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The Fencer

ECU Cavalier School of Fencing Newsletter

Note from the Editor

This time of the year brings with it the inevitable wind-up activities including the Annual General Meeting both for Cavaliers and for the Association.

While such meetings are often regarded with great scepticism, we do encourage all members to participate in these events and to take seriously the strong role an effective administration plays in the sport at all levels.

The AGM for the Association was held on Saturday 21st September with a disappointing turnout. More in another column opportunities about the for volunteering for the Association. It is not too late!

The AGM for Cavaliers will be held on Saturday November 16th and takes place at the club venue towards the end of the session. It is really important to have as many members as possible attend.

The reports from the Committee will be read out and this is an opportunity for you to find out what has been happening behind the scenes during the year.

The second part of the meeting will take nominations for the Committee for next year. While some members have served on the Committee for years, it is not such a good idea to think that these people can carry on forever. It is easy for complacency to set

in and to feel that our Committee is secure. Each year we need new people to provide continuity and to receive input from a new perspective.

Think about this.

One note of caution - we are looking for good intention, reliability and consistency. If you offer to take on a position without 'following through', you will cause serious set-backs to the process and create an enormous amount of work for those who have to cover for you in addition to doing their own iobs.

More in another column about how you can help at Cavaliers.

We have had a successful year with a packed calendar. One event which stands out was the Ladies Fencing Day which our club hosted for the Association. There was a good turn-out and a good response from our members to help out. Two or three newcomers joined various fencing clubs as a result. There were 'good vibes' on that day!

We have a full program coming up to finish off the year. The finals of the Cavs Handicap Competitions will be held in November. The State finals start at the end of October and go through to the end of November. This will include the final Activity Weekend for the U/13's. The Open/Vet Australian National Championships will be held early December. The

October 2013

WAFA Awards and Social Evening will be held at the end of November.

Our last fencing session for the year will be on Saturday 14th December. We will recommence in 2014 in early February.

Sometimes the coaches arrange for private fencing sessions during the summer break at Cavs. These sessions will be announced towards the end of the year and you can arrange to pay privately for these.

It is time to thank all those who have helped out on the Committee this year and also to those who have put their hands up for events during the year - the ODay stall, the Medieval Fayre, Cavs-hosted comps, the the Ladies Day and for the Jnr Nationals to come - and more. We have a particularly great bunch of people at our Club!!

Until next year,

Gillian Kings-Lynne

Contents

Cavaliers AGM and Positions Photos AFF#2 Adelaide Fencing WA Help Needed ASADA Reminder Ladies Have-a-Go Day Fencer Profile Clubmanship at Cavs Australian Juniors Perth **Photos**

1



Cavaliers Membership

Senior Male

Adams Ben Barrett-Lennard Chris **Boujos** Alex Brownrigg Leon Criddle Brett Cuthbert Colin Devenish Dylan Foley Drew Harbin Peter Harbin Piers Jensen David Karia Jai Kneale Damian Kuruckchi Damien Kwan Andrew Macintyre Simon MacRae Michael Middleton Mike Munroe Andrew Webster Stuart WolfingerSeymour Wong Elim

Junior Female

Hadwin Orlando Hodges Laura Kamila Lovita Kneale Amy Rosario Alice Rosario Grace Sanchez Monica Webster Sian

<u>Associates</u>

Algaba Rhonda Herzog Neil Hodgson Toby Kings-Lynne Chris Walker Ian

Life Members

Donley Graham Jaffar Mahmud Kings-Lynne Gillian McMahon Gerald Osgood George Rogers Catherine

Ex Officio Davies Malcolm Adrian Paxman

Junior Male

Austin Thomas Foley Llewelyn Freedman Lewis Gibson Dylan Gregg Cameron Haass Alexander Luca-Morison Gabriel MacKenzie James MacKenzie Tomas Marcus Sam Martin Darren McConnell Edward McConnell Zak Mettam Cameron Mettam James Moralee Tyrone Orrman Finn Paraskov Kosta Reynolds William Ruffo Antonio Steinkrug Kurt Stretton Mark Thomson Ryan Trichilo Gino Van der Wal Israel Vinten Sean Wakelam Ellis Yang Jonathon

Senior Female

Avery Nicole Black Marissa Caunt Kylie Ellis Isobel Gulland Elizabeth Jensen Rebecca Kings-Lynne Susannah Mason Saskia Meredith Sarah Park Ivy Ranieri Michelle Schultz Nikki Skerman Jindalae Ullaga Gabriella Vinten Claire

Contract Coaches Davies Malcolm Hein Sven

Thompson Kieran

Visiting Coach Jau Sam

Next Cavs Committee Meeting

The Committee will meet for the last meeting prior to the AGM on Saturday 12th October at 10am at Mahmud's home.

