

Minutes of Meeting

Date	16 Mar 20
Location	Angel Inn,
Time	10:30:00
End Time	16:00:00
Present	FM/JM/DS/PB/MS/LB

Outstanding Actions

#	Action	Who	Status	View
476	2014 European Team Championships: GA to approach potential Referees for this event. Preference will be given to FIE Referees qualified at two weapons as well as being available for the 3-day event.	GA	Done	

New Actions and Decisions

#	Action	A/D	Who
482	Membership: It was proposed that Keith Smith be offered Life Membership and agreed unami. FM to write to KS.	A	
483	75+ medals: It was proposed that the award of these medals be put in abeyance for future consideration.1 abstain 6 for.	D	
484	EVFC Team Championships: 195+ age category: It was proposed that GB Veterans fully support the 195+ age category to ensure that fencers cannot compete in each team age category. Unami.	D	
485	AGM 2014 Minutes: MS to circulate draft Minutes for any comments from committee members.	D	
486	BVF Championships: In view of the difficulties expressed by sabreurs in attending on the Friday, DS will look at the feasibility of re-scheduling to organising the	A	DS

	championships over two days. The AGM would remain on the Friday evening. Membership will be informed in due course.		
487	Acceptance and Accommodation Request Form: GA will produce a document to circulate to committee for approval. Legal opinion will be sought on the final document.	A	, GA
488	Rules for Age Group Championships February 2014: 5 Accepted 2 abstain	D	
489	Proposed Initiative from Beth Davidson: BD has submitted a proposal towards development of veterans fencing. FM to investigate further.	A	
490	BFA membership for non-fencing committee members: It was proposed that BVF cover the costs of BFA membership. 4 for, 2 abstain. 1 against.	D	

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Action Items from minutes (will be projected on large screen)
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) Reports:
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Membership secretary
 - e) Domestic fencing
 - f) International fencing
- 5) AGM 2014 - Review
- 6) BVF Championships - Review including implications of "fence offs" on the selection process

- 7) European Team Championships 2014

- 8) European Team Championships 2016 - GB Hosting

- 9) Age Group Championship rules 2014

- 10) Forthcoming events, including
 - a) Veterans London Open
 - b) Age Group Qualifiers
 - c) 2014 World Championships

- 11) Other Items
 - a) North East Veteran Recruitment initiative
 - b) BVF Recruitment
 - c) Veterans Support Endowment
 - d) Booking travel and accommodation for overseas trips

- 12) A.O.B.

- 13) Dates of next meetings

Chairman's Report - 16th March 2014

As I have already stated, the BVF Championships were extremely well organised by Event Manager David Sweeney, and the Gala Dinner, organised by Gillian Aghajan, was one of the best we have had as a social event.

The AGM went off uneventfully, and although it was personally pleasing that every Committee member stood again and was re-elected, it is also disappointing that no members saw fit to put their names forward for Committee.

John has issued his comments covering the weekend and we will use this, together with input from Committee members, during our review which will include the implications of "fence offs" at the Championships and their effect on the selection process.

We have received a number of appeals for places at the European Team Championships and World Championships, and these are with the Selectors for consideration.

I have been pursuing a number of hotels regarding the Gala Dinner for the Age Group Qualifiers, and John Crouch has provided me with a new timetable for the weekend which I will bring to the meeting where the rules also need to be finalised.

Sonya Mason has produced a document covering booking of accommodation for overseas trips and I have asked for this to be an agenda item for discussion.

Frank Mills, Chairman

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the BVF Championships are open.

I talked with Georgina Usher at the BVFC. We agreed to investigate a joint membership system.

John

Membership Report

549 members have joined or renewed their memberships (577 members at the end of last year).

62 members from 2013 have not renewed. I will be sending a final reminder this week.

Keith Smith.

John

Communications

I emailed everyone several times about the BVF Championships.

I emailed everyone about the new Leon Paul Vets London Spring Open. I will remind them for the last time this week 2 days before the closing date. The numbers are climbing but where are the women's entries??

I will email everyone about the WMO when the VLISO has closed.

John

BVF domestic Fencing Officer report - committee meeting 16th March 2014

Ardingley Open

Heard nothing further.

WMO

Usual venue booked – cost is approx. 2% higher. I have set the entry fee with a rather larger increase than that to bring it nearer to being in line with other opens. The entry form and details are on the BVF web site and a few entries have come in.

London Open

Since the last meeting the decision was taken to go ahead, after David beat Jon Willis down on price to something more acceptable. The closing date, as this report is written, is tomorrow and the entry is currently 103 weapon entries, 94 individuals. The number of women is disappointing but has picked up and I shall not be cancelling any event. In fact Men's sabre is poor compared with the foil and épée events.

