

### ***Volunteer Vet Gamesmakers Galore!***



***A happy band of BVF Gamesmakers at Excel  
London Olympics 2012***

*Photo courtesy of editor*

**Veterans at the Olympics**  
**BVF 25th Anniversary Celebrations**  
**Winton Cup**  
**Royal Navy Invitation**

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## Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

What a busy year we Veterans have had so far and with more to come before its end. With so many Vets helping to run the 2012 Olympics and 2012 Paralympics, our programme of events has had to be altered somewhat.

This applies particularly to the Veterans Winton Cup which had to be moved from September to November. It is very pleasing to see that so many are taking part again and hopefully we will again welcome new veterans to this competition as in previous years.

I know, at the time of writing that one or two places are still available in some teams, so if you would like to be part of this most enjoyable competition please contact me.

For those already "signed up" in a team, please make sure that you book your accommodation soon as the hotel will be releasing rooms after 2nd October. Do also book your dinner using the website or contact me if you do not have access to the web.

The Leeds Veterans Open competition will be held on 3rd & 4th November and details will be available shortly from our Domestic Fencing Officer, Peter Baron.

An event not to be missed is our 25th Anniversary celebration on 1st December. More information can be seen in this Newsletter and we hope that you will join us for both the fun fencing and the special dinner at the place that saw the birth of veterans fencing 25 years ago, Beaumanor Hall.

Sincerely

**Frank Mills**  
**BVF Chairman**



## Life at the Olympics

"Brian, you have the job of Group Leader, Sports Information Desk ( SID ) for Fencing in ExCel ( EXL ) at the London Olympics". Wow, I wondered what that meant as I began to read the job description and tried to make sense of the details and the subsequent Acronyms! Never managed an Olympics before, what do I have to do?

Essentially I and my team of volunteers would be providing an information service for anyone who called by the desk and had a question. This could range from; could I have a copy of the results and do you have the list of fencers competing today/tomorrow", through to "I have lost my earphones/iPad/etc, and where do you recommend I should, eat tonight/see in London." Just a tiny part of the 15 hours a day service my team provided.

Apart from the test event last November and various ad hoc days, my Games Time work really began in earnest in June on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of Canary Wharf. On this floor and other levels there were literally hundreds of people sitting at computers processing information relevant to the games. Thus I found myself doing the same thing. Never thought at 70 and having been retired for five years I would be in this situation. As for knowing what I was doing well, that's another story.

My department 'opened for business' two weeks before the Games began. Every day dozens of people arrived with questions which for most part we were able to deal with but there were questions to which we did not know the answer thus we were charged with finding it and giving it to the customer. Slowly we built up a file of knowledge and expanded upon the original stock of information we had created in the beginning at Canary Wharf. Often we had to ask for interpreters to relay information and ensure accuracy of information was transferred!

A further dimension to my department's work, was that I and my team also had accreditation to the Olympic village (OLV) because there was also a SID there in the Sport information centre (SIC). All sports had these information desks within their respective Back of House (BOH) arenas and in the village.

I and all my team enjoyed going to the village, and when we could during a meal break, strolled around the village enjoying the sights, sounds and colours of over two hundred National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in situ, looking out for the more prominent personalities and catching the flavour of life for the athlete. I even managed to talk to some and answer a few of their questions. For example; shaking hands and talking with Sir Chris Hoy less than an hour before he carried the flag into the arena for the opening ceremony was just great. This added an extra buzz to the job not only for me but all my team. We were also able to walk over the bridge into the Olympic Park.



***Veteran Epée fencers on the finals piste at the Test Event, ExCel***

***Photo by Editor***

A key element of our daily duties was to take applications from NOCs to provide Training venue passes (TVP) for 'fencing partners' to come in and fence/coach fencers just prior to their event. This process proved to be quite contentious at times as all guests had to have had their names submitted to the Home Office by NOCs before the 27<sup>th</sup> April in order that the Home Office could carry out a background check on the individuals concerned. Therefore when applications came back refused, the team principal stood at our desk demanding to know why? informing us that the applicant's name had definitely been submitted! The reality was of course that in many instances the name and details had not been submitted, thus no check, no day accreditation from the Venue Accreditation help office! (VAHO!).

