

National School Teams Championships, Brisbane.

An early start was the order of the day as we made our way to Brisbane. After locating our accommodation we had an early lunch and made our way to the venue, Yeronga State High School Sports Centre. The Sabre team readied themselves for the competition under the direction of Simon Jin whilst the foil team completed a training session with their Captain **Lewis Jones (12/PR)**.

The men's sabre competition kicked off at 3.00pm, with the first round opposition against a sturdy team from Redham House. They put up a valiant fight against Newington, but we confidently went into the second round against Brisbane High. High were more equally matched and their team members used their size and physicality to intimidate our team. **Jasper Rowley (11/ME)** was consistent and didn't flinch, holding it together with solid bouts from **Jayce Carrano (10/MA)** and **Boston Fawkes (8/ME)** moving us to the next round. The Brisbane Grammar B team was no match for Newington as we cruised to the final against Brisbane Grammar A team. Grammar fought well but the Newington team was relentless in picking up points to win each bout in a polished performance, ultimately winning them the gold medal.

Elated we escorted them back to the airport and as they flew back to Sydney the rest of the team went out for dinner and an early night in our accommodation in Toowong.

The next day was another early start and a hearty breakfast before returning to Yeronga for a preliminary warm and the 9.00am start of the Men's Foil Competition. The first round was against the highly competitive and favoured Sydney Grammar School. We had to work really hard as the Grammar team piled on the pressure taking an early lead. Newington had their moments with **Alex Mei (10/JN)** picking up points consistently in each his bouts resulting in a 45-18 win to Grammar.

In the second round Newington faced a determined Cauldfield Grammar who took an early lead. We slowly pulled it back, but in the end they were too strong for us resulting in a 13-45 loss.

Our fortunes improved facing Brisbane Grammar B team. We matched them and moved forward claiming points in each bout to create a healthy lead and improving team morale. Alex Mei played a series of attacking bouts that secured the lead supported by solid performances from Lewis Jones, **Max Schultz (11/PR)** and **Max Nicola-Woods (10/MA)** resulting in a 45-19 win.

Brisbane State High School came out strong and took a 5 point lead in the first bout, which we pulled back. It was neck and neck for the first half of the match

however the match was secured by an outstanding performance from Alex Mei, resulting in a 45-39 win.

Brisbane Grammar A team were our final opponents in what was becoming a very intense competition for Newington. We initially kept our composure but our opponents had built a sound lead by the middle of the match and we finally went down 32-45.

The competition was tough and many of our opponents have had the opportunity to hone their competition skills at a state level. This was our first state team competition this year. The final team result was 4th overall, Alex Mei was placed 6th individually. A great effort by the Newington students, led by their captain Lewis Jones, they soundly represented themselves and the school.

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