

## Minutes of Meeting

Date	06 Nov 20
Location	By Email
Time	00:00:10
End Time	00:00:00
Present	

## Outstanding Actions

#	Action	Who	Status	View
606	LONDON OPEN:PB to investigate the possibility of using SportsDock for this competition. Linda Strachan is the contact there.	PB	Done	
610	80+ CAT D: DS to check outcome of the FIE meeting. JRM to check membership database to determine numbers involved	JRM, DS	Done	
613	PRE-WORLD SQUAD TRAINING: PB to contact Jonathan Katz to discuss possible future options.	PB	Done	
628	80+ GA to contact FIE Council rep DS/CO for official update.	GA	Done	
629	Pre-World Squad Sports Psychology Training: DR to contact world championship squad members to gauge interest in attending a one-day sports psychology training course.	DR	Done	
634	BVF Championships 2017: GA to contact John Crouch to ensure booking for venue for 2017.	GA	Done	

## New Actions and Decisions

#	Action	A/D	Who
636	Jonathan Stanbury has stood down as Chair of Selectors, but is staying on the committee. GA proposed a vote of thanks to JS for all the work he has done in his role.	D	

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	A	GA
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	A	GA, JRM
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.	A	JRM
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.	A	DR, JRM
641	ET16: The accounts have finally closed. The cost of ET16 to BVF was £32,105. BVF still has adequate reserves. GA proposed a vote of thanks to John and Sonya Mason for all the work they did before, during and after ET16 as Event Treasurers.	D	
642	Domestic Fencing Officer: GA to approach Evert van Gemeren with a view to appointing him to the vacant position following PB's resignation.	A	GA
643	Event Managers for 2017: BVF Championships - David Taylor (Manchester) EVF Championships and EVF Rep - GA World Qualifiers - MS WMO - PB Winton Cup - MS World Championships - GA Agreed nem con.	D	
644	Membership cards for 2017: a vote was taken with 3 YES, 2 NO and 2 abs. Membership cards will be issued for 2017.	D	
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.	A	GA, MS
646	Competition format: DR submitted options for different composition of pools in the new competition format. It was agreed to retain the original where pools consisted of mixed ages. 4 for, 3 against.	D	
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).	A	GA

## Chairman's report to BVF committee - November 2016

The committee agreed to postpone meeting until after Christmas because I had a hip replacement operation on 2nd November and there were no suitable dates before Christmas when all of the committee could meet.

The majority of the agenda items have been covered by email/phone.

In October, it was both an honour and a privilege for me to be awarded a British Fencing Silver Medal at the British Fencing AGM, presented by Hilary Philbin. I am delighted that other Veterans received very well deserved awards:

Paul Wedge                      Tankard (Veteran World Champion)

Marilyn Wheelband            Award of Merit

Lawrence Burr                Bronze Medal

and last but not least our good friend

Janet Huggins                 Gold Medal

However, we were all very saddened to hear that Cary Zitcer, who had been in fine form at the AGM, died of a heart attack on his way home. Cary was a well-known sabreur, having fenced internationally at junior, senior and veterans level. He was a member of the current BF Honours Committee, Chairman of St Paul's Fencing Club in London, and a very valued member of the ET16 team.

The Veterans World Championships in Stralsund was an excellently organised and enjoyable event with for the first time at a Veterans competition, video refereeing. The standard of fencing was very high with some very well fought and exciting matches and good results for our squad. Special congratulations to our medal winners:

GOLD            Malcolm                      Mens Sabre Cat C

                    Mens Foil Team:        John Troiano, Jeff Kiy, Tony Bartlett,  
Bradbury,                      Paul Wedge, Brian Causton and Mike

SILVER        Tony Bartlett                Mens Foil Cat B

Prevelt, and	Mens Sabre Team	Duncan Rowlands, Peter Howes, Chris Richard Cohen, Malcolm Cawton  Andy Bornemisza
BRONZE	Jane Hutchison	Womens Sabre Cat A
	Jenny Morris	Womens Sabre Cat B
Brown,  and	Womens Sabre Team	Jane Hutchison, Michele Narey, Silvia  Jenny Morris, Patricia Shepherd-Foster Sylvia Brown

A warm welcome to the committee to Ev van Gemeren, who has replaced Peter Baron as Domestic Fencing Officer.

