

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2012

England retain the Justin Smith Trophy at Leeds!



England's undefeated Women's sabre team celebrate at the 4 Nations Home International, The Royal Armouries, Leeds

Photo by Editor

West Midlands Open
Home International report and photos
Vets in Utrecht

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Membership is still growing and is 513 at the time of writing. There are still many veteran age fencers in clubs around the UK who have not yet joined the BVF, so please encourage them to do so and to take part in our competitions.

On 14th and 15th April, the West Midlands Veterans Open competition took place in Dudley. The event was very ably organised by our Domestic Fencing Officer Peter Baron, assisted by wife Janet, and the standard of fencing at all weapons over the two days was excellent with some close results.

I am writing this just prior to the Home International Veterans Competition on 21st and 22nd April and thanks must go to John Crouch and Moya McNamara for organising the match at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds.

Reports of both of the above events appear later in this Newsletter.

Finally, please join me in wishing our GB Veterans every success in the European Veterans Team Championships in Kalmar, Sweden 16th -20th May.

Sincerely

**Frank Mills
Chairman**

**Frank reigns
supreme as
England team
manager in
Leeds**

Photos by



*Frank takes a
good look at
the Justin
Smith trophy
won by
England*

*Photos by
Editor*



WMO (West Midlands Open) 2012

The total entry was a little up on last year's event with a total of 70 weapon entries. Men's sabre saw the largest increase with a leap from 9 to 14 entries. Three late entries in the couple of days before the event boosted the Men's Epée to 20 entries and the Foil to 14. Women's Epée was also up but, sadly, both the other Women's events were down slightly.

There were no absentees for the Foil events which began with a "fun" mixed round, which was used to seed for the serious business. In the Men's foil, the Last 16 fights were mainly close-run things, whilst, strangely the Last 8, with the exception of Frank Mills' fight with Michael Bex, which went to time (Frank winning 8-7), was, in the main, at least on paper comfortable wins for the higher seed. Despite, by this time having a fairly serious looking calf strain, **Paul Abrahams** squeezed past Malcolm Fare into the final where he got the better of another close match over Gerry Gajadharsingh (10-8).

The Women's Foil final was a repeat of last year between **Jane Clayton** and Caron Hale, with the semi-final victims this time being Sue Hanney and Moya McNamara. Jane took the title again 10-7.

The Sabre followed the same format as the Foil with a mixed round first. The only no-show of the day was in the Women's sabre - Jo Hayward who phoned to say that she was unwell. A new champion was inevitable since Silvia Earl was unable to come due to another commitment. Beware of Epéeists bearing sabres! Lynne Bornemisza nearly came a cropper against that seasoned, wily performer and TV star Connie Adams, going through 10-8. In the final **Michele Narey's** attacking style proved too much for Lynne and she won it with a comfortable looking 10-3.

The Men's event had an international flavour with a former Worcester resident who now does his fencing in Perth WA, included in the entrants. There was also the second injury of the day - I also suffered a recurrence of a calf strain and with the Home International in view didn't emulate Paul Abrahams' bravery, pulling out immediately. There were three L16 fights as a result most notable being Paul Brenda resisting Mike Compton better than he usually does to lose 4-10. The only surprise, if it can be called that was that Mike, 5th seed, then went on to put out Malcolm Cawton, 4th seed. The final was a suitably close affair with **Stefan Leponis** taking a lead over Steve Potter, with the latter fighting back only for Stefan to get way again at the end to clinch a 10-8 victory.

On Sunday life was a simple case of two separate competitions. Given the numbers it was decided to go for 2 rounds + DE. The men's event also had an international flavour with John Nottingham who does his fencing in Blois in the land of the châteaux among the late entries. It obviously took him some time to acclimatise to Midlands air, since he was 14th seed after the poules. The fight went with the seeding in the L32 and L16 with the exception of John's taking out of 3rd seed John Leahey.

