

GB Vets attack in France!



Rob Flatt and Jonathan Stanbury compete against each other in Alençon, France

Photo courtesy of Rob Flatt

A portrait of Connie Adam Celebrity Antiques Road Trip's visit Vets in France

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Vice Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

I am very pleased to inform you that Frank Mills is making good progress in hospital. He has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and has received his first chemotherapy treatment to which he has responded well. He and Betty are now the proud grandparents of Henry William, their daughter's son, and Frank is very much looking forward to meeting him. He is very pleased to have received cards from some of you and I have passed on best wishes from those of you who have emailed me.

A group of BVF fencers took part in the Tournoi International 2013 des Ducs d'Alençon, France in early November and achieved some very good results, which can be seen in this newsletter. Congratulations to all.

In the last issue of the newsletter there were details of volunteer roles for ET16, the European Veterans Team Championships which will be held in Medway, Kent. The event does seem a long way off but in order to make it the success the committee want it to be, this will take a lot of forward planning. I know you have busy lives and commitments but there has not been a good response so far, so the details are included again in this issue. There will be many more roles so if you are able to help, and have not done so already, please register your interest with John Mason.

Finally, there has been a problem with the bookings for the 2014 British Veterans Championships. The dates are now 28th February to 2nd March at the Oxstalls Tennis Centre, Gloucester. On behalf of the committee, I am sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Gillian Aghajan
Vice Chairman BVF



BVF Calendar 2013

BVF CALENDAR 2013

Dec 1	BVF v Royal Navy, <i>HMS President</i> 72 St Katharine's Way, London. E1W 1UQ
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BVF Calendar 2014

BVF CALENDAR 2014

Feb 28 - Mar 2	BVF Championships 2014, Gloucester - CHANGE OF DATE
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Feb 28	BVF AGM, Holiday Inn, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RX - CHANGE OF DATE
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Apr 3-6	Copa Venezuela, Veneta Island, Venezuela
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Apr 12-13	West Midlands Open 2014, Dudley, West Midlands Event Manager - Peter Baron
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Apr 26-27	Veterans Home International, Edinburgh
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May 15-18	European Team Championships, Porec, Croatia Event Manager - Gillian Aghajan
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June 7-8	Age Groups 2014, Newport Pagnell Event Manager - Frank Mills
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Sep 6-7	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall Event Manager - Frank Mills
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Oct 11-12 (tbc)	Welsh Veterans Championships, Wrexham
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Oct 15-19?	World Championships (Location not yet known) Event Manager - David Sweeney
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Nov 16-19 (tbc)	Veterans Commonwealth Championships, Largs, nr Glasgow
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The venue for the 2014 World Championships has not yet been agreed, but they will not be held in Mauritius as previously notified.

See BVF website home page for European competitions and events -

www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

Recognition for Connie Adam

Through September and October a series of events were held as part of 'Norfolk Celebrates Age' the objective being to highlight the opportunities available to older people and applauding their many and varied achievements.

As part of this an exhibition of "Larger than life portraits, personal life stories and lots of life left" was presented throughout Norwich. The Chief Executive of Age UK, Norfolk explained "The exhibition's title, I'm Not Dead Yet, challenges the invisibility and negative stereotypes that people in later life can sometimes encounter....."

Connie was selected to sit for her portrait by Maica Schotten who worked in pastels and charcoal. The finished piece was displayed in the Pizza Express restaurant in the 'Forum' in the centre of Norwich. During the course of the sitting the conversation was recorded by young film makers from BBC Voices.

Connie described her past work experience when she had to take several jobs to be able "survive" following the return of the men who had fought in WWII. Her jobs included working on the land, driving taxis, driving tractors, delivering leaflets, working in a chocolate factory and being a bookies runner. There are others which I know she has not mentioned, including that she was into her sixties, the official driver for the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and his family. His official duties took Connie to a number of VIP events.

Because of Connie's tenacious, one woman crusade, she became the first woman Freeman in Norwich, the institution (exclusively for men) having been established 800 years ago. As a consequence, she established the right for all women relatives of past and current Freemen.

Portrait of Connie by Maica Schotten



Connie had 3 children and as she put it "I didn't do much until I was 40, I was just a housewife and then I went berserk". She explained that then she "had danced every dance" and at 50 she "had skied nearly every slope". It was at 60, after her husband had died that she discovered fencing. Since then she has travelled the world competing and has in excess of a hundred medals charting her successes. She is a local personality, regularly appearing in articles in the press and on the local radio. Also giving displays of fencing to encourage other older people to take up activities. She has been invited to address various groups, including school children, at which gives inspirational presentations with the subject title of 'Never Give Up'.

Her appearance on the Russell Howard TV programme is legendary and epitomised her confident and playful personality and quick wit which Howard rated as the best of all the secret guests to take part.

Connie is an example to all older people and to fencers of all ages. She has been recognised locally with sports awards, which was further acknowledged when she was selected to carry the Olympic Torch through part of Norwich. Her tenacity in seeking recognition in terms of becoming a Freeman was successful after many years of single handed lobbying and protests.

In conclusion, Connie summed up her reflections as follows, "you can't believe it sometimes when you think about it. I'm a recycled teenager".

Peter Gallop
Chairman Norfolk Fencing Club
www.norfolkfencingclub.co.uk

Connie at the World Veterans Championships in Varna, Bulgaria



Photo by Editor

Celebrity Antiques Road Trip

The popular Antiques Road Trip programme on BBC 2 usually seeks out some quirky place to visit during filming and on one trip to Worcestershire in the summer they settled on the National Fencing Museum in Hanley Swan. Mark Durden-Smith, son of Judith Chalmers, and antiques expert Paul Laidlaw with film crew in tow duly turned up for a conducted tour.

