

## Minutes of Meeting

Date	29 Oct 20
Location	Holiday Inn
Time	10:30:00
End Time	18:30:00
Present	GA/JRM/MS/LB/JS/GP/EvG/DR - CM

## Outstanding Actions

#	Action	Who	Status	View
619	Membership Subscription: JRM to put the membership database on the internet (secured) and move to a Direct Debit method of payment. This action will be taken after ET16.	JRM	Done	
663	Review of Constitution: GA appointed LB and JS to review the Constitution. LB and JS to provide an initial report to committee at the next meeting.	LB, JS	Done	
675	Expenses Policy: JRM proposes to offer a per diem to all necessary officials at all BVF competitions. 2ND: EvG nem com JRM proposes that the value of the per diem to be 45.00 GBP to include an evening meal. 2nd: JS nem com JRM to update the Expenses Policy on the website. GA to update the Job Description of Event Manager to refer to the Expenses Policy.	GA, JRM	Done	
681	Working Group final report: JRM to publish on website and inform membership.	MS, JRM	Done	
682	Committee statement on WG report to be published on website.	JRM	Done	

## New Actions and Decisions

#	Action	A/D	Who
685	Formal Complaint: Resolved.	D	

686	Membership Cards: Proposed not to issue membership cards in 2018 - GP Seconded: DR For 6- against 2	D	
687	Membership Database: Add an on-line enquiry to check membership.	A	JRM
688	GDPR: Prepare procedures to comply with GDPR. DR to review.	A	DR, JRM
689	Expenses Policy: JS proposed to accept the policy submitted by JRM. Seconded: EvG accepted unani	D	
690	Expenses Policy: to be reviewed in October 2018.	A	MS, LB, JS, JRM, GP, GA, EVG, DR
691	Winton Cup: A medal to be presented to the best fencer in each weapon/gender.	D	
692	Training: Investigate ways of improving team and individual performance. GP to set up committee forum.	A	GP
693	Team Manager: European & Wworld Championships. It was agreed that GA would be Team Manager for these events in 2018.	D	
694	Letter from H, Kernohan GA to draft letter for committee approval to be sent to HK.	A	GA
695	Selection Appeal Procedure: GP to circulate a draft to committee of the selection appeal procedure for consideration.	A	GP
696	Selection for teams at WCs: GP to set up a forum for committee and Chair of Selectors to discuss team selection in response to email received from P. Eames.	A	GP
697	BVF Selection Process Ballot Outcome: Committee discussed the proposal, agreed not to implement for 2018 season due to practical difficulties. To be further discussed for the 2019 season.	D	
698	Proposal for ranking system: Committee thanked JRM for his work on this proposal and development of software for this. Committee to test the programme and provide feedback to JRM for the next committee meeting.	A	DR, EVG, GA, GP, JRM, JS, LB, MS
699	Alternative Timetable for BVF Championships: The Committee thank John Crouch for all the work on the proposed alternative timetable.	D	
700	Selection for the European Team 2018: If the BVT Championships and Age Groups Championships are held before May 2018, selection will be: 2 from each age group highest ranked fencer from BVF Championships - not already	D	

	selected If only the Age Groups are held before May, the first 2 are selected + one fencer selected on a discretionary basis. To be confirmed as soon as venues and dates have been confirmed.		
701	Selection for individual World Championships 2018 First 3 available from Age Groups and highest placed available from BVF Championships	D	
702	Constitution: LB to make agreed amendments to the draft Constitution and to provide Rules in support of this draft. An EGM to support the acceptance of this Constitution was agreed.	A	LB
703	EvG, MS and GP to investigate venues for the BVF Championships and the Age Groups to be held in the period from mid-January to mid-April.	A	EVG, GP, MS

**Sunday 29 October 2017**

**at 10.30 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Matters arising from last meeting
3. Formal complaint
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's Report
  - i. Event Finances and Expenses
  - ii. Membership
  - iii. Membership cards 2018
  - iv. Handover to new Treasurer/Membership Secretary 2018
6. Secretary's report
  - i. Winton Cup - Event Manager's report
7. Domestic Fencing Officer's Report
  - i. Event Venues
8. International Fencing Officer's Report
9. Appointment of Team Manager for European Team Championships 2018 and World Championships 2018

10. Constitution - LB
11. Alternative timetable for BVF Championships (email from John Crouch)
12. Proposal for a ranking system - JRM
13. Selection ballot outcome proposal - DR
14. Letter from Hugh Kernohan - 2.30pm Chairman of Selectors invited
15. Any other business
16. Date of next meeting

### **Chairman's report to BVF committee - October 2017**

The results of the ballot on selection and competition structure were as follows:

A total of 257 votes:

Option A	106
Option B	37
Option C	114

It is now imperative that we determine competition dates and venues.

