



### ***Frank Mills - 1943 - 2014***



**Frank Mills at the Age Groups 2012**

### **Frank Mills**

**Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Competition -  
results and photos**

**ET16 - Volunteer roles**

**Development Officer**

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## Chairman's letter



Dear Members,

It was with much sadness that we heard the news that Frank Mills had lost his battle with cancer on Tuesday 11th November after what was an unexpectedly rapid decline.

I was able to visit Frank a few days before he died and he was facing the inevitable with grace and fortitude and his never failing sense of humour. He was still showing a keen interest in BVF and we were able to discuss ideas and plans for the future. It shows his indomitable spirit that the next evening he, together with his wife Betty, planned his funeral in detail.

There are already many tributes and anecdotes on the BVF website and the BVF group Facebook page. Frank was a very well liked and respected man, with a droll sense of humour and a mesmerising voice and his presence will be sorely missed by all of us on the committee, our members and many in the world of fencing. Our condolences go to Betty and to her family.

The funeral service and cremation will be held at 2pm on Thursday 27th November at Crownhill Crematorium, Milton Keynes and afterwards at the Mercure Milton Keynes Abbey Mill Hotel. Full details have been sent to all BVF members.

The Commonwealth Veterans Championships were held in Largs, Scotland from 16th -19th November with England topping the medals table. Congratulations to England and to all home nation medallists and to Scottish Fencing. Reports and photos are in this issue.

Planning for ET16 is a continuing process with committee members working hard. We are now at the stage of looking for volunteers to fill designated roles. A list of these roles is on page 9. Please contact John Mason if you are interested in taking one on or being part of one of teams. We are also looking for someone to join the committee as soon as possible (initially as a co-opted member) with the role of Development Officer. Details of this can be found on page 12. Please contact me if you would like to be considered.

Sincerely,

**Gillian Aghajan**  
**Chairman**

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## Frank Mills 1943 - 2014

Frank first took up Fencing in the early 1960s at Blackfriars Fencing Club, having first been a keen road cyclist, and quickly became a competent foilist competing on the open circuit and represented Surrey on several occasions. Frank also trained under Professor Behmber at his Salle in London.

It was while on a fencing course being run in Bath in 1965 Frank met his wife to be Betty, also a competitive fencer at that time. They were married in St Peter's Church Maidenhead in 1969. Members of the Fencing community formed a guard of honour at the exit from the marriage ceremony.

In 1970 Frank won the South East Section Men's Foil Championships.

Frank spent most of his working life in the Marketing and Public Relations fields holding several management positions, and was the head of fundraising for the Licensed Victuallers National Homes. During this time he raised many hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity.

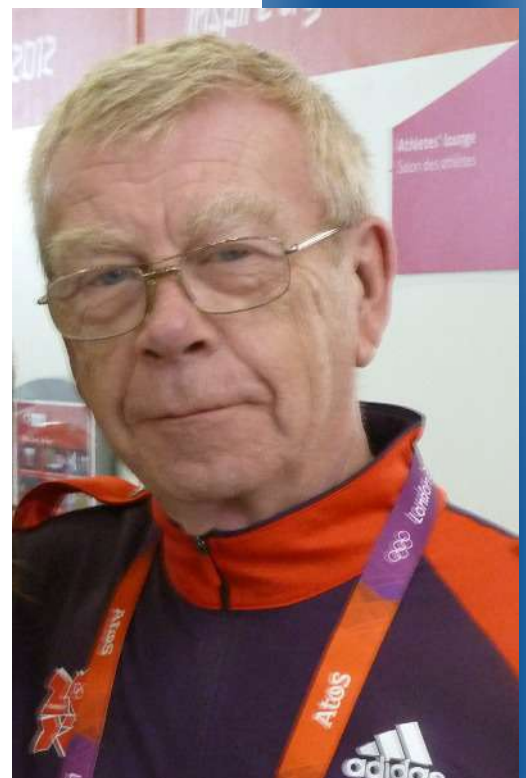
Frank gave up Fencing in 1975 due to the commitment of helping to raise a son and daughter with Betty and work. When his son Nik started Fencing, using a foil inherited from Betty, Frank was lured back into fencing in 1988 and joined the Milton Keynes Fencing Club. In 1995 Frank joined the Veterans Fencing movement, then known as the NVA and was elected to the committee in 1996 serving as Match secretary.

