Welcome to the first edition of the BMC Fencing Newsletter! Starting once we return from Winter break, this will be coming out every other week on our Instagram and our website, as well as in a Newsletter email. This newsletter will bring you information about what we’ve been up to, what we’ll be doing next, and some more insight into the club and its members!

**Upcoming Events**
- December 22nd - Winter Break!!!
- January 21st - Tournament at Vassar College

**What Have we Been up to?**

**Past Tournaments**
- October 8th - Scrimmage at Swarthmore
- October 22nd - CHAOS Tournament at UMD
- November 4th - Nikki Franke Classic at Temple
- November 18th - BWCFC North v Central Tournament
- December 3rd - BWCFC North v South Tournament
- December 9th - Tournament at Haverford

**Tournament Highlights**
- Felix Townley-Bakewell and Alyssa Phillips tied for third in Women’s Sabre at Chaos; almost 50% of our fencers qualified for the second round at Temple (a primarily varsity tournament); fencers were incorporating tactical knowledge and corrections from drills into bouting in tournaments

**At Practice**
- During drills, we are focusing on more complex footwork as well as practicing how to be on the offensive during a bout.
- During bouting, new fencers have chosen a weapon to focus on and are starting to figure out right-of-way rules (along with the épées!)
"Don't be afraid to experiment! I was terrified to do Sabre, and it turned out to be my weapon. If something is scary (a weapon, a tournament, [doing] a move), try it! The worst that can happen is you don't like it. Trying out new things really pays off."

Who is Simone?
Simone is a junior double majoring in English Creative Writing. They have been fencing sabre with the Bryn Mawr Team for two years, and this year is our team captain! When they first joined the team, they were most scared to try sabre, but now loves it for the speed and aggression, and the “general sabre vibe”. Their favorite parts of being on the team are the community and the coaches, who both provide amazing people to get to know and a safe space to do something most people consider illegal!

Simone’s Role on the Team
As the team captain, Simone is in charge of practices, dills, working with coaches, and managing tournaments - in other words, they are in charge of the fencing part of the club! Simone talks about how being on the team has helped with their self-confidence, and they wanted to give that to the rest of the team! So far as the captain, they have enjoyed teaching technique and passing on knowledge of sport. Learning how to lead things like practice can be very stressful with lots going on, but they have very big support system and it never gets out of control!

Looking Forward
For next semester, Simone is looking forward to the tournaments we have coming up, including BWCFCs later in the spring, and getting to work even more with the coaches, who they call “really cool people"