In the L8 4v5 match 5th seed Rob Brooks went through fairly comfortably against Philip Jordan, whilst **John Nottingham** continued on his way, this time at the expense of 6th seed Mike Bradbury. Both semis went to 10-9, John's victim this time being 2nd seed Jon Stanbury, with Rob Flatt getting the better of Rob Brooks. To complete the set it was John who pushed 1st seed Rob into second place –another 10-9 cliff-hanger.

The Women's started with disappointment for new recruit Addy Farmer, who found she'd left her breeches behind. Then in first round Sue Hanney succumbed to her cold and pulled out. She offered her breeches and everyone agreed that she be allowed in, in Sue's place. Any matches involving Sue were re-fought. In the DE it all went with seeding with the only notable match being Addy making it a real fight against Valerie Young finally failing by a hit to 10-9. The two semis were both tight 10-9 affairs, **Jane Clayton** prevailing over Caron Hale and Elaine Jackett over Alice Lawrence, with Jane taking the gold.

Thanks are due to the large army of people who helped to set up and a slightly smaller one who broke down, to Stourbridge fencing Club for the use of boxes and, of course, to John Crouch for his usual efficient running of the event.

Peter Baron

Comments from participants

"Great Competition. Every fight a challenge - every fight great fun, including those I lost!" - *Jim Pilkington*

"Really enjoyed the competition thanks for organising. Looking forward to next year. Best wishes." - *Gerry Gajadharsingh*

"Well organised and smoothly run. Also very enjoyable - right up until I lost the final..... Regards." - *Robert Flatt*

Medallists



Women's Sabre

Lynne Bornemisza, Sylvia Brown, Connie Adam, Michele Narey



Women's Foil

**Jane Clayton
Caron Hale,
Sue Hanney
Moya
McNamara**

Women's Epée
Caron Hale
Alice Lawrence
Jane Clayton
Elaine Jackett



Men's Sabre
Steve Johnson
Stefan Leponis
Steve Potter
Michael Compton



Men's Epée
Robert Flatt
John Nottingham
Jonathan Stanbury
Rob Brooks

Results

WE (12)

- 1 Jane Clayton
- 2 Elaine Jackett
- 3 Caron Hale
- 3 Alice Lawrence
- 5 Moya McNamara



Men's Foil
Paul Abrahams
Gerry Gajadharsingh
Frank Mills
Malcom Fare

WF

- 1 Jane Clayton
- 2 Caron Hale
- 3 Sue Hanney
- 3 Moya McNamara
- 5 Irina Buzikova

WS

- 1 Michele Narey
- 2 Lynne Bornemisza
- 3 Connie Adam
- 3 Sylvia Brown

*Photos
 courtesy of
 Peter Baron*

ME (20)

- 1 John Nottingham
- 2 Robert Flatt
- 3 Rob Brooks
- 3 Jonathan Stanbury
- 5 Philip Jordan
- 6 Mike Bradbury
- 7 David Hiam
- 8 Denis Callanan
- 9 John Leahey
- 10 Jim Pilkington

MF (14)

- 1 Paul Abrahams
- 2 Gerry Gajadharsingh
- 3 Malcolm Fare
- 3 Frank Mills
- 5 Michael Bex
- 6 Mike Bradbury
- 7 Fred Sheppard

MS (13)

- 1 Stefan Leponis
- 2 Steve Potter
- 3 Michael Compton
- 3 Steve Johnson
- 5 Malcolm Cawton
- 6 Tony Bardell

Full results can be found on our website:

www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

Competition results (top half)

Glasgow Open - 31/3/2012

- MS (19) 7 Andy Pearson
WF (37) 9 Cathy Heyes

Belfast Open - 31/3/2012

- WE (6) 1 Fiona Haldane

Chilwell Blades on TV

Malcolm Cawton of Chilwell Blades and his club mates recently featured on BBC East Midlands Today A2Z of Olympic sports. You can see the video on the club website:

<http://www.chilwellblades.co.uk/about.html>

See who you can spot!

Sad news

The fencing world has lost 2 of its well known coaches in the last few days: Ken Pearson and Roy Goodall. Our sympathies go to their families.

Editor

Veterans Home International 21st – 22nd April 2012

The appropriate venue for this year's Home International was the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds where teams from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England competed at all weapons over the two days for the Justin Smith Trophy.

