

Crossed swords over Goff affair

THE trials and tribulations of 19-year-old Laurence Goff, the young Irish fencer who ran foul of the Irish Fencing Federation this year, go on and on and on, writes **DAVE GUINEY.**

Goff, you may remember, started a feud last summer with the Federation over the selection of the Irish fencing team for the Mexico Olympic Games. He believed that he merited

selection over some of the men named on the Irish side and he challenged them to fight for the places on the team for Mexico.

For his temerity, he was expelled from the Federation. And apparently there is no forgiveness in the Federation

Goff is a second-year student at University College, Dublin, and is a member of the College fencing club.

But the Federation has now warned the U.C.D. club that if any member fences with Goff, the club will be suspended.

Goff is not denied the use of the club's premises, but he is denied the use of any of the fencing equipment in the club.

He has now taken his case to the U.C.D.'s student representative council. With just three abstentions, the council, by 43 votes to none, voted that Goff was being victimised.

The council have now written to the International Fencing Federation demanding Goff's immediate reinstatement and

also asking that a public inquiry be set up to investigate the operation of the Irish Federation and the circumstances surrounding Goff's expulsion from the federation.

Personally, I feel this whole sorry business has gone on long enough. It's about time the Irish Fencing Federation took a more realistic view.

After Ireland's pathetic display in the Olympic Games, it seems that Goff may have had a point when he issued his challenge to our Olympic fencers.

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