

## NEWSLETTER -AUGUST 2013

### *North East Fencing awarded by Prime Minister!*



**North East Fencing recipients of the Prime Minister's Big Society Award - BVF members Marie Matheson (far left) and Beth Davidson (far right)**

Photo courtesy of Beth Davidson

**Hilary Philbin new President of British Fencing  
Fencing North East awarded by Prime Minister  
Bill Hoskyns - 1931-2013**

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## Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

I am sure that you will join with me in congratulating Hilary Philbin on her appointment to President of British Fencing which she takes up on 1st September. The experience and expertise that I'm sure she will bring to the role, is very good news for all fencers in the UK and we look forward to seeing her assist in the development of British Fencing in the future.

Congratulations also to BVF members Beth Davidson and Marie Matheson for their involvement in Fencing North East, which has been awarded the Big Society Award, by the Prime Minister, for work developing the sport of fencing at grass roots level across the North East.

It was sad to read of the death of Bill Hoskyns earlier this month. He was a truly remarkable fencer and an inspiration to many of us who started our fencing careers in the late 1950s and 1960s. Everyone knew of Bill's épée successes with silver medal in the Tokyo Olympics and in winning gold medals in the World Championships, but not so many were aware of his great international successes at both foil and sabre.

He will be missed by us as a fellow veteran and I would like to extend our condolences to Georgina and his family on behalf of BVF.

The new season is nearly upon us and we start with what has proven to be one of the most popular and enjoyable competitions, The Veterans Winton Cup on the weekend of 7th and 8th September.

A good proportion of our membership will be taking part and we look forward to welcoming you to Lilleshall.

Sincerely

**Frank Mills**  
**Chairman BVF**

See BVF website home page for  
European competitions  
and events -  
[www.veterans-fencing.co.uk](http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk)

### BVF Calendar 2013

BVF CALENDAR 2013	
Sep 7-8	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall
Oct 1-6	World Championships, Bulgaria There will be a test Team event at all 6 weapons.
Oct 12-13	Welsh Veterans Championships, Swansea
Dec 1	BVF v Royal Navy, HMS President 72 St Katharines Way. London. E1W 1UQ

## Hilary Philbin appointed President of British Fencing

### Congratulations to Hilary!

Following the open competition for the new Presidential role, the Board of British Fencing is delighted to announce that Hilary Philbin has been appointed to the post. She starts as President on September 1, 2013.

The British Fencing Presidency is a new, voluntary post approved by the British Fencing membership at the General Meeting last May. It is an international role; Hilary will be British Fencing's leading representative with the FIE and other international bodies. The President attends British Fencing Board meetings as an observer. This is a Board appointment, to be approved by the membership at the General Meeting this Autumn (date and venue to be announced).

Hilary Philbin commented; "I feel honoured to have been appointed to the role of British Fencing President. Since my schooldays I have been heavily involved in fencing in so many different ways – as an international competitor, team manager, FIE referee, club coach, competition organiser and administrator at national and local level. I have got so much out of fencing throughout my life, and the role of President will enable me to continue to give something back. I recognise the importance of this newly-defined role, and I look forward to representing British Fencing in the international arena."

On behalf of the Board, Chair, David Teasdale stated; "The Board believes that Hilary will be very effective in this Presidential role. She is already well known internationally, especially after her leadership in the organisation of the outstanding fencing programme in the London 2012 Olympic Games, and has a current FIE post on their Promotion Commission. We wish her every success."

<http://www.britishfencing.com/news/latest-news/?n=890>



*Photo and announcement courtesy of British Fencing*

*Hilary and friends at London 2012*

## Competition results (top half)

### London Open - 27/7/2013

MF (48)	21	Nick Hills
ME (51)	17	Howard West
	23	Stephen Domek



*Photo by Editor*

## Fencing North East receives Prime Minister's Award

*'I'm delighted to announce that Fencing North East has been awarded the Big Society Award, by the Prime Minister, for its work developing the sport of fencing, at grass roots level, across the North East. The award is in recognition of the innovative and successful ideas and projects created by Regional Development Officer Beth Davidson and the work done by Beth and all of the volunteer team across the Region. I'm very proud to chair this brilliant organisation. Thank you and congratulations to the entire team.'*

*Marie Matheson, Chair Fencing North East*



**Photos courtesy  
of Beth Davdison**

**Fencing North East** has provided opportunities for young people in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cumbria and Teesside who have gone on to compete at national, European, and Paralympic levels. It has trained 69 unemployed young people as 'Go Fence' leaders, who have in turn introduced over 800 people from their communities to Fencing.