*Gillian Aghajan*

### **Treasurer's Report**

**World Championships** – there are still expenses to come on for referees ca £1,000 and income from entry fees and levies ca £430. The event is expected to make a loss of ca £3,710.

This figure has ballooned in recent years with team fees.

**Winton Cup** – we are disputing the invoice from Leon Paul for the hire of pistes as 4 were unfit for purpose. The event is expected to make surplus of ca £700.

**ET16** – There is a major item for which we have not received a final invoice. The event is expected to make a loss of £41,200.

BVF is still solvent after ET16 and we have assets totalling ca £16,850 with no major expenditure anticipated for the rest of the year.

*John*

## **Membership Report**

682 members have joined or renewed their memberships (675 members at the end of last year).

80 are new members.

80 members did not renew from 2015. This is the first time that membership numbers have stood still. I have checked the age distribution between the New Members and the Not Renewed members and they are indistinguishable.

Should we continue with membership cards? I complain about sending them out but then I enjoy complaining. There isn't a cost issue that we must address, it is whether our non-fencing members see any value in them.

*John*

## **Communications**

In 2017 I plan to move the membership database to the Internet and to develop tools to assist with any ranking scheme that is adopted.

*John*

## **WINTON CUP 2016**

This year we had an additional entry from Eastern making a total of 10 teams. John Mason re-scheduled the running order of fights to accommodate this. Disappointed that only a total of 6 persons attended on the Friday evening to help lay out equipment. There was no Leon Paul equipment stand which allowed further storage for bags.

Saturday started slightly earlier and thanks to everyone collecting and returning pool sheets promptly, John Crouch and Mike Robinson input these very efficiently together with separating the mens and womens foil results towards the Frank Mills trophies. Finished by 6p.m.

The Gala Dinner was scheduled slightly later which met with much approval allowing people more time on return to the hotel. In total 133 diners with a 'naughty' table for the late entrant diners. Dinner was excellent with not one complaint. Disco was good and played a good selection that had a lot of people up and dancing. A presentation was made to David

Sweeney in recognition of all his work for BVF, particularly for organisation of the European Team Championships with him and his wife, Susan, being guests of the BVF.

Sunday was again a slightly earlier start. This time as soon as a piste was finished with volunteers helped take up and pack the equipment so that everything was completed by 4p.m. South East were the winners of the Winton Cup. Mrs. Betty Mills presented the mens foil trophy to Adrian Griffin and the ladies trophy was awarded to Sheila Anderson. Marcia Stretch, Organiser, presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Mills,

My thanks, as always, must go to Peter and Janet Huggins who provided the Armoury and help with laying out the equipment. John Mason for taking the team and dinner entries as well as the admin. John Crouch and Mike Robinson for the DT and Gillian Aghajan for her work on the Dinner.

The venue has been booked for 2017 but again, we can only have the dates of 23/24<sup>th</sup> September owing to previous bookings despite trying to place a booking in June 2016! The change of date this year did, however, prove popular with a large number of people as it was being used as a warm-up prior to the world championships.

Marcia Stretch

6/11/16

## **BVF Competition Organisation – Options on Rankings**

### **Introduction**

While the agreed competition organisation has a ranking system, there has been a suggestion of an alternative method that people may prefer. Personally I can see merits to both methods and am not committed to either. I've detailed both options below:

### **Original Method**

#### *Ranking:*

In the first round of pools fencers will be ranked within their category in the order of their average position from the previous two qualifying events<sup>#</sup>.

Fencers who have competed in only one of these two preceding qualifying events will be allocated a deemed position of one place below the last placed fencer for the competition in which they did not compete.

Fencers who have not competed in either of these two preceding qualifying events will be allocated a ranking of 99.

Fencers will be allocated to pools in ascending category order. In effect, all category 1 fencers are ranked ahead of category 2 fencers, who are ahead of category 3 fencers etc.\*

In the second round of pools fencers will be ranked in the order in which they were placed after the first round of pools.

#### *Notes to Organisers*

<sup>#</sup> For the first qualifying event of the 2017 season the ranking will be established by the BVF selectors.