Beginners' Course Dates

Course 5

Saturday 12th October 2.30pm Wednesday 16th October 7.30pm

Club Handicap Competition Dates

September

Softender Sat 14^{th} – Foil Handicap Sat 21^{st} – Epee Handicap Sat 28^{th} – Sabre Handicap **October** Sat 12^{th} – Foil Handicap Sat 19^{th} – Epee Handicap Sat 26^{th} – Sabre Handicap November Sat 2^{nd} – Epee Handicap Final Sat 9^{th} – Foil Handicap Final Sat 16^{th} – Sabre Handicap Final

All competitions start at 1pm All welcome

WAFA Competition Dates

7th/8th September WAFA Vets Foil #3 WAFA Cadets #3

14th/15th September

WAFA Activity Weekend Excalibur WAFA U/13's

3rd to 6th October WAFA hosting AFF Junior National Championships CAVS CLOSED THIS WEEKEND

19th/20th October WAFA Novice

26th/27th October WAFA U/15 and U/20 State Finals

2nd/3rd November WAFA Activity Weekend UWA U/13 State Finals

23rd/24th November WAFA Open State Finals

See Fencing WA website for details http://www.fencingwa.com/

AFF and FIE Competition Dates

22nd September Veteran's Hong Kong

29th September to 4th October University Games Gold Coast

1st to 6th October World Vets Championships

World Vets Championships Bulgaria

5th to 9th December

AFF Australian Open and Veteran Championships Canberra

See AFF website for details:

http://www.ausfencing.org/home/

Cavs Committee 2013

President Vice President Secretary Registrar Treasurer Coach Coordinator WAFA Rep Equipment Manager Armourer Librarian Tournament Officer Website Manager Promotions Social Secretary ECU Liaison Position Vacant Mike Middleton GillianKings-Lynne Isobel Ellis Mahmud Jaffar Kylie Caunt Damien Kuruckchi Drew Foley Perry Ruffo Grace Rosario Melanie McCarthy Kylie Caunt Position Vacant Dylan Devenish Gillian KingsLynne

Cavaliers AGM

Cavaliers AGM Saturday 16th November 3.30pm to 4.30pm At the Cavs venue Normal fencing until 3.30pm

If you are interested in helping out on the Committee 2014, please chat to the current Committee members to find out more about the jobs.

We are looking for a strong team.

PRESIDENT: (Executive)

Usual Presiding duties. Responsible for liaison with ECU/WAFA/other authorities. Responsible for overall smooth running of the club. Qualities of leadership in future club direction, communication and delegation.

VICE-PRESIDENT: (Executive)

Responsible for leadership duties in the absence of the President. Appointed to various duties as they arise eg subcommittees, grants.

SECRETARY: (Executive)

Usual Secretarial duties and general office routine.

Responsible for venue bookings, sending chqs for payment.

Central communication link between members and committee.

This involves daily email and phone communication, prompting and reminding, etc.

Maintain supply of stationery, update of notice boards and provide update information for the website.

Quarterly newsletter

Central contact person for club enquiries.

Home telephone, computer and email essential.

Requires having contact details on open website, DSR, and in other public places.

REGISTRAR: (Executive)

Usual Registrar duties and general office routine.

Responsible for all membership subscriptions and late payments.

Responsible for all monies to be receipted, recorded and transferred to the Treasurer.

Responsible for notifying payments due and chasing unpaid money.

Responsible for management of the Membership List.

Available at each session for general administrative duties.

TREASURER: (Executive)

Required to safeguard the money of the club.

