

Fencing and friendship in Belgium!



BVF members at the Flying Friendship Club Barbecue

Photos courtesy of Andrew Brown

GBR Selection for Veterans World Championships
Duel for a maiden's heart
Flying Friendship Cup in Brussels

CONTENTS

Front Page
Flying Friendship Cup

Page 2
Chairman's letter

Page 3
BVF calendar
Training in Lizzano

Pages 4-5
GBR Selection for
Veterans World
Championships

Page 6
Malcolm Fare retires

Pages 7-8
Lawrence confesses

Page 9-10
Flying Friendship Cup -
fencing in Belgium

Page 11
BVF 100 club

Page 12
Caption competition

Page 13
BVF contacts

Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Earlier this month, the BVF Age Group Qualifiers were successfully held in Bletchley and although entries were down this year, I have received many favourable comments from members who enjoyed their weekend's competition.

I have managed to re-unite owners with a number of items left behind at the event, but one further item has been found and was therefore not on the original list mailed by John Mason to fencers. I have a men's 40" chest , 350 N Spartan jacket, so if it's yours then please get in touch.

After some deliberation, it is good to see that the venue and dates for the Veteran's World Championships has now been settled. They will be held in Debrecen, Hungary on 21st to 26th October.

Details for the Veteran's Winton Cup will be issued very shortly to all Team Captains and published on the BVF website and I look forward to welcoming many of you to Lilleshall in September.

Our next BVF Committee meeting is on 13th July, so if there are any matters you would like discussed by us, then please contact me.

Frank Mills
Chairman BVF



**Fencers at the 2013
Veterans Winton Cup**

Photo by Editor

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

BVF Calendar 2014

BVF CALENDAR 2014	
Aug 12-14	Veterans Training Camp, Millfield School details: Norman Golding [fencing.master@hotmail.co.uk]
Aug 24-29	Veterans Training Camp, Valles (BZ), Italy
Aug 24-31	Veterans Training Camp, Lizzano, Italy Event Manager - Marcia Stretch
Sep 6-7	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall Event Manager - Frank Mills
Oct 11-12	Welsh Veterans Championships, Wrexham details: g.aghajan@virgin.net
Oct 21-26	World Championships, Debrecen, Hungary Event Manager - David Sweeney
Nov 16-19	Veterans Commonwealth Championships, Largs, nr Glasgow
Nov 30	BVF v Royal Navy, <i>HMS President</i> 72 St Katharines Way, London. E1W 1UQ Event Manager: Pete Baron

See BVF website home page for European competitions and events -

www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

Training in Lizzano, Italy

There is a training camp being held in Italy in Lizzano, Belvedere, Italy for all three weapons from 24th -31st August this year. The training venue is in the Tuscan Emilian Apennines about 60Km from Bologna and 90Km from Florence.

Details:

<http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/events/bolognatraining2014.pdf>

If you are interested in going please contact

Marcia Stretch tel: 01293 786 841

email: marcia_stretch@hotmail.com

*Photo courtesy of
Laurie Laschetti*



**Great Britain Selection
Veterans World Championships 2014
Debrecen, Hungary**

Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4
Men's Foil		
John Troiano	Paul Lowen	Malcolm Fare
Paul Wedge	Steve Fox	Chris Green
Anthony Bartlett	Fred Sheppard	Alan Ault
Nick Fihosy	Jonathan Stanbury	Brian Millo
Reserves		
Paul Abrahams	David Exeter	Peter Baron
Women's Foil		
Gillian Worman	Jane Clayton	Sylvia Brown
Jenny Morris	Clare Halsted	Kristin Payne
Caron Hale	Moya McNamara	Janet Cooksey
Kati Archer	Susan Uff	Diane Austin
Reserves		
Susan Brooks	Margaret Myers	
Men's Sabre		
Stephen Rennie	Carl Morris	Malcolm Cawton
Keith Rogerson	Richard Cohen	Peter Baron
Peter Howes	Chris Prevett	Chris Green
Barry Coulter	Tony Bardell	William Osbaldeston
Reserves		
Andy Higgs	Andy Bornemisza	Alan Ault
Women's Sabre		
Jane Hutchison	Vivian Frith	Connie Adam
Michele Narey	Sue Benney	Sylvia Brown
Grace Coulter	Yvonne Walls	
Jenny Morris	Lynne Bornemisza	
Reserves		
Caron Hale	Clare Halsted	

Continued on next page

Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4
Men's Epée		
Neal Mallett	Jonathan Stanbury	Robert Phelps
Will Miller	Ralph Johnson	William Osbaldeston
Hugo Kernohan	Max Telfer	Christopher Green
Anton Pollard	Robert Brooks	Malcolm Fare
Reserves		
Stephan Munn	Gerry Toland	Jim Pilkington
Women's Epée		
Mariette Mason	Jane Clayton	Sylvia Brown
Caron Hale	Caryl Oliver	Janet Cooksey
Jane Hutchison	Silvia Earl	Carole Seheult
Kate Smith	Fiona Haldane	Diane Austin
Reserves		
Jenny Morris	Janet Baron	Connie Adam

