



BRITISH VETERANS
FENCING

NEWSLETTER -JULY 2013

Maggie makes the news!



Photo by Peter Schiazza courtesy of WI Life

**Maggie Myers interviewed by WI
Competition results**

CONTENTS

Front Page
Maggie Myers

Page 2
Chairman's letter
BVF Calendar

Pages 3-4
Maggie Myers in
WI Life

Page 4
Where in the World
revealed

Page 5
Competition results

Page 6
Caption competition

Page 7
BVF contacts

Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Our next major event will be the Veteran's Winton Cup on 7th and 8th September at Lilleshall and I am aware that a few team captains are still looking for some fencers for their teams.

If you would like to fence, then please get in touch with me and I will pass on your details to the Captains.

For those already taking part, please book your accommodation at the Park Inn if you have not already done so as rooms will shortly be released to the public. Similarly, if you haven't yet booked your meal for the Gala Dinner on the Saturday, there is still time to do so. All details are on our BVF website.

Those who have been members for some time will remember that the Age Group Qualifiers used to be held after the BVF Championships in March. This year was a close run thing between the event and the weather and we were very lucky to have been able to run the competition between blizzards.

In order to enable you to plan your diaries, I am able to announce that it has been decided to run the event on 7th and 8th June 2014 and the venue will still be the Bletchley Leisure Centre.

On behalf of the BVF Committee, may I wish you an enjoyable Summer break and we look forward to seeing you when the new season starts

Sincerely

Frank Mills
Chairman BVF

**See BVF website home page for
European competitions
and events -
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

Inspiring women - Margaret Myers

The following article featuring BVF member Maggie Myers was published in the latest issue of WI Life, which is the news magazine for Women's Institute members.

'World-class fencing veteran Margaret Myers says she won't be putting her sword down any time soon.'

People often picture a swashbuckling Errol Flynn when they think of fencing, but in reality it isn't like that. Unlike in the movies, there's no choreography or fancy footwork. It's all about trying to stay one step ahead of your opponent. I like to think of it as like an active game of chess.

I was 19 when I started fencing. It was meant to be a hobby, a chance to relax and unwind after work, but because I was so successful my coach encouraged me to get involved on the competitive side. Within three years I was competing in the Welsh senior team. By the time I was 22 I was travelling all over the world, to France, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Hungary, Russia, Canada, Martinique and Austria, as well as competing in the British Circuit. At my best, I ranked 12th in Britain.

Because it's a sport where you need strength, speed and hand-eye co-ordination it helps to develop your agility, flexibility and keeps you in shape. As you get older, it's as much about keeping your brain active and your critical thinking skills intact as exercising your muscles. Fencing does that for me.

To fence you have to wear special protective clothing and a protective jacket call an underplastron, which is seamless, to stop the blade going through a seam if it breaks. Then you've got what I call my 'Madonna' - a large plastic bra that is moulded to your shape, and of course, a mask to protect your face.

A friendly bout against Denmark was where I got my first and only injury. My opponent hit and dented my mask. It wasn't until I took my mask off at the end that I realised I was bleeding down my face. I came off victorious but blood stained.

Getting married and giving birth to my twin boys, William and John, meant stepping out of the game for a while, but I kept my hand in, fencing for the Royal Navy and Combined Services, fitting it in around my family. My husband Peter has always been supportive of me, so when the boys were teenagers he encouraged me to go back.

I had just turned 50 by then, but I slipped back into it easily and within two years was competing again at veteran level. This year we had our own British Veteran Championships to decide who's the best British fencing champion by age group and overall. I'm 2nd in my age group and overall 6th best in Britain.

Now that I'm in my 60s and still going strong, I have been asked to represent the British Veterans team at the World Veterans Championships in Bulgaria this year.

I feel very proud and privileged that I've been able to carry on with a sport that I love into older age and really feel the benefits of it. It keeps me fit and active, it gives me something to look forward to, to aim for, to share, and gives me friends again from a different age group. Much like the WI.

I've moved around the country, but I've always kept my WI membership for the past 26 years. For me it's an opportunity to meet other women with children and to satisfy the inner urge of learning new skills and acquiring new knowledge.

For anyone wanting to give fencing a try, I'll say it's never too late to start. There are clubs all around the country that accommodate fencers of all ages. I'll keep fencing as long as my body allows.'

Margaret was interviewed by Liz Frost.

Where in the World - did you recognise the locations? (July newsletter)



Belfast, N Ireland



Edinburgh, Scotland



Balatonfured, Hungary

*Photos by
Editor*



**Santiago de Compostela,
Spain**



**Bondi Beach, Sydney,
Australia**



Dublin, Éire



Singapore



Kalmar, Sweden



Porec, Croatia

Competition results (top half)

Cumberland Open - 15/06/2013

MF (23)	8	Brian Nesbit
ME (19)	1	George Liston
	3T	Joe Craig
	3T	Robin Davenport
	8	Tristan Spicer
MS (14)	7	Steve Hannah
WF (5)	1	Catherine Heyes
WE (5)	1	Catherine Heyes

Bill Hoskyns Open - 29/06/2013

ME (91)	21	Etienne DeBurgh
	24	Stephan Munn
	30	Tristan Spicer
	38	Jonathan Stanbury
	45	Duncan Salter

Norfolk Open - 20/07/2013

MF (51)	3	Paul Abrahams
ME (33)	1	Stephan Domek
	3	Howard West
	9	Jonathan Stanbury
	13	Jon Nottingham
	14	Robin Davenport
MS (21)	3	Julian Ghosh
WF (27)	3	Susan Uff
	7	Jane Clayton
WE (15)	6	Mariette Mason
WS (17)	7	Silvia Earl

**WESTERN
UNION**

business solutions

Congratulations to first place winners:

Cumberland Open

***George Liston (ME) and
Catherine Heyes (WF and WE)***

Norfolk Open

Stephan Domek (ME) !!



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

Caption Competition

July

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net



Caption Competition

June

Editor's choice

'So that's why I think you should fence left-handed next year.....'

Richard Cohen

'Think seriously This is a whole new lethal ball game.'

Kate Elvin



**Photos
by Editor**

BVF contacts

Life President		Henry de Silva  6 Little Meadow Andreas Isle Of Man IM7 4HY Tel: 01624 880863
Officers	Chairman	Frank Mills  Tel: 01908 310516 millsfba@aol.com
	Treasurer Membership Secretary Webmaster	John Mason  Tel: 01225 761788 BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk
	Secretary	Marcia Stretch  Tel: 01293 786 841 marcia_stretch@hotmail.com
	Elected Members	International Fencing Officer
	Domestic Fencing Officer	Peter Baron  Tel: 01384 400242 bvf@baronfencing.plus.com
	Newsletter Editor	Gillian Aghajan  Tel: 07747 792712 g.aghajan@virgin.net
		Jonathan Stanbury  Tel: 01823 331909 alfg8@aol.com
		Lawrence Burr  Tel: 01823 433844 lsburr@btopenworld.com
Co-opted Member	Publicity Officer	Malcolm Fare  malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk



PLEASE NOTE
Any articles or letters for the August BVF Newsletter should be sent to:-

Gillian Aghajan
by 20th August
Tel: **07747 792712**
email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net

