

*Merry Christmas
to all our readers!*



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

CONTENTS

Front Page
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Pages 2-3
Chairman's letter

Page 3
Home Nations
100 Club winners

Page 4
BVF Calendar
Rio 2016

Page 5
BVF v RN

Pages 6-7
ET16 Lansdowne Club
Event

Page 8
Competition results
London request

Page 9
Christmas Word Search

Page 10
Christmas quiz

Page 11
Caption competition

Page 12
BVF contacts



Photo by Editor

BVF v Royal Navy

ET16 - Lansdowne Club



Chairman's letter



Dear Members,

2015 seems to have flown and been filled with ups and downs in the process. It has been a year that started with more sad news for BVF, but is ending with much to look forward to.

Fred Sheppard, who had suffered a severe stroke in 2014, died in hospital on 4th January from pneumonia. This was, following the death of Frank Mills in November 2014, another shock to BVF and yet another one was to follow. Richard Bonehill died suddenly on 29th January; shocking and very sad news that I heard when I was on the other side of the world. Three friends and great characters in such short space of time. I am sure I am not the only one who was thinking 'who next?'

There was a record number of fencers and weapon entries at the BVF Championships in January at Gloucester and it was good to meet new members who were fencing in their first BVF event.

The West Midlands Open took place in April and Welsh Veterans Fencing Association hosted the Home Nations in Cardiff with England retaining the Justin Smith Trophy.



In May, our GBR squad returned from the European Veterans Individual Championships, Poreč, Croatia with a haul of medals: 3 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze, with the 3 gold medals all won on the same evening. A proud and unforgettable experience.



June was another busy month, first with the Age Groups in Bletchley, another successful event. Darmstädter Fecht Club, Germany, in its 125th anniversary year, hosted the 25th anniversary Germany v Great Britain match, won by Germany 32-22 bouts. This was a very enjoyable event.

Sir Nicholas Winton died on 1st July. He was known as the 'British Schindler' who organised the rescue of 669 children, most of them Jewish, from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia on the eve of the Second World War, and he kept this secret for nearly 50 years. He was also a notable fencer, and after WWII, with his late brother Bobby, founded the Winton Cup. The brothers donated the Veterans Winton Cup in 2008.

In September, South West retained the Veterans Winton Cup with a narrow victory over South East. More new members took part in their first event.

It was sad in October to hear of the death of Dawne Bird, one of the original members of NVA. The Veterans World Championships took place in Limoges, France and our squad won 2 gold medals, 3 silver and 1 bronze. Another successful Championships.



November was a quiet month.



That brings us to December. The recent annual match against the Royal Navy resulted in an overall win for BVF.

As the year draws to a close there were sad moments, but plenty to celebrate and look forward to, including the European Team Championships in Medway - the 25th anniversary of European Championships, in May.

Congratulations to all medal winners, to all who have achieved and surpassed personal goals, to those who received British Fencing honours and to new BVF members for taking the plunge!

My thanks to the BVF committee for their support and hard work, to the ET16 Organising Committee - John Mason, David Sweeney and Katie Rhodes, to all Event Managers, event support teams, referees and volunteers and to all GBR squad members for fencing their best and supporting each other at International events.

On behalf of the BVF committee I wish you a peaceful and joyful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you in 2016.

Sincerely,



Gillian Aghajan
Chairman



Veterans Home International 2016 - 9th/10th April

England Veterans Fencing is pleased to be hosting the 2016 Home Nations.

Venue - Graham Sports Centre, Durham University, Maiden Castle, Durham. DH1 3SE.

Gala dinner.- Saturday 9th April at Durham Old Town Hall, Market Place, Durham. Arrive 7.30 for 8pm serving. Cost - £30. [Link to order meal](#)
[Home Nations dinner](#)

Closest hotel to dinner: Premier Inn Freemans Quay Durham City Centre.
[Premier Inn Durham](#)

100 Club

Congratulations to the winners of the final 100 Club (drawn at BVF v RN match). Each wins £100!

8	Malcolm Cawton	39	Mike Frith
21	Trysport	52	Caryl Oliver
23	Jane Clayton	61	Roman Senuik
26	David Sweeney	90	Mike McKay
27	Jeff Kiy	92	Chris Prevett

The 3 100 Club draws have raised £3000 for ET16. Thanks for your support and thanks to organiser Sue Church!



BVF Calendar 2016



BVF CALENDAR 2016	
Jan 1-4	Veterans Training Camp, Rome
Feb 6	Lansdowne International Foil, London
Mar 4-6	BVF Championships 2015, Gloucester Sabre - Friday. Foil - Saturday. Epee - Sunday Event Manager: John Crouch
Mar 4	BVF AGM, Holiday Inn, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RX
Mar 19-20	West Midlands Open 2016, Dudley, West Midlands Event Manager: Peter Baron
Apr 9-10	Vets Home International, Durham Event Manager: Beth Davidson
May 5-8	European Team Championships, Medway, Great Britain
Jun 4-5	Age Groups 2016, Bletchley Event Manager: Marcia Stretch
Sep 3-4	Veterans Winton Cup 2016, Gloucester Event Manager: Marcia Stretch
Oct 10-16	Veterans World Championships, Stralsund, Germany Event Manager: Gillian Aghajan



See BVF website home page for European competitions and events - www.veterans-fencing.co.uk.