Several hours later after much talk about the history of fencing and the weapons used, it was clear that what really grabbed them was the strange story of the 18th century cross-dressing fencer and spy, the Chevalier D'Eon. Then it was into the garden for Mark to practise his Errol Flynn routine. And so a day's filming was condensed into a 2-minute sequence for the programme. Par for the course, I'm told.

Malcolm Fare



Malcolm Fare with his 'visitors'

Vets in France

Several GB veteran fencers took part in the Tournoi International 2013 des Ducs d'Alençon, France and got some excellent results.

Nicola Hull carved her way to the Veterans Women's Epée final where she met Corinne Aubailly, last year's FIE World Veterans Champion. Nicola lost a 3 hit advantage that evened the score to 8 all. She didn't fall apart however and, in a final flurry of action with both fencers missing, found her target on the third attempt, and finished the fight to take the final point and the winner's trophy. Nicola was again at the top of her game the following day as she competed in the Women's Senior competition. Although having put her all into the Veterans competition, Nicola made it through to the semi-finals where she was finally beaten. Nevertheless, she rounded off the trip by securing the bronze medal after a wonderful effort.

<http://dreamfencing.co.uk/fencing/fencing-news/> (Fencing News, 7th November)

Rob Flatt also proved his worth, taking second place in the Veterans Men's Epée and joint third in the Men's Senior Epée.

"Needless to say I lost 6-5 in the final with priority against me....Sigh....thought I would try my first fleche for 22 years - opened him up like book and then went sailing by." -



Rob Flatt on the podium

Photo courtesy of Rob Flatt

Nicola Hull in action in Alençon

Photo courtesy of Dream Fencing





Nicola Hull gets advice from her coach

Photo courtesy of Dream Fencing



Rob Flatt makes a good stop hit

Photo courtesy of Rob Flatt

ET16 - European Veterans Team Championships 2016 Volunteer roles

Graphics Designer

The Graphics Designer is responsible for designing a logo and colour scheme that can be used on:

- The website
- Correspondence with potential sponsors
- Banners around the venue
- Signs around the venue
- Goods for sale such as T-Shirts
- The Volunteers uniform

The logo and colour scheme should indicate [EVFC](#) and [BVF](#).

Fundraising Manager

The Fundraising Manager is responsible for raising money from:

- BVF members by raffles, 100-Club lotteries etc
- Known sponsors of fencing e.g. Beazley and Leon Paul
- Sponsors as yet unknown

The target to raise is the amount needed to turn the event from a minimum cost into the best of its kind i.e. £35,000.

Venue Manager

The Venue Manager during the event is responsible for laying out the non-fencing areas of the venue in accordance with the plans set by the Project Planner. This includes:

- Accreditation desk
- DT desk
- Armourers' area
- Information points
- Information Desk, Lost Property Desk
- Signs
- Photo opportunity area
- Presentations area

The Venue is Medway Park in north Kent. The management team there are very willing and positive and we should be able to get a number of things done through them e.g.:

- Lighting and backcloth for the finals piste
- Banners and Posters
- Plasma screen

It would be very useful to have a Venue Manager who lives locally to help progress these items and to maintain a close relationship with the Medway staff.

Deputy Project Planner

The Project Planners are responsible for defining the tasks to be done and when they should be done along with mechanisms to enable the committee to assign people to complete these tasks.

The tasks are defined in a web database and the progress monitoring software is based on PHP/MySQL

We need someone who is conversant with these technologies and who has experience of project management so that he/she can take over if and when the present project planners are hit by a bus.

If you would like to take on one of these roles then please email John Mason with a statement of interest and a short summary of your relevant skills.

BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk



Competition results (top half)

Leon Paul Men's Foil - 26/10/2013

MF (70) 31 Nick Mort

Men's Elite Epée - 27/10/2013

ME (88) 15 George Liston
19 Chris Howser
23 Neal Mallett
31 Robert Flatt
34 Howard West
37 Anton Pollard

Welsh Open - 9/11/2013

ME (88) 3T George Liston
5 Leslie MacDonald
8 Rob Flatt
12 Stephen Domek
14 Howard West
20 Anton Pollard
31 Jonathan Stanbury
34 Rob Brooks
44 John Leahey

MS (83) 31 Barry Coulter

WF (53) 23 Caron Hale
26 Susan Uff

WE (96) 38 Sara Spence

WS (56) 21 Jane Hutchison
23 Michele Narey

M8 Open - 16/11/2013

MF (70) 8 Mike McKay

ME (50) 2 George Liston
5 Tristan Spicer

MS (23) 1 Julian Ghosh

Tournoi International 2013 des Ducs d'Alençon 2/11/2013

ME (42) 3T Rob Flatt
10 Stephan Munn
19 Jonathan Stanbury

ME (Vets) 2 Rob Flatt
40 6 Stephan Munn
14 Jim Pilkington
16 Jonathan Stanbury

WE (10) 1 Nicola Hull

WE (Vets) 3T Nicola Hull
18

Congratulations to

Julian Ghosh - 1st MS, M8 Open

***Nicola Hull - 1st WE (Vets), Tournoi
International 2013 des Ducs d'Alençon***

**Caption
Competition
November**

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net

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



*Photo by
Editor*

**Caption
Competition
October**

Editor's choice

"Pat thinks to herself ' Gilly doesn't stand a chance of winning the rear of the year trophy with one that size..!'"

Huw Barton



*Photo
courtesy of
John Rees*

BVF contacts

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

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 email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net

