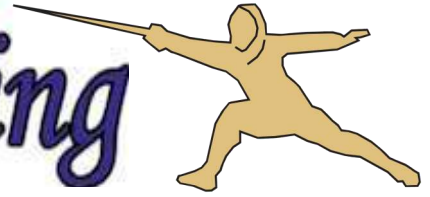




# British Veterans. Fencing



## IN THIS EDITION:

- Page 2: Croatia
- Page 3: Celtic Challenge & Picture Puzzle
- Page 4: Notable results
- Page 5: Connie a Free Woman & London 2012
- Page 6: Four Score Years & More
- Page 7: Letters
- Page 8: Vets Winton Cup
- Page 9: 1st UK Vets Open
- Page 10: Contacts

## BVF CALENDAR 2010

Apr 17	Oxford Unisex Foil & Sabre
Apr 24-25	4 Nations Championships. Edinburgh. Teams selected by Home Country selectors.
May 27-30	European Team Championships, Skopje, Macedonia - (Selection event)
July 3-4	1st Veterans Open - Midlands - details and entry form on website
Jul 17-18	Celtic Challenge. Hosted by Truro Fencing club in Cornwall.
Sep 11-12	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall National Sports Centre
Sep 29 - Oct 3	World Championships, Porec, Croatia. (Selection event – selection with this mailing)
Sep 29 - Oct 5	Commonwealth Veterans. Melbourne, Australia
Oct 9-10	Welsh Veterans Championships, Swansea (tbc). Contact <a href="#">Gillian Aghajan</a> for details
Oct 31	Middsx Epée—details to follow
Nov 27	Xmas dinner and fencing—details to follow



## A Visit to Croatia—Hosts for the Veterans World Championships 2010



Croatian National Tourist Board

Croatia is a hugely popular holiday destination and being outside of the Eurozone it offers great value for money. There are still some secrets to discover.

Located in the southern Mediterranean with a flight time of only 2 hours (London-Zagreb), Croatia has a magnificent coastline, almost 2,000 km long, and 1,244 islands, of which more than 80% are uninhabited. The country has 8 national parks which cover a total of almost 1000 sq km. Due to recent improvements in the country's road and rail infrastructure, two centre holidays are now easier than ever. For example, hop in a hire car in the capital Zagreb and you can be in the charming Kvarner Riviera resort of Opatija in around 2 hours.

A few years ago, property here was comparatively cheap and those (few) of us quick off the mark snapped up real bargains. Now the rest of Europe and the jet set glitterati have made Croatia their chosen holiday destination, along with Croatia's anticipated 2011 EU entry and a French/Italian Riviera resemblance of certain resorts, property has risen in value.

So what is it that's attracting romantic couples, entire families with children and grandparents, groups of friends and even solo travellers?

Two possibilities: the distinct 'unspoiltness' of the place and allure of that Adriatic coastline and islands where green pines meet white stone meets blue sea...



### North Croatia

In the north of the country, the heart-shaped peninsula of Istria, the Kvarner Riviera and the islands of Krk and Losinj are served by Pula and Rijeka airports. Here there are big family hotels with excellent facilities, smaller boutique-style hotels often with spas and charming self-catering properties. Days out to the Brijuni islands, to Plitvice National Park or even a day trip to Venice are memorable and worth doing.

### South Croatia

The region of Dalmatia in the south of the country offers both Split and Dubrovnik as gateways with more superb new family-run, intimate-style hotels available through selected tour operators as well as simple village rooms, all-inclusives, self-catering properties and hotels in the 2-5 star range, some with own spas. The islands of Mljet, Koločep, Korčula, Lopud, Hvar and Brač are all distinctly different and you can even combine a week on an island with a week on the mainland coast.

Take a couple of days away from the coast and explore Croatia's stunning interior; the Dinaric mountains, the magical beauty of green Gorski Kotar, the Slavonia region close to the border with Hungary and the quaint hilltop villages of inland Istria. Croatia's fabulous inland country should appeal to travellers seeking horse riding across plains, magnificent castles and fortifications, well preserved tradition and folklore, or boat trips through important wetlands.

**More information: Croatian National Tourist Office, 020 8563 7979, [www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr)**



## The 2010 Celtic Challenge, 17th/18th July 2010, Truro, Cornwall

The Celtic Chieftains have sent out word to all the warriors of Brittany, Channel Islands, Cornwall, Galicia, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, The Republic of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales to attend the gathering in The Duchy of Cornwall in July.

Warriors must be a minimum of 40 years of age and a member of their national governing body. To qualify to fight they must be a member of a club in one of the Celtic regions or have a parent or grandparent who was born in one of the regions.



<http://www.bonehill3.freereserve.co.uk/celtic.htm>



### PUZZLE OF THE MONTH!

There are two “notable” veteran fencers amongst the group on the left, but who are they?

The only clue you get is that they both feature in this month’s notable results.

Ed.

