

*A  
Happy New Year  
to all our readers!*



*Photo by Editor*

**Fred Sheppard  
England Veterans Fencing  
Competition results**

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## Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Happy New Year and I hope that you had a good festive season.

The new year started with the very sad news of the death of Fred Sheppard. Fred, who was very well known to many both in the UK and abroad had a severe stroke in September. He was readmitted to hospital during the Christmas period with a urinary infection and then developed a chest infection which progressed to pneumonia. He died peacefully surrounded by his family on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Details of his funeral have been circulated and can also be found on page of this newsletter. If you would like to contribute some words or images to [Fred's obituary page](#) then please send them to [John Mason](#).

The BVF AGM will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> at 20:15 hrs in the Tennyson Room, Holiday Inn, Crest Way, Gloucester. AGM documents will be sent out by email or post in February to all BVF members. The agenda is included in this newsletter on page 6 for your information. The BVF AGM will be followed by the England Veterans Fencing Association AGM. All EVFA documents including the agenda can be found on pages 7-10.

The BVF Championships, the first major event of the year, will be held at the Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre, Gloucester, GL2 9DW from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Full details are on the website and online entry is open: <http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/latest.shtml>

The next BVF newsletter will be published in March after the Championships.

The BVF committee has already met and we are making plans for events this year. Plans for ET16 are steaming ahead but we need your support. The committee cannot successfully run an event of this magnitude without funding and the help of volunteers. Please look out for future information and correspondence and do what you can.

We have launched the second 100 Club to raise funds for ET16. Three lucky winners won a total of £1000 between them in the first one, so it could be you this time! Details are on page 11.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Gloucester in March.

Sincerely,

**Gillian Aghajan**  
**Chairman**



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## Fred Sheppard 1946 – 2015

If you find a friend who is always there for you, you're extremely lucky. They exist, but they're very rare. Fred was that rare friend. I first met Fred about 20 years ago on a Vets trip to Germany, or was it Switzerland. Anyway, we were seated next to each other at dinner. We clicked immediately, sharing the same irreverent sense of humour. This was the era of Henry's (de Silva) Army, with Henry's strict dress code, which we took great delight in breaking, in bizarre ways, being fined by Henry, not paying the fines, and generally being a thorn in Henry's side.

He was a very good foilist, his name appears on most competition cups in the Midlands. But sometimes he was his own worst enemy; a couple of years ago at the Hereford & Worcester, he was fencing really well, and had reached the semi-final, and was up against a very good young fencer. The score reached 14-14, and the one minute break. Fred proceeded to do press ups on the piste instead of resting, much to the amusement of quite a big crowd. Of course when the fight restarted he quickly lost the next point.

Fred loved designer clothes and fast cars. He was the expert on style, I used to refer to him as my sartorial consultant. He loved to shop, on trips we would find time to go clothes shopping. I was more careful with money than Fred, when I found something that I liked, I would often dither over the price, Fred would say "Brian, you've got the money, spend it". That was his philosophy of life.

One of the films on TV at Christmas was "Gran Torino", there is a scene where Clint Eastwood tries to show a young Vietnamese lad how male banter works, which reminded me of Fred and me, we constantly exchanged banter, and insults. Fred often greeted me with "Brian, you old git", and I would reply "Frederick, I'd forgotten how ugly you are".

Others have mentioned Fred's favourite party piece with the napkin and fork, I've tried doing it, nobody laughs, it was Fred's look of wonder as The Orb rose and fell, that was really funny, it was typical of his self deprecating humour. My favourite party piece of his was the impersonation of the Italian fencers when they lose, his facial expressions while slapping his forehead and bald head was hilarious. Many foreign vets would greet Fred with an impersonation of his favourite flicked riposte, for which he was world famous, but no-one could do it like Fred.



In 2010 it was my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, I had decided on a special holiday, a trip to Savannah, Georgia. Some genealogical research had thrown up a Causton connection with Savannah, and better still I found that there was a fun fencing competition being held there at the same time, "Sabre in the Surf". My wife was not keen on the idea, she suffers from "fencing spectator fatigue", which opened the way for me and Fred to go. I hired a black Ford Mustang convertible for the holiday, Fred was in his element. I fenced in the competition, losing to a 12 year old girl in the DE, which Fred never let me forget. My excuse was that I lost because she was a better swimmer than me! As well as fencing at the Savannah Fencing Club, we drove up to Augusta, to Dr Rudy Volkmann's fencing club. On the way we wanted to stop for lunch, I spotted a roadside cafe, it looked a bit rundown, when we went in, it was far worse. The patron nearest the door had a bowl of bones in front of him, and was busy sucking the last remnant off a large bone, the thought that we might end up as the next day's stew crossed our minds. As we quickly made our exit, Fred remarked that the place was full of "bone suckers". From then on, any bar, hotel, or restaurant that I suggested would be greeted by "Brian, don't go in there, it's going to be full of bone suckers". Some holidays you don't want to ever end, we lazily drove around in the Mustang with the top down, sat in bars watching the world go by, and of course fencing, it was great..