Views of
Debrecen

Photos by
Editor

***Reserves are non travelling unless in other squads
or until notified of selection***



The Legend Retires

It has been announced that Malcolm Fare is to retire as editor of The Sword. A position he has held for the past 30 years. On behalf of everyone in British Veterans Fencing and the wider fencing community I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the tremendous contribution he has made to British fencing. There can surely be no one with a more in depth knowledge of not only the modern sport of fencing but its history and traditions. I have been an avid reader of The Sword for the past 30 years and have seen it develop from a modest publication into the beautifully illustrated modern glossy magazine it is today. Over the years Malcolm has not only kept us up to date on competitions, results and events but also inspired young fencers with numerous articles on the history and romance of our sport. Other informative and fascinating articles included book reviews, collector's corner and scrupulously researched obituaries.

Malcolm Fare's Sword has quite rightly become part of the very fabric of British fencing. Although I am happy to receive the Vets Newsletter via the Internet the decision by British Fencing to issue The Sword online to save costs (hysterical laughter) I fear is a retrograde step. It is just not the same. Like reading a real book rather than an electronic one being able to pick up a hard copy of the magazine and enjoy it with a leisurely drink has been one of life's pleasures.

I sincerely hope that British Fencing will acknowledge his outstanding contribution to our sport by awarding Malcolm the highest possible honour. I salute his knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise. His immeasurable contribution to our wonderful sport has inspired generations of fencers. I fear The Sword will not be the same without Malcolm Fare. Thank you so much.

Richard Bonehill

***Malcolm at the
European Veterans
Individual Championships,
Terni 2013***

Photo by Editor



Weapons at Dawn!

At the age of 65, I still look back at this memory and smile. It may sound somewhat far-fetched, but it really did happen.

It was the summer of 1967, and I was working my way around Europe before starting university. Back in England, I was a fencer of some repute, with my eyes fixed firmly on representing my country at the next Olympics. I was blond, tall and brash, and I decided that training at the renowned French Masque de Fer fencing club, in Lyons, would give me that all-important international edge, which I needed to make the British team.

Jean-Luc was the club professor's favourite - dark, brooding and an excellent sabreur. He held court in the sword-lined salle - the fencing hall. Catherine was his sultry-eyed girlfriend who had been blessed with an arrogant, irresistible stare. And, I might add, she was oh-so-chic in her tight white fencing breeches. She became the object of my desire, but seemed to ignore my repeated enthusiastic advances. My last week at the club was fast approaching and I knew I had to make a final bid or lose the day.



The bid was successful. Coffee, a clandestine date, far too many cognacs, a kiss or two and I was ensnared. But news travelled fast, and by the following evening, Jean-Luc had discovered all about the rendezvous. He stormed across the salle and slapped me hard across the face with his fencing gauntlet, proposing a duel the following morning in a field outside Lyons. I was to choose my own seconds.

The weapons were to be sabres, fencing bare-chested, no masks, and the first to inflict three visible cuts on the other was to be declared the winner. The prize was the sultry Catherine. My first instinct was that this was crazy, absurd theatre, but Catherine was there in the background, with an excited look in her eyes.

So that following morning, at 6am, there I was, surrounded by my agitated group of seconds, a young student doctor waiting nervously by the car, the mist still writhing around my feet, and facing my angry nemesis, Jean-Luc. But anger was to be his undoing.

*Fencers at
Masque de Fer
Jean-Luc
standing on the
right, next to
Lawrence*

*Photo courtesy
of Lawrence
Burr (taken by
Catherine!)*

Ten minutes later, panting heavily, I was standing over my adversary, having drawn blood with three cuts on his chest. I was relieved and victorious, and Catherine had seen it all. She was mine.

But I was deceived - my Catherine dashed forward, not to award the long-awaited passionate embrace to the blond English hero, but to fall on her knees, mop up the blood with her handkerchief, and to smother Jean-Luc's face in her kisses and tears. He had fought for her - and that, in her eyes, was enough to win her heart.

However, as we ran from the field, in fear of discovery by the local gendarmes, Catherine suddenly pulled me aside and kissed me hard on the lips. As she broke away with a broad grin, she pressed her bloodstained handkerchief into my hand, softly murmured 'Dommage, a shame', then ran on to catch up with Jean-Luc.

I keep her maiden's colours to this day.