Congratulations to the GBR squad who fenced at the Veterans World Championships in Maribor. A total of 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 6 Bronze, placing GBR 4th on the medal table. 12 fencers had L8 results.

GOLD	Paul Wedge	MF B
	Graham Paul	ME C
	Vivien Frith	WS C
SILVER	Brian Causton	MF C
	WS Team	Silvia Brown, Grace Coulter, Vivien Frith, Jane Hutchison, Jenny Morris, Michele Narey

BRONZE	Kola Abidogun	MF A
	Mike McKay	MF A
	Richard Cohen	MS C
	Robin Davenport	MS C
	WF Team	Sheila Anderson, Caron Hale, Clare Halsted, Margaret Myers, Kristin Payne, Gillian Worman
	MS Team	Malcolm Cawton, Richard Cohen, Barry Coulter, Carl Morris, Peter Howes, Duncan Rowlands

I am concerned about the current situation within the committee and I hope that all matters will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction at this meeting.

*Gillian Aghajan*

*Chairman*

#### **Treasurer's Report**

**West Midlands Open** – the account is closed. We made a surplus of £723 with a larger entry this year.

**BVF Summer Selection Event** – the account is closed and we made a loss of £2,541. There was a smaller entry this year and increased costs especially for officials.

We reviewed the finances at the last meeting and agreed that entry fees for BVF events will be increased for 2018.

**World Championships** – the account is open. A number of fencers went to Maribor without paying for their levy or entry fee. I have not seen any expense claim for Adrian Steadman, one of the referees. We expect to make a loss of around £3,000.

**Vets Winton** – the account is open. We are waiting for the invoice from Leon Paul. We expect to make a surplus of around £500.

Our forecast surplus for the year is ca £1,595

We need to identify someone to take on the Treasurer and Membership Sec roles.

*John*

## **BVF International Fencing Officer's Report**

- **FIE Veteran World Championships**

Due to the shortage of time elapsed since the World Championships I have not received a report from the Team Manager. A full report will be made shortly. In brief, GBR came a very credible 4th in the overall medal table behind USA, Germany and Italy, and ahead of France, with 3 Golds, 2 Silvers and 6 Bronzes. In view of the extensive coaching (and physical treatment) support accompanying the USA, Italian & French teams in comparison with our own very limited provision this was a successful outcome.

I'm sure that the committee will join me in thanking all the BVF fencers for their efforts, both in their own fencing and in the support they gave to their teammates.

With regard to the teams events, 3 medals were won from the 6 events, with a very narrow loss in the women's sabre final, which is a very good performance. The women's foil & men's sabre teams showed great resilience to bounce back from their semi-final loses to take bronze medals.

With regard to the individual events, Category C provided 5 medals, Category B provided 1 medal, and Category A provided 2 medals. This is an excellent performance by our older fencers, but does demonstrate a cause for concern in the younger categories that may well impact on our performance in the future.

From a weapon perspective; men's foil provided the lion's share of the medals with 4 medals, with men's epee, men's sabre and women's sabre providing 2 medals each.

Women's foil provided 1 medal while women's epee did not win a medal. With the exception of men's foil, it is a concern that additional medals were not achieved by other weapons.

It is difficult to identify what BVF can do to address these concerns. While individual fencers, or groups of fencers, are making great efforts with their training and preparation, as a national association we do very little to prepare our fencers for international competition. The possibilities that first occur to me, such as regular weekend training camps for identified 'medal potential' fencers and dedicated weapon coaches for both training camps and international competitions, are likely to be prohibitively expensive for the fencers involved. Whilst BVF could potentially look to fund such activities I suspect that the general membership may not approve of general funds, which they effectively provide, being spent in a manner from which they derived no direct benefit.