### NEAR MISS AT THE 2010 BRITISH VETERANS FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

At the 2010 British Veterans Championships in March a fencer, while seeking advice from the Armoury, was struggling to free the bodywire plug from the socket in the guard of the weapon. The weapon was being held in the near horizontal position during the manoeuvre. Another fencer joined those at the Armoury and was hit in the face, close to the eye socket, by the point of the weapon when the bodywire plug suddenly disconnected. The incident, though unpleasant enough, could have resulted in a much more serious injury.

This incident should serve as a reminder to us all that, as we were all taught as beginners, the point of a weapon should always be held downwards unless actually fencing and that it should never be pointed at anyone not wearing full protective clothing and a mask. Furthermore, we should all be aware of potentially dangerous situations and take action to prevent injury to oneself and others.

D.Sweeney



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## Notables

### Invicta

#### Men's Foil

5th Brian Causton  
20th Nick Fihosy  
33rd Anthony Conyard  
39th John Hyde  
40th Paul Baillache  
42nd Jim Whelan

#### Men's Epee

14th Howard West  
49th Niall Campbell  
50th Jeremy Raj

#### Men's Sabre

9th Paul Baillache  
18th Robert Phipps  
31st Bernard Enders

#### Women's Foil

8th Jane Clayton

#### Women's Epee

6th Amanda Webster  
12th Jane Clayton  
21st Sandra Bottle  
24th Mariette Mason

#### Women's Sabre

6th Viv Frith  
12th Jo Hayward

### Birmingham Int.

#### Men's Foil

31st John Troiano  
43rd Graham Paul

#### Men's Sabre

41st Julian Ghosh  
45th Phil Palmer  
48th Peter Baron

#### Women's Foil

33rd Gillian Worman

#### Women's Epee

31st Sara Spence  
44th Kate Elvin

#### Women's Sabre

3rd Jane Hutchison  
20th Michele Narey  
35th Viv Frith

### Slough Open

(important result omitted from last Notables)

#### Men's Epee

3rd Neal Mallett

### Edinburgh Open

#### Men's Epee

19th Tom Chrisp  
23rd Anton Pollard  
27th Brian McMiken  
39th Andy Pearson

#### Men's Sabre

25th Julian Ghosh  
37th Andy Pearson

#### Women's Foil

14th Cathy Heyes



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### CONNIE IS A FREE WOMAN AT LAST



Connie with her 2005 Commonwealth medals

Connie Adam, 82, multiple medal winner at the European and Commonwealth Veterans Championships, has become the first freewoman of the city of Norwich.

For 800 years, only men have been given the freedom of the city, a privilege that could then be claimed by their sons. But not by their daughters, and for 10 years Connie, whose father was a freeman, has been campaigning for the right to be admitted to this exclusive group.

Only with the passing of new legislation – the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act – has it become possible for women to join the ranks of their fathers. Because of her surname, Connie Adam became the first freewoman of Norwich at a civic ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## LONDON 2012

### FENCING MANAGER’S UPDATE

Between now and 2012, there will be regular updates on the BVF website

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## NOTABLE VETS – FOUR SCORE YEARS AND MORE

While there are many among the vets who look to Connie Adam, still fighting fit at 82 and eagerly awaiting the introduction of a Category 5 to the European Championships, as a role model, it is worth remembering that ours is such a wonderfully stimulating sport that some people are known to have continued fencing into their tenth decade.

Connie has only recently come of age in fencing terms, having started when she retired at the age of 60. Dennis Ward, on the other hand, has been fencing for 60 years. Now 80, he started in the Navy in 1950. When he left in 1959, he joined Saxon Fencing Club in London and was soon winning the Middlesex foil and sabre titles. He moved down to Bournemouth in the mid-60s and has been at Espada ever since.

Dr Austen Moore, 83, has been fencing longer than anyone in Britain, having started in 1944 while at Sheffield University, taught by the redoubtable Serg. Cofield. A two-year stint in the RAF, when he won the foil and sabre championships at the Royal Tournament, was followed by many years as a busy GP and family man, when he had little time for fencing. It was not until 20 years ago that his daughter persuaded him to get back into the sport and he joined Birmingham Fencing Club, where he is now vice-chairman.

Current doyen of the piste is 91-year-old Dennis Willcock, President of Plymouth Fencing Club and believed to be the oldest competitive fencer in the UK. He began fencing in September 1945 when he received his first lesson from the French fencing master Henri Faubert, who had been evacuated to England with the British forces at Dunkirk. They were both members of the Auxiliary Fire Service stationed in Birmingham.

Arthur Bracegirdle was still moving well enough in 1994 to take on all-comers at epee on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Isle of Man and continued coaching until his death at the age of 95. As a boy, he was inspired by seeing a demonstration in which an Army swordsman cut a sheep in half with one stroke. He joined Leicester Fencing Club in the 1930s and was on the first foil course run by Roger Crosnier and Bob Anderson in 1949. Arthur was one of the first coaches to become qualified in all three weapons and took part in several of Charles de Beaumont's recruiting circuses, before retiring to the Isle of Man in 1965.

