



Young fencer, Katy Brennan

Katy For three years.

Rob How did you come across this sport?

Katy I, I came across it in activities in my class. I started doing it and I liked it so I wanted to join a club to do it and I found myself to be the champion.

Rob You're a champion.....

Katy Yes.

Rob What do you put that down to, what are you strong at?

Katy I'm most strongly at the, um, the attack but I am mostly with defence as well so I mix them both.

Rob What is it so special about fencing that you like?

Katy I like how you can just try and you get into four by... like three by three and then you win or lose. But if you lose you will learn your mistakes and then you'll do that mistakes and to get better and you'll attack the same person again but stronger.

Rob Niw you said something about three by three. What's that?

Katy It's basically.... three by three, that means we have three points and the other has three points and it's very close game. If you lose you were very close.

Rob I'd better ask you how old you are.

Katy I'm ten years old and I'm going to be eleven on the first January.

Rob And it's very unusual then for a... uh, someone of your age, a girl to be a fencer. How do your family take it?

Katy Oh they took it as a nice job because I could go round the world doing fencing.

Rob Is that what you'd like to do?

Katy Maybe, I don't know,

Rob You must be in your final year at primary school I take it.

Katy Yes.

Rob Whereabouts do you go to school?



Katy I go to St Mayeux CM2.

Rob What do your classmates think about what you get up to here?

Katy Oh they think that I'm brilliant, that I've shown what fencing can really do as champion and we're going to do it at school for an activity in sports.

Rob OK. It's not a very common sport is it?

Katy No, it's not. I see why my teacher decided to do activities when I was in CM2 and got some students.

Rob We're at a training session this Friday evening. How often do you train?

Katy I only do it on a Tuesday, on a Friday but that's gonna change. Gonna do Friday (.....?) Tuesday.

Rob Your teacher, what kind of things is he teaching you?

Katy The coupé the ,,,,,,passe(?) the normal attacks so nearly everything.

Rob But you have a natural skill because you're a very tall girl.

Katy Yes.

Rob I'm sure that helps..... does it?

Katy I have an advantage because as I'm taller I can do my fence longer so I don't..... I can have a longer distance between me and the other person so I can get more attacks.

Rob But hang on a minute, that makes you a bigger target doesn't it?

Katy Yeah, a little bit, yeah. I have a disadvantage I know.

Rob And do you have a chance to compete?

Katy Yes I do.

Rob Are they other teams from Brittany or...

Katy They're other teams from Brittany, yes, from Corlay to St Brieuc and the only one that may come from here, Mur de Bretagne. Only the once.

Rob I noticed that amongst your kit you've got a medal. What's that for?



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Katy Oh it's for my last competition, I came first.

Rob In what category?

Katy I came first in both categories against boys and against girls.

Rob That's going to be my next question. There aren't many girls that do this sport so do you end up playing against boys?

Katy Yes basically I have to fight boys for training but when it goes to girls it is really important for me to win.

Rob For young people who might be thinking about this sport what do you say is great about it? I mean how would you promote the sport of fencing to your classmates or to your friends?

Katy To be a fencer is the best thing you can do. It actually releases stress when you do this sport. Or even like my sister, she doesn't do competitions but it releases her stress from school. It really helps.

Rob Oh so it's an anti stress sport?

Katy Yes.

Rob You're actually pretending to kill somebody. That's pretty stressful isn't it?

Katy Yes just stab them, don't worry.

Rob You were practising just now with... is it a 'fleurette'?

Katy Yes a fleurette. I do épée as well but not so often I mostly do fleurette because I do competitions.

Rob And fleurette is a lighter weapon.

Katy Yes, lighter and has more attacks like the defence parry de passe(?) but if you go with an épée you don't have that - you have to (?)

Rob Lots of technical stuff?

Katy Yes.

Rob You hope to continue your sport?

Katy Yes.

Rob Your mum tells me - very proud mum - tells me that you do lots of other things apart from your fencing. What else do you do?



Katy Ballet, and it really helps with the fencing because with ballet you get (?) stuff to do and then if you put that in fencing you're very good at it because I started ballet before fencing and that's how I found myself in fencing as well because (?) in me because I do ballet and that's why I'm very good because I do ballet.

Rob Well I wish you lots and lots of luck with your competition.

Katy Thank you.

Rob And, uh, you hope to become a champion as you get older?

Katy Yes.

Rob I'm sure that's going to happen.

Katy Hopefully!

Rob Katy, thank you very much indeed.

Katy You're welcome .

Rob Thank you.

Katy Thank you.