*D Rowlands*

**Duncan Rowlands**

**BVF International Fencing Officer**

**22 October 2017**

## BVF Selection Process Ballot Outcome

The recent ballot on the BVF selection scheme demonstrated that the membership is divided on this matter, and that the division falls largely along age category lines. It is also possible that the membership is divided along gender and weapon lines, although the ballot did not provide data on these aspects. The results of the ballot are tabulated below:

	A	B	C	Total
Cat 1	26	13	15	54
Cat 2	44	9	36	89
Cat 3	27	12	32	71
Cat 4	9	3	31	43
Total	106	37	114	257

While the traditional 'mixed method' (option C) received the most votes, it only polled 44% of the total voting members, while the scheme based on a ranking scheme drawn from a circuit of events with age group separation (option A) polled only 8 fewer votes with 41% support.

Only category 4 members had a majority (71%) in favour of option A, with option A only receiving 29% support.

More category 3 members voted in favour of option C (45%), with option A polling only 5 votes less (38%).

More category 2 members voted in favour of option A (49%), with option C polling 8 fewer votes (40%).

More category 1 members voted in favour of option A (48%), with option C polling 11 fewer votes (27%).

It is clear from the ballot results, and as was stated by various members on both sides of the debate in the last few months, one size does not necessarily fit all in this matter.

While the Chairman's statement published immediately after the ballot result was known stated that BVF would return as a whole to the mixed method, this need not be the case.

When the ballot was opened neither the email to members, the announcement on the BVF website nor any committee sanctioned social media statement stated how the outcome of the ballot would be applied. Indeed, in committee we discussed possibly operating different methods for different age categories and discussed having a meeting before announcing the final outcome. We did not minute any decision on this matter.

Therefore, the Chairman's statement can be considered to have been made somewhat precipitate, in that the Committee had not decided how it would implement the results of the ballot.

It is clearly undemocratic and unacceptable to require any group of members to seek selection by competing under a scheme that is not supported by the largest number of those members.

Therefore, it is reasonable, practicable and in the interests of democracy and self-determination to enable competitive BVF members in each age category, and possibly weapon and gender, to decide how they wish to have selection determined for their own group, and they should not have the views of those not within their demographic group imposed upon them.

I therefore propose that we adopt the selection process schemes detailed below, although each can be considered separately. These schemes can be implemented using the schedule provided at the end of this document.

In addition, the Age Group Championships and the selection event run at the same time can be used to declare a BVF National Champion for each category, in line with the Worlds & Europeans.

## 2018

For the 2018 season fencers in categories 1 and 2 adopt a selection process based on a ranking scheme drawn from a circuit of events with age group separation and that fencers in categories 3 and 4 adopt the traditional 'mixed method' selection process.

## 2019

For the 2019 season and beyond the fencers of each weapon, gender and age category should be able to decide which selection scheme shall be adopted by their demographic group. This decision should be reached by a ballot conducted as detailed below:

- The ballot will be conducted by electronic and postal mail.
- The ballot will open on the 1 February 2018 and close on 28 February 2018.
- BVF members will vote for either selection being based on a circuit of ranking competitions and selection being based on the traditional 'mixed method'.
- Each BVF member who has, when the ballot opens, competed in a nominated veteran event at least once since 1 January 2015 shall have the right to exercise one vote. This vote shall be registered within their weapon gender category, such as men's epee category 2.
- Nominated veteran events are any BVF event (National Championships, West Midlands Open, Age Group Championships, Veteran's Winton Cup, the 2017 BVF Selection Events), the EVFC Veteran European Championships and the FIE Veteran World Championships
- Each voting member shall select the weapon within which their vote will be registered, subject to having competed at that weapon in a nominated event at least once since 1 January 2015. This will be verified by the Returning Officer from BVF records.
- In addition, new members of BVF who have joined BVF in January 2018 shall have the right to vote without the requirement to have competed in a nominated event.
- Each weapon gender category shall adopt the selection method for which the majority of the votes registered within that weapon gender category have been cast.