Frank was elected Chairman of British Veterans Fencing in March 2008.

In 2007 Frank joined the Freemasons in the Grand Union 9641 Lodge and became Lodge Master serving from 2012 to 2013. During his time with the Freemasons Frank was active in fundraising for charity. He was one of the organisers of the 1st Rock Ride, a cycle ride from Gibraltar to Buckinghamshire in aid of charities and was one of the travelling support team. Although he started working for the Rock Ride 2 event ill health prevented him from becoming fully involved.

Organised charity work was not the only expression of Frank's good nature. He was always the first to help anyone in trouble, be it a Fencing friend or a neighbour. Many a weekend Frank could be found helping Betty, with a bit of DIY here, running a BBQ there and various other projects with the Girl Guide movement in which she is still heavily involved.

Frank was well known to Veteran Fencers for his charm, sense of humour, quick wit and velvet toned speaking voice. He entertained us on many occasions at various dinners over the years when he managed to incorporate unsuspecting members into his jokes. It soon became a badge of honour to be included in one of his stories.





Frank's dedication to British Veterans Fencing (BVF) was well known. He led several British Veterans Fencing squads to matches and Championships in Europe. He organised the Age Group Qualifiers for several years and was involved with the organisation of the Veterans Winton Cup, increasing its standard and popularity and as a result had a positive impact on recruitment to the BVF.

Frank became ill in 2013 and after treatment it seemed that he was victorious over his disease and making a good recovery but unfortunately this proved to be a short period of remission. In 2014 Frank, unable to perform his duties as chairman, unselfishly resigned from the BVF committee.

Some brightness entered Frank and Betty's lives in 2013 when their daughter presented them with a much awaited and beloved grandson, Henry.

Sadly in the early hours of 11th November Frank lost his last bout and died peacefully at home with his family. Frank's personality touched many people's lives and we are all the better for it.

He leaves behind his loving wife Betty, his son Nicholas and his partner Rachel and two children, his daughter Andrea, son in-law Byron and grandson Henry.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with them at this very sad time.

### ***David Sweeney***



## Veterans Commonwealth Fencing Championships Largs, Scotland 16-19 November

What a fantastic four days of fencing this Veterans Commonwealth Fencing Championships was. We saw record numbers of entrants resulting in long days of competitive fencing with superb gala finals on the raised piste and emotional medal ceremonies led in by the piper and presented on one of the specially constructed Commonwealth Games podiums. It offered both participation and competitive fencing.

Scottish Fencing must be congratulated on providing an excellent venue, technical set up, helpful weapons control and calm cool referees plus high quality food and drink in the social area. Special mention goes to Chris Hyde, Roy Clarke, Mike O'Donnell and Liz Anderson, who were responsible for the organisation prior to the start of the event and presented medals, organised pipers, busses, airport collections and mediated as required throughout the four days.

DT did exceptionally well to schedule the event with one third more competitors than expected and a number of Barbarian teams added to the B team event at little notice.

All the finals were exciting competitive affairs, with great tension as the lead vacillated back and forth between teams and individuals. Every nation got behind their fencer and you would often see rent a crowd with Scots Canadians, Welsh, English or Australians, moving round the hall in matching tracksuits to support their fencer on the blue, green, red or yellow piste – making sure they were on the right end - to will their fencer on.

There is a good spread of nations represented on the medal table, though the age group results would suggest most countries need to understand England's success at encouraging participation across all the age groups. England are to be commended in this achievement.

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Age group medals
England	5	5	3	13
Australia	4	2	2	1
Canada	1	2	4	0
Northern Ireland	1	0	2	2
Wales	1	1	1	2
Scotland	0	1	4	2
Singapore	0	1	0	1

We also saw the ending of the CVFA and the birth of the CFF Veterans Commission with John Crouch as Chairman. Henry De Silva's impactful contribution to Veterans Fencing was recognised at the Championship Dinner as was Mike Norfolk's contribution to Welsh Fencing.

**Sheila Anderson**



*Photo by  
Sandy  
Kernohan*



## Vets in Largs

### Wimbledon trio

So...

Simon White, Tim Buzwell and I headed up to Glasgow on Friday with a real feeling of anticipation. I had previously been to a Commonwealth championship in Singapore in 2012 but this was a first for Simon and young Tim.