Although we didn't meet that often, we spoke every week on the phone, often while walking our dogs. We gave each other advice, most of which was ignored. I would tell Fred to be more hard-nosed in business, but he was too easy-going, kind and generous, and there was no way that he was ever going to change. Just before his stroke, he had made some difficult decisions, which once behind him had lifted a somewhat dark cloud. He had a little dog that he loved, and had bought a big BMW convertible.

He is survived by his daughter Emma, two grandchildren, and his son Simon.  
Rest in Peace Fred.

### **Brian Causton**

Fred's funeral will be take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30 am at:

Lodge Hill Cemetery  
Weoley Park Road,  
Selly Oak,  
Birmingham,  
West Midlands  
B29 5AA

and afterwards at the Halesowen Athletics Club.

All fencing friends are very welcome.

Please contact Peter Baron if you are able to attend:

[bvf@baronfencing.plus.com](mailto:bvf@baronfencing.plus.com)



## Henry de Silva - Hero of the Community

Congratulations to Life President Henry de Silva:

'Dear Gillian,

I enclose a picture of me receiving 'Heroes of the Community' for sport in the I.O.M. I was very surprised as I beat all of the other sports.

Regards for the New Year,

Henry'

**Henry de Silva receives his award for  
'Dedication to Sport' from Sponsor  
Stuart Quayle of Creechurch**



## 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 14-17** European Individual 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, Lillehall  
Event Manager - Marcia Stretch

**Oct 20-25?** World Championships, Limoges, France  
Event Manager - Gillian Aghajan

**See BVF website home page for  
European competitions**



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Horley  
Surrey  
RH6 8AD

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**Annual General Meeting of BVF  
to be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 20.15  
in the Tennyson Room, Holiday Inn, Crest Way,  
Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3RX**

## **Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM 2014
3. Matters arising if not on the agenda
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Membership Secretary's Report
8. Committee Elections
9. Any Other Business

Items for AOB must be received by the Secretary by Friday 27th February 2015.

Nominations for committee posts must be received by the Secretary by Friday 27th February, together with the names of the proposer and seconder. All three must be current BVF members.

Candidates may be proposed for more than one role. The Chairman may not hold any other elected position.

Job descriptions for all roles may be viewed on the BVF website: <http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk> or can be obtained from the Secretary.

## England Veterans Fencing Association Chairman's Report 2014

The year has been a busy one with the Commonwealth Veterans in Largs, Scotland and a Home International in Edinburgh. The committee has met once and communicated by email to select teams and organise events.

The Commonwealth Veterans Championships were held in November. This was in conjunction with the Senior event and run by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation. Over 120 men and 70 women represented England in a 13 nation event with over 200 competitors. A successful event produced 6 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze medals in the open event and 13 age group golds to leave us in first place ahead of Australia. Detailed results are on the cvfc2014 website.

We were supported by England Fencing who made tracksuits available, and paid for a Team Manager and our team entry fees.

The eighth Home International was hosted by Scotland in April. We again retained the Justin Smith trophy after an exciting weekend of fencing. This year's event will be in Cardiff in April.

England Veterans is now a full Associate Body of England Fencing. I have a good relationship with the new President, Marie Liston, and they have been very supportive as well as funding some of our expenses.

I would like to thank Gillian Aghajan for putting information in the BVF newsletter and John Mason for sending out numerous emails. Also thanks to the members of the committee for the time and enthusiasm they have put into another successful year.

**John Crouch**  
**Chairman, England Veterans Fencing**

***A justifiably proud John with  
the Justin Smith Trophy  
Edinburgh 2014***

***Photo by Editor***



## England Veterans Fencing

### Commonwealth Championships Largs, Scotland 16-19 November 2014

The championships followed immediately on from the senior event. There were 16 countries involved and around 300 fencers. This was the largest Commonwealth Veterans' event so far. The venue was magnificent with final pistes to FIE standard. The number of competitors did, however, mean that the DT had problems with the phasing of events. Detailed results can be seen at [www.cvfc2014.co.uk](http://www.cvfc2014.co.uk). Please note that the medal table in the last newsletter seemed to allocate one of our gold medals to Australia!

