



**Annual General Meeting
Holiday Inn, Gloucester
Friday 1st March 2013
20.15**

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman informed the meeting of the death of Bob Turner. A minutes silence was observed for him. A memorial service will be held in the future for him.

The Chairman also announced that a promotional DVD produced by Beth Davidson/David Sweeney and Gillian Aghajan would be shown. The members congratulated them on an excellent DVD.

- 1. Apologies:**
Received from Meyrick Symonds, Mark Barton, Alan Payne, John Hyde, Geoff & Marish Silverman, Brian Cramp, Gerry Simpson, Susan & Rob Brooks.
106 members attended the meeting.

- 2. Minutes of AGM 2012**
The Minutes had been circulated in advance to all members. Minutes of the above were approved..

*Proposed by: J. Stanbury
Seconded by J. Crouch
Accepted: nem com*

- 3. Matters arising if not on the Agenda**
None

- 4. Chairman's Report**
All members had been sent a copy of the Chairman's report prior to the AGM. He did, however, congratulate the women's sabre team who won gold at the World Championships in Krems; Claire Halstead for her gold medal. GB won a total of 9 medals in Krems.

The 25th Anniversary was celebrated at the original venue of Beaumanor Hall with Henry de Silva, our founder. R. Bonehill queried the cost of the event. If more members had attended the costs would have reduced accordingly. Although numbers were low, an excellent evening was enjoyed by all.

Many of the Veterans helped at both the Olympics and Para Olympics.

At the British Fencing AGM, Henry de Silva was presented with a gold medal. Both Keith Smith, Penny Spink and Hilary Philbin were presented with gold medals for their services to fencing. Caryl Oliver was presented with a silver medal.

The Chairman gave thanks to members of the Committee for all their hard work.

5. Treasurer's Report

John Mason answered various queries from members regarding the accounts. He reported that there was a surplus of £1831.80. JM thanked Sonya Mason for all her work with the accounts together with Diane Austin who audited the accounts. T was agreed that a bouquet be sent to Sonya Mason as thanks for all her work. Report accepted by the meeting.

*Proposed: R. Bonehill
Seconded: J. Cooksey
Accepted: nem com*

6. Secretary's Report

Marcia Stretch reported that the committee had held 6 meetings during the year. She had dealt with members enquiries and where necessary, had forwarded them to the relevant committee member for action. She reminded members that Minutes are taken electronically and are available on the website. During the year, owing to David Sweeney's illness, she volunteered to act as Team Manager for the World Championships in Krems until such time as David would be well enough to resume. The committee asked that I attend the world championships to be available to assist DS which mainly involved dealing with the restaurant arrangements – and a birthday cake for Fred!

7. Membership Secretary's Report

John Mason reported that total membership as at 31 December, 2012 was 574 – an increase over the previous year. 47 members did not renew for personal and business reasons.

R. Bonehill queried why we have a membership card owing to the costs involved both in production and postage. JM explained that this was a benefit and only tangible evidence of membership of the British Veterans. Brian Millo said that he has been asked for identification at overseas veteran competitions. T. Wishart asked how many members of British Fencing are members of BVF. There are approximately 1,900 BF members who qualify within the BVF age-groups. A further meeting is planned with BF. The committee will be looking at this matter.

Proposed: R. Bonehill

*Seconded: J. Cooksey
Accepted: nem com*

8. Proposed amendment to clause 5 of the BVF Constitution

FIE have now ratified that the age qualification date is from 1st January. FM asked membership to accept the proposed change. Duncan Rolands suggested that the wording should read instead of 'woman or man' be changed to 'person'. The change is: 'Any person 40 years of age or over in the current membership year which starts 1st January'.

*Proposed: D. Rolands
Seconded: G. Aghajan
1 against
2 abstain*

9. Committee Elections

As there were no nominations for the Committee and members had agreed to continue, FM suggested that the Committee be elected en bloc. This was accepted.

*Proposed: R. Bonehill
Seconded: B. Davidson
Nem com*

10. Any Other Business

Category '0': It has been suggested that a Category 0 be considered. D Sweeney said that several European nations had adopted this. MS said she felt it unlikely as most fencers in their 30's were involved in careers, young families and mortgages hence the considerable drop-out from British Fencing membership in this age group. After general discussion a count of hands was made – 23 against, 5 for.

11. Age-Group Championships

FM said that 3 complaints had been received regarding decisions that were taken during this competition. He explained that as Event Manager, these decisions were taken to facilitate the smooth running. Apologies were made to and accepted by the members who had complained. The future format and date of this competition is to be discussed in committee.

The meeting closed at 21.25.