Other elements of the SID included receiving hard copy of every result and putting these into every NOC pigeon hole which was at the back of the desk area. Then at intervals during the day team principals could come and collect their mail. I should add that this process was replicated at the village as well. It was interesting to note who collected their mail at regular intervals and who did not collect their mail once during the 9 days! In addition, I took a copy of all results and having the good fortune to have a large wall opposite the SID began to build a story of each day's fencing, by putting up each result under the respective sign for the tournament of the day.

The SID was located on a main thoroughfare so virtually everybody travelled back and forth past our desk each day. It was often seen as the meeting point for people to link up, it also had the bonus of having a TV showing all the fencing and other Olympic sports throughout the day so people would stop and enjoy what was being shown despite the fact there were other TVs in various rooms. All the medal winners passed by so we all got to see their medals and in some instances had our picture taken with them. A large white notice board also allowed my team to write up various notices for individuals including happy birthday, general notes and 'lost/found' items.

Although I was the group leader the work was done superbly by my volunteers without exception, drawn from all sectors of the community most without knowledge of fencing but I could not have asked for a better team. All motivated, and demonstrating a strong desire to serve, they delivered both in ExCel and the village. I constantly received accolades about the excellent example my team set.

I also enjoyed seeing so many friends and fencing acquaintances around the venue as volunteers. Several Vet principals were present, each contributing a piece of the jigsaw to make the fencing programme work so efficiently and in a friendly manner. I still had to keep pinching myself to believe we were all there and managing very successfully between us to run the biggest and best fencing tournament in the world.



***Brain Speight (centre standing) with some of his team***

***Photo courtesy of Brian Speight***



I should also comment on the arena. It was fantastic, and the Field of play (FOP) piste area on the raised floor was magnificent. The four coloured pistes glowed at times with a lighting aura which just invited you to 'come fence me'. The finals piste which was centred and again raised, was sprung and with very attractive lights placed inside the piste which lit up at the sides and also had two neon style U-shaped lights laid around each end of the piste. This latter point also applied to all four outside coloured pistes. When the lights came on following a hit, it took spectators' breath away as they marvelled at the impact it had, just amazing to see. Tiered seating was for eight thousand spectators running the complete length of both sides of the arena providing maximum viewing. When full, the atmosphere was electric and the noise just overwhelming. Who would have thought we could have created this in London, but we did and it was like this during the day and evenings! Yes there were some empty seats but not many.

I could not finish this article without thanking my team for a job well done. I'm proud of every one of them, mission accomplished. May I also say a big thank you to all my colleagues who gave me their fullest support throughout the Games, my immediate manager Caryl Oliver and all of us under the able leadership of Hilary Philbin. Great times, great experiences, great memories. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it.

**Brian Speight.**  
**Group leader, SID**

## **And from me .....**

I had an amazing time as a team leader in the call room working with Beth Davidson and many others. Lawrence Burr, our team manager, kept us all motivated and organised, and Jonathan Stanbury, Jon Dawkins and the team in Warm Up were brilliant too!

It was certainly an experience I am never going to forget and I was proud to be one of the Vet Gamesmakers at the best Olympics ever!! Hard work, yes but thoroughly enjoyable. It was heartwarming to have a common bond with such a wide age range of fellow Gamesmakers, not just Vets; all there because of their love of and interest in fencing. Thanks to all and congratulations especially to Hilary, Caryl and Liz.

P.S. I was very lucky to be given a ticket for the closing ceremony - the mother of all parties :-)! WOW!

I never thought I would admit to liking the Spice Girls.....!

**Photo by  
Editor**

**Editor**



# Just a few of the Vets purple army of Gamesmakers ...



Photos by Editor



## Riders for Health Appeal

Last year my husband Graham had a nasty motor bike accident following a head on collision with a car. Due to the fantastic services of the Air Ambulance and our NHS services Graham was put back together and following intense physio combined with grit and determination he is still in one working piece and continuing to mend.

