



Dear President,

Death of Mark Rance (NZL)

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the death, on May 3, 2022, in Christchurch, New Zealand, of Mark Rance (NZL), current president of the FIE Veterans Council of which he had been a member since 2016.

Mark Rance had been president of Fencing New Zealand from 2017 until 2021. Since 2020, he was vice-president of the Oceania Fencing Confederation.

Originally from England, and born on February 7, 1963, Mark Rance was a competitive swimmer before discovering fencing at the age of 10. He fenced at the Reading Club and then at the London Thames Fencing Club for several years, achieving strong results in both regional and national events.

He later participated in European competitions and finished in the top 12 epeeists in the 1983 Junior World Championship. In the 1980s, he was considered for being a member of the British Olympic team, but an injury prevented him from attaining that goal.

Mark Rance moved to New Zealand in the 1990s, where he lived in the South Island town of Ashburton. He came back to fencing with passion after attending an epee tournament in Christchurch.

He made the podium at the New Zealand Men's National Championships and then represented New Zealand in both senior and veteran events globally.

In 2010, he won a bronze medal in veteran individual men's epee and silver in veteran men's team epee at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Melbourne, Australia.

In 2016, Mark Rance was the chair of the organising committee for the Christchurch Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championships, named as a finalist in the Canterbury Sports Awards. He also took a silver medal as part of the men's epee team at the same event.



In the FIE Veterans Council, Mark Rance managed to unite a new team around an innovative and powerful project, aiming at increasing and developing veterans fencing.

This project must come true, in his memory and for our fencing family.

We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Julianne, to his family and friends, and to the Fencing Federation of New Zealand, as well as the Oceania Fencing Confederation. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to them in these difficult moments.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH)
Interim President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'E. Katsiadakis', is positioned below the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a large 'E' and 'K' being the most prominent features.