



**Annual General Meeting
Held on Friday 3rd March 2017
at The Victoria Hotel, Chadderton, Oldham**

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

1, Apologies

Received from: Geoff Silverman, Marish Silverman, Terry Melbourne, Peter Drummond, Jill Farmer, Mark Barton, Paul Baillache, Kate Smith, Alan Loveland, Mark Richardson, Sue & Rob Brooks, Mike & Viv Frith, Jonathan Stanbury, David Thomas, Sam McCarlie, Wednesday Jones, Catherine Fisher, Neil & Catherine Bowd, Pam Fairweather, Stephen Thompson, Berl Goldbart

47 members present at the meeting.

2. Minutes of AGM 2016

These had been circulated to all members and were agreed.

3. Matters arising if not on the Agenda

No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had been circulated to all members. The Chairman thanked the ET16 committee and BVF committee for all their work during the last year. She thanked Sonya Mason for all the hard work she has done on the accounts, particularly for ET16.

5. Treasurer's Report

John Mason gave his report on the audited accounts. It was suggested that the membership fee may be increased in the following year as it has remained stable for several years. He would like to retire as Treasurer at the end of the next year. John thanked Sonya Mason for her work on the accounts throughout the year and David Exeter for examining the accounts.

Graham Paul asked what the original budget was for ET16. John Mason explained that the budget had been based on the Bath World Championships. Lawrence Burr was responsible for fund raising. He had approached over 200 companies with very few results. Thanks to the Lansdowne Club for their excellent fundraising event.

Accept report: Proposed by John Troiano. 2nd: Henry de Silva

Unanimous

6. Secretary's Report

The Secretary read her report to the meeting with particular thanks for all the help received during the organization of both the Age Groups competition and Winton Cup.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

683 members last year. 596 to date. Henry de Silva queried the number of members from the Isle of Man being only one. The other previous member had now joined as a NW member. John Troiano suggested that Cat 1 members did not renew as a result of insufficient interest and competitions. GA said that a Working Party has been set up to look at future development. This will report to the Committee later in the year.

Sarah Budden asked if payment by credit card could be used for payment of entries to competitions. JM replied that, at present, PayPal is used for payment of membership fees only. Direct Debit is hoped to be used next year.

8. Development Officer's Report

Duncan Rowlands gave his report to the meeting.

Jane Hutchison said that the competition could not be called National Championships with the change of format. DR replied that the format now being used is the same as for the European Championships, FIE and British Fencing.

Caron Hale asked if this format is the same used for the Commonwealth Championships. DR could not comment on this as he was not aware of the format used.

John Troiano spoke about the original format for the National Championships and felt it was a great loss with the change.

John Crouch asked why he was denied his request for an EGM. He said he was told that it was not possible. GA stated that no notification had been received regarding the 10 members required to call an EGM. He stated that he was told that he would have to organise and pay for EGM by GA. GA said that the constitution was not clear on payment.

Dave Sweeney asked if under the new format the weapons days would be rotated for the second selection event (i.e. different to the first selection event).

GA confirmed this would be possible.

Maggie Myers asked if the format used is the same as the world championships. DR confirmed this.

Austin Moore said that the benefit of the original National Championships was that all fencers got to fence each other which all enjoyed.

Silvia Brown expressed her regret at the change to the National Championships. She had received an email from John Crouch regarding an EGM.

Moya McNamara insisted that the information regarding the EGM was made available to the Committee.

Dave Bridges commented that for Cat 1 there was now less incentive to fence in the National Championships.

Jenny Morris asked if the competition list for the season could be made available earlier.

Kate Morwell-Neave asked what the response was to the email regarding the new organisation. DR replied there had been many comments, both in favour and against.

Jane H had researched the number of medals awarded in the National Championships last year and reported that there were medal winners in all age groups except Cat 4. She expressed regret that the format of the Championships has been changed.

Michael Compton said there was much enjoyment in fencing in the previous National Championships. He was concerned about the rotation of weapons to enable those fencers to fence in all weapons.

Pat Shepherd Foster asked if the Age Groups format was also changed. DR confirmed that it was changed.

Peter Baron expressed the view that the Committee should think again about the changes that were being made.

Carole Seheult said that the National Championships should be an opportunity to fence everyone as well as a social event.

Dave Sweeney applauded the move towards a ranking system that could be used for selection but that the National Championships should not be a selection event.

Paul Abrahams requested that the Committee should re-consider the National Championships format.

Kate Morwell-Neave asked if last year's selection was flawed. DR replied that the DE was perceived as an anomaly regarding selection.

