

# **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

## **Sarnia Sword Club - Foil League 1 – September 2019**

Headline:    ***‘Martel Tops First Round of New Season’s Foil League’***

Ross Martel, returning to the piste after a lengthy absence last season, topped the rankings for the new season’s first round of the Sarnia Sword Club’s Foil League.

Last year’s Champion, Jamie de Carteret has left Guernsey for a year’s sabbatical leave, while Meyrick Simmonds, last year’s Bronze medallist and Julie Dyer, the Ladies Champion, were unable to fence. So the first round pool rankings were wide open, and produced some interesting bouts.

In pool 1, Ross Martel used his somewhat languid but effective style to dominate his opponents, only suffering a single defeat to another newcomer to this season’s competition, Adam Bonner. This placed him on equal victories with Luke Milner, last year’s Silver medallist. But Martel emerged in pole position for the pool on count-back of hits.

Without de Carteret, Luke Milner might have expected an easy passage to First place. But he suffered a heavy defeat to Ross Martel, which relegated him to second place when the final pool results were calculated.

Adam Bonner, a seasoned fencer, took a well-earned third place, followed by Georgina Lindsay in fourth. Wendy Batiste, a senior Club member, fenced well to secure fifth place, followed by one of the Club’s youngsters, Jay Pattimore, and then one of the Club’s newer members, Christine Mahy.

In Pool 2, Ross Gouarin – seeded second in the overall starting rankings as Simmonds and Dyer were not fencing – found himself in what was probably the easier pool of the evening.

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He fenced economically to gain top place in the pool, only defeated by Michael Wright by one hit. Despite suffering two defeats Blake Batiste, who usually fences Epée, put his skills to good use to emerge as runner-up after the evening's fencing. Michael Wright, making a welcome return to the piste after being sidelined through injury last season, gained third place. Sarah Collenette fenced well above her usual standard to take fourth place, followed by one of her colleagues, Lauren Hallett. Sarah Addenbrooke, another Club newcomer also fenced competently, gaining several hits, to end up in sixth place.

When the results of both pools were combined to make up overall rankings for the evening, Ross Martel just pipped Luke Milner to the post to top the evening's rankings. Ross Gouarin and Michael Wright, from pool 2, gained third and fourth place respectively. Adam Bonner edged Georgina Lindsay out by just two hits to gain fifth place. Blake Batiste emerged as the seventh-placed fencer, followed by Sarah Collenette. Collenette was followed by Wendy Batiste and Lauren Hallett in eighth and ninth place respectively. Jay Pattimore, Sarah Addenbrooke and Christine Mahy took the remaining three places.

In a change to last year's Rules, the two lowest ranked fencers in pool 1 will be demoted for the next Foil League round in November, while the top two fencers in Pool 2 will find themselves fencing in pool 1 – against much tougher opposition, next time round. With Dyer and, possibly, also Simmonds returning to the Competition in the next round, November's contest looks to be more interesting, and harder-fought, than usual.

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*M.G.S – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019*

**520 Words**

## **Photograph Captions:**

1. (Photo 1) Wendy Batiste parries Georgina Lindsay's attack.
2. (Photo 2) Ross Gouarin and Sarah Collenette exchange hits.
3. (Photo 3) Adam Bonner ripostes against Michael Wright
4. (Photo 4) Georgina Lindsay attacks Christine Mahy

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