I have invited Peter & Janet Huggins as armourer and referee respectively and also Ondrej Janicek, who offered his services at the Nationals. Gillian is fencing but is staying round for the weekend to assist. There are 2 foreign entries, which "loses" us £48.00 of the £2445.00 projected income. With the hall hire being £2160.00, that leaves something towards expenses, which are inflated by London prices. I estimate we shall make a small loss, unless another couple of dozen people were to enter at the last minute. I am in discussion with my wife about some possible refreshment provision but no firm decision has yet been taken. We may get chance to discuss that over the weekend. She has suggested providing fruit and breakfast bars, mars bars etc. and possibly taking orders early in the day and collecting sandwiches from a supermarket to order, rather than try to cater for an unknown market. I shall be in contact with Jon Willis about the number of pistes that need to be set up and will confirm with him what on-site refreshment facilities there are.

The entries, after a slow start are very encouraging. I hope that they will be reflected in increase entry to the WMO and, for the sake of the Morris, the Hampshire.

Hampshire Open

Nothing new as yet. I don't think they have yet put out information or an entry system..

RN Match

I have been in contact with Mark Barton and he now says that it is likely to be the usual venue but no decision has yet been taken.

International Fencing Report for BVF Committee Meeting

16th March 2014

1. 2014 BVF Championships

The 2014 BVF Championships attracted a record entry despite the change of date and increase in entry fees. A combined (JRM & DS) feedback report has been circulated to committee members.

I was very grateful to members of Cotswold Fencing Club and Trevor Wray for their help with setting up on the Thursday evening and for dismantling on the Sunday.

Two Invoices are outstanding, Aspire Trust and West Midlands Fencing Union and two Leon Paul and Stourbridge Fencing Club, are being negotiated.

I have still to send out some thank you letters.

2. EVFC Team Championships

There has been pressure from some countries to change the rules for the 195+ Age Category both in terms of the eligibility to enter both the 150 and the 195+ category as well as the status of the 70+ year old fencer. In order to avoid confusion for the 2014 Team Championships the officers have been forced to allow fencers to take part in both age groups and at single and multiple weapons as and when the timetable allows.

This doubling up of categories and the attempt to maintain the 70+ fencer on the bench is, in my opinion, a complete betrayal of the ethos of the 195+ Age Category.

3. World Veterans Championships

I have to date been unable to find any details of the the event. I will press my contacts in Hungary for more information

D.Sweeney

15th March 2014

To: CEO BFA

You will recall that in 2004 the British Veterans Association hosted the World Veterans Championships within UK at Bath University. This was the first time that any fencing World Championship had been hosted here in the UK and was seen by many World Fencers as the “best ever” and was certainly a precursor of London 2012’s successful hosting of the Olympic fencing at the ExCel Centre. The FIE celebrated that event by accepting Veterans Fencing as a separate class in its own right.

Since then, the BVF has been in the forefront of developing and expanding this highly successful category of fencers in all six disciplines. Indeed, it was our own Life President – Henry da Silva – who instigated this whole concept within Europe and many countries overseas. The BVF has gone on to bring home to the UK over 60 (?) gold, silver and bronze medals in both team and individual competitions at European, Commonwealth and World events. A truly inspiring story of achievement for an organisation that now boasts over 550 members in the four Age Group Categories from 40 to 80+.

The committee of the British Veterans Association has recently been discussing its connections with the British Fencing Association which has been somewhat tenuous over the years. Although veterans fence in many open and national competitions, the BFA has never really seen veteran fencing as an inclusive category of its own within the national membership. So, despite there being Cadet, Junior and Senior categories, Veterans’ fencing is not given similar consideration within the BFA.

We now feel that it is time for there to be closer ties between the BVF and the British Fencing Association to the benefit of both parties. These could include:

- a. British Fencing being able to identify with our medal winning successes for use within its own performance records, which would help in achieving the ambitious targets that the British Fencing Board has set for itself in its Green -Grow - Gold targets.
- b. Help to promote fencing within the eyes of current and future sponsors.
- c. Encourage the expansion of 40+ members within the British Veterans Association.
- d. Share existing training facilities and performance management capabilities that British Fencing has now put into place for its WCP.
- e. Provide Sport England and UK Sport with evidence that Fencing is a growing sport for all age groups (more so than in virtually any other sport).
- f. Share promotional publicity.
- g. Share financial benefits.

To this end, the BVF Committee would like to invite British Fencing to discuss the possibility of formally introducing British Veterans Fencing as both a category of fencing within its governance documents and appoint BVF as Associated Body of BFA. The Articles of Association [para 13] specifically allow you to do this ie *The Directors may appoint any body of persons to be an Associated Body of the Association upon such terms as they make think fit but subject to the provisions of these Articles and shall have the absolute power to remove the same.*

The Committee would therefore like to propose a meeting with the BFA Board in order to put forward our ideas of strengthening both British Fencing's desire to promote fencing amongst all age groups and categories together with our own desire to encourage Veteran Fencing both here in the UK and overseas. This would be mutually beneficial to both organisations