Particular congratulations go to Jane Hutchison and Ingrid Heskett who both won two gold medals, Chris Howser with one gold and one silver, and Kate O'Connell with two silver medals in the open events. Special mention should also go to Janet Cooksey and Chris Green who both won two age group golds.

If anyone would still like to purchase a polo shirt, T-shirt or tracksuit then these can still be obtained. Send me an email for more information.

I would like to thank all England fencers for their team spirit and dedication. It was a privilege to be your team manager. Roll on New Zealand in 2016.

**John Crouch**



**Commonwealth Fencing Federation**



### Commonwealth Fencing Federation (CFF) Veterans Commission

The Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Association was wound up at a meeting in Largs. In its place veteran fencing will be the responsibility of the Veterans Commission of the CFF. At its first meeting I was elected as its chairman. I would, therefore, be pleased to hear from any fencers who have suggestions about improving the running of future events. There will be a meeting of the commission in July 2015, at which we hope to agree the way ahead.

**John Crouch**

[johncrouch@fsmail.net](mailto:johncrouch@fsmail.net)



## England Veterans Fencing Association Profit and Loss Account 2014



<b>Income</b>	£	<b>Expenditure</b>	£
BVF Contribution	442.00		
Outstanding payment for Polo shirts - 4 Nations 2013 Dublin	160.00	Meals	525.00
		Polo Shirts	145.44
		Raffle	28.00
		Printing	38.00
		Postage	15.20
4 Nations 2014 Edinburgh 26/27.4.2014		Polo Shirts	838.20
Meals	525.00	Gifts for Organisers	53.99
Polo Shirts	148.00		
Commonwealth Games 2014 Largs 16/19.11.2014	972.00		
	-----		-----
<b>Total</b>	<b>2247.40</b>		<b>1643.83</b>
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Excess for the year **£603.57**

- NB
- 1) 4 Nations Edinburgh 2014 - England Fencing paid Team entry fees and travel and accommodation for officials.
  - 2) Commonwealth Games Largs 2014 - England Fencing paid Team entry fees and Team Manager's and Deputy's expenses.

### BALANCE SHEET 2014

Assets as at 1.1.2014		Assets at 31.12.2014	
Bank current account	£2085.95	Bank current account	£2689.52

***Diane Austin***  
***Hon Treasurer EVFA***  
***31st December 2014***



# England Veterans Fencing Association Annual General Meeting Agenda



**Venue:** Holiday Inn, Crest Way, Barnwood,  
Gloucester, GL4 3RX

**Date and Time:** Friday 6th March 2015, 21 00 hrs \*

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 28th February 2014
3. Matters arising
4. Reports of Officers
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Treasurer
5. Election of Officers and committee members
6. Any other business

\* Please note that the meeting will follow the BVF AGM. The time given above is approximate and time may be limited.

Any items for AOB should be received by the Secretary no later than 7 days before the meeting (i.e. 27th February 2015)

Nominations for Officers and Committee may be made at the meeting, but prior notification is welcome.

## Competition results (top half)

### Cambridge Winter Tournament 03/01/2015

<p>MF (58)</p> <p>16 Paul Abrahams</p> <p>18 Paul Lowen</p> <p>19 Nick Fihosy</p> <p>20 Peter Thompson</p> <p>25 Philip Westley</p> <p>27 Nicholas Mort</p>	<p>MS (25)</p> <p>5 Julian Ghosh</p> <p>6 Steve Potter</p> <p>9 Kamal Yasin</p> <p>10 Michael Compton</p>
<p>ME (55)</p> <p>3 Howard West</p> <p>7 Tom Chrisp</p> <p>10 John Prime</p> <p>12 Mark Richardson</p> <p>15 John Hyde</p> <p>18 Stephen Domek</p> <p>19 Adam Stenner</p> <p>21 Daryl Hazlewood</p> <p>22 Paul Willmott</p> <p>23 Rob Brooks</p> <p>24 Max Telfer</p>	<p>WF (18)</p> <p>7 Jane Clayton</p> <p>8 Cathy Heyes</p> <p>WE (30)</p> <p>13 Fiona Turnbull</p> <p>14 Mariette Mason</p> <p>WS (13)</p> <p>3 Lucy Wright</p>

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



## ***2nd BVF 100 Club!***

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

Very good progress is being made with our plans

Please help by supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> BVF 100 Club  
£1000 total prize money - it could be your turn!