Expected to prepare a small budget in conjunction with other committee members to enable an element of forecasting and control over the expenditure. The club works on a cash accounting basis. The majority of the work centres around the receipting and deposit of money, the

CAVS COMMITTEE POSITIONS

PLEASE CONSIDER ASSISTING THE COMMITTEE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ROLES

input of receipt data, payment of bills and undertaking bank reconciliations. Requires a strong sense of responsibility in keeping records accurate and up-to-date.

It is a small club which is easily managed using MS Excel.

COACH COORDINATOR: (Exec)

Responsible for coordination of all coaching programs within the club. Responsible for the rostering of coaches and the standards practised. Responsible for overseeing the acquiring and updating of coaches accreditation.

WAFA REPRESENT'IVE: (Exec)

To act as liaison between the club and the Association.

To attend Association meetings in addition to Cavaliers' meetings.

To act as spokesperson for the club at Association meetings.

To promote a good relationship between the club and the Association.

To follow through with the issues which require attention.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER:

Responsible for the care of all the club equipment. Regular cleaning, tidying, maintenance, labelling, purchasing, repair, inventory. Supervise transfer of equipment to and from tournaments. A consistent and responsible job.

Works with club armourer.

CLUB ARMOURER:

Responsible for the repair of club equipment.

Works with the Equipment Manager.

BLADEZ COACH COORDIN'R:

Works in liaison with the Head Coaching Coordinator.

Responsible for the Bladez program. Roster the coaches, plan program, roll call, interact with parents, assist young fencers in moving up to the main group.

Arrange social fencing within the group or by invitation with other clubs.

WEBPAGE MANAGER:

Responsible for web page design, content and updates.

SOCIAL OFFICER:

Planning and organising of social events covering all age groups – bookings, catering, advertising and facilitating.

Liaise with the committee for proposed dates.

TOURNAMENT OFFICER:

Responsible for promotion of tournaments to club members, mainly those new members wishing to compete for the first time.

Advise newcomers of the procedure and facilitate the registration process. Liaise between WAFA Tournament Chairman and Cavs members for tournament procedure/timetable changes, etc.

Organise the Cavs DT Team for Cavs-hosted competitions when necessary.

DT TEAM:

Assistance with the weekend WAFA tournaments in several capacities -Learn how to DT, help with scoring, timekeeping, refereeing, setting up and taking down the pistes and equipment, transporting equipment from the club to the tournament, running the computer.

LEVEL 1 COACHES:

We will assist anyone wishing to take the Level 1 Coaching Course. Enquire through Head Coach Coordinator.

All Club Coaches work for the club on a volunteer basis under the direction of the Head Coaching Coordinator.

Opportunities to give private lessons.

JUNIOR COACHES:

Experienced young fencers to assist in coaching Bladez on a volunteer basis.

LIBRARIAN:

Keep catalogue in order. Plan, buy, name and record all new additions. Follow up late returns.

WASHING CLOTHING:

Volunteers required for washing the clothing at regular intervals.

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Photos AFC#2 June Adelaide



Gary Sudran, Isobel Ellis, Peter Harbin.



Damian in medal lineup

Dylan Devenish



Isobel Ellis



Peter Harbin

AFF Website

Don't forget to check the **AFF** website for all national fencing news, competition dates, scores and rankings.

Don't forget that all entries for national competition are now processed directly through the AFF via a portal on their website.

http://www.ausfencing.org/home/



Australian Junior Championships

TO BE HELD AT COCKBURN BASKETBALL STADIUM 2nd to 6th October 2013

CAVS WILL BE CLOSED DURING THIS WEEKEND

WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR THIS EVENT

PLEASE contact Nicole on <u>navery@upnaway.com.au</u> if you can help out.

This five-day tournament will attract fencers from all over Australia and will be an important opportunity for young WA fencers to get competition experience at this level.

WAFA Awards Presentation and Social Evening

TO BE HELD AT HACKETT HALL UWA CAMPUS Saturday 30th November 2013

6pm Invitational Medley and Three Weapon Italian Relay

7pm Awards Presentations

\$20 - \$25 per person includes soft drinks. Alcohol-free event.

All encouraged to attend.

For tickets via Netbank transfer enquire through Kay on <u>kay.howard@iinet.net.au</u>. Or see our ticket representative at Cavs.

