



Photo by Editor

ET16 fund raising
100 Club winners!
BVF v RN
Competition results

*Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New
Year to all
our readers!*



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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

It doesn't seem possible that 2014 is drawing to a close already. It has been a year with some great events and superb results but a year tinged with sadness too.

The first major event of the year was the BVF Championships at Gloucester, run by Event Manager David Sweeney, with a record number of entries. Towards the end of March, Peter Baron successfully ran the inaugural Veterans Spring Open at the new Leon Paul Centre with over 100 entries. April saw the West Midlands Open in Dudley run by Peter and Janet Baron which, although was not that well supported, was an enjoyable event for all those who took part. The Vets Home International, hosted by Scotland in Edinburgh was excellent and was fiercely fought with England winning overall and Scotland close on their heels.

In May the European Veterans Team Championships took place in Poreč, Croatia with GBR sending full teams for the 150+ and 195+ categories and the squad returning with a silver and two bronze medals. A great experience for me as Team Manager. David Sweeney was re-elected as President of the EVFC for another term. Jenny and Carl Morris ably ran the Vets Open (foil and épée) alongside the Hampshire Open.

Numbers for the Age Groups in June at Bletchley were down on last year, but Frank Mills, then Chairman, had recovered sufficiently from his first bout of illness to run this event in his usual efficient and indomitable way. The Celtic Challenge, the second event of the year organised by Scotland, this time in Queensferry, was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the Scottish Team was very proud to bring Arthur, the Celtic Challenge dragon, back to UK shores from Galicia, Spain (the previous winners).

As September approached, Frank was diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer, and he took the difficult decision to resign as Chairman and from the BVF committee and following his resignation I was appointed by the committee as Chairman. John Mason took on the role of Event Manager of the Winton Cup and did a sterling job, ably assisted by Marcia Stretch, John Crouch and Peter and Janet Baron. South West won again maintaining an unbeaten record.

In October, David Sweeney in his retiring role as Team Manager for a Veterans World Championships, led the GBR squad to Debrecen, Hungary for the Individual and inaugural Team Championships. This event was extremely well organised and run by the Hungarian hosts with live results online and live stream of the finals. The squad returned with a haul of medals, finishing seventh in the individual medal table and with three team medals. Special congratulations to World Champion Bill Osbaldeston (ME Cat C).

BVF members Jane Hutchison (ENG), George Liston (SCO), Georgina Usher (SCO) and Gillian Worman (NIR) were all selected to fence at the Senior Commonwealth Championships in Largs, Scotland. A remarkable achievement.



On our return from Debrecen we heard the very sad news from Frank that his treatment had been unsuccessful and that his cancer was terminal. None of us thought that Frank's decline would be so rapid and it was with much sadness that we heard from his wife, Betty, that he had lost his battle to cancer on Tuesday 11th November.

Frank's funeral service and cremation was held on 23rd November in Milton Keynes and I, along with around 50 other fencers from BVF and Frank's club, was proud to form a sword guard of honour to escort the hearse approaching and then to escort Frank's coffin into the chapel. A very poignant, emotional and respectful moment for all of us.

The Commonwealth Veterans Championships were held in Largs, Scotland, with England topping the medal table. This was the third event hosted by Scottish Veterans in 2014 and was very successful. Well done Scotland!

Plans for ET16 are continuing with members of the committee working very hard. This year has also seen some very good results at Open competitions and BVF fencers taking part in training camps and competitions abroad.

You can read about the final events of the year: BVF v RN and the ET16 fund raising events in this newsletter. Thanks to David and Susan Sweeney and their helpers and to Sue Church for their hard work. A very special guest made the 100 Club draw at Chez Sweeney!

Several members have been taken ill this year and best wishes from all of us on the committee go to all of you who have faced or are facing illness or have been injured this year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a New Year of good health and happiness from me and from all of the committee members. May this festive season bring you peace and joy.

Sincerely,

Gillian Aghajan
Chairman



100 club winners!!



Congratulations to the winners!

1st prize £500:	Roman Seniuk
2nd prize £300:	Jason Ball
3rd prize £200:	Lucy Wright



Look out for the next 100 club - you could be a winner too!!



