

Minutes of Meeting

Date	15 Jan 20
Location	Holiday Inn
Time	10:30:00
End Time	16:00:00
Present	GA/JRM/MS/EVG/DR/JS/LB

Outstanding Actions

#	Action	Who	Status	View
607	MANCHESTER OPEN: PB to contact Stuart Marshall to discuss the possibility of holding a competition at the new venue in Oldham.	PB	Done	
637	Peter Baron has resigned from the committee for personal reasons. GA proposed a vote of thanks to PB for his work as Domestic Fencing Officer and for his support on the committee. PB has arranged the 2016 Royal Navy match and will still be involved with the 2017 WMO. GA to write a letter of thanks to PB wishing him the best for the future	GA	Done	
638	BVF Championships: Oxstalls is not available. Manchester has been booked and David Taylor has agreed to be Event Manager. He will arrange accommodation, dinner, venue for AGM and, in consultation with DR, appointment of referees. He will be assisted by Michael Swiffin and Stuart Marshall to run the event. John Crouch has agreed to help on DT JRM to amend website and entry forms GA - Invite Mike Robinson to be on DT GA - Cancel booking with Leon Paul for pistes Inform Peter GA - inform Pete Huggins of new venue	GA, JRM	Done	
639	Selection Panel: Duncan has revised his document in the light of comments from committee members. It was proposed that latest version be accepted: 4 in favour and 2 against. JRM to publish the document on the website and to amend the Job Descriptions as appropriate.	JRM	Done	
640	Rankings for competitions: Members have expressed concern about the rankings given for entries to selection competitions. Duncan to update his Competition Organisation document and JRM to publish it on the website.	DR, JRM	Done	

645	Age Groups (Summer selection Event): The date agreed is only one week after the European Championships. Find a new date that gives a larger gap.	GA, MS	Done	
648	Ranking events: it was agreed to establish a working group to establish the possibility of developing a circuit of ranking competitions. Members proposed are DR, EvG, Lindsay Watkiss (GA to invite).	GA	Done	

New Actions and Decisions

#	Action	A/D	Who
649	Terms of Reference for Working Group: TOR agreed in principle with some amendments to be made by DR. DR to email revised TOR to committee by 31 January. Working Group to provide interim report by end of April and full report by end of July.	A	EVG, DR
650	BVF Championships 2018: MS to make enquiries as to the availability and Terms and Conditions of Oxstalls for March 2018.	A	MS
651	Referees for BVF Championships 2017: DR to liaise with David Taylor regarding recruitment of Referees. Committee approved as per diem payment of 60.00 per day maximum.	A	DR
652	Chairman of Selectors: It was proposed that Carl Morris be approached to take on this role.	D	
653	Chairman of Selectors: GA to contact Carl Morris to take on this role.	A	GA
654	BVF Championships Medals: MS to order the medals to be engraved: BVF Championships 2017, category & weapon. Summer Selection: MS to order medals to be engraved: BVF Summer Selection 2017, category & weapon	A	MS
655	Feedback on selection and competition format. GA circulated a document to committee summarising comments received from membership by email. The committee spent a considerable time discussing these and made a number of decisions (see 656).	D	
656	Feedback on selection a competition format Decisions made by committee: 1. Timetable of competitions March - BVF National Championships April - West Midlands Open (non-selection) June - BVF Summer Selection Event July - BVF Open (non-selection) 2. Master at Arms - to be re-instated by collation of results at end of season. 3. Poule format for selection events: Details of revised format will be published as soon as possible on the website. 4. Timetable for BVF Championships: Reviewed and will be published on the website with full entry	D	

	details. 5. Working Group will review BVF selection and competition format at the end of 2017 season and report to committee.		
657	BVF Open: MS to investigate possible venues - in particular Oxstalls in July (excluding 29th).	A	MS
658	Committee Statement to membership: A statement will be issued outlining the agreed changes to competition format shortly.	A	DR, GA, JRM
659	BVF Constitution: Discussion took place and further consideration deferred to a later meeting.	D	

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Action Items from minutes
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) Reports:
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Membership secretary
- 5) Appointment of Chair of Selectors
- 6) Feedback on Competition organisation and selection
- 7) Proposed New Constitution
- 8) British Fencing new GBR patches

9) Any Other Business

Chairman's report to BVF committee - January 2017

A Happy New Year to committee!

In November a contingent of fencers from the Home Nations ventured to Christchurch, New Zealand for the Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championships. Some of them were there when the earthquake struck but fortunately nobody was injured. Results can be found at <http://www.fencingmidsouth.org.nz/Competitions/CVFC/Results/index.ht>

The annual match against the Royal Navy took place at HMS President, London with an overall win for BVF. Thanks to Peter Baron for organising this.

The scheme for selection and competition format was finalised and the selection and competition documents published on the BVF website:

<http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/latest.shtml#comps>

A comprehensive statement explaining the selection scheme, competition format and the rationale behind the committee's decisions was sent to all BVF members (email/snail mail).

There has been some feedback by email, phone and on social media so this is an agenda item for 15th January meeting. It was not appropriate to discuss this by email hence this is an agenda item.

Gillian Aghajan

Treasurer's Report

World Championships – there are still expenses to come on for referees ca £790. The event is expected to make a loss of ca £3,500.