Epee and Sabre Camp

12th and 13th October 2013

Coaches: Tuko Maia, Sam Jau, and Keiran Thompson

\$80 per person 9-3pm Saturday and Sunday UWA Claremont Campus, Goldsworthy Road, Nedlands.

WA Fencing Assoc is now Fencing WA!!

This year sees a name change and a new logo for the WA Fencing Association. A new-look website is also under construction.

You can find the Minutes of all WAFA meetings on its website to follow the decision-making which impacts upon you as a club fencer and its role within Australian fencing.

This year has seen a move to make changes to the local refereeing standards in an effort to improve the well-being of competitions. This may involve a payment scheme to qualified referees.

New rules have been set to allow small sized weapons for U/13 competitors. Correct breeches are now compulsory for WAFA competitions.

Suggestions have been put forward to re-structure the competitions for juniors in terms of age-grouping and number of events.

Fencing WA complies with the AFF in all national policies - including those which involve drug-testing during competitions through ASADA.

Fencing WA supports a representative member on the board of the AFF – the Australian Fencing Federation.

Fencing WA currently supports visiting French coach, Sam Jau, who specialises in Epee. Sam is available for individual epee lessons at Cavaliers.

Fencing WA is hosting the Australian Junior Championships in Perth in October this year.

Thanks Kay and Nicole

Kay Howard and Nicole Avery are two Cavs Mums (and fencer) who volunteer many hours for the Fencing WA Committee. We are grateful for their contribution and to have their representation at this level.

Unfortunately, Nicole will soon be unable to carry on with the Secretarial position and a new Secretary is required. Kay is also keen to find an extra hand to help her out with Treasurer/Registrar.

Volunteer Support for Fencing WA

Fencing WA is very much in need of support at its Committee level.

At the recent AGM, the same small over-worked Committee was re-elected simply because there were no other offers of assistance.

This puts fencing in Western Australia in a very dangerous position.

With a full Committee and a team of extra supporters the work load for everyone could be more reasonable.

As it is, the Committee is in danger of losing its few supporters because the workload cannot be sustained.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING THE FENCING WA COMMITTEE.

The core Committee comprises the usual positions of **President**, **Vice-President**, **Secretary**, **Treasurer**, **Registrar** and **Tournament Chairman**. Each of these positions is very timeconsuming and the current titleholders are desperate for extra people to assist when the load gets heavy – or to give them a break.

There are many other **short-term positions** which would require less of a commitment, but would be of the utmost assistance to the overloaded team.

These positions would cover areas such as organising national tournaments in Perth. helping organise to the travelling teams, helping with organising publicity, the awards presentation, keeping track of trophies, helping out with local competitions, writing the newsletter, looking after equipment and much more!!

PLEASE contact

Kaykay.howard@iinet.net.auNicolenavery@upnaway.com.auIf you can help in ANY WAY.

ASADA Drug Testing

"All capitated club members, particularly those heading off to national competitions, must be made aware of the importance of being up to date with the ASADA guidelines regarding medications and other substances.

Drug testing by WADA/ASADA officials was conducted on Cadet medal-winners at the recent Oceania Cadet Championships in New Caledonia.

Fencers need to be mindful that this can take place at any of the competitions and that they must comply with the demands of drug testing officials should the circumstance arise.

Fencers must also remember that they are responsible for any medication / substance they ingest. Guidelines with regards to medication, particularly those which contain banned substances and testing-compliance can be found on the ASADA website." (WAFA)

WAFA Ladies Day

The WAFA Ladies Competition and Have-a-Go Day on Saturday 27th July was a fantastic success. It was a combined effort on behalf of all the clubs - hosted by Cavaliers at ECU.

Thanks go to Lisa Blyth and Kylie Caunt who organised the bulk of the event. Thanks also go to Carol Bahemia, Neil Herzog, Marissa Black, Cameron Gregg, Steve Johnson, EK Gulland, Yen-Sen Lee and many others for a fantastic job. There was such a good atmosphere for the whole day.

It was great to see ex-fencers come out of the woodwork for this occasion - Carol Bahemia, Jo Gatland, Maya Polanski, Susannah Kings-Lynne, Mita Hill and others.

Neil led the Have-a-Go group with a willing band of helpers and, from the sidelines, it looked to me as though everyone was having fun. Many of the newcomers took information for the different clubs away with them. Many other fencers were around to offer advice to the queries from new and interested people.

