

ALLAN ENGLISH**FENCING BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

1 March 2019

Allan English was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1949. He was introduced to the sport of fencing at the YMCA in Ridgewood, New Jersey, USA in September 1964. His competitive career began at Collège Militaire Royal de St-Jean (CMR) in 1966, and continued at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC), where he graduated in 1971. As a university fencer, Allan was Ottawa-St. Lawrence Intercollegiate Athletic Association Epée champion twice (1969 and 1970) and Foil champion once (1970). He also finished second in both foil and épée at the 1969 Eastern Canadian Championships.

After graduating from RMC, Allan pursued a career as an air navigator in the Canadian Forces (CF). While in the CF he coached at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Portage-la-Prairie and CFB Trenton, where he started the Trenton Fencing Club in 1972.

He held a number of administrative positions in Canadian fencing, including President of the Manitoba Fencing Association (1976-77 and 1981-82), and member of the Canadian Fencing Federation (CFF) Board of Directors (1976-78). In 1976, Allan was appointed Chief of Training for Fencing at the Montreal Olympic Games; this involved supervising the training of all

members of the fencing Organizing Committee, particularly minor officials. He also passed his International Fencing Federation class 'B' épée official's exam at the Olympics. After the Games, Allan was an official at the Handicapped Olympiad in Toronto. He was also a founder and director of the Gimli Summer Fencing Camp (1976 and 1977).

In 1978, Allan was posted to England where he fenced for the Royal Air Force (RAF). He started, coached and represented the RAF Station Finningley team, which won the RAF 3-man team championship, from 1978 to 1981. He was elected a member of the RAF Fencing Union Executive Committee as Training Member; in this position he was responsible for organizing all training for the RAF team. While in England, Allan attended the Stoke-Mandeville Games and qualified as an official for handicapped fencing.

Allan began coaching in 1967. As a senior fencer on the CMR and RMC teams, he was required to instruct in the sport as well as compete. He coached in one capacity or another from that time until he retired from fencing. His formal coaching instruction began in Toronto in 1970. He passed the British Amateur Fencing Association Part 2 épée exam in 1980.

In 1982 Allan returned to Kingston, where he coached both the RMC and Queen's Fencing Teams for 14 years. On his arrival

in Kingston, he helped to found the Kingston Fencing Club, which became one of the largest clubs in the Ontario Fencing Association. Under his guidance, the Queen's and RMC fencing teams won nine individual, four team, and four overall Ontario University Fencing Championships.

He was instrumental in having women's épée and women's sabre accepted as competitive events in Ontario University Fencing.

Allan retired from the CF in 1991 and from fencing in 1996. He came out of retirement to assist with coaching at the Cutting Edge Fencing Club headed by Patricia and David Howes from 2004 to 2008 when his daughter Meredith and son Kyle fenced there. Kyle went on to fence for RMC from 2012 to 2016 when the team won the Canadian Armed Forces Individual Sports Team award and where he was team captain in his final year.

Allan is an Associate professor in the Queen's history department and his academic cv is here:

<https://www.queensu.ca/history/people/faculty/english-allan>.