Having seen first hand how fast medical attention is such a lifesaver we have both decided to raise money for the Riders for Health Charity who help distribute medical services and life saving medicines to people in Africa. As communities tend to live in remote villages, many sick and frail people have to walk days on end to receive medical attention. The charity aims to help such people by building a transport infrastructure and by providing and maintaining vehicles for the medical staff.

We will be travelling out to Zambia this year to support the charity and before we go are looking to raise £4,000. All money raised will go to the charity and when in Zambia we will be travelling on off road bikes to remote villages that the charity reaches.

To find out more about this charity and to help us raise funds please click in to our [Just Giving page](#) .

To show my personal support I completed a triathlon in June which meant swimming in a very muddy river Dee! I actually did quite well coming 17th out of a field of 220 (not bad for a veteran athlete!). Photos of me training and finishing the tri to be found on the link.

Every pound raised goes a long way in South Africa.

Thanks

### ***Nicola Broad-Bartlett (Hull)***

## Competition Results (top half)

### Norfolk Open - 21/7/2012

MF (57)	26	Richard Sage	WF (22)	6	Dawn Townsend
ME (41)	9	Andrew Brown	WE (21)	9	Alice Lawrence
	11	Etienne Deburgh			
	12	Stephen Domek			
MS (18)	3	Anthony Silver			
	9	Peter Baron			



***Nicola rides  
in her first  
triathlon***



***Photo  
courtesy of  
Graham  
and Nicola***

## Competition results (top half)

### Celtic Challenge Galicia Spain - 23-24/6/2012 Medallists

#### WF

1 Rosa Cano	GAL
2 Carmen Fernández	GAL
3 Jane Hutchinson	COR
3 Vanessa Hendra	COR

#### MF

1 Manel Villadóniga	GAL
2 Santiago Bescansa	GAL
3 Keith Barnett	COR
3 Mike McEwan	SCO

#### WE

1 Rosa Cano	GAL
2 Jane Hutchinson	COR
3 M <sup>a</sup> Jose Cordero	AST
3 Carmen Rodriguez	GAL

#### ME

1 Keith Barnett	COR
2 Manel Villadóniga	GAL
3 Robin Davenport	WAL
3 Jose Piñeiro	GAL

#### WS

1 Jane Hutchinson	COR
2 Michele Narey	SCO
3 Rosa Cano	GAL
3 Vivien Frith	SCO

#### MS

1 Manel Villadóniga	GAL
2 Keith Barnett	COR
3 Andy Bertram	COR
3 Richard Bonehill	COR

## BVF Calendar

See BVF website home page  
for European competitions  
and events -

[www.veterans-fencing.co.uk](http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk)

### BVF CALENDAR 2012

Sep 27-30 Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Singapore

Oct 13-14 Welsh Veterans Championships, Aberystwyth  
Contact Gillian Aghajan (g.aghajan@virgin.net) for details

Oct 17-21 World Championships, Krems, Austria

Nov 10-11 Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall, Telford (Note NEW DATE)

Nov 25 BVF v Royal Navy, A1:A9 HMS President, 72 St Katharines Way,  
London E1W 1UQ

Dec 1 25th Anniversay Gala, Beaumanor Hall, Leicestershire (fencing at Radmoor  
Centre, Loughborough College)

### BVF CALENDAR 2013

Jan 26-27 Age Group Qualifiers, Bletchley



## Invitation from the Royal Navy

Can I invite a team from the National Veterans Fencing, as we have done over recent years, to a friendly match at the Royal Naval Reserve base of HMS President on Sunday 25th November.

We are planning on teams in all 6 weapons (doubling up allowed) and I am happy if you bring two teams in any particular weapon as before. We will endeavour to try and make sure we have a stronger team this year. We will be fencing on 3 pistes. As before the matches will be using the rolling 45 format.

Also, as previously, all those fencing on the Sunday at the match are invited to join us for the Navy Fencing Dinner which will also be held at HMS President on the evening of Saturday 24th November. This is a black tie dinner, partners are most welcome to attend (for the RN normally about half bring partners and half come on their own, so fencers should feel comfortable either way). This dinner will seek to make use of the naval traditions but also be comfortable and there is only expected to be one speech afterwards. The cost is expected to be £50 per head including wine/port at the table.