Frank Mills - a message from his family

Betty, Nik, Andrea, Rachel and Byron would like to send a BIG thank you to all who attended Frank's cremation. For those unable to attend but sent their apologies we know you were thinking of him. The guard of honour was amazing and he would have been very proud. The cards, emails and obituaries received from all have been a great comfort to know he was so appreciated and considered to be an asset to the BVF. He was very special to all of us, and we miss him terribly.



BVF Calendar 2015

BVF CALENDAR 2015

Mar 6	BVF AGM, Holiday Inn, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RX
Mar 6-8	BVF Championships 2015, Gloucester Fri - Sabre; Sat - Foil; Sun - Epée Event Manager - David Sweeney
April 11-12	West Midlands Open 2015, Dudley, West Midlands Event Manager - Peter Baron
Apr 18-19	Home Nations, Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff Event Manager: Lyn Robinson
May 15-18	European Team Championships, Porec, Croatia Event Manager - tbc
June 6-7	Age Groups 2015, Bletchley Event Manager - Marcia Stretch
June 26-28	GBR v GER, Darmstadt Event Manager: David Sweeney
Sep 5-6	Veterans Winton Cup 2015, Lilleshall Event Manager - Marcia Stretch
Oct 20-25?	World Championships, Limoges, France Event Manager - Gillian Aghajan

See BVF website home page for European competitions





European Veterans Team Championships (ET16) Fundraising Events

As most of you know, British Veterans Fencing is hosting the European Team Championships in Medway Park, Gillingham, Kent in May 2016. The organising committee is committed to raising funds sufficient to allow BVF to produce the best event of its kind, and of which BVF members can be rightfully proud.

Several fundraising streams, large and small, are being pursued including fundraising events run by BVF members around the country between now and the Championships in May 2016.

A couple of events have already taken place in the last four weeks and are described below.

If you would like to have some fun with friends and at the same time raise some money for the 2016 European Veterans Championships why not organise an ET16 fundraising event? Perhaps several members could get together to organise an event. It doesn't matter how large or small the event is as long as it's fun for the participants and raises a few a pounds for ET16.

Let Dave Sweeney know if you need any information or if you have a date in mind so that we can put together a fundraising calendar.

30th November 2014

Susan Sweeney, on her own initiative, volunteered to run a fundraising event for the ET16 project. The aim was to hold an afternoon sandwich, cake and coffee fundraiser on 30th November 2014 to which we would invite 20 to 30 people, based on the inside space available, to the Sweeney's home in Stroud.

Susan decided that the ticket price for the event should be £5 per head. She then fixed the menu based on nibbles, sandwiches, cake, homemade mince pies, served with tea or coffee buying the ingredients when a good price was on offer. Later it was decided to provide wine, beer and soft drinks for those without a taste for the other two liquid refreshments.



*Eddie the Eagle
and
Susan Sweeney*



Tickets, carrying the ET16 logo and photos of BFV teams, were prepared. Several friends and neighbours were invited to the event and David was tasked to invite local (and not so local) BVF members.

Susan put together a seasonal hamper to donate as a raffle prize and bought the contents as and when she saw them on offer on the run up to the event. A couple of Susan's friends donated a gift each for the raffle. Susan decided that these two items, a handmade cushion and a presentation pack of Moroccan oil Hair Care products, should be auctioned separately.

It was agreed with Sue Church that we should make the draw for the ET16 100 Club at the event. On the day Sue Church and Janet Baron turned up early to help with the preparation of the sandwiches etc. All preparation was complete as guests started to arrive at about noon. Most people had arrived by 1pm and it was pleasing to see that all 26, who had said they would come, were there.

People who had been enjoying nibbles and liquid refreshments were just starting on the main fare when Eddie the Eagle, who had been invited to draw the ET16 100 club numbers, arrived. After a brief introduction Eddie mingled freely with the guests and many a photo opportunity was taken. Eddie proved to be a great success talking about his past experiences and showing an interest in fencing. He said that he had tried fencing at school and had done some promotion work with British Fencing in the past.

Eddie made the draw for the raffle prize. He made a good job of it, adding fun to the event, when auctioning the two gifted items which raised a total of £52 extra profit.

Eddie also made the draw for the ET16 100 Club prizes. Unfortunately none of the winners were present and they were to be contacted after the event. Guests started to leave after 3pm. Eddie was presented with a gift to show our appreciation of his support and all guests were gone by 4pm. It appeared that everyone enjoyed the event and some even asked when the next event would be and hoped that they would be invited again.