\* This can be achieved by adding a fencer's category in front of their 2 digit ranking. For example, the no.1 ranked fencer in category 2 would have a ranking of 201, while an unranked fencer in category 1 would have a ranking of 199.

### **Pros & Cons**

- Ensures as far as possible an even distribution of fencers from each age category
- Takes into account the outcome of DE rounds in earlier competitions
- Will rank some fencers of greater ability below fencers of lower ability due to being in an older age category.

### **Alternative Method**

#### *Ranking:*

In the first round of pools fencers will be ranked in the order of their average position after the pools from the previous two qualifying events<sup>#</sup>.

Fencers who have competed in only one of these two preceding qualifying events will be allocated a deemed position of one place below the last placed fencer after the pools for the competition in which they did not compete.

Fencers who have not competed in either of these two preceding qualifying events will be allocated a ranking of 999.

In the second round of pools fencers will be ranked in the order in which they were placed after the first round of pools.

#### *Notes to Organisers*

<sup>#</sup> For the first qualifying event of the 2017 season the ranking will be established by the BVF selectors.

### **Pros & Cons**

- Ranks fencers in order of ability after pools irrespective of their age category
- Does not take into account the outcome of DE rounds in earlier competitions
- Requires a slightly larger amount of record keeping.

DR

## **BVF Constitution - Proposal**

1. The Association shall be known as British Veterans Fencing ('BVF').
2. BVF shall be concerned with veteran fencing in the area for which the British Fencing Association Ltd ('BF') is the governing body of the sport of fencing, being the British Isles (but excluding the Republic of Ireland).
3. BVF is an Associated Body of BF within the meaning of clause 13 of the Articles of Association of BF. BVF is able to conduct its own affairs with the exception of those matters which are the responsibility of BF.
4. The objects of BVF are:
  - a. to ensure the proper administration and governance of its activities, meetings and funds and to submit annual accounts (prepared on a calendar year basis) to its Annual General Meeting;
  - b. to ensure adherence to all applicable BF policies and directives, in particular the principles of the BF equality policy;
  - c. to organise a British National Veterans Fencing Championships event and such other veteran fencing events as it sees fit;

- d. to select members to represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland and BVF in international and domestic fencing events, and to facilitate their attendance at such events;
  - e. to publicise and promote the sport of fencing within the Veteran age groups;
  - f. to do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.
5. Any person who is a member of BF who will be of 40 years of age or over in the current calendar year shall, at the discretion of the BVF Committee ('the Committee'), be admitted as a member of BVF upon payment of the appropriate subscription.
- Membership may be terminated by a decision of not less than two thirds of the total number of voting members of the Committee where that member's behaviour is considered to have brought BVF or the sport of fencing into disrepute.
6. All property, financial and other assets of BVF shall be vested in the Committee and shall be applied towards the promotion of the objects of BVF (as set forth in clause 4 above) as the Committee considers appropriate.
7. The Committee shall consist of the following voting members:
- a. the elected holder of the office of Chair of the Committee ('the Chair')
  - b. up to six elected members

These voting members shall be elected at a General Meeting and shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting, at which they will be eligible for re-election.

Should the Chair resign or become incapacitated to hold office for any reason the Committee shall appoint one of their number to be Acting Chair while the process of electing a new Chair is undertaken.

8. The Committee may nominate a candidate for the position of Life President of the Association, to be elected at a General Meeting. The holder of this office will serve as an advisor to the Committee, without being entitled to vote, without requirement for re-election.
9. The Committee shall appoint the following administrative officers:
- a. the Treasurer
  - b. the Secretary

The holders of these offices may, but need not, also be elected voting members of the Committee.

These appointed administrative officers shall be required to attend meetings of the Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote unless they are also elected voting members of the Committee.

10. The Committee shall appoint an appropriate person to examine the annual accounts of BVF. This person may not have served as a member of the Committee during the period to which the accounts to be examined relate.
11. The Committee shall meet not less than three times in each calendar year, which may take place in person, by remote electronic conference infrastructure or by email. To be valid a meeting must consist of a quorum of at least 50% of the currently serving voting members.

In the absence of the Chair the voting members present shall choose one of their number to chair the meeting.