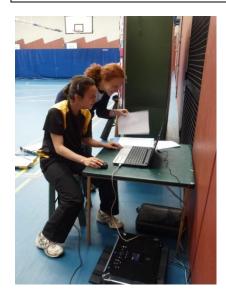
The competitions in all three weapons were well supported with volunteers to help referee and score. There was a good crowd of family and other supporters. The refreshments proved to be popular with hot soup to suit the cold weather.

All in all I think we can be proud of having run an event with a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.



Abi Lee, Grace Rosario, Louise Johnson

Photos Ladies Day



Kylie Caunt and Lisa Blyth



First and second place winners



Fun Bra photo



Susannah Kings-Lynne and young fan!

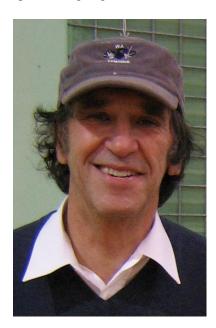


Have-a-Go girls

Gillian Kings-Lynne

Fencer Profile Seymour Wolfinger

Who is the mysterious Count of Monte Cristo? Who is Captain Blood? Why do we have Eleanor of Aquitaine reigning over us?



The answer rests in the man behind the Defenders of the Realm - a reassuring link to our heroic past existing only in the Cavalier School of Fencing and operating within a mysterious code of membership coveted by fencers across Australia. Indeed, there are many privileged characters within this fine army who are still unaware of its purpose and how they came to be there!

Our man in question is D'Artagnan who joined us in 1998 and instantly set about reviving and maintaining the age-old standards of chivalry and romance properly attributed to the sport of fencing. Our club members fell for it hungrily and instantly took D'Artagnan into their hearts.

More about the Defenders of the Realm elsewhere! More, here, about the charisma of this man, Seymour Wolfinger, who brought our club together and provided us with a dimension of history and 'reason for being' alongside the regularity and monotony of warm-ups and stretches.

Always one to find unusual pathways, D'Artagnan joined us after his 60th birthday with a desire to live

out his life-long fantasy of duelling and acts of chivalry. He had recently broken his ankle in four places and, while watching an Errol Flynn film during his convalescence, decided that his new-found challenge would be the Cavalier School of Fencing.

He started as a right-hander in Foil, but eventually reverted to a lefthanded weapon as his natural preference after an injury problem. He does claim ambidexterity. Later on, he moved on to Sabre which he felt was more suited to 'his impatient temperament'!

Whether fencing Foil or Sabre D'Artagnan, from the start, felt the excitement and the surge of adrenaline in every conflict – and still does! Never one to do things by half, each challenge is foresworn with strict rules of the duel – an assignation time, the flung gauntlet, a journey back to another era and, of course, a few drops of blood at the ready.

D'Artagnan has been thrashed on many occasions! Undaunted, he is here to participate in something a little more than physical supremacy – something on a higher plane of participation – and that is the gentlemanly pursuit of the game, the chivalric defence of one's honour and the display of courage in the face of possible annihilation.

We could learn a lot from D'Artagnan.

In fifteen years of membership, D'Artagnan has never lost the true spirit of clubmanship and respect for tradition. He demonstrates a sense of loyalty which keeps his old fencing friends close to his heart and his newer fencing friends in awe.

New fencers to the club are drawn instantly to his personality but must pass an initiation test as they fall prey inescapably to his most annoying pastime – telling jokes.

New fencers, also, may not know that D'Artagnan is the consummate inventor of fencing innovation. Instilled forever in the annals of fencing history is his amazing invention of the Pistol Pin - to mention only one. This simple

drawing pin set into position precisely to cause great pain to the thumb, teaches the student to avoid choking the grip!

D'Artagnan will not hesitate to tell you that he loves most his memories of the 'old days' of the club when there were many social events involving the whole club. He loved the fencing camps at Araluen and the wonderful dinners at St George's College where the castle-like courtyard provided the perfect background for exciting inter-club twilight fencing prior to the formalities of the evening.

Now a retired businessman, D'Artagnan is free to continue his regular participation in the club. He still loves a challenge and is determined to keep up a good level of physical fitness. He continues to swim every morning - even during the winter - and offers an ongoing invitation to any Cavs fencer who may wish to join him on the most freezing cold of mornings down at Trigg.