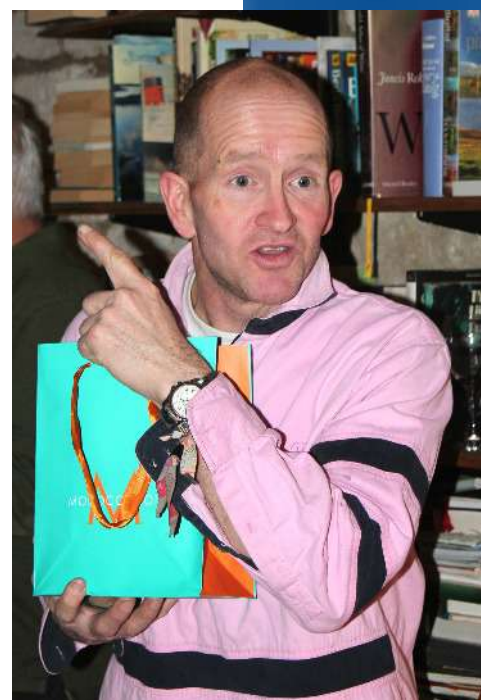
The total funds donated to the ET16 Fund, after nominal expenses, was £322. The Sweeneys are planning a larger event in June/July next year so watch this space.

6th December 2014

For several years Sue Church has hosted, at her house, a pre festive season get together for fencers in the Nottingham area.

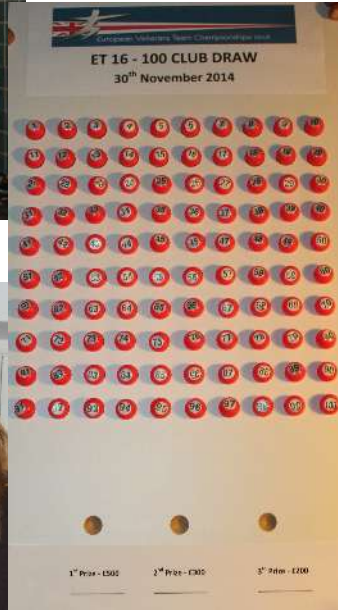
Sue had not originally arranged her event as a fundraiser when she invited friends and fencers but, seizing the opportunity, she decided to ask for donations to the ET16 fund. Sue was pleasantly surprised when she collected £110 to be donated to the 2016 European Veterans Team Championships fund. Well done Sue!

David Sweeney



***Eddie the
Auctioneer***

Fund raising fun with Eddie the Eagle



Photos -
Editor

BVF v Royal Navy



A full team of Vets met on Sunday 30th November at HMS President for the annual Vets versus the Royal Navy match.

For those who have never fenced in this match, it is held in the London HQ of the Royal Naval Reserve which is just by Tower Bridge, with the fencing area and dining area on a platform built out over the Thames. It was great to see a number of fencers new to veterans fencing taking part and other fencers coming to this event for the first time, and even better for them to bring lots of spectators to watch. This is always a popular event, and we had fencers coming from as far as Cardiff to take part.

The Royal Navy put out teams consisting of fencers from the Royal Navy, Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marines and Cadets. We never know quite who we'll be fencing as often the Navy fencers are at sea or on operations. The Vets teams all fenced two matches against a Navy A and B team, and all fenced very well – in all we won 11 out of 12 matches. The scores were close in a number of matches. Particularly women's foil – won by one hit at time, and men's sabre where we had to come from behind going into the last fight.

The match scores were :

Men's foil

BVF v Navy A win 45-41
BVF v Navy B win 45-20

Women's Foil

BVF v Navy win 41-40
BVF v Navy B Unisex win 45-38

Men's Epée

BVF v Navy A win 45-39
BVF v Navy B win 45-34

Women's Epée

BVF v Navy win 45-41
BVF v Navy B Unisex win 45-38

Men's Sabre

BVF v Navy A win 45-40
BVF v Navy B win 45-28

Women's Sabre

BVF v Navy win 45-38
BVF v B Unisex loss 27-45

Peter Bromley and a film crew were on hand to film the event and several interviews with us about Vets fencing and how we all came to find ourselves at the match. I don't know how everyone else felt but it was more nerve-wracking than the fencing, and I can only hope my tongue-tied contribution ends up on the cutting room floor. The purpose of the filming was to develop a promo film which can be used when making pitches for sponsorship funding for ET16. Look forward to seeing it in the New Year.



