



# The Vets



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British Fencing Association (BFA)

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**Leon Paul**

## Henry's Japanese Trip

Earlier this year Henry de Silva assembled another dozen intrepid Vets to explore unknown territory – this time Japan. After the usual long and tedious flight, the group arrived in Tokyo to be met by Daizo Kamaguchi, whom Henry had recruited at the Bath world championships to organise a match with local veteran fencers.

Helpful and solicitous, he guided us to our hotel in the former red light district of Asakusa, conveniently close to a tube station and numerous restaurants catering for visitors to a nearby Buddhist temple. After a day of sightseeing in the rain, we experienced the unique Japanese form of theatre known as Kabuki.



**Henry's Army in Japanese Mode!**

At the main sports centre for fencing the following day, we found that, instead of the expected matches, individual competitions had been arranged. Fencing is even more of a minority sport in Japan than it is in the UK, but it has been practised since the 1920s and there were a dozen or more experienced vets at each weapon ready to do battle. They were fit and fast, so that none of us survived beyond the L8 in foil and epee, and only Tony Bardell in the mixed sabre event reached the semi-finals. But it was an enjoyable day's fencing followed in the evening by a dinner during which there was a ritual exchange of presents and much sake flowed. Cont on page 2

### **HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE**

Henry in Japan

CAPTION COMPETITION IS BACK.....

Well done: Dates for your diary. Commonwealth fencing

**DATE CHANGES TO NOTE**

### Henry's Japanese trip: cont

Another free day allowed people to sample the delights of shopping in Tokyo's high-tech department stores, watching the organised chaos of Shinjuku station, which handles more than 2 million passengers a day, or strolling in a park leading to the popular Meiji temple. For those with sufficient stamina, the evening provided a last opportunity to see the dazzling illuminations of Tokyo at night.

Then it was on to Osaka by bullet train, but first we had to negotiate the underground system with fencing bags and suitcases during the rush hour – an 'interesting' experience. During the smooth 250-mile ride to Osaka, we enjoyed views of snow-capped Mount Fuji in the distance, but looked in amazement at the built-up area for the entire journey, with no open countryside to be seen.

The next day we were met by another host, Tsuyoshi Haratani, who took us to Kwansai Gakuin University, whose keen fencers demonstrated that youth and speed can sometimes overcome experience and cunning. At a splendid meal afterwards we were treated to the traditional Japanese dish of seafood cooked over small braziers at the table.

Hearing that we wanted to visit the ancient city of Kyoto, our generous host arranged for himself and two friends to take us by car to some of the most important sites. This allowed us to enjoy a wonderful last day in Japan, including the rare sight of a Maiko – an apprentice Geisha – in full kimono and platform shoes introducing herself to the houses where she would, after completing her 6-year apprenticeship, entertain clients.

Even today, Japan appears to be a land of mystery and strange customs in our eyes. For a people among the most educated and technologically advanced in the world, the Japanese appear to the first-time visitor from Britain to be noticeably different from Europeans or North Americans. Here are a few of the most striking differences:

- Around 20% of the population wears a white mask covering the nose and mouth, said to be because of allergies. But is Japanese pollen more virulent than any other in the world, are they more considerate than other people about not spreading germs, or are they just slightly paranoid – who knows?
- Many men and women ride bicycles, but they are all identical in style – no crossbar and with a wire basket at the front for shopping.
- Most hotels provide guests with the traditional Japanese kimono and jacket, changed every day, and have loo seats with two heat settings – high or low.
- Ritual washing of hands is commonplace, even on underground platforms with some stations having a trough against the wall where passengers can wash their hands before proceeding on their journey.
- Shoes are normally removed when entering a house and many public buildings.
- Politeness and consideration are the norm – couples at restaurant tables move to make room for a group, there is little graffiti or rowdy behaviour, and bullet train conductors bow to each carriage on entering and leaving.
- Buddhist shrines abound where people can make offerings and leave prayers – one in Tokyo is dedicated to the racoon dog and includes plastic replicas of the little varmints.

Malcolm Fare

## **Personal Performance and Sports Psychology**

We hope to offer the following, to run alongside the Bath Sabre and Foil on 16/17 June:

Saturday late morning: Lecture on Sports Psychology

Saturday afternoon: Foil Personal Performance

Sunday morning: Sabre Personal Performance

We are negotiating with Jonathan Katz, who ran the popular and successful NVA 3-Weapon Personal Performance day.

