



Cunard Continues Tradition of British Heritage with Unique Sporting Pursuit Aboard Queen Victoria

Ship features first recreational fencing at sea, partnering with Leon Paul Fencing Company, supplier to Olympians

In a move that underscores Cunard's tradition of British heritage and ongoing attention to historical detail, the Line introduced the sport of fencing – a favorite pastime of Prince Albert, husband and consort of Her Majesty Queen Victoria – aboard Queen Victoria when she entered service on December 10, 2007. To craft the programme, which is another cruise industry first, Cunard turned to *Leon Paul Fencing Equipment*, the British company whose name has been synonymous with fencing for nearly a century. Run by and for competitive fencers, members of the Leon Paul family have competed in 20 Olympic Games and 30 World Championships, winning 25 national titles.

“Much like the award-winning enrichment programmes aboard our ships, the sports and recreation programme is designed to provide unique and stimulating guest experiences. The addition of fencing, which relies on keen strategic thinking, does just that,” said Peter Shanks, president of Cunard Line.

“Fencing is often described as physical chess,” said Ben Paul, the fourth-generation president of *Leon Paul*. “It’s tactically challenging while also providing great exercise. We are delighted to use our knowledge of the sport to provide Queen Victoria guests with an authentic fencing experience using the same state-of-the-art equipment selected by competitive fencers.”

Cunard guests have an opportunity to learn fencing basics or fine-tune their fencing skills with a fully certified instructor using equipment identical to that used by world champions. The fencing programme can accommodate up to 10 aspiring or accomplished fencers at a time for foil fencing, the preferred method for elementary fencing classes due to the flexible and lightweight blade and blunted tip. Fencing instruction for guests aged 16 and up is provided daily by a fully certified fencing instructor.

Other recreational activities include paddle tennis, shuffle board, chess, deck quoits (the maritime version of horse shoes), ping pong and golf in two golf nets.

For more information about Cunard Line and Queen Victoria, contact your travel professional, call 1-800-7-CUNARD or go to www.cunard.com.

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About Cunard Line

Cunard Line, operator of the luxury ocean liners **Queen Mary 2** and **Queen Victoria**, has long been synonymous with the quest for new discoveries and the epitome of British refinement since the company's first paddle-wheeled steamer, Britannia, crossed the Atlantic in 1840. Cunard voyages bring together like-minded travellers who seek a civilised adventure and relish the Cunard hallmarks of impeccable White Star Service™, gourmet dining and world-class entertainment. Today, Cunard offers the only regularly scheduled Transatlantic liner service and continues the legacy of world cruising which it began in 1922. **Queen Elizabeth** joins the fleet in October 2010.

World's Leading Cruise Lines

Cunard is a proud member of World's Leading Cruise Lines. Our exclusive alliance also includes Carnival Cruise Lines, Holland America Line, Princess Cruises, Costa Cruises and The Yachts of Seabourn. Sharing a passion to please each guest and a commitment to quality and value, World's Leading Cruise Lines inspires people to discover their best vacation experience. Together, we offer a variety of exciting and enriching cruise vacations to the world's most desirable destinations. Visit us at www.worldsleadingcruiselines.com.

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For additional information contact:

Jackie Chase, Cunard Line, 661-753-1035, jchase@cunard.com

Lauren Bennett Purnell, GolinHarris, 213-438-8732, lpurnell@golinharris.com