Inspired by the 2012 Olympics, and supported by its successful partnership approach and dedicated volunteers, the group hopes to take 10 leaders to Rio during the 2016 Olympics.

Fencing North East was set up in 2008 in partnership with the universities of Durham and Northumbria. It has 40 regular volunteers who give over 200 hours of their time each year. Since 2008, the organisation has:

- introduced 2,500 under 16s in the north east to fencing through working with schools, scouts, colleges and local authorities, specifically targeting young people from less well off areas
- increased participation in wheelchair fencing with 12 regular wheelchair fencers through the region
- worked with 13 clubs in the region to offer training and development for coaches, fencers, volunteers and officials
- created the first ever Regional Development Officer for fencing to introduce over 5000 people to fencing and train 100 coaches and over 50 volunteers.

Prime Minister David Cameron said:

"Fencing North East has had a real impact across the north east, inspiring young people to take up a new sport and helping them gain confidence, skills and even qualifications.

I'm delighted to be recognising the achievements of everyone who volunteers, coaches and takes part with this Big Society Award."



Marie Matheson, Chair, Fencing North East, said:

"I'm very proud of my involvement with Fencing North East, and have found working with all of our volunteers and participants inspirational on so many levels. I'm delighted that the hard work and creativity of our volunteers has been recognised with a Big Society Award from the Prime Minister."

Fencing North East's 'Street Swords' project was created in 2011 in partnership with the Prince's Trust. It specifically targets disengaged young people aged 8 and over from deprived areas and provides bursaries to ensure cost does not prevent young people from taking part. Street Swords participants have gone on to referee and coaching courses, including the level 1 coaching qualification. The project was awarded the Inspire Mark for inspiring the Olympic ethos and has secured funding from Sport England, the Co-operative Foundation, Darlington Borough Council Sport Development and support from Durham University and Northumbria University to develop the project and share their work nationwide and internationally.

Article from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fencing-north-east-wins-prime-ministers-big-society-award>

## 24 hour Fencing Festival at Durham

The Regional Fencing Centre Durham has organised a 24hr charity fencing marathon of activities and training for all ages, abilities and disabilities on the 30th and 31st August, from 5pm till 5pm.

This would be a great training opportunity. As well as lessons with Laszlo Jakab, they are offering tasters for those new to fencing and wheelchair fencing to any who wants to try.

This is a charity event to raise money for Help for Heroes and fencing development in the North East.

Fundraising and making donations can be made through a variety of ways!

Online donations to Help for Heroes can be made at <http://www.justgiving.com/fencingnortheast>

or general online donations via PAYPAL. (All donations made are to be split 50% between Help for Heroes and Regional Development.)

More information and booking onto a session at:

<http://fencingnortheast.org/24hr-fencing-festival-30th-31st-august/> or contact Beth Davidson - [beth4fencing@aol.com](mailto:beth4fencing@aol.com).



*Photo courtesy of Beth Davidson*



business solutions

## Bill Hoskyns 1931 - 2013

**This obituary for Bill Hoskyns was published in The Guardian on 19<sup>th</sup> August - written by Peter Nichols**

There was a short time in 1959, perhaps three or four days, when Britain was the best fencing nation in the world. Gillian Sheen was the reigning Olympic champion from 1956, Allan Jay had just won the world foil title in Budapest and because the épée did not start till a few days after the foil final, Bill Hoskyns, who has died aged 82, was still the reigning champion in the épée from the previous year. "No other nation could boast three reigning champions at that moment. We were the golden generation, I think you could say," said Jay. While it was only for those few days that they sat in isolated splendour atop the world, there was substance behind it; for more than a decade, from 1955 to 1965, the British were a serious force in world fencing.