We arrived in Largs in the dark and went out to eat at Tony Macaroni's – a popular place for commonwealth fencers. The next morning after weapons control we spent the day watching some great fencing then got an early night as the men's épée was due to start at 8.30 on Sunday morning.

There was a great atmosphere and with so many British fencers competing you were sure to find a familiar face in your poule.

It was all over too quickly but after a late start on Monday the three of us got a bonus and fenced in the team challenge beating teams from Wales and Canada. Simon had already done a day of sabre so was able to get good value from the really expensive entry fee. Tim fenced foil on Tuesday then we all made our separate ways home. Roll on New Zealand in 2016...

**Mark Richardson**

### Seen on Facebook

*"Didn't we have a lovely time the week we went to La-args, the blades they went Ting!, we came back with Bling! and all the Welsh were great you know, fish and chips on the plates with all of our mates, with Nardinis ice-creams to follow it down...."*

**Lyn Robinson**

**England's Gold winning Women's Epée team**

**Photo courtesy of Sue Brooks**



**Mark, Simon and Tim - the Three Wimbledon Musketeers**

**Photo courtesy of Mark Richardson**



## Photos from Largs



Photo by Mike Frith



Photo by Sandy Kernohan



Photo by Peter Drummond

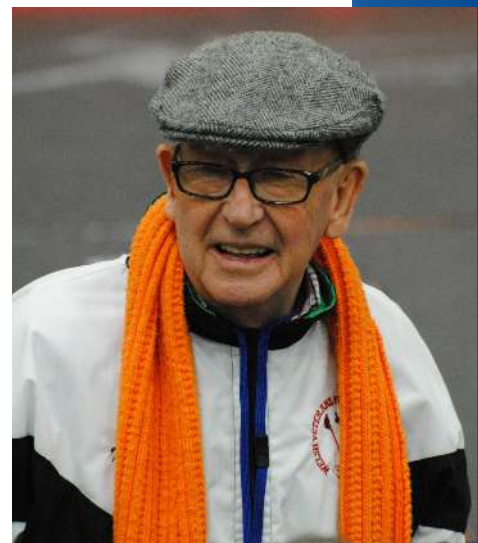


Photo by Mike Frith



Photo courtesy of Simon Curling

Photo by Peter Drummond





## BVF Calendar 2014 & 2015

### BVF CALENDAR 2014

Nov 30      BVF v Royal Navy, *HMS President*  
72 St Katharines Way, London. E1W 1UQ  
Event Manager: Pete Baron

### 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  
and events - [www.veterans-fencing.co.uk](http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk)





## Development Officer

Sport England have requested that we have a development plan to cover the next 5 years and the committee have put together such a plan. We are looking for someone to join the committee and take on the role of Development Officer. The responsibilities are as follows:

The Development Officer is a member of the BVF Committee. He/She is responsible for implementing the policies and targets contained in the BVF 5 year Plan which is regularly reviewed by the committee. Priority of work should be given to the following key policies:

- a) Increase BVF membership at all levels in the time frames shown
- b) Develop links with the BF Performance and Development Managers in order to provide access to the British Fencing elite training resources
- c) Develop a training regime with a view to increasing the BVF medal successes on the international stage
- d) Promote fencing amongst the older age groups (Cat 3 and Cat 4)
- e) Develop and maintain a database of experienced volunteers for coaches and competition organisers
- f) Promote the social benefits of fencing.

He/she is to provide a report to the AGM of progress towards achieving the targets in the 5 year Plan.

## ET16 Progress



We are at the point of looking for volunteers to fill roles. The list of roles is below. If you would like to put your name forward, either to take on a role or be part of that team then please email John Mason [BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk](mailto:BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk)

Role responsibilities can be found in the document [ET2016-event planning.pdf](#)