This figure has ballooned in recent years with team fees.

ET16 – The account is now closed as we have settled the last invoice. The event made a loss of £36,815.

The accounts have been forwarded to the examiner.

A copy of the accounts will be available at the meeting.

John

Membership Report

Membership renewal is under way. Membership cards will be posted to all members

John

Communications

I have moved the membership database to the Internet and it is being used for the 2017 renewals.

It is not finished but is going well.

John

BVF COMMITTEE STATEMENT – JANUARY 2017

The BVF Committee met on Sunday to discuss, inter alia, the new Rules for Selection which were published to the membership in July 2016. These provided for a change in the existing formats for both the National Championships and the Age Group Competition.

The motive for change has been the increasing need to provide a more automated system whereby GBR Vet fencers are chosen by ranking from a variety of similar formatted competitions. This was supported by the fact that the majority of countries affiliated to the FIE and the EVFC already use ranking systems in their own team selection process. We have for too long relied on individual results from only one or two competitions upon which to select representative fencers. This change was seen by the Committee as a means by which a more robust ranking and selection procedure could be used to enable GBR Vets to field the best possible individuals and teams at both the European and World Championships in the future. This discussion period has, in effect, been almost continuous since 2013. It has had to be fitted in alongside changes in the Committee members and the planning/execution for ET16 and has understandably resulted in many hours of work and papers being debated, rejected, confirmed and finally acted upon.

A major stumbling block was the number of competitions to be used to create such a ranking structure. There have been many thoughts about whether we should use a minimum number of 2-3-5 competitions and whether to use Open nominated competitions both at home and abroad to populate the ranking table. Debate over how results could be collated resulted in us excluding Opens for selection. At the same time it was agreed that only two competitions were to be used as selection events in the year. Thus, for a trial period of two years, the old format for the National and the Age Groups would be shelved and a format whereby 2 mixed Age Group poules were followed by a separate DE within Age Categories would be instituted. Seedings for the initial round of poules would be based on the previous two years results gained at both competitions. By the end of 2018, a more accurate ranking system will thus be in place and the selection process will be correspondingly easier to manage by a Selection Committee. The use of the WMO and a n other competition as selection competitions will be actively investigated to bolster the rankings process during 2018.

This system will by default need a period of time whereby discretionary selection is required to reinforce the results attained from the new ranking structure. Transparency is paramount and so the BVF Committee has agreed that there should be a separate Chair of Selectors, not a member of the BVF Committee, who will be able to choose his/her own weapon selectors. This Chair will be able to choose the strongest teams/individuals for international events based on the ranking system criteria in place at the time for ratification by the BVF Committee. Both will decide how many and which Vets competitions will be used for selection in that year.

The Committee admits that the change in format for the Nationals, in particular, will be unpopular for some. It will mean that, for now, there will be no Master at Arms Trophy and no overall National Champions. The previous three day format will now change to a two day format, although the Social and AGM will still remain as a part of the weekend. If there is sufficient interest, the BVF Committee will look at the possibility of holding a separate Nationals in a weekend in July/August each year, although it will have no weighting on selection or ranking.

At this point, we must apologise for the forthcoming Spring Selection which is being held in Manchester. Due to an earlier oversight, the normal venue at Oxtalls was unavailable for March and we have now discovered that the Manchester venue has only enough space for 12 pistes rather than the usual 18 pistes. No other larger venues are available at this stage. This means that we will have to limit the format to one round of poules rather than the published two rounds. The summer selection competition is unaffected.

To sum up, we accept that change is not always welcome and is sometimes hard to accept. Our reasoning behind this change, though, is to ensure that we have a ranking structure that will enable any Vets competition to be allocated "strength". It will take two years to populate the ranking system in order for discretionary selection to be minimised. We are convinced that this will ensure a positive and easily understood system that will keep our standards high and our selection process open and transparent. Your Committee is certain that this change is for the good of the BVF community as a whole and will not detract from the enjoyment and pleasure we all feel in competing within our Age Groups at all levels.

Terms of Reference for Working Group to Develop a British Veterans Ranking Scheme

The Working Group will seek to develop a ranking scheme for British Veteran fencers on which selection for international representation can be based. The primary aim of the scheme is to facilitate the selection of the strongest possible squad to represent GB. If possible, supporting the development of a domestic BVF competition circuit is also desirable.

The fundamental features that must be part of the ranking scheme are:

- The scheme must be simple to administer and easily understandable by the BVF membership.
- Only individual veteran events may be included in the scheme.
- Domestic BVF events included in the scheme must use a consistent competition format.
- The relative strength of competitions included in the scheme must be reflected in the ranking points awarded (for example, by using a NIF system or by only including competitions of above a particular level of strength in the scheme).

- There must be a clear recognition of the round of direct elimination in which a fencer is placed in an event in comparison to other fencers in the ranking points awarded.
- No BVF member may be disadvantaged by excessive travel time or cost requirements to participate in sufficient events to have a fair opportunity to secure selection.

The following is desirable as a feature of the ranking scheme:

- The inclusion of international veteran events (for example, the FIE World Championships, the EVFC European Championships, and domestic events of other FIE Federations).