He dabbles in Tai Chi and has joined the Cactus Club - no doubt enthralling a new crowd of unwitting club members to his particular sense of humour.

Under the cover of being a complete madman, it is not difficult to see the 'softie' underneath – one of the most generous and serious of knights you will ever meet.

So the next time you find yourself faced with a tossed gauntlet, (or old black hat), go not lightly. Go back in time, face to face in defence of your honour, one to one as you fight for your kingdom, and battle to the death!

Gillian Kings-Lynne

Dylan turns 21

Dylan Devenish celebrated his 21st birthday this year at a surprise party with all of his family and fencing friends. Dylan is one of our longest serving members, having joined the club when he was only 7 years old. *Gillian Kings-Lynne*

Clubmanship

With our Diamond Anniversary in sight, it could be timely to think about what it means to belong to our Club and what goes into making it a 'Club'. In other words – what is Clubmanship?

Much of our membership is very recent, many of the 'old guard' having moved on and, with it, much of the ensuing cohesion which existed from those times. This 'moving on' of experienced people certainly has had its impact on the make-up of the administrative team which relies on the contribution of longer-standing members to help make sound decisions based on Club experience.

We have had huge changes in our competitive standing with the sudden upheaval, en masse, of many of our top foilists leaving a gap in the potential passing-on of those acquired skills to the newer foilists.

We have struggled to maintain enough well-trained coaches to cater for the three weapon groups and to serve those individuals who wish to go further with their fencing tuition.

What has this meant for our club? A few headaches, I will agree! Despite the dilemmas mentioned above, here we are almost at the close of 2013 with a full complement of enthusiastic fencers at each session, an impressive display of equipment kept in really good order, one of the best venues in town and a welcoming atmosphere enough to impress any visitor.

Yes – it is the result of a lot of hard work - but we can also say that, in the end, it is the result of 'Clubmanship'.

When it has been hard to fill all executive positions properly, the other committee members have taken it upon themselves to work just that bit harder to make up for the deficit. Cavs is as administratively strong now as it ever was.

The drop-out of past fencers has not prevented the newer ones from joining up. The newer members rapidly soak up the traditional welcoming atmosphere and are quick to pass it on to the newer ones. The social atmosphere is more contained within the club sessions now, rather than to outside events (we used to have grand weddings, engagements, 21sts, pool parties and Fencing under the Stars!) but is still as congenial as ever.

With the lack of newer coaches-to-be coming on, willing senior fencers have rallied to the cause, especially with the Beginners' groups, to give greater support to the main coaches who are working with reduced resources. All club coaches at Cavs are volunteers – an admirable effort!

Sometimes with the departure of experience and skills, as with the foilists, the result can be to our advantage. It forces the remaining members to re-assess their role in the club and to come forward with new skills and a new format. It allows other weapon groups to develop as we find a new pathway. The Club rebuilds. This is Clubmanship.

We become a different Club, a different fencing generation with a different personality - but with the same goal. The traditions vary and some, it would seem, are lost. To some it would seem that we are following an easier tangent. Maybe it is just a different tangent and maybe it is simply one which we needed to take to survive.

In the end it falls upon the people of the club to decide the tradition of the club – the tradition of fencing, the reputation we want for our club and the standards we want to maintain. This is important.

Our Club is strong. It is loyal to fencing in the State and to the rest of Australia. It respects all levels of fencer and is inclusive in its participation on the piste.

We are not just a group of people who like to fence. We are a Club with a lateral experience, a sense of what will work for the group as a whole and the energy to pass on to the future the 'Clubmanship' which has kept Cavaliers alive as the longest running club in WA.

Gillian Kings-Lynne



Clubmanship – **Kylie** Caunt Coaching Coordinator/Website.



Clubmanship – **Mike Middleton** Level 1 Coach for Beginners.

What is a Club?

Participating in a Club is quite a different thing to participating in a group of fencers.

A Club consists of three equal parts – the Fencers, the Coaches, the Administration.

Each of these groups needs to be equally strong. If one of these groups is reduced in numbers or effectiveness, then the Club as a whole is not effective and cannot be successful.

Gillian Kings-Lynne