Other fencers who have lived into their nineties include Ralph Faulkner, fencing master to many Hollywood actors, who was active until just 3 weeks before his death at 95. A member of the US Olympic sabre teams of 1928 and 1932, he trained such swashbucklers as Errol Flynn, Douglas Fairbanks junior, Danny Kaye and Tony Curtis.

Ernest Legouvé's first maitre d'armes was the great Francois-Joseph Bertrand, known as the Napoleon of the foil. Legouvé installed a salle d'armes on the ground floor of his house in Paris where the fencing master Georges Robert would come at 9 o'clock every morning to cross foils with him for half an hour. He continued this daily exercise until the day before his death, also at the age of 95.



*Dennis Ward and Austen Moore face off at the 2009 National Championships*

But the oldest nonagenarian fencer I have come across was the Sicilian fencing master Bartolomeo Bertolini who, in 1863, took part in a display at the age of 97. He was admired for the smoothness of action that he had preserved at this advanced age.

**Malcolm Fare**



## LETTERS

### New Members

Does anyone know 2 fencers who have joined the BVF in the last month. Their names are Munn and Stone. I don't have any more details.

If you know them, could you ask them to get in touch with me by email or by telephone.

John Mason  
Membership Secretary  
01225 761 788  
[John@jrmason.demon.co.uk](mailto:John@jrmason.demon.co.uk)

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Dear Members,

### **Crystal Open Teams (organised by Stourbridge Fencing Club)**

**Date: Sunday 25th April 2010**

Stourbridge Fencing Club's Crystal Open is an event into which we have traditionally entered teams. The format is the same as the White Horse (with which some may be more familiar) - i.e a mixed 3 weapon event (1 round poulès {unique} at each weapon, followed by DE in teams by relay). Although it clashes with the 4 nations, there may well be those of you free and wishing to take part.

Full details of the event may be seen at : [www.stourbridgefencingclub.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgefencingclub.co.uk)

Those wishing to take part should contact me **very soon** stating weapon(s) you are offering to fence.

Email: [bvf@baronfencing.plus.com](mailto:bvf@baronfencing.plus.com) - Please use the subject "SFC Crystal Open team"

or phone 01384 400242

Note 1: Last year's event was oversubscribed so we need to get our entry/ies in early.

Whilst we could put in a couple or even three teams, if enough people wish to fence, places in the team(s) are based on first come first served. Actual team composition will be decided when all "applications" have been received, with regard to weapons offered and the gender of the applicants. The Captain may change those teams on the day to cope with any last minute changes in personnel.

Note 2: The venue is the same as for our new BVF West Mids Open. So anyone wishing to stay over could consult the hotel list for the BVF West Mids Open, which is now on the web site (or ask me for a copy). Note that the hotel deal mentioned only refers to the July event but you could see if they will give you the same price by referring to that deal.

Peter Baron  
BVF Domestic Fencing Officer

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**If you want to keep updated on the action at the 4 Nations match on 24th/25th April, then you can visit the "Twitter" set up by Mariette Mason and David Worsfold**

**go to the twitter website and use @veteransfencing**



# PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY FOR A GREAT WEEKEND'S FENCING

3rd

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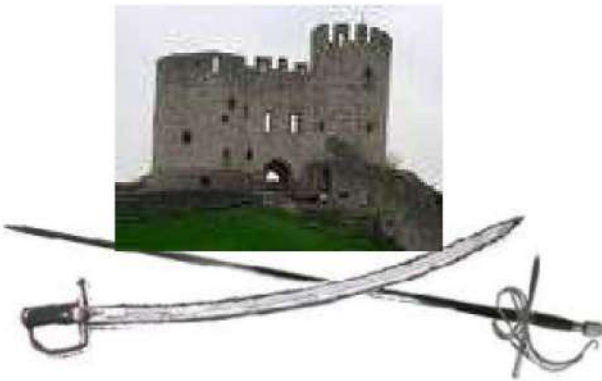
If you would like to fence, contact your Team Captain  
(List for 2010 to be published in May Newsletter)





# NVA WEST MIDLANDS OPEN

## THE FIRST VETS OPEN COMPETITION IN THE UK



Saturday 3rd July 2010  
Sunday 4th July 2010

Castle High School,  
St James's Road,  
DUDLEY DY1 3JE

6 Weapons: MF, WF, MS, WS Saturday ME, WE Sunday

### Note

entry limited by number  
& to one weapon only per day  
due to time constraints

Open to all fencers of veteran age - 40+  
must be British Fencing members (or other NGB)

For full details & entry see  
<http://www.veteransfencing.co.uk>

or

contact:

Peter Baron, 1, Sandringham Road, Stourbridge, DY8 5HN






Phone: 01384 400242



**PLEASE NOTE**

Any articles or letters for the BVF Newsletter, should be sent to:-

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