The competition was very well organised by John Crouch assisted by Moya McNamara but they both had to leave us on Saturday afternoon as John had arranged a surprise short holiday for Moya in celebration of her birthday. (Moya still didn't know where they were going when they left so let's hope that she didn't pack her skis and snowshoes to find that she was going to the sun!).

The DT was left in the capable hands of Peter Baron, helped by Janet and when Janet was fencing, Karen Garvie, and the matches ran to the appointed schedule throughout the weekend.

The Royal Armouries was an excellent choice for this event and everyone at the Museum was most helpful and friendly to us. The Main Hall allowed many visitors of all ages to view the fencing as an additional attraction but even though we were veterans, we didn't feel that we were in competition with the numerous historical items on display in the museum itself!

The well attended Gala Dinner was held at the Royal Armouries on Saturday night where Guest of Honour Bob Howe of Leeds Samaritans was presented with £272 from the proceeds of a raffle organised by John with prizes from each country and tickets sold by Karen Garvie. It was Welsh Veterans President Mike Norfolk's birthday on Saturday and the Welsh team, with a most generous gesture, presented each table with a cake to enable us all to join in the celebration to wish him "many happy returns."

The fencing started promptly at 10.00 am on Saturday with Women's Foil and Men's Sabre.

The competition was Italian Relay format with a weapon victory earning the winners one point. England established an early lead in both weapons and after the two weapons had been completed, the points stood at England 6, Scotland 4 and Wales 2 points. There were some particularly close results in these matches, notably the Women's Foil match between England (45 hits) vs Wales (39 hits) and Wales (41 hits vs Scotland 45 hits).

England's Jane Hutchison and Beth Davidson warm up for the Women's sabre



Entrance to the Royal Armouries, Leeds



Peter and Janet Baron in control



At 2.00 pm the Men's Foil and Women's Sabre events started. We were all very concerned when, during the Men's Foil match between Scotland and Wales, Scotland Captain Mike McEwan collapsed in the middle of his fight with Michael Kocan. Mike was taken to Leeds General Hospital, accompanied by team mate Sheila Anderson, and kept in for observation. We all wish you a speedy recovery Mike and look forward to seeing you back in action with us soon.

The Men's Foil match between Scotland and Ireland was hard fought with Scotland emerging winners with 45 hits to Ireland's 42. In the Women's Sabre, an even closer finish saw Wales emerge winners by just two hits overall.

At the close of fencing on Saturday, the points were standing at England 12, Wales 6, Scotland 6 and Ireland 0.

Sunday was epee day and Ireland took the matches against Scotland in the Men's Epee and against Scotland and England in the Women's Epee.

Again, there were a number of close matches including a nail-biting Women's Epee match with Wales snatching a victory against Ireland 45-44. The final results for the competition were England 16 points, Wales 9 points, Scotland 8 points and Ireland 3 points.

Once again this proved to be both a friendly, but highly competitive competition, giving fencers from all parts of Great Britain the opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and to go away having enjoyed a well organised event which maintained the high standards within the sport of Veterans Fencing.

Frank Mills

Lost and found property

Lost at Leeds

A Tissot ladies watch with a dark brown leather strap and gold coloured rim. This was being looked after and may have fallen into someone's fencing bag. Please check your bags if you were there, thanks. Please contact me if you find it so that I can inform the owner and arrange for it to be returned to her - **Editor**

Found at the WMO

A hand towel. Contact **Peter Baron**

Contact details on page 17.