Each voting member shall be entitled to exercise one vote on any matter. On equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.

12. The Committee shall have the power from time to time to make, alter, add to and revoke Bye-Laws for the carrying out of the objectives of BVF, provided that no Bye-Law shall be inconsistent with anything contained in this Constitution. So long as such Bye-Laws are in force they shall be binding on all members of BVF.

13. BVF shall convene an Annual General Meeting ('AGM') each calendar year, to coincide with the BVF National Championships.

All candidates for election to the Committee must notify the Secretary of their candidature no later than 30 days before the first day of the relevant National Championships. Each candidate must be a member of BVF and be nominated and seconded by other members of BVF. The notices of nomination and seconding must be made in writing to the Secretary by the individuals concerned.

All motions to be discussed and voted upon at the AGM must be notified in writing to the Secretary no later than 30 days before the first day of the relevant National Championships.

All votes taken at the AGM shall be held in accordance with the applicable bye-law.

The Secretary shall give 21 days' written notice of the AGM to all members of BVF. This notice shall be accompanied by;

- an agenda,
- details of all candidates for election to the Committee,
- copies of all motions to be discussed and voted upon,
- an examined copy of the accounts for the previous year,
- any documents appropriate to the casting of votes, and
- any other documents appropriate to the business of the AGM.

14. An Extraordinary General Meeting ('EGM') may be called by the Committee or by not less than 5% of the membership giving notice in writing to the Secretary. The matters of business for which an EGM maybe called are:

- the election of a Chair where this position is vacant,
- the election of members of the Committee where the number of serving elected members has fallen below 3,
- to consider a motion of no confidence in either the Chair or in the Committee as an entire body,
- to consider a motion to amend the BVF Constitution,
- to consider a motion to seek the dissolution of BVF.

All votes taken at the EGM shall be held in accordance with the applicable bye-law.

The Secretary shall give 21 days' written notice of the EGM to all members of BVF. This notice shall be accompanied by all documents appropriate to the business of the EGM.

15. All references within this Constitution to notices being given in writing include the use of email to do so.

16. No amendment may be made to this Constitution except at a General Meeting of BVF. Such amendments must be approved by two thirds of the members casting a vote.

17. If at any General Meeting a motion is passed calling for the dissolution of BVF the Secretary shall, within 14 days, convene a Special Meeting to be held not less than 28 days thereafter to consider this matter.

If at this Special Meeting the dissolution of BVF is approved by two thirds of the

members casting a vote the Committee shall proceed to release the assets of BVF and to discharge all debts and liabilities of BVF.

After discharging all the debts and liabilities of BVF the remaining assets shall not be paid out or distributed among the members of BVF but shall be given or transferred

## **BVF Selection Panel Structure - Proposal**

1. A Selection Panel shall be established to exercise powers, delegated by the BVF Committee, to select fencers to represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland and BVF in international and domestic fencing events, in accordance with the published selection scheme in force at the time of the selection for any given event.
2. The Selection Panel shall consist of a Chair and three ordinary members.
3. A candidate for the position of Chair of the Selection Panel shall be nominated by the BVF Chair. The appointment of such a nominated candidate to the position of Chair of the Selection Panel is subject to ratification by the BVF Committee.  
The Chair of the Selection Panel may, but need not, also be an elected voting member of the BVF Committee.

The Chair of the Selection Panel shall organise and oversee the selection process, and report to the BVF Committee on all matters relating to selection.

If the Chair of the Selection Panel is not an elected voting member of the BVF Committee they have the right of attendance, at BVF expense, at any BVF Committee meeting when any matter relating to selection is discussed.

4. The three ordinary members shall be appointed by the Chair of the Selection Panel. They shall each have the portfolio of selection in respect of a specific weapon (both genders). These ordinary members may not also be elected voting members of the BVF Committee.
5. Any appeal against a decision made by the Selection Panel shall be considered by the BVF Committee.  
During any such consideration of an appeal the Chair of the Selection Panel should give evidence as to how the original selection decision was reached and answer any question that the BVF Committee may have.  
If the Chair of the Selection Panel is an elected voting member of the BVF Committee they may not vote on any consideration of an appeal relating to selection.

DR