Lawrence Burr

**This article was published in the Travel section of
The Sunday Times - 22nd - Confessions of a Tourist**

Competition results (top half)

Wrexham Open - 07/06/2014

ME (40)	3T	Granville Ward
	14	Darryl Hazlewood
	15	Peter Davies
	18	Paul Drake
	19	Max Telfer
	20	Tristan Spicer
MS (24)	3T	David Taylor
	10	Carl Moffat
WF (5)	2	Liz Chinn
WS (6)	1	Rachel Lasance

Bexley Open - 14/06/2014

ME (53)	3T	Howard West
	8	Adam Steiner
	9	Will Miller
	18	James Fleming-Fido
	22	Paul Townson
	23	Mark Richardson
WE (20)	2	Marg Oniye
	3T	Nicola Hull

***Congratulations to
Rachel Lasance
- 1st Women's Sabre -
Wrexham Open!***

Flying Friendship Cup

The Flying Friendship Cup is an annual fencing competition that was initiated by BEA, now BA (British Airways), and ASADP (Aéroport de Paris) in 1959. Every year, the competition is held in a different city with fencing teams representing Air France, ASADP, BA, Iceland Air and KLM. Each team consists of 4 people: men's foil, epee and sabre and women's foil.

Joe Garratt, former Vets chairman was BA representative and went to fence at Wellesbourne SC in the 1990s using fencers from the club as the BA team. More recently, when the club could not fill the team with competitive fencers, friends from the Vets were used. This year, since becoming friends over the years, a separate Vets team of Malcolm Fare (foil), Peter Baron (sabre), Andrew Brown (epee) and Silvia Earl (foil) was again invited. Andrew is the only team member who once worked for BA. Janet Baron fenced as an individual in the epee.

The BA teams included other Vets: Sylvie Brown, Malcolm Allton, Caryl Oliver and Anne Mills.

This year, the competition was hosted by La Maison de L'Escrime, which represents Iceland Air (with head office in Brussels), on the occasion of its annual club party event.

The Vets team managed a credible (the opposition were younger faster, fitter and taller!) sixth place out of 13 teams. The winner was the host club whose team included foilist & 4 time Olympian Terry Soumagne and 76 year old Yves Bertino who came second in the epee.

And they know how to organize a very good party, brewing a beer for the occasion and giving each fencer a special pair of socks with "Le Manneken-Pis" in a mask.

The beer has a special label designed for the bottles, which was also used on T-shirts.



*Photos by
Andrew Brown*

But before partying we joined in a competition called the Tir du Roy. What is the Tir du Roy? This is a competition to become 'King of Belgium' for the day.

The club is depository of the Serment des Saints Michel et Gudule ou des Escrimeurs de Bruxelles, it is the Guild of the Fencers of Brussels founded in 1480, together with the other guilds: bowmen, crossbowmen, arquebusiers, who every year participate in the Ommegang parade in Brussels. At the end of the season they fence the Tir du Roy to designate "King" who will lead the club's group at the Ommegang.

Fencing 34 fencers to one hit with no time limit proved hard work in temperatures in the high twenties, Malcolm and Andrew won 16 each; the winner took 27 scalps to become King!!

As usual a great weekend.

Andrew Brown



**Pete Baron
(right) in
action!**

**Photo by
Andrew
Brown**

Mannekin-Pis

This bronze statuette, created in the 17th century by J. Duquesnoy the elder, embodies the irreverent spirit of Brussels. Also known as "Little Julian", due to confusion with another fountain, het Juliaensborreke, it was one of the many fountains serving the city. From being a public fountain, the little fellow has now become a legendary figure. He has been given numerous costumes and decorations and his wardrobe now comprises some 800 items, recently restyled in an appealing scenography (see Museum of the City of Brussels). The oldest (known) costume was given to him by the Elector of Bavaria in 1698. Manneken-Pis has, alas, been the victim of several acts of vandalism. It was in 1745 that he was kidnapped for the first time by the English. Two years later, it was the turn of the French to steal him. Hearing of this, Louis XV gave him, by way of reparation for this outrage, a rich costume in gold brocade and decorated him with the cross of Saint-Louis. In 1817, the statuette was stolen again, this time by a reprieved French convict, and was found broken in pieces. The fragments were used to make the statuette which you can see today on the old fountain.

www.visitbrussels.be



**Photo -
Wikipedia**



**Fancy a flutter? Feeling lucky?
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Your BVF needs you!

**We are privileged to be hosting the European Veterans Team
Championships in Medway, Kent in 2016**

There are many plans to be put in place, but very good progress is being made

Please help by supporting the BVF 100 Club

Choose your favourite number between 1 – 100
Each one costs £20

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Cheques payable to Sue Church and send to
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Bilborough, Nottingham NG8 3BH

Cash is welcome

Please indicate your second choice of number in case your first choice has already been snapped up

Please get in touch! sue.trysport@tiscali.co.uk

When the 100 tickets have all been sold the draw will take place at a BVF dinner e.g. BVF Championships, Veterans Winton

Prizewinners will be announced in the BVF Newsletter



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

June

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net

*Photos
by Editor*



Caption Competition May

'ANTON! What did I say? ... DON'T mention the WAR! '
John Mason

'Another fine mess you've got us into!'
Paul Brenda



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

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