficult. The current discussions from the BFA are suggesting that shared kit can only be used once per day before it needs to be sanitized. This is pretty much impossible for a club of our size to implement. Because of this, it is likely we will need all of our fencers to have their own set of personal equipment. We are in talks with vendors to see what deals we can get for the club and have had a few promising conversations. Please do get in touch with us if you believe this will cause an issue as we may be able to help out in some way.

We have new club kit to go with our new club! To start with, there is a new hoodie, new shorts, and club socks. We would really like to see everybody turn up to training in the kit, but this is not compulsory. As regards competition and new club kit, we encourage you to wear your hoodie at events, as this not only advertises the club, but more importantly makes it much easier for us to find you!

We will be using a new app to help us run the club, it is called ClubEvent and we will be using it a lot. It is free for you to use, you need only download it and sign up to the club.

Finally we have a new assistant coach/volunteer helping us. Cat will be working towards her coaching award and will be helping us run the beginner courses as well as other general club sessions.

To give you an idea of what is to come, we have listed overleaf some of the events and sessions we will be running or attending every year as well as some of our short and long term goals.



### **Club Sessions / Annual Events**

- Longer Training Sessions
- More 1-to-1 lesson slots
- Separate training sessions for beginners
- Club Social Event
- Presentation Evening
- Our own Competition (open to all, including other clubs and fencers)
- Specialist Coaches
- International Camp
- International Competitions

### **Short Term Goals**

- Grow the club (100 fencers, currently 60)
- Gain club sponsors
- Have 5 fencers on the National Squad
- Grow stronger ties with our international friends
- Set up an International Summer Camp
- Run our own competition, open to all fencers
- Run monthly training open to fencers within our Region

### **Longer Term Goals**

- Have our own venue (we believe this is a possibility within 10 years)
- Become the strongest club in the Country
- Become Internationally recognised as a top club
- Be the place people wish they could train at.

We hope this has given you an idea of the things to come. We cannot say when or where we will start, as it all depends on the Coronavirus situation. It looks like we will be able to start with socially distanced conditioning and footwork, followed by 1-to-1 lessons and eventually back to full fencing. We also do not foresee any competitions for a while.



This time off gives us all more time to get fitter and stronger, however, and will give us all a hunger to get back and fence again!

Please check out our new website [www.lusointernationalfencing.com](http://www.lusointernationalfencing.com)

Our new email is [lusointernationalfencing@gmail.com](mailto:lusointernationalfencing@gmail.com)

Facebook and Instagram **Luso International Fencing** (@lusointernationalfencing)

ClubEvent ID **Test39**

And of course our phone numbers are the same as before.

We are very much looking forward to a bright future with you all, if you have any questions please feel free to ask and we will continue to get things ready for the new season, whenever it starts.

Regards,

James and Antonio

Luso International Fencing