9. Where are we now and where do we see BVF in five years time? – Jane Hutchison

Jane Hutchison agreed that this had been covered in previous discussions.

GA promised that policies, procedures, job descriptions will be reviewed and updated as necessary and that the committee will also look at succession planning. When vacancies for committee positions arise, younger members will be encouraged and welcome.

10. To discuss the current competition format and selection system, and the way forward. In particular to consider whether it is appropriate to use the same selection system across all weapons, genders, and age groups. - Graham Paul

Graham Paul was concerned about selection as he felt that under the system, the strongest team was not selected. He said that he thought we should either go back to last year's scheme or come up with a sensible points scheme and that this should take into account the different age groups. He also said that he cannot see that the same points scheme would be suitable for all ages and genders and any future survey of members must take this into account - "one size does not fit all".

GA said that the committee had discussed that a points scheme would need to take different age groups into consideration and that this is one of the things that the working group will be looking at.

11. Motion: This AGM supports the efforts of the Committee to modernise BVF's competition structure and looks forward to the publication of Working Group's report on possible further developments. – Michael Swiffin

Michael Swiffin recommended that the new competition format should be tried. If this was not felt to be successful then the Committee should review it.

Motion (11)

Proposed: Michael Swiffin 2nd: Keith Davidson

Vote: 22 in favour 7 against 20 abstain

Motion passed

12. Motion: It is proposed that the British Veterans National Championships revert to the previous format of an open event for all age groups fenced as two rounds of poules followed by a complete direct elimination held on the first weekend of March. - John Crouch

John Crouch said that the National Championships should revert to the previous format with 2 rounds of poules followed by DE with all categories together, run over 3 days.

GA suggested that this should be polled to membership - not agreed and then suggested that those attending the Manchester event should be polled - not agreed.

John Crouch retracted 'held on the first weekend of March' from the motion - agreed.

Proposed: John Crouch 2nd: Moya McNamara

Vote: 37 in favour 4 against 6 abstain

Motion passed

Janet Baron suggested that fencers should be asked if they had enjoyed the new format.

12 Election of Officers

The following were elected:

Chairman	Gillian Aghajan <i>proposed: Geoff Silverman</i> <i>2nd: Paul Wedge</i>
Secretary	Marcia Stretch <i>proposed: Silvia Brown</i> <i>2nd: Andrew Brown</i>
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	John Mason <i>proposed: Jane Hutchison</i> <i>2nd: Chris Prevett</i>
International Fencing Officer	Duncan Rowlands <i>proposed: David Taylor</i> <i>2nd: Michael Swiffin</i>
Domestic Fencing Officer	Evert van Gemeren <i>proposed: Paul Sutherland</i> <i>2nd: David Taylor</i>
Committee Members:	Lawrence Burr <i>proposed: Margaret Myers</i> <i>2nd: Malcolm Allton</i>
	Graham Paul <i>proposed: Geoff Silverman</i> <i>2nd: John Crouch</i>
	Jonathan Stanbury <i>proposed: Sue Brooks</i> <i>2nd: Rob Brooks</i>

GA thanked all present for their support and welcomed all previous committee members and new member Graham Paul to the committee.

Kristin Payne proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for all their hard work.
2nd Peter Baron unanimous

Meeting closed 10 pm.

BVF - 2016

Chairman's Report to the AGM

2016 was a very busy year for BVF with ET16 being the main event.

In February, Lansdowne Fencing Club hosted an International Veterans Foil Team Invitation Event & Fundraising Gala Dinner at the Lansdowne Club, Mayfair. This was an extremely enjoyable event with some world class foil fencing and a fabulous gala dinner. The event raised over £4300 for ET16 funds. Very grateful thanks go to all who were involved in the organisation of this event, particularly to Gerry Gajadharsingh and Richard Sage, to those who donated auction and raffle prizes and to all who gave their support.

The major event in March was the BVF Championships with 265 weapon entries. Thanks to Event Manager John Crouch and his team, John Mason and Mike Robinson and all volunteers for an excellently organised and well run event. This was the qualifying event for team selection for the European Team Championships and the first of two for the World Championships.

The BVF AGM was well attended. David Sweeney did not stand for re-election as International Officer and there were no other nominations for this post. On behalf of the committee I express sincere thanks to David for all the work he has done and commitment he has given over the years for the benefit of BVF. The committee was pleased to welcome Duncan Rowlands who was elected as Development Officer.

