

# Rugby team's worst weakness—\$\$

by Peter Wainwright

The Dalhousie Rugby Football Union Club is opening its fall season of play for the sixth year in a row. This year's highlight is an invitation to the Mardi Gras tournament in New Orleans. Other highlights will be the Maritime University Championships in New Brunswick, where the club will play against other provincial university teams as well as teams from the States, and the possibility of several exchange games against universities such as Yale, McGill, Laval and McMasters.

## The point

Fencing is really three sports in one: foil, epee, and sabre. These are the names of the types of weapons which fencers use (ladies normally fence foil only). The rules and technique are complex and vary for each weapon; but in each case there is a simple basic goal: to hit your opponent without being hit yourself.

To achieve this goal, a fencer must alternately attack and defend. Of course, to every attack there is an appropriate defence, and vice versa; so tactics and imagination are important. Any bout between advanced competitors is a battle of wits—a sort of high speed chess game. Fencers have to be fit too: at the recent Canadian Nationals our representatives had to compete all day, four days running.

The Dal club emphasizes both competitive and social aspects of fencing. Last year we competed in tournaments all over the maritimes as well as Montreal, Ottawa, and the Canada Winter Games in Alberta. Our fencers hold nine of the eleven provincial titles and two club members have been sent to training camps in Austria and Israel. But fencing is more than just competition and, while a dedicated core of team members trains hard three or more times a week, everyone fences for fun. It's easy to make friends through fencing and most team members know fencers, not just from Halifax but from all over the country. The club has existed for three years now and is growing all the time. This year, we are sending teams to competitions all over Canada. Halifax will host the upcoming Eastern Canadian Championships and a Nova Scotian Team will be going to train in Wales.

Why not try fencing for yourself? You don't need expensive equipment to start and it's a sport that will be keeping you fit when you're eighty. Beginners at the club will be taught by the Atlantic Region Coach, and regular practice times will be held at the Lower Gym at Dal., Monday: 7:30-9:30 pm, Wednesdays: 9:30-11:00 pm and Saturdays: 2:30-4:30 pm.

So, don't be foiled by a flint heart! Parry self-doubt from your mind; lunge out in a new direction, and join the fastest-growing sport in the province. For information see our posters around campus or come

It is unfortunate that this most promising year for Dal rugby should coincide with a significant cut to the already small rugby budget.

It is therefore our hope that the club will be able to augment its funds through the activities of individual club members and through activities of social level, in order that we may continue to represent Dalhousie University at an international level.

The Dalhousie RFC is open to anyone interested in playing rugby at a social and competitive level. We are not and do not wish to become a high pressure team, but rather one where people are playing for the enjoyment they get from it. We are of course out to win, but not at the expense of enjoyment.

In this light rugby offers a sport for those who want to play an intercollegiate and province wide sport, but are unable to make a place on one of the high prestige Varsity teams.

Rugby also offers a sport with no four or five year eligibility rule, and hence no rugby player will ever find himself cut off from his sport.

Rugby can be played on a much smaller budget than any other comparable sport with the exception of soccer; however, unlike any other sport, numbers of club members present no problem in rugby. To a rugby club a second or third team is an asset not a deficit, hence, unlike other sports, no one is ever "cut" from a rugby team.

In this respect we feel that rugby at Dalhousie has more to offer the student body than any other sport.

We are not just intercollegiate but international...but we need your support.

This year of all years with the Canadian National Rugby Championships being held in Halifax in October, the Dalhousie RFC doesn't want to fold because of insufficient funds.

We therefore solicit the support of the Student Union, the student body, faculty, staff and concerned

individuals in helping the Dalhousie RFC raise money.

Please support the Dalhousie RFC in all its activity. This year as never before we cannot function without the active support of the student body. And remember, there is always an open door for new club members.



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