*Viv Frith
(Scotland) and
Lisa Evans
(Wales)
prepare for
battle)*



*The Welsh
Epee teams*

Home International Results

Totals

Men's sabre

England v Wales	45 - 30	Scotland v Ireland	45 - 23	England	3
England v Ireland	45 - 22	Wales v Scotland	33 - 45	Ireland	0
Scotland v England	22 - 45	Ireland v Wales	28 - 45	Scotland	2
				Wales	1

Women's Foil

England v Wales	45 - 39	Scotland v Ireland	45 - 21	England	3
England v Ireland	45 - 26	Wales v Scotland	41 - 45	Ireland	0
Scotland v England	28 - 45	Ireland v Wales	23 - 45	Scotland	2
				Wales	1

Men's Foil

England v Wales	45 - 16	Scotland v Ireland	45 - 42	England	3
England v Ireland	45 - 17	Wales v Scotland	45 - 25	Ireland	0
Scotland v England	21 - 45	Ireland v Wales	33 - 45	Scotland	1
				Wales	2

Women's Sabre

England v Wales	45 - 19	Scotland v Ireland	45 - 14	England	3
England v Ireland	45 - 06	Wales v Scotland	45 - 43	Ireland	0
Scotland v England	16 - 45	Ireland v Wales	18 - 45	Scotland	1
				Wales	2

Men's Epée

England v Wales	45 - 28	Scotland v Ireland	31 - 45	England	3
England v Ireland	45 - 26	Wales v Scotland	45 - 21	Ireland	1
Scotland v England	18 - 45	Ireland v Wales	45 - 34	Scotland	0
				Wales	2

Women's Epée

England v Wales	45 - 37	Scotland v Ireland	33 - 45	England	1
England v Ireland	40 - 45	Wales v Scotland	42 - 45	Ireland	2
Scotland v England	43 - 42	Ireland v Wales	44 - 45	Scotland	2
				Wales	1

Overall results

England	16
Wales	9
Scotland	8
Ireland	3



Happy faces at Leeds :-)



*Photos by
Editor*

News from Mike McEwan

Extracts from Mike's email dated 23rd April - Editor

Hi guys,

On behalf of the Scots, thanks for a great event and a spectacular venue.

On a personal note, I'd also like to thank everyone there for their kind comments and support, both while I was lying around taking a break and after, when I was in hospital - for this reason, I've got a slightly longer message of appreciation below, and would ask you to either forward this email, or pick out the salient points, and send to everyone in your teams (and there is a final point below which - with your help - I would like to see communicated to everyone over 40).

My personal experience at the Royal Armouries epitomised the atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual support that makes the Vets so great, and it makes a huge difference when something difficult happens - especially for me in the first few minutes when I was lying there thinking my left leg doesn't function!

More specifically, huge thanks to Gillian for getting me to be sensible and stay still, resisting the urge to wait the statutory injury period then get on the piste again - honestly, Gillian, I don't mean to make this into an annual ritual! Also, thanks to Kati in the England LF Team for her rapid and decisive assessment that sent me into hospital, where I got the best of care, and where they confirmed it had been a TIA aka mini-stroke (see [http://www.patient.co.uk/health/Transient-Ischaemic-Attack-\(TIA\).htm](http://www.patient.co.uk/health/Transient-Ischaemic-Attack-(TIA).htm)). This stopped me from being one of the 5% of TIA victims who follow this with a severe stroke within 48 hours.

My GP this morning was pleased that everyone (including me, for a change!) had done all the right things, and - after prescribing the necessary medication - confirmed that my lifestyle should continue pretty much the same, although I do need to ease myself back into fencing as if I'd had a muscle injury. He also said that - since the scan was clear - the TIA was something that would have happened at a random time - it was just a roll of a dice exactly when.

So the outcome for me has been a highly positive one - the TIA happened when I was in a place and at a time when people could tell me to hold still until a doctor could get there, and that I was doing a sport that has a high proportion of doctors, and was at an event with a doctor, and so I had the best ever response on a doctor getting there, and of getting the right actions taken - and they were! What does this tell us? If you're over 40, the best thing you could ever do to improve your life prospects is to take up Fencing and join the Veterans!

All the best

Mike

Fencing in Utrecht

Over the weekend of 24th/25th March, at the invitation of the Dutch SV Pallos club, seven vets from Tenterden Fencing Club set off to compete in the 19th Dom fencing tournament held in Utrecht.