Thanks to Peter Baron who organised and ran the West Midlands Open, held over the weekend of 19-20 March in Dudley.

In May I was extremely proud of everyone who had a part to play in the success of ET16 and to have been one of the team. The planning and hard work by all paid off and made this 25th Anniversary European Veterans Championships a fantastically successful and memorable event. Great team work of hard work, professionalism, dedication and positive attitude produced a great Team Championships and raised the bar high for future events. Grateful thanks to everyone on behalf of British Veterans Fencing and the Organising Committee.

A special mention to the rest of the Organising Committee: John Mason, David Sweeney and Katie Rhodes, and to Fund Raising Manager Lawrence Burr. Graphic Designer Anne Mills and Ceremonies Manager Brian Speight. Who can forget Spike or Dickens! Also GBR Team Administrator Jane Hutchison and GBR Team Manager Sue Benney. (A full list of volunteers is at the end of this report.)

Well done to all GBR teams on some excellent fencing and sportsmanship and many congratulations to our medal winners:

SILVER

Womens Sabre (GV)

Connie Adam

Silvia J Brown

Jenny Morris

Pat Shepherd-Foster

Yvonne Walls

GOLD

Womens Sabre

Beth Davidson

Jane Hutchison

Michele Narey

Emma Potter

Emma-Louise Waller

GOLD

Mens Foil (GV)

Anthony Bartlett

Mike Bradbury

David Miller

Graham Paul

Paul Wedge

The BVF committee proposed a new competition, ranking and selection scheme for the 2017 season. Before introducing this scheme the committee gave the membership the opportunity to comment on the proposal via a survey monkey poll.

The Age Groups took place in June and were well attended. Thanks to Team Event Manager Marcia Stretch, DT - John Crouch, John Mason and Moya McNamara, armourers Peter and Janet Huggins, all referees and volunteers for a very well organised and enjoyable event

The committee, took into consideration all the feedback on the first announcement on selection, competition format and ranking, and spent a lot of time deliberating and deciding on the best way forward. An amended scheme was announced and all members were notified by email or post and the documents published on the website in August.

The Winton Cup weekend in September was a great success with South East winning for the first time, ending the undefeated reign of South West. Winners of the Frank Mills Trophies for best individual male and female foilists were Adrian Griffin and Sheila Anderson. We were all delighted to welcome Betty Mills, wife of Frank, who kindly donated the new Frank Mills Trophy for best female foilist and presented both trophies.

Betty was joined at the dinner by fellow guests David and Susan Sweeney. It was a pleasure to present to David, on behalf of the committee, a gift as a token of appreciation for all the work he has done for BVF over the last 16 years as Chairman, Manager for many events and active committee member.

Thanks to Event Manager Marcia Stretch, DT - John Crouch and Mike Robinson, John Mason, armourers Peter and Janet Huggins and to all who helped set up and remove pistes. It was another superbly run and hugely enjoyable weekend. Eastern entered a team for the first time making a total of ten teams.

Jonathan Stanbury resigned as Chair of Selectors, but I am pleased to say remained on the committee. Thanks to Jonathan for all he has done in this role. Peter Baron resigned from the committee for personal reasons but it still taking an interest in BVF competitions including organising the Royal Navy match. On behalf of the rest of the committee, grateful thanks to Peter for doing a brilliant job over the years.

October started with a big surprise for me. 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	Silver Medal
Janet Huggins	Gold Medal.

I was very saddened to hear the following day that Cary Zitcer, who had been in fine form at the AGM, died of a heart attack on his way home. Cary was a very valued member of the ET16 team. There have been two other deaths: Sheila Williams who lost her bravely fought battle against cancer and Laurence Gough, a member of BVF since 1994 and a long term supporter of BVF.

In October I was Head of Delegation for the GBR squad at the Veterans World Championships in Stralsund, Germany. The standard of veterans fencing gets higher each year and is always extremely competitive on the piste, but there is a tangible feeling of camaraderie and mutual respect off piste. This event was no exception.

GBR squad returned home with a good haul of medals:

Malcolm Cawton	Gold	Mens sabre (Cat C)
Tony Bartlett	Silver	Mens foil (Cat C)
Jane Hutchison	Bronze	Womens sabre (Cat A)
Jenny Morris	Bronze	Womens sabre (Cat B)

and in the team competition:

Mens Foil	Gold	Jeff Kiy, John Troiano, Tony Bartlett, Paul Wedge, Brian Causton and Mike Bradbury
Mens Sabre	Silver	Duncan Rowlands, Peter Howes, Chris Prevett, Richard Cohen, Malcolm Cawton and Andy Bornemisza
Womens Sabre	Bronze	Jane Hutchison, Michele Narey, Silvia Brown, Jenny Morris, Patricia Shepherd-Foster and Sylvia Brown.