*Photo by
Annaick Dulac*



Thanks once again to Mark (Dicky) Barton for arranging this fixture once again, and for the Navy's hospitality. A number of fencers attended the Navy's formal dinner the night before in the dining room which has some spectacular river views against the backdrop of Tower Bridge and the Shard. By all accounts a very good time was had.

It was a typical Vets fencing event – competitive but fun, fencers making new friends and enjoying a days fencing, everything about the spirit of veterans fencing, and a very fitting event to have in the week that we said farewell to Frank.

The Vets fencers taking part were Tony Conyard, David Thomas, Paul Baillache, Mariette Mason, Sara Spence, Shirley Newsam-Smith, Jo Hayward, Lynne Williams, Annaick Dulac, Andrew Brown, Kola Ayanwale, Raj Sahonte, Anton Pollard, Nadya Yordanova, Janet Perkins, Karen Griffiths, Carl Moffat, Kamal Yasin, Steven Hughes, Matthew Jennings, and Kevin Alexander.

Paul Baillache

Photos by Paul Baillache



Competition results (top half)

Hereford & Worcester - 22/11/2014

ME (47)	3	John Leahey
	12	Tom Chrisp
	14	Anton Pollard
	16	Jonathan Stanbury
	19	Darryl Hazlewood
	20	Michael Ramsden

MS (15)	6	Carl Moffat
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WF (18)	7	Jane Clayton
	8	Cathy Heyes

WE (19)	3	Lorette Laschetti
	7	Helen Thouless

Derry Open - 22/11/2014

ME (17)	7	Duncan Salter
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Leon Paul Men's Epée - 28/11/2014

ME (71)	3	Neal Mallett
	16	Stephen Domek
	19	Hugh Kernohan
	23	Howard West
	26	Gavin Moulton
	28	Will Miller
	34	Adam Steiner

Leon Paul Women's Epée - 28/11/2014

WE (48)	23	Mariette Mason
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Competition results compiled using
Trawler software © John Mason -
Eureka Data Engineering



BVF membership subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on January 1st. Please do NOT do anything until you get an email or letter from me asking for payment.

Happy New Year

John

John Mason
Membership Secretary

Trek in the Himalayas

5 day trek in the Annapurna region

plus 5 days in Kathmandu - just £695

For info click on www.salago.com

Christmas Song Puzzle

Select a song from the list below and fill in the blanks to complete the story. Note that in some cases there are several answers that may fit in to any given blank. However, part of the puzzle is to make sure that you use every song title once appropriately!



One as we were tucked in our bed and dreaming of a we heard a noise My husband and I quickly got out of bed to see what was happening. We couldn't believe our eyes for there was standing in our living room looking down at our young lad and saying? Our son was talking to him and telling him I turned to my husband and said

My husband said, "Well, around here. At least it is not like last year when our son was telling everybody I sure am glad you didn't make me wear that outfit again this year." We told Santa "have a and left him to his work. As we left we asked "Is there anything else you need?" He replied, "For the sake of my sleigh..... We awoke on Christmas morning to find that someone had decorated our tree. We inquired, "..... who decorated you? and now what does the rest of the house need? The tree boughed and then pined, "You could I miss her."



Soon the phone rang and it was our daughter telling us.....or else I'll have awithout you. We were wondering how we would tell her the news that her And no it wasn't who did it. At dusk carollers came into our yard, stood amongst the spruce and fir and sang among the leaves so green. So we passed out mugs of mulled cider and then sent them on their way. Another Christmas day was done and we sat with a cup of cider as we listened to the crackle of the, raised our glasses to this toast to all of you.!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Oh Christmas Tree,
Oh Christmas Tree</i> | 12. <i>Silent Night</i> |
| 2. <i>Up on the Housetop</i> | 13. <i>I'll be Home for Christmas</i> |
| 3. <i>Blue Christmas</i> | 14. <i>Grandma Got Run Over by a
Reindeer</i> |
| 4. <i>All I want for Christmas is My
Two Front Teeth</i> | 15. <i>Chestnuts Roasting on an Open
Fire</i> |
| 5. <i>Rudolph the Red-nosed
Reindeer</i> | 16. <i>Here we Come A Wassailing</i> |
| 6. <i>Jolly Old St Nicholas</i> | 17. <i>What Child is This?</i> |
| 7. <i>We Wish You a Merry Christmas</i> | 18. <i>White Christmas</i> |
| 8. <i>Holly Jolly Christmas</i> | 19. <i>Do you Hear What I Hear?</i> |
| 9. <i>It's Beginning to Look a lot like
Christmas</i> | 20. <i>Deck the Halls with Boughs of
Holly</i> |
| 10. <i>I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa
Claus</i> | |
| 11. <i>Let it Snow, Let it Snow,
Let it Snow</i> | |