### Event Schedule

Date	Event	Eligibility
Mid / Late January	Winter BVF Ranking Scheme Event	All Veterans (both members of BVF and other FIE Federations) in a group that has elected to use the BVF Ranking Scheme for selection purposes.
Last weekend of February	Spring BVF Ranking Scheme Event	All Veterans (both members of BVF and other FIE Federations) in a group that has elected to use the BVF Ranking Scheme for selection purposes.
2nd weekend of March	BVF National Championships	Restricted to BVF members eligible to represent BVF. It is used for selection only for those groups that have elected to use the 'mixed method' for selection purposes. Other groups may enter for participatory purposes.
Mid / late May	EVFC Veteran European Championships	BVF members; team event restricted to selected BVF members.
Early / Mid June# (Same weekend & venue)	Summer BVF Ranking Scheme Event (Category National Championships)	BVF members (only) in a group that has elected to use the BVF Ranking Scheme for selection purposes.
	BVF Age Group Championships (Category National Championships)	Restricted to BVF members eligible to represent BVF in a group that has elected to use the 'mixed method' for selection purposes.
September / October	FIE Veteran World Championships	Restricted to selected BVF members.

# The winner of each weapon gender category at these events can be declared the BVF weapon gender category National Champion.

## Overview

BVF wishes to move towards a selection system that includes ranking as a component.

The issues are:

- What events should be used as input?
- How should points be allocated?
- How are ranking tables used for selection?

These questions are contentious so this document proposes a trial system for evaluation.

A set of qualifying events are chosen including BVF events, EVF Championships and Opens. For each participating BVF fencer, points are accumulated.

The best results from a set number of events are added together to form a total.

A ranked list is provided for each of the 6 weapons with fencers in order of their total points.

Ranked lists are also provided for each of the 24 weapon-age categories in order of their total points.

## Nomenclature

An **event** has a name, a location and a date eg BVF Championships, Gloucester, 2016

A **competition** a weapon, entries and results eg ME, 62 entries, John Mason came 1st

## Events

### Types of Event

A range of events are included in the ranking system. The points for first place (Max Points) are based on the acknowledged strength of the event.

Event Type	Age Grouped
World Individual Championships	✓
European Individual Championships	✓
BVF Championships	No
Age Group Qualifiers	✓
West Midlands Open, Hampshire Vets	No
Leon Paul Vets Open	No
Nominated Senior Opens	No
Nominated Overseas Veteran Opens	✓

CHOICE of event is important. It means that the Cat1 youngsters have competitions to attract them, and the older Cat4 fencers have other competitions where they fence their peers and can avoid injury. The women also need a choice so that they avoid repeatedly fencing the same small group.

Choice is also important for those fencers who claim that they were denied a good result by being knocked out by a youngster or by someone having a bad seeding.

### Age of Event

The last 12 months of events could be selected.

The last 24 months of events could be selected with a weighting factor towards the more recent result.

For the implementation a fixed set of events has been chosen.

## Ranking Points

Points can depend on the following factors:

- The type of event
- The strength of the competition ie the quality of the entries
- The final placing in the competition OR the relative position with respect to other veteran fencers
- The number of fencers in the competition, 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 10 is not as impressive as 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 30
- The age of the fencer in a mixed age competition ie a Cat 3 fencer winning the BVF Mens Foil Championships should be recognised as a significant result

The ranking points awarded to a fencer in a competition are calculated by multiplying all these factors together.

Each of the above factors is discussed in the following sections.

## Type of the Event

Some events are harder than others and this is recognised by different values for the points awarded for first place (Max Points)

Event Type	Max Points
World Individual Championships	100
European Individual Championships	80
BVF Championships	50
Age Group Qualifiers	50
West Midlands Open, Hampshire Vets	30
Leon Paul Vets Open	30
Nominated Senior Opens	30
Nominated Overseas Veteran Opens	50

## Strength of the Competition

The strength could be calculated by an algorithm using the rankings of the fencers entered. No algorithm is currently proposed so the factor for this element is 1.

## Final Placing

Placings for BVF events are taken straight from the published results. If an event allows foreign entries and the top placed BVF member is third then he/she gets points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

A British Fencing Open event is more difficult. It is proposed that the Vets results are extracted to a new list and that list used instead of the competition placings. For example consider a competition with 3 vets coming 20<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup>. The new list would be 3 entries long and the fencers placed 1-3.

This approach has the benefit of simplicity. The Opens selected for the ranking system should have a reasonable number of Vets entering.

## Size of Competition

Whatever the size of the competition the first placed gets Max Points. The last placed is awarded 1 point. A sliding scale is then be used for intermediate places.

This ensures that a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in an entry of 30 is better rewarded than a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in an entry of 10.

The bottom place is awarded something so that ALL vet fencers appear in the ranking list.

The further one gets down the final ranking the less reliable is the comparison between two fencers. Perhaps a logarithmic scale would be more appropriate (EVF uses one that was amended for Vets fencing).