Rio 2016



Congratulations to Hilary Philbin and Janet Huggins who will both be part of the fencing technical delegation at the Olympic Games in Rio 2016. Hilary will be a member of DT and will also take on the role of FIE Chief of Protocol. Janet's role will be a delegate of the SEMI commission, who are responsible for the functionality and safety of all equipment used in the fencing venue.

Congratulations also to Chris Farren and Duncan Rowlands, who have both been selected to referee and to Peter Huggins who has been selected as a Technical Delegate at the Paralympic Games,



BVF v Royal Navy - 6th November



Men's Epee

"The Vets "A" team comprised of Anton Pollard, Andrew Brown and Kola Ayanwale. Unknown to the latter, a quiet plan was hatched and Kola emerged as captain for the day. Opting not to make use of a reserve, the team started off with a captain's bout that ended 5-5. Anton cruised ahead before the RN team decided to make things a tad more difficult. Anchored home by a rejuvenated captain, the Vets ran out 45-26 victors.

The RN then, literally, called in the Marines for the match against our "B" team. Andrew Brown, Steve Wallace and Geoff Taylor opted to have Kola as their reserve. With Lee "the Marine" moving like a missile, it was soon evident that this was a good choice. Even so, the RN came out as worthy winners with a 45-31 victory.

Once again, a fantastic event and good fun had by all who attended."



A good time was had by all with BVF winning overall! - Results on page 8

Kola Ayanwale



Women's Sabre

"It was a small competition. We turned up with five sabreurs. Annaick didn't arrive, so no bad thing really as the Navy only had three women fencing sabre. I don't believe any of them fenced sabre as their first weapon so we won very easily and were a very strong team! How we decided to fence was two teams of five but that meant two of the Navy had to fence twice.

They were happy with that. However we got to 75:20 something and they were going to have to fence foil imminently so we called it a day then. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and a very relaxed atmosphere. What made me laugh was the women's changing room had label on door saying 'women's ablutions'. Also set up in changing room were two ironing boards. Clearly the women's changing room!!!"

Jane Hutchison

A little bird told me that there were ironing boards in the 'men's ablutions' ..! - Ed

Women's Epee

"Hard game very close, but glad that we held on and won. We also won last year." (45-43) .

Shirley Smith-Newsam

From left to right - Lorette Laschetti, Mariette Mason, Shirley Smith-Newsam and Marish Silverman



Photo courtesy of Shirley Smith-Newsam



Photo courtesy of Jane Hutchison



ET16 - Lansdowne Club Event - 6th February

**Fundraiser for European Veterans Fencing Team Championships
at the Lansdowne Fencing Club -
International Veterans Foil Team Invitation Event & Gala Dinner**

Saturday 6th February 2016

The Lansdowne Fencing Club is delighted to invite you to a very special event to help raise funds for the European Veterans Fencing Team Championships to be held in Medway, Kent, UK in May 2016.

Seven Veteran Men's Foil teams from Europe will fence during the day, including teams from Germany, Italy, Sweden, Hungary and the Lansdowne club. It is a truly world class field with 2015 World Championship medalists from Germany, Italy and GB all taking part. The final will be between the first two placed teams from the preliminary rounds and will fence off on an Exhibition Piste in the Ballroom.

Guests arrive at 5pm for drinks to be seated in the Ballroom by 5.30pm for the Gala Final.

The final is expected to finish by 6.30pm followed by pre dinner drinks and some fundraising activities including a Raffle and Auction of Promises, to help raise funds for the European Veterans Fencing Team Championships 2016.

Guests will then take their seats in the Ballroom by 7.30pm for the Gala Dinner, which will be a 3 course meal including a vegetarian option.

Speeches and presentation will take place around 9.30-9.45 with the event ending by 10.30pm.

Tickets are priced at £70 per ticket and include entrance to the Gala Final and Gala Dinner with a 3-course meal. Red, white wine and soft drinks will be available from 5pm until the start of dinner with a bottle of red and white wine provided for each table, after which you are welcome to order any additional beverages from the cash bar. Proceeds from the ticket sales, the raffle and the auction of promises will be donated to help fund the European Veterans Fencing Team Championships.



It is anticipated that tickets for this world class fencing event will be in high demand, so if you wish to see some excellent fencing in the surrounds of the fabulous ballroom, join us for drinks and our Gala Dinner and of course help raise funds for the European Championships next year - don't delay and book your tickets soon.