Accreditation Manager	Master of Ceremonies
Armourers (Weapon Control) - <a href="#">Peter Huggins</a>	Merchandising Manager
Audio-Visual Engineer	Newsletter Editor - <a href="#">Gillian Aghajan</a>
Back Office	Photographer
Cashier	Project Planner - <a href="#">Gillian Aghajan</a> , <a href="#">John Mason</a> , <a href="#">David Sweeney</a>
Ceremonies (Opening and Closing) Manager	Publicity Officer
DT Manager	Quality Manager
Event Manager	Referee Coordinator
FIE/EVFC Minder	Registration Manager
Finals Manager	Secretary - <a href="#">Marcia Stretch</a>
Floor Manager	Security Officer
Fundraising Manager - <a href="#">Lawrence Burr</a>	Seeding Manager
Graphics Designer - <a href="#">Anne Mills</a>	Training Officer
Health and Safety Officer	Transport Manager
Hospitality Manager	Treasurer - <a href="#">John Mason</a>
Information Manager	Venue Manager
IT Manager	Videographer
	Volunteers Manager
	Webmaster

## Competition results (top half)

### Elite Epee - 2/11/2014

ME (93)	22	Jason Scrimshaw
	35	Hugh Kernohan
	38	Chris Howser
	42	Gavin Moulton

### Hamlet Sabre - 8/11/2014

WS (35)	12	Lucy Wright
	15	Rachel Lasance
	17	Michele Narey

### M8 Open - 15/11/2014

MF (46)	11	Duncan MacFadyen
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### Welsh Open - 25/10/2014

MF (62)	26	Tony Williams
	27	Jonathan Dawkins

ME (61)	1	John Chalmers
	3T	Howard West
	17	John Leahy
	21	Anton Pollard
	27	William Osbaldeston
	30	Rob Brooks

MS (58)	27	Julian Ghosh
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WF (29)	12	Tracey Coates
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WE (47)	7	Nicola Hull
	15	Ingrid Heskett

## Best Veteran Fencers (October 2014) - correction

To the BVF Newsletter Editor

Dear Gillian,

Rather strangely in the list of the best veteran fencers in the world a certain Volker Fischer of Germany, a former Senior World Champion at the age of 37 and an Olympic Team gold medallist has been omitted. He has won 5 gold medals out of the last 9 Veterans World Champs (2006, 2007, 2012, 2013, 2014), missing entering in 2010 and 2011 (and possibly 2009) because of a chronic back problem for which he had major surgery. In addition he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2004 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2008, thus placing him 8<sup>th</sup> on your published World list, making him the top World Male epeeist. In his current form it doesn't bear to speculate what his final tally will be. He also has 2 gold medals from the European Vets, 2001 and 2005, 2 silvers in 2007 and 2013, and a bronze in 2003, which puts him in 10<sup>th</sup> place on your combined ranking list, again making him the leading Male Epeeist. He lost the European final to Pap from Hungary in 2013, who also was a Senior World Champion, and was determined not to have a repeat in the following World Vets and impressively beat him in the semis before winning the gold.

Regards

Robin Davenport

*Well spotted Robin!  
Apologies from Malcolm Fare*

**Congratulations to  
John Chalmers - 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Men's Epee at the  
Welsh Open**

## 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 November

send your entry to Editor

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



*Photo  
By Simon  
Curling*

## Caption Competition October

Editor's choices -

*'Oh My God, Viv. It really IS just water!'*

**Paul Brenda**

*'Singing Opera again. This really isn't the place or the time,  
but how can I tell her?'*

**Jane Hutchison**



**Photo by Editor**



## BVF contacts

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	Treasurer Membership Secretary Webmaster	<b>John Mason</b>  Tel: 01225 761788 <a href="mailto:BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk">BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk</a>
	Secretary	<b>Marcia Stretch</b>  Tel: 01293 786 841 <a href="mailto:marcia_stretch@hotmail.com">marcia_stretch@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Elected Members</b>	International Fencing Officer	<b>David Sweeney</b>  Tel: 01453 758372 <a href="mailto:mrdsweeney@hotmail.com">mrdsweeney@hotmail.com</a>
	Domestic Fencing Officer	<b>Peter Baron</b>  Tel: 01384 400242 <a href="mailto:bvf@baronfencing.plus.com">bvf@baronfencing.plus.com</a>
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	<b>Lawrence Burr</b>  Tel: 01823 433844 <a href="mailto:lsburr@btopenworld.com">lsburr@btopenworld.com</a>	
<b>Co-opted Member</b>	Publicity Officer	<b>Malcolm Fare</b>  <a href="mailto:malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk">malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk</a>



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

**Gillian Aghajan**  
by 14th December  
Tel: 07747 792712  
email:  
[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