We will aim to start the match at 10:00 on the Sunday and the dinner will be 19:30 for 20:00 on the Saturday night.

The organiser for the event this year is Lieutenant Emma Bould although I look forward to seeing the team on the day.

Many thanks

**M A Barton**  
**Cdr RN**  
**Chairman, Royal Navy Fencing**

If you would like to take part, please contact Peter Baron:

Tel: 01384 400242

Email: [bvf@baronfencing.plus.com](mailto:bvf@baronfencing.plus.com)



## Wanted: 'Welsh' fencers for Veterans Winton Cup

If you would like to fence in the Winton Cup for Wales as an 'honorary Welsh Vet' please phone Mike Norfolk on 01244 659133.

Wales is short of team members this year because the Winton Cup clashes with the Welsh Open to which several members have made a prior commitment.

**Editor**





# 5th VETERANS WINTON CUP

Inaugurated by Sir Nicholas & Bobby Winton



Be part of one of the most enjoyable  
fencing competitions in the calendar

**Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th November 2012**

at

**Lilleshall National Sports Centre, near Newport, Shropshire TF10 9AT**

**A 2-Day competition between 9 Regional teams at all 6 weapons**

Open to BVF Members (with BFA membership)  
who are invited to apply to be part of a Regional team

**If you would like to fence, contact**

**Frank Mills**

**01908 310516**

**[millsfba@aol.com](mailto:millsfba@aol.com)**

**who will put you in touch with a Team Captain**

Entry is £25 per person via a Regional Team Captain

Accommodation has been arranged At The Telford Whitehouse Hotel, Telford TF1 2NJ  
at special rates

of £55 double or twin, £45 single. **Tel. 01952 250700** and mention Vets Fencing.

There is a Gala Dinner on Saturday night and you may book your  
dinner on the BVF website (Latest news)

**If you're fencing, book your hotel now to avoid disappointment  
as rooms in Telford that weekend are in short supply.  
Rooms not booked by 2nd October will be released by the hotel**



# 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner



## Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, Leicestershire Saturday 1st December 2012

Join us to celebrate at the original "Home" of the NVA (now BVF), in this historic house, built in the 19th Century for the Herrick family as a grand country home and used as a signals unit in WWII.

Dinner is £30 per head with a choice of menu.

During the evening there will be entertainment, dancing, quiz and raffle.

7 pm– 11 pm.

Dress: Black tie.

During the day, from 10 am–5 pm, there will be a Team Fencing Tournament for mixed teams of 3 fencers (1 at each weapon) at the Radmoor Centre, Loughborough College, Radmoor Road, Loughborough LE11 3BT

Either form a team for £30 entry per team or enter as an individual for £10 and we will put teams together.

### **The following hotels are convenient for Beaumanor Hall**

Link Hotel 01509 211800 (5 minutes from Beaumanor) Twin/Double B&B £84

Premier Inn, Loughborough (centre of town) 0871 527 9314 Rooms from £29

Ramada Loughborough (centre of town) 01509 233222 Single B&B £60, Double B&B £70

Burleigh Court Hotel & Leisure, Loughborough University 01509 861135 Single B&B £62 Double B&B £83

Cedars Hotel, Loughborough 01509 214459 Single £47.50 Double £59.50

Accommodation will also be available in the Residential Huts at Beaumanor Hall if sufficient numbers require it.

For further information or to book a place at the dinner and/or fencing contact Henry de Silva Tel: 01624 880863

or

Frank Mills Tel: 01908 310516 email: millsfba@aol.com



**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](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

# NOMURA

**Caption Competition August**

send your entry to Editor

[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)



**Caption Competition July**  
*Editor's choice*

*Richard: "Spanish buses are so fabulous with their swishing doors, bells to ring and such interesting numbers on the front... here let me show you my bus number from yesterday...."*

**Keith Barnett**

*(Paul Brenda has been busy in purple!)*

**Photos by Editor**



## BVF contacts

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

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by 18th September 2012

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