This established tournament is held over two days. The Saturday is a mixed team event in all 3 weapons. Tenterden fielded 2 teams in the foil event: Justin Pitman, Peter Smith and Jane Clayton, for this event known as known as 'Tarzans and Jane'; Alan Ault, Christine Hamilton and Helen Easter, made up 'The Flaming Looprekjes' (Zimmers in English)! The two aforementioned teams were, by some considerable margin, the oldest in the field. They were joined by ten other teams from Holland and Germany. Each team had 5 matches over the day, so a really full day's fencing. 'Tarzans and Jane' won 4 matches, narrowly losing one 45 - 43. They finished the day in 2nd place. Justin has only just returned to fencing after a 10 year layoff but clearly has not lost any of his skill. He anchored the team brilliantly for every match. The Flaming Zimmers came 9th. It cannot go without mention that they won a sports bag each for being the best and probably the most appropriately named team!



The intrepid travellers

Photo courtesy of Jane Clayton

Individual weapon events were held on the Sunday. Justin and Peter had to leave early, Alan was nursing his bionic knees and Christine Hamilton spent the day refereeing. That left Jane Clayton and Helen Easter to take part in the individual women's epee event. After two tough rounds of pools, Helen was seeded 14th and Jane 5th. In the DE stages Helen fenced really well and only lost out to a much higher seed 15-10 finishing the day in 14th place. Jane finished in 5th place overall.

A really good weekend's fencing was had by all and only a 3 hour journey back to Calais. Thanks to Ian Hamilton for driving us.

Jane Clayton

Guess who - March issue

The answers to Moya's posers in the March issue are:

1. "Anyway, as far as my fencing goes, I am probably good nuisance value for a few years yet."

Janet Cooksey - The Sword, Winter 1971 - Profile of Janet Wardell-Yerburgh.

2. When asked what he would like to achieve in life the response was "That requires too much planning, forethought, meditation. Happiness I suppose. I want to look back when I am old and dodderly and be able to say I liked the things I did, and that there was nothing left out. I live to enjoy myself. Yes I am a reasonable man."

Graham Paul - The Sword, Summer 1971 - Profile of the Paul brothers.

Editor (thanks to Moya)

Tracksuits

I am pleased to say that you can now order the new BVF tracksuits and a range of matching items online from Kitlocker at www.britishfencingstore.com. Select British Team, then Veterans Team 2012 to see the whole range and make your selection. You are entitled to have GREAT BRITAIN on the back of your tracksuit jacket and any other item with this option available only if you have been selected for team internationals or individual World championships this year or in the past.

Coming very soon Pin badges!

I have ordered a limited supply of BVF team enamel pin badges. They are rectangular with the BVF logo on a white background. If you would like to purchase some for yourself and fencing friends the cost is £2 each (plus postage). Please email me - g.aghajan@virgin.net.

I also have some pens and car stickers left.



Gillian Aghajan

Editor

BVF Calendar 2012

BVF CALENDAR 2012	
May 13	Crystal Team Challenge, Dudley
May 16-20	European Team Championships, Kalmar, Sweden
June 23-24	Celtic Challenge, Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Sep 27-30	Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Singapore
Oct 13-14 (tbc)	Welsh Veterans Championships, Aberystwyth Contact Gillian Aghajan (g.aghajan@virgin.net) for details
Oct 17-21	World Championships, Krems, Austria
Nov 3-4	Veterans Winton Cup, RAF Cosford
Nov 25	BVF v Royal Navy, HMS President, 72 St Katharines Way, London E1W 1UQ

See BVF website home page for European competitions and events - www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

Crystal Open - 13th May

The next team event available for BVF members to participate in is the Crystal Open Teams, organised by Stourbridge Fencing Club at the same venue as the WMO. This will take place on Sunday 13th May.

Teams consist of 1 each of foil, épée & sabre and are intended to be mixed. If you would like to be part of a team please contact Peter Baron.

bvf@baronfencing.plus.com

The entry is not restricted to the number of teams, so there will be ample opportunity to be in a team. Selection will be on a 1st come 1st served basis where the number of volunteers is not divisible by 3.

For further information about the event, go to www.stourbridgefencingclub.co.uk/ and click on the 'Crystal Open' tab.