Tickets are available, priced £70 each from Ms. Anna Gherman by email on

socialbutterfly@lansdowneclub.com

or call Anna on 020 7318 6115



You will be asked for your meal preferences, which will include a vegetarian option.

If you feel you can help with Suggestions / Donations of Prizes for the Raffle and Auction of Promises we would be delighted to hear from you directly.

Gerry Gajadharsingh - gerryg@thehealthequation.co.uk

Richard Sage - richard_a_sage@hotmail.co.uk



Dress Code

The Club's dress code is conventional jacket and long sleeved collared shirts for gentlemen and appropriate dress for women. Gentlemen are no longer required to wear a tie in the Club. Denim and sports shoes are not permitted.

This is going to be fantastic event so don't delay!

ET16 Organising Committee and BVF Committee are extremely grateful to BVF Lansdowne Club members for organising this event.

Information about the Lansdowne Club can be found on the Club website:

www.lansdowneclub.com



The Lansdowne Club Ballroom

Photo:
www.lansdowneclub.com

Competition results (top half)

Elite Epee- 31/10/2015

ME (99)	34	Neal Mallett
	35	Chris Howser
	39T	Howard West
	39T	Will Miller
	43	Adam Steiner

Welsh Open - 7/11/2015

ME (64)	11	Howard West
	17	John Chalmers
	29	Nathan Miller
	30	John Leahey
WE (67)	19	Nicola Hull
WS (43)	5T	Emma Waller
	5T	Rachel Lasance
	7	Beth Davidson
	17	Michele Narey

Competition results compiled
using Trawler software
© John Mason - Eureka Data

BVF v RN - 6/12/2015

	BVF	RN
WE	45	43
ME	45	26
MF	45	43
MS	45	30
WS (teams of 5)	75	26
ME 2	31	45
WF	45	23
MS 2	45	21
TOTAL	7	1

Leeds Open - 14/11/2015

MF (71)	5	Mike McKay
	24	Michael Medhurst
ME (65)	8	Gerry Toland
	13	Alan Browne
	15	Max Telfer
	16	Darryl Hazlewood
	17	Mark Richardson
	27	Michael Ramsden
	29	Peter Davies
	31	Daniel Alexander
MS (48)	13	Edward Simpson
	14	Stefan Leponis
WF (29)	6	Kati Archer
	9	Kate Harris
	11	Karen Garvie
WS (17)	2	Emma Waller

Reminder

Please remember to enter competitions using the name on your BVF membership card. If you use another name your results will not be found by the software that compiles the report as above.



Calling London Fencers!

Do you know of a suitable (10 pistes) and affordable venue which could be used for the Vets London Open?

If so please contact Peter Baron

peter@baronfencing.plus.com



Christmas Word Search

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*



Charles Dickens
Ebenezer Scrooge
selfish
miser
Bah Humbug!
Jacob Marley
Bob Cratchit
Tiny Tim



poverty
spirits
frighten
England
gifts
greed
Ghost of Christmas Past
Ghost of Christmas Present
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come



To find the answer to the trivia question, look for a word or phrase that is hidden in the puzzle, but not in the word list.

Trivia 1: In what year was Dicken's novella, *A Christmas Carol*, first published?

Trivia 2: In the story, Scrooge lost the true love of his life because of his greed and love for money. What was the first name of his "true love"?

Answers in January issue



Christmas quiz

1. What date is St Stephen's Day?
2. In Charles Dickens' novel A Christmas Carol, who was Scrooge's dead business partner?
3. The song White Christmas was first performed in which 1942 film?
4. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country?
5. In the song The Twelve Days of Christmas, '...my true love brought to me nine...' what?
6. Name the original eight reindeer from the 'Twas the night Before Christmas' poem?
7. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics '...To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray..'?
8. The character Jack Skellington appears in which 1993 Tim Burton film?
9. What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
10. In the inspirational 1946 film, It's a Wonderful Life, what's the name of George Bailey's guardian angel?
11. What are the names of the three wise men said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus?
12. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland?
13. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding-cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
14. In what year was Band-Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas the UK Christmas chart-topping record?
15. In which modern country is St Nicholas's birthplace and hometown?
16. Who wrote How the Grinch Stole Christmas?
17. From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?
18. Who is officially credited as the author of Auld Lang Syne?
19. How many points does a snowflake have?
20. What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?

What did Santa say to the smoker?

Please don't smoke - it's bad for my elf!



Answers in January issue



**Caption
Competition
November/December**

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

**Photos by
Editor**

*How many
snowflakes?*



**Caption
Competition
October**

Editor's choice -

Photo A: 'You must never ever argue with the referee Steve!'
Carl Morris

*Photo B: 'Do not Disturb. Referee in
Training!!'*

Paul Brenda



Photo A



Photo B



BVF contacts

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

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 by 15th January 2016

Tel: 07747 792712
 email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net