## Mixed Age Competitions

In mixed age competitions an older fencer should get more points than a younger one for achieving the same position in the final ranking.

An Age Factor is suggested of  $\text{Age}/40$ .

### Sub-set of Results

There are perhaps 9 events where points can be awarded. Fencers are not expected to do every competition but they are expected to choose a minimum number to accumulate points.

The points used for ranking are the best N results from the nominated events. To reflect the needs of different ages it is proposed that the number N is different for each category eg

Age Category	Take the best # of results
1 (40-49)	4
2 (50-59)	4
3 (60-69)	3
4 (70-74)	2

To produce an overall ranking list for a weapon all fencers have to have the same number of results eg 4. To reduce the competition load on the older fencers it could be that:

- a) a longer time period is given eg 4 results in the last 2 years
- b) their age category points are scaled up eg Cat 3 points would be scaled up by 4/3.

For discussion.

### Selection

It is proposed that the Ranking System be used for a period to ensure that the rankings are accepted by the membership.

Options for the selection of the World Championships squad then include:

- a) 1 fencer selected from the BVF Championships, 1 from the BVF Age Groups, the remainder from the ranking tables
- b) All fencers selected from the ranking tables

In either case there is no role for selectors.

In the first case there has to be a rule that specifies what happens when a fencer selected from the BVF Championships drops out after selection has been published. Do we:

- a) Select the next best placed from the BVF Championships?
- b) Select the next best fencer from the Age Groups?
- c) Select the next best fencer from the ranking tables?

## Implementation of a Trial System

I propose to set up a software program, integrated with the BVF database, to produce ranking lists.

The program will:

- Import results from competitions
- Calculate ranking points based on the sections above
- Show rankings based on the 2 best results in the test data
- Show ranking by weapon (all ages) and ranking within an age group
- Show how the ranking points have been calculated for each fencer

The program will be hosted on the BVF server and will be accessible to the committee.

The data will be restricted to one weapon, Mens Foil, and the events will include the following mix of event types:

- 2016 BVF Championships (traditional format)
- 2016 BVF Age Group Qualifiers
- 2016 WMO
- 2017 National Championships (age grouped)
- 2017 Summer Selection Event (age grouped)
- 2017 European Individual Championships
- 2017 Essex Open

## Access To Trial System

Click on this [link](#)

Login with the same username/password that you use for the Minutes system.

Click on the Ranking button. (The Ranking calculations take several seconds – I will investigate this)

John Mason

## WINTON CUP

On the Friday evening only 5 people turned up to help lay out equipment – 2 of which were new members – very disappointing though they all worked well together. Competition started on time on Saturday and ran well throughout the day thanks to John .Crouch aided by Mike Robinson. Extra work with having another trophy for mens sabre to deal with. Janet Cooksey also spoke to me about a ladies epee trophy! Apart from the sabreurs who were running late, we finished approx. 5p.m.

There was one injury – Mark Robertson – strained a ligament in his ankle which I dealt with. As he was unable to drive home, I also arranged for him to stay overnight at Lillieshall and he was hobbling much better on the Sunday and able to drive home.

Saturday night was the Gala Dinner - numbers were down slightly on last year but the food was good with no delays. Carol & Peter Winton, daughter and son of Bobby Winton were introduced by Gillian as well as Mrs. Helga Zitcer. Jim Philbin gave a eulogy for Carey Zitcer and introduced his mother – Mrs. Helger Zitcer – who had made and donated a trophy of a bronze sabreur to be awarded to the best male sabreur in the competition. Raffle followed which raised a good sum followed by the disco although no contributions were received this year. A very good evening all round.

Sunday started on time and fencing finished 4p.m. followed by the presentations. Carol & Peter Winton presented the cup to the SE together with all team medals. Hilary Philbin presented the cup to the best male foilist – Graham Paul - and the cup to the best female foilist – Amanda Baxendale. Mrs. Zitcer presented the trophy in memory of Carey Zitcer to Emmanuel Forondore.

The atmosphere throughout the competition was excellent and many fencers have expressed their appreciation. Several also commented that it was an excellent warm-up prior to the world championships. There was, as usual, several complaints regarding delays when there was no team to fence and about the standard of referees – but I expect these every year.

I have already booked Lillieshall for 2018 for the weekend of 22/23 September together with the Park Inn for accommodation and Dinner.