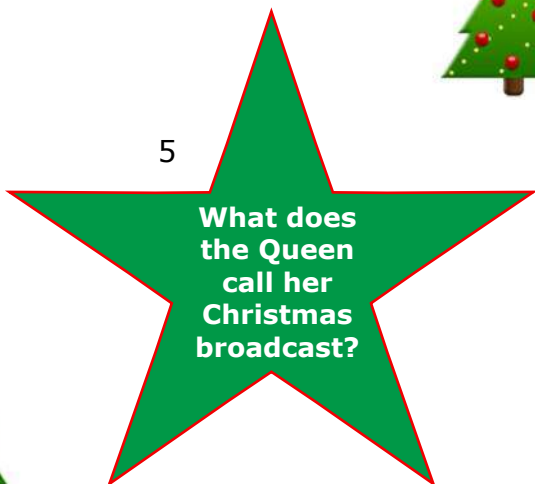
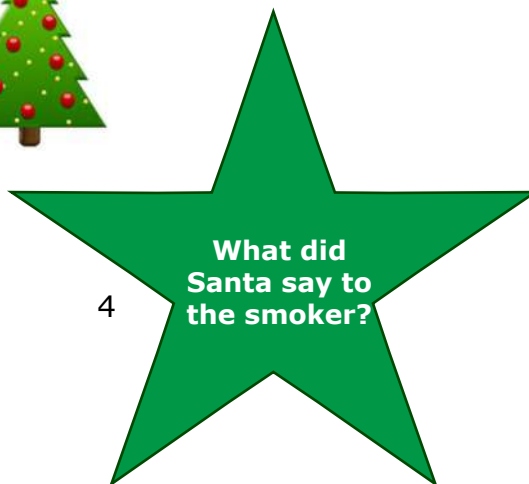
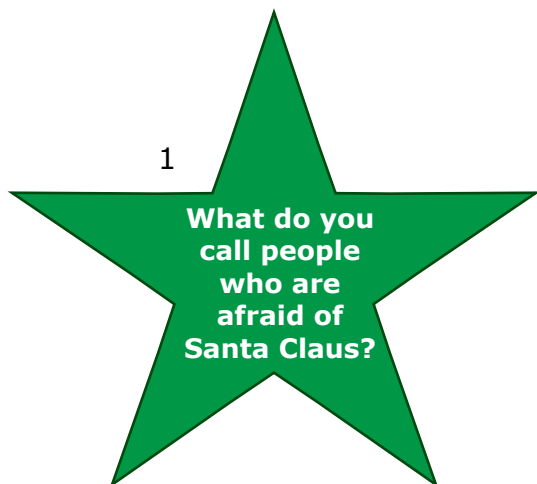


Answers on page 13

**Photos
by Editor**



It's a cracker!



- Answers**
1. Claustrophobic
 2. Ribbon Hood
 3. Sandy Claws
 4. Please don't smoke. It's bad for my elf.
 5. The One Show
 6. No, he was elf-taught



How many Christmas trees?

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
December**

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net



*Photo
by Editor*

*Christmas Song Puzzle answers:
12,18,2,6,17,4,19,9,10,8,11,1,20,13,3,14,5,16,15,7*



**Caption Competition
November**

Editor's choice -

'Welsh Flagpole Appeal: Please give generously.'

Paul Brenda



*Photo
by Simon
Curling*



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PLEASE NOTE
 Any articles or letters for the January BVF Newsletter should be sent to:-
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 by 10th January
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 email:
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