

**BRITISH VETERANS FENCING  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Telford Centre Hotel  
Saturday 28 September 2019  
18:00

1. **Apologies:** Peter Drummond, Henry de Silva, Keith Smith, Terry Melbourne, Peter Lui, Geoffrey & Marish Silverman, Michael Belfort, Anthony Conyard, Charles Henderson
2. **Minutes of AGM 2018:** Accepted. Prop.: R. Brook, 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Oliver
3. **Matters Arising:** (if not on the Agenda) none
4. **Chairman's Report:** The report had previously been circulated to membership so the Chairman asked for questions – none asked. The Chairman thanked, by name, those mentioned in the relevant section of the report.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer read her report and presented accounts and gave special thanks to Sonya Mason for helping during her absence early in the year. Accounts accepted: Prop.: J. Mason 2<sup>nd</sup>. S. Brown
6. **Secretary's Report:** The committee met 7 times during the year and corresponded by email and phone. Newsletter and other notifications sent to membership by email. Only 20 members do not have email access – sent by post.
7. **Membership Secretary Report:** Membership continues to fall which gives cause for concern. Committee is looking at this. It was proposed that an article be put in The Sword. It was suggested that each nation i.e. Welsh, Scotland, England ask BF for information of over 40s which can then be collated and information on BVF be circulated with invitations to join.
8. **Revision of Constitution:** the incorrect constitution document was circulated in error. It was therefore decided to withdraw the document.
9. **Proposal to change name of British Veterans Fencing to British Masters Fencing:**  
Lucy Wright presented her views of why the name should be changed to Masters with balanced reasoning of pros and cons. The original name of 'Veterans' was appropriate at the initiation of BVF but she said this was no longer the case.  
Sue Benney said that there are competitions for professionals named as Master. Mark Richardson said that the connotation of veterans is associated with the military services. Rob Brooks pointed out that the major international championships use the name Veterans and could see no reason to change. Peter Baron explained that the BAF use the name of Professor as well as Master. Jane Hutchison explained that some sports use sub-categories e.g. Vet 40, Vet 50.

Mariette Mason asked the cost of changing the name. The cost would be minimal but could take a considerable amount of time. Lisa Drage said when she first joined she hated to be called veteran and would prefer the name Master. John Mason did not think that the change of name would improve our finances. John Crouch said that he as a Fencing Master and cannot see the point of changing the name as it has taken time to become a Master and suggested BVF Seniors. David Sweeney explained he has looked at raising sponsorship and had encountered problems when the word veteran was mentioned. Shirley Newsam thought in the instance of marketing we need to move forward. Vivien Frith has always hated the name Veteran and the connotation of age with it.

A vote was taken: no 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority -44 for, 23 against, 8 abstentions therefore the name remains British Veterans Fencing.

#### **10. Committee Elections:**

The following committee was re-elected:

Chair:	Gillian Aghajan
Treasurer:	Caroline Clancy
Secretary:	Marcia Stretch
International:	Graham Paul
Domestic:	Lindsay Watkiss
Members:	Lucy Wright Carl Morris Beth Davidson Mike Swiffin (co-opted)

**Meeting closed at 19:25**