Congratulations and very well done, not just to the medallists, but to all of the squad members for their determination, sportsmanship and continuous support of each other. There were some very close near misses for medals.

After the World Championships it was back to committee business. The committee felt that it was important to fill the role of Domestic Fencing Officer and, in accordance with the constitution, agreed to do this offering the role to Evert van Gemeren. I am very pleased that Ev accepted.

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.

My thanks to all BVF committee members for their support and hard work - Lawrence Burr, Malcolm Fare, John Mason, Duncan Rowlands, Jonathan Stanbury, Marcia Stretch, Ev van Gemeren and retired members Peter Baron and David Sweeney; to all who were involved in ET16 Organising; to those who donated or raised funds for ET16; to all Event Managers, event support teams, referees and volunteers and finally to all BVF fencers and members for your support and sportsmanship. It has been an honour and a pleasure for me to be Chairman this special year.

Gillian Aghajan
Chairman

Team ET16

Organising Committee:	Gillian Aghajan (Chairman) John Mason, David Sweeney and Katie Rhodes
Accreditation Manager	Ann Dawkins
Armourers	Simon Axon, Adam Bartley, Jonathan Courtney, Andrew Goodier, Trevor Hill, Malcolm Holford, Janet Huggins, Peter Huggins, Steve Jackson, Rob Kirby, Dave Lichfield, Andrew Nisbet, Noel Cortes Ortiz, Alastair Savage
Audio/Visual Engineer	Kola Ayanwale
Cashier	Sonya Mason
Ceremonies Manager	Brian Speight
Event Manager	David Sweeney (in advance) Katie Rhodes (during the event)
Finals Manager	Paul Baillache
Floor Manager	Jon Dawkins
Fundraising Manager	Lawrence Burr
Graphics Designer	Anne Mills
Hospitality Manager	Gillian Aghajan
Information Manager	Pete Baron
IT Manager	John Mason
Master of Ceremonies	Brian Speight
Medical Officer	Clare Halsted
Merchandising Manager	Ingrid Heskett
Photographers	Tom Smith Photography and Andy J Davison Photography
Protocol Managers	Cary Zitcer, Lawrence Burr, Hilary Philbin
Quality Control	Caryl Oliver
Referee Coordinator	Mike Thornton
Registration Manager	John Mason
Secretary	Marcia Stretch
Transport Manager	Lawrence Burr
Treasurer	John Mason
Venue Manager	Jon Dawkins
Videographer	Chris Green
Volunteers Manager	Katie Rhodes (in advance) Maggie Lloyd-Jones (during the event)
Webmaster	John Mason
Directoire Technique:	President John Crouch, John Mason, Mike Thornton.
Secretariat:	Mike Robinson, Moya McNamara, Janet Baron and Diane Austin
The Dickens theme and entertainment:	Dickens Fellowship, Kent Stage Academy, Medway Magicians, Medway Lindy Hoppers, Gillingham Dramatic Society
Volunteers	
Referees	
Flag bearers from local fencing clubs	Mallard (Herne Bay), Invicta (Sandwich) and Shortland House (Bromley)
Medway Council, Lindsey Horton (Major Sports and Tourism Manager) and the Medway Park staff	
Sponsors:	England Fencing, British Fencing, Leon Paul, OFEC, Ruffart, Topkit, Activ8
Fund raisers and those who gave personal donations	
And last but not least the Fencers from all participating countries.	

BVF Secretary's Report

The committee met 4 times during the year and met once by email, thus exceeding the requirements laid down in the Constitution.

One member of the committee, Pete Baron, resigned for personal reasons during the year and the resulting vacancy was filled by Evert van Gemeren.