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**



## **CAPTION COMPETITION FROM THE NATIONALS 2007**

As usual entries to [Linda.lawes1@btinternet.com](mailto:Linda.lawes1@btinternet.com)

OR

01235 530090 or address on the front cover.



## England News

All entries from England fencers for the Commonwealth Veterans must go through England Fencing

.I suggest that fencers enter the competition directly, but let me know that they have entered and I will co-ordinate the England side.

A reminder that the England teams will be chosen from the best individual performances on the day  
Regards, John Crouch

## **Leon Paul is giving away lots of free kit to raise money for charity.**

I am running the London Marathon on the 22nd of April and to help raise money we are giving away lots of kit in a raffle. In order to be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is visit <http://www.bmycharity.com/alexpaul> and click donate now to make a donation.

Prizes are as follows:

1st: Value £890 (\$1750) A voucher for £200 and a complete FIE scoring set!

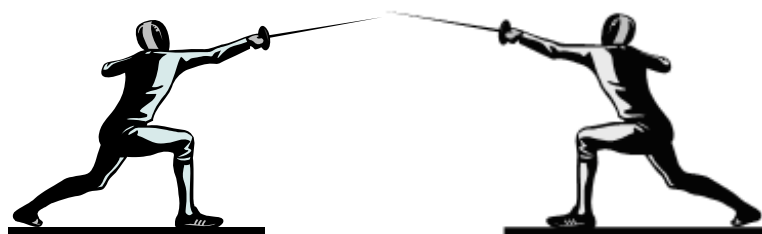
2nd: A pair of our brand new 350N tracksuit trousers. See [http://www.leonpaul.com/acatalog/350...\\_Trousers.html](http://www.leonpaul.com/acatalog/350..._Trousers.html)

3rd: One of our brand new Freerunner bags with all the accessories. See:  
[http://www.leonpaul.com/acatalog/Sho...\\_Cases\\_44.html](http://www.leonpaul.com/acatalog/Sho..._Cases_44.html)

Each £1 you donate will buy you one ticket. Please either put your forum username in the personal message box or if you don't have one make sure you don't check the "I would like to make this donation anonymous" box.

Prizes will be drawn at random on Friday the 27th or April and winners will be announced on the forum, by e mail and on the LP website.

Good luck and thanks for your support. Alex Paul



## Well Done: Well Done: Well Done

Top Half or Last 32!!

We make great efforts to trawl the results for your name. But as our membership grows this is a huge job! Most organisers do not send us the Veterans results.

So to ensure that YOUR result is in the newsletter please email  
[Linda.lawes1@btinternet.com](mailto:Linda.lawes1@btinternet.com) or phone 01235 530090.

***Omitted in error from last months newsletter was***

**NOTTINGHAM OPEN**

**Susan Russell top placed Veteran in women's epee 8<sup>th</sup>.**

<b>Invicta 2007</b>	<b>Foil</b>	<b>Epee</b>	<b>Sabre</b>
<b>Women's</b>	(32)		(14)
	Jo Bowyer 2nd		Jenny Morris 3rd
	Dawn Townsend 11th		
<b>Men's</b>	(92)	(109)	(47)
	Tony Bartlett 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ralph Johnson 14 <sup>th</sup>	Carl Morris 16 <sup>th</sup>
	Simon Hartley 16 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Brown 35 <sup>th</sup>	Tony Bardell 21 <sup>st</sup>
	Brian Causton 24 <sup>th</sup>		
	Anthony Conyard 27 <sup>th</sup>		

<b>Birmingham 2007</b>	<b>Foil</b>	<b>Epee</b>	<b>Sabre</b>
<b>Women's</b>	(75)	(87)	(53)
	Gillian Worman 13 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Hanney 30 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Hutchison 11 <sup>th</sup>
	Dawn Townsend 25 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny Morris 39 <sup>th</sup>	
	Jenny Morris 35 <sup>th</sup>		
<b>Men's</b>	(122)	(129)	
	Lindsay Watkiss 30 <sup>th</sup>	Anthony Klenczar 46 <sup>th</sup>	
		Rob Brooks 48 <sup>th</sup>	

## European Open Veterans Tournaments

There is a regular calendar of Open Tournaments for Veterans in Europe some of which are set out in the table below.