1<sup>st</sup> prize - £500    2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £300    3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £200

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



Pay on-line to S Church,  
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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](mailto:sue.trysport@tiscali.co.uk)

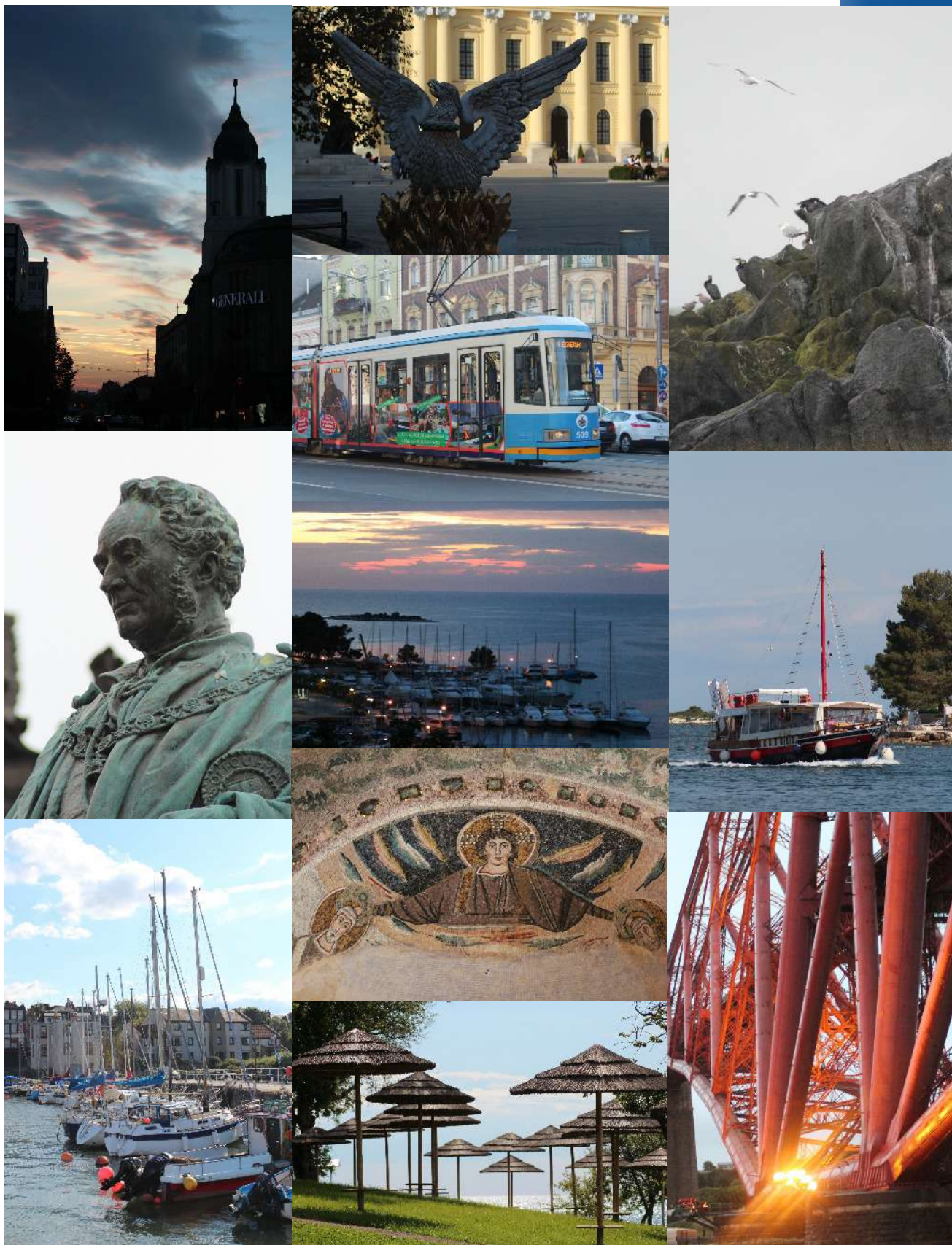
When the 100 tickets have all been sold the draw will take place at a  
special fund raising event or BVF dinner e.g. BVF Championships,  
Veterans Winton

Prizewinners will be announced in the BVF Newsletter

**GOOD LUCK!!**



## Places seen in 2014 - were you there?



*Photos by  
Editor*

## 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 January

send your entry to Editor

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



***In loving memory of the  
one and only Fred -  
Editor***

***Photos  
by Editor***

## Caption Competition December

**Editor's choice -**

*'That's agreed then. I'll come next week. I can flèche  
so I am sure I can ski jump.'*

***Kate Elvin***

*'Eddie felt strangely captivated by Pete's story.'*

***Paul Brenda***



39 I think!



## BVF contacts

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

**Gillian Aghajan**  
 by 10th March 2015  
 Tel: 07747 792712  
 email:  
[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