Bill Hoskyns belonged to a golden generation of British fencers. It didn't feel as if anything was about to change in 1964, when Hoskyns won a silver medal in the individual épée at the Tokyo Olympics, his finest performance in the Games. Nor a year later, at the world championships in Paris, when Hoskyns won another individual silver medal and shared, with Jay and others, a team silver. But Hoskyns's medal in Tokyo was the last time a British fencer stood on an Olympic podium; the medals in Paris the last British ones in a world championship.

The eldest of four sons of Hal and Lilian (nee Furse), Hoskyns was born in London, into a Somerset landowning family. From Eton, he went to Magdalen College, Oxford, where, between the twin pursuits of fencing and bridge, he mustered a fourth-class degree in agriculture. At Oxford, too, he met Jay, and their fencing careers for the next 20 years ran almost parallel.



Before going to Oxford, Hoskyns did national service in the Somerset Yeomanry and later continued as a Territorial to the rank of major. He was a keen private pilot and Jay believes that had Hoskyns been able to make a career choice he would have flown full-time. His part-time missions, carrying fencing teams across Europe, would certainly become the stuff of legend. "I remember stepping on to the plane the first time and the door was like the sort you used to find on a kitchen larder. It was a tiny plane – I think they used it for crop-spraying when it wasn't taking us," Jay recalled.

**Bill Hoskyns (left) scores a point against Wales' R Reynolds in 1966**

**Photo: S&G and Barratts/EMPICS Sport published in The Telegraph**

Rather than a pilot, though, Hoskyns became a farmer, tending the orchards at North Perrott in Somerset that his grandfather had laid out. Fencing had to fit in around his obligations towards family, farm and local society. The intermittent training did not slow his seemingly casual ascendancy; at his first world championship, at Rome in 1955, he won a team bronze in the foil. The following year, he missed out narrowly on a medal at the Olympic Games in Melbourne, finishing fourth in the team épée.

In the next eight years, he would add another four world medals, including the épée gold in 1958, and two Olympic silver medals, one in the team épée in 1960 to go with his individual silver in 1964. Commonwealth titles came easily; nine in all, with medals in all three weapons, foil, épée and sabre. In national championships he won nine titles too, a litany of gold.

In 1976, he became the first British competitor to have taken part in six Olympics (an achievement since matched by Tessa Sanderson, Mary King and Alison Williamson) and two years later retired – after a fashion. In 1998, at the World Veterans Championships, he won a bronze medal.

Last year, during the London Olympics, the golden generation were reunited at North Perrott: Hoskyns, Jay, who had moved to Somerset in retirement to be near his old friend and adversary, and Sheen (now Donaldson) over from America, together pondering on a different sporting world. A local journalist asked Hoskyns what he had enjoyed about the London Games. "I think it's been brilliant," he said. "Except the fencing." The record he had most wanted to see broken was his own.

He is survived by his wife, Georgina, whom he married in 1960, five children, Karina, Jonathan, Sophie, Celia and Dominic, and 10 grandchildren.

*Henry William Furse Hoskyns, fencer and farmer, born 19 March 1931; died 4 August 2013*

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If you have any personal reminiscences of Bill please send them to John Mason [John@jrmason.demon.co.uk](mailto:John@jrmason.demon.co.uk) and he will add them to Bill's obituary on the BVF website. <http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/obits/hoskyns.shtml>

**From Bill's son-in-law, Keith Smith : 'There is to be a memorial service on 2nd September at 2.30pm at St Bartholomews' Church in Crewkerne, Somerset. All are welcome.'**

*Photo  
courtesy of  
British  
Fencing*

**Editor**

**Bill Hoskyns  
(MBE)  
1931-2013**



## Editor's Note:

The BVF newsletter is your voice: a chance for you to put forward your views, send reports, letters, photos or articles.

Please speak up!

Send to me:

[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

## Caption Competition August

send your entry to Editor

[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)



## Caption Competition July

*Editor's choice*

*'If looks could kill, you will beat him hands down!'*

**Chris Prevett**

*'Chris shows how grateful he is for Richard's expert advice.'*

**Paul Brenda**



**Photos by  
Editor**



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