It is proposed that if there is enough interest that we put together some trips for groups of Vets to take part in these tournaments later this year and next to enjoy the sights of the various European cities in which they are being held.

Some budget costs, including flights and accommodation, have been included in the table below. More detailed information will be included in the near future.

If you are interested in taking part in any of the trips please contact, in the first instance, Dave Sweeney on 01453 758372 or at [mrdsweeney@hotmail.com](mailto:mrdsweeney@hotmail.com).

### OPEN EUROPEAN VETERANS TOURNAMENTS

Date	City	Country	Weapons	Budget cost
20&21 Jan 2007	Bergamo	ITA	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	
04 February 2007	Aix -En -Provence	FRA	MF,WF,MS,WS (4 weapons)	
10 February 2007	Granada	ESP	ME,WE (2 weapons)	
10&11 Feb 2007	Florence	ITA	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	
25 February 2007	Montelimar	FRA	ME,WE (2 weapons)	
17 March 2007	Valladolid	ESP	ME,WE (2 weapons)	
24&25 Mar 2007	Turin	ITA	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	
25 March 2007	Bourge	FRA	MF,WF,MS,WS (4 weapons)	
01 April 2007	Limoges	FRA	ME,WE (2 weapons)	£230
14 April 2007	Hamburg	GER	MF,WF,ME,WE (4 weapons)	£220
15 April 2007	Jyvaskyla	FIN	Epee Teams (including mixed teams)	
21&22 Apr 2007	Rome	ITA	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	£220
21-22 Apr 2007	Wernigerode	GER	M and W Foil (2 weapons)	
28 April 2007	Ciudad Real	ESP	ME,WE (2 weapons)	
28&29 Apr 2007	Dresden	GER	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS (5 weapons)	
5&6 May 2007	Vocklabruck	AUS	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	
06 May 2007	Libourne	FRA	MF & WF (2 weapons)	£240
12 May 2007	Madrid	ESP	ME,WE (2 weapons)	£205
2&3 Jun 2007	Recklinghausen	GER	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	
2&3 June 2007	Lyon	FRA	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	£265
30 June 2007	Darmstadt	GER	ME Marathon	
01 June 2007	Darmstadt	GER	WE Marathon	
16 September 2007	Zulpich	GER	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	
20&21 Oct 2007	Villach	GER	ME,WE,MF,WF,MS,WS (6 weapons)	

***JUNE 24th***  
***Dunstan Epée and Foil, Glastonbury***  
 Prizes for top placed Veterans.  
 See BFA website for details

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*April 28 and 29*

*Milton Keynes*

*Age Group Qualifiers*

***NOT TOO LATE!!!!***

*MAY 17-20*

*European Veterans Individual*

*Championships, St Gallen, Switzerland*

*NO SELECTION REQUIRED, OPEN.  
ALL FENCERS WELCOME AND  
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND...*

*LATE ENTRIES TO Dave Sweeney address on  
the front.*

***NOTE DATE CHANGE AGAIN***

*JUNE 16 and 17th*

*BATH Unisex Sabre and BATH Unisex  
Foil*

***NOTE DATE CHANGE AGAIN***

*July 13-15  
Commonwealth Veterans Championships,  
Toronto, Canada  
Individual OPEN.  
Team selected by Home Countries.*

*Details in a later newsletter*

***NOTE DATE CHANGE***

*Germany Match*

*Now August 16 to 19*

*Bonn*

*Team selected by NVA selection  
rules*

***NOTE DATE CHANGE***

*September 14-16  
World Championships  
Sydney Australia*

*September 30  
Middlesex Veterans Unisex Epée  
Individual OPEN*

*OCTOBER 7 SUNDAY  
Veterans Team Challenge, Loughborough  
NO selection required, OPEN. Teams put  
together on the day.*

***DATE CHANGES: DATE CHANGES: DATE CHANGES  
PLEASE NOTE WELL THE NEW DATE FOR***

***BATH UNISEX SABRE AND FOIL EVENT  
ALSO THE GERMANY TEAM MATCH***