White Horse Team Trophy - 24th June

This is another friendly team event, similar to the Crystal Open which is held at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Abingdon

The WHTT competition is for teams of 3 fencers of either sex consisting of: 1 foilist, 1 épéeist and 1 sabreur.

There will be a round of poules fought per weapon. All teams will progress to the DE which will be by relay.

If you would like to take part please contact Peter Baron.

bvf@baronfencing.plus.com

Details are on the website: www.abingdonfencing.org

Accommodation in Singapore for the Commonwealth Championships - 27th - 30th September

As the fencing venue is about ~25 minutes away from the city centre, the project team have negotiated a special room (only) rate of SGD330 per room per night (maximum 2 pax occupancy) with the Pan Pacific Singapore at Marina Square. The hotel is near to the East Coast Parkway which gives quick access to the venue. The rate is for a fixed number of rooms on a first come first serve basis. Once the first block is filled, a second block of room will be released by the Hotel but at a slightly higher rate.

There will be FREE transportation for participants staying in the official hotel to competition venue.

See the website for details <http://cvfc2012.sg/accommodation.html>

Caption Competition

April

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net

Editor's Note:

The BVF newsletter is your voice: a chance for you to put forward your views, send reports, letters, photos or articles.

Please speak up!

Send to me:

g.aghajan@virgin.net



Caption Competition March

Editor's choice

"... and after that you say "pret" unless, of course, you prefer to say "ready", though I think "pret" is the right one, although I do remember a time back in '87 or '88 in Paris, or was it Lisbon - I'm not sure about that- when one of the FIE chaps, well, as I remember, not actually from the FIE but he acted as if he was- a big tall man with a beard, you know the type - meet them at every international - well, he told the ref - we didn't call them refs in those days of course ..."

Paul Brenda

*Photos by
Editor*





Hong Kong Veterans Cup 2012

Organized by Les Escrimeurs (Hong Kong) | Sanctioned & Supported by Hong Kong Fencing Association

Invitation

Dear Fellow Veterans Fencers,

It is my great honor to announce that our Club is going to host our own Veterans Fencing Tournament in Hong Kong for the first time on September 23, 2012 (Sunday).

We have chosen our Venue at the Tung Chung Man Tung Road Sports Centre, which is close to the Hong Kong Airport, and the Mass Transit Railway at the nearby MTR station is only a 28 / 35 minutes ride to downtown Kowloon / Hong Kong Station.

It is our pleasure to invite all fellow Veterans Fencers to join in this event, especially for those who are planning to participate at the 2012 Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championships (CVFC2012) in Singapore from September 27-30 this year. This will be a good relaxing "warm-up" event for all the CVFC fencers and a great Veterans Fencing Opportunity for Veterans Fencers in Japan, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan etc. who are not part of the Commonwealth Fencing.

Knowing many Veterans Fencers like to fence more than one weapon, we have decided to run the tournament in the order of Foil, Epee and Sabre. Fencers of all ages and different gender* will be fencing together in the Seeding Round of Poules with NO Elimination; see attached information and registration forms. (**We shall seek for the opinion of our participants on this issue, if the general opinion prefer to separate the 2 genders for fencing, we shall honor this opinion except for the situation that any one gender does not have enough fencers to form at least 2 poules for the seeding round.*)

In order to run this event successfully with efficiency and effectiveness, it is very important for us to have a good estimate of the number of participants for each events before we can finalize the format & time schedule (we are still wondering if we have time to run Team Events after Individual etc.), hence, we love to have our Preliminary Indication Deadline on May 25th, 2012, and final Indication Deadline on July 6th, 2012; our Official Entry Registration Deadline is on August 17, 2012.

We are looking into getting a Group Discount Rate at the nearby Hotel shortly, and more information will be released to all fellow Veterans Fencers soon.

Looking forward to receiving your indication soon; with number of Fencers with Age / Gender / Weapons). Please kindly reply by eMail to walson@ifzhk.com for indication.

Sincerely yours,

Les Escrimeurs (Hong Kong)

Wally Yeung [walson@ifzhk.com]

April 8, 2012

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PLEASE NOTE
Any articles or letters for the May BVF Newsletter should be sent to:-

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by 17th May 2012

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