Marcia Stretch

BVF Secretary

BALANCE SHEET					
Assets on January 1st 2016			Assets on December 31st 2016		Movement
Current a/c	30,843.25		Current a/c	11,187.08	
Reserve a/c	10,200.42		Reserve a/c	10,204.67	
Barclays Bond	10,619.18		(Note 3)		
Accruals	284.40		Accruals	0.00	
Prepayments	0.00		Prepayments for 2017	0.00	
Cheques not presented	0.00		Cheques not presented	0.00	
Medals	1,370.60		Medals	869.52	
TOTAL	53,317.85		TOTAL	22,261.27	-31,056.58
Funds are allocated as follows					
Funds	Value at 1/1/2016			Value at 31/12/2016	
General reserves	20,000.00		General Reserves	21,391.75	
ET16	31,662.85				
Accruals (Age Groups)	284.40		Accrual Age Groups	0.00	
Stock	1,370.60		Stock	869.52	
TOTAL	53,317.85		TOTAL	22,261.27	
Note 1 - Interest received on the reserve account and Standard Life					
Note 2 - An expense claim for ca £790 has not yet been presented					
Note 3 - Bond closed and money transferred to current account					
Reserve Bank Account					
	31-Jan	0.33			
	28-Feb	0.34			
	31-Mar	0.34			
	30-Apr	0.41			
	31-May	0.45			
	30-Jun	0.42			
	31-Jul	0.41			
	31-Aug	0.46			
	30-Sep	0.42			
	31-Oct	0.43			
	30-Nov	0.16		4.25	
	31-Dec	0.08			
Barclays		113.4			
26/4/15- 1/4/16		65.86			
1/4/16 - 6/12/16					
Total of all accounts		117.69			
British Veterans Fencing Accounts for the Financial Year 2016.					
I have inspected the records of accounts of the British Veterans Fencing for the Financial Year ending 31 st December 2016.					
In my opinion the Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet 2016, prepared from the records, represent a true and fair view of the British Veterans Fencing's affairs and of its surplus for the Year ending 31 st December 2016.					
David Exeter 12 th February 2017					

Statistics at 31/12/2016

Total members 683 (last year 679).
Of which 80 (last year 131) are New

Of which 490 Men 193 Women
63 Men 17 Women

Category	#
1 (40-49)	36
2 (50-59)	32
3 (60-69)	9
4 (70+)	3
5 (80+)	0
Totals	80

79 Members from 2015 did not renew.

This is the first time that membership growth has stalled.

Membership By Category

Category	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
1 (40-49)	189 28%	206 30%	194 30%	173 30%	184 32%	178 33%
2 (50-59)	256 37%	245 36%	235 37%	214 37%	207 36%	185 35%
3 (60-69)	154 22%	153 22%	143 22%	127 22%	120 21%	117 22%
4 (70-79)	64 10%	57 8%	52 8%	49 8%	49 8%	38 7%
5 (80-89)	20 3%	18 3%	14 2%	13 3%	14 3%	14 3%
Totals	683	679	638	576	574	533

Membership by Home Country

ENG	WAL	SCO	NI	CI	IOM	None
514 (520)	61 (58)	57 (45)	10 (13)	8 (9)	1 (1)	32
75% (76%)	9% (8%)	8% (6%)	1% (2%)	1%	<1%	5%

Statistics at 27/2/2017

The membership today is 596, of which 27 are new members. At this time last year we had 612.

91 Members from 2016 have not renewed. The analysis by age category is:

Category	Not Renewed
1 (40-49)	45 50%
2 (50-59)	33 36%
3 (60-69)	10 11%
4 (70+)	3 3%
Totals	91

97% of the membership claims an email address (last year 96%)

53% of the membership paid by Standing Order (last year 52%).

National Championships

Year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Entry	211	229	220	196	160	157	175	167

John Mason

BVF Development Officer's Report

This year has been a very busy year for development.

Following extensive communication with members, including an electronic survey, Facebook discussions, emails and many personal conversations the Committee has, after much deliberation, introduced a new selection competition format and selection scheme, and adjusted the timespan of the National Championships from 3 days to 2 days.

The main benefits of these changes are:

- Equalises the selection places available at each of the selection events
- Provides a consistent format for selection events
- Provides a format that is in line with the format used at the events for which selection is being made
- Provides equality of access to the BVF National Championships, ensuring that BVF fulfils its Constitutional requirement as an Associated Body of British Fencing to apply the principles of the BF Equality Policy to all of its actions.

It is pleasing to see that these changes have not deterred members from entering the National Championships. The number of fencers that have entered this year's Championships is only 1 less than the number that took part last year (211 compared to 212); and if Dave Taylor wasn't busy being event manager the numbers would be identical.

Looking to the future, the Committee has established a Working Group, and published its Terms of Reference, which is considering the feasibility of establishing a circuit of selection events and creating a selection ranking scheme based on this circuit.

The Working Group has met remotely to discuss initial views, and has a meeting planned for tomorrow.

The Working Group will make its interim report to the Committee by the end of April, and will make its final report and recommendations by the end of July.