



Vets sink the Royal Navy!



Pete Baron launches an attack on the Royal Navy

Photo by Alex Jablonowski

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Well, another year has almost finished and during that time our organisation has grown in numbers and stature on the world fencing stage.

This is no time for resting on laurels however and your committee is constantly striving to improve the opportunities for members to fence and to maintain the successes our fencers have achieved internationally.

To help us achieve more, I am pleased to announce that Lawrence Burr and Jonathan Stanbury have joined the committee in a co-opted role with immediate effect and we welcome the undoubted experience they bring to the table.

In a further move towards transparency and to help keep you informed of what the BVF committee is doing, I am pleased to tell you that the minutes of committee meetings are now published on the BVF website as are the dates of committee meetings which allows for any member to put forward items to be considered for discussion.

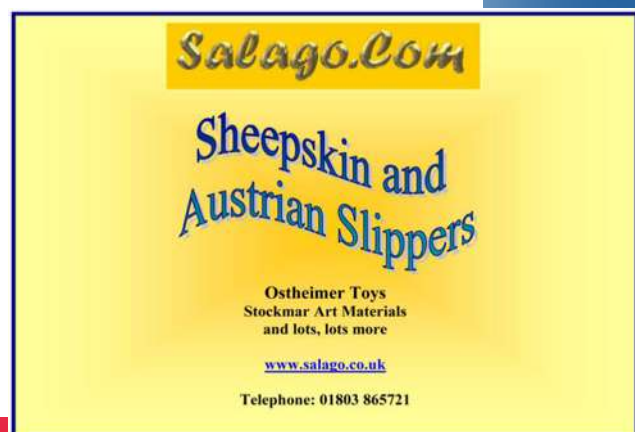
In this edition of the Newsletter, you will also see details of the Age Group Qualifiers competition in January (also on our website where you can enter and order dinner for Saturday) The venue is a new and superb Leisure centre in Bletchley, Milton Keynes with excellent lighting, heating and other facilities such as a cafeteria and free covered parking.

I hope that you will enter the event and also join us at the dinner at the hotel on Saturday.

On behalf of the BVF Committee, may I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Sincerely

Frank Mills
Chairman



BVF CALENDAR 2011

Jan 22-23	Age Group Qualifiers, Bletchley Leisure Centre
Mar 4	BVF AGM 20:15 hrs Gloucester
Mar 4-6	British Veterans Championships, Oxtalls Indoor Tennis Centre, Gloucester Friday - Sabre; Saturday - Foil, Sunday - Epée
April 16	Oxford Unisex Foil and Sabre
April 16 -17	6 Nations (formerly 4 Nations), Wrexham
June 2-5	European Individual Championships, Hénin-Beaumont, France
Jul 2-3	Veterans West Midlands Open
Sep 10-11	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall National Sports Centre
Sep 27 - Oct 2	World Championships, Varna, Bulgaria (tbc)
Oct 8-9	Welsh Veterans Championships, Wrexham Contact Gillian Aghajan (g.aghajan@virgin.net) for details
Oct 30	Middlesex Epée
Nov 26	BVF Christmas dinners

Other Veterans Events

Dec 18-19	Vet Cup 2010	NED	Nijmegen	F E S	Details
Dec 18-19	French Vets Circuit	FRA	St Maur	E	Details

Annual Subs

It is that time of year again when I am chasing subscriptions. It is particularly busy in January as we are taking in payments for the Age Groups, the BVF Championships and subs.

I have asked everyone who pays by standing order to ensure that that their payment is increased to £15. I am hoping that I don't get any £10 payments coming through.

For those members who pay by cheque or by bank transfer I will be sending out a demand for payment with all your details on it. You can then check that the information we hold for you is correct.

Please do NOT be efficient and pay your sub without being asked. It complicates things especially when letters cross in the post. So wait for the demand, it usually goes out in the second week of January when the standing order inflow has dried up.

John Mason

BVF Age Group Qualifiers 22nd - 23rd January 2011

	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4
MF	(Sun)	(Sat)	(Sun)	(Sat)
ME	(Sat)	(Sun)	(Sat)	(Sat)
MS	(Sun)	(Sat)	(Sun)	(Sat)
WF	(Sun)	(Sat)	(Sun)	(Sun)
WE	(Sat)	(Sun)	(Sat)	(Sun)
WS	(Sun)	(Sat)	(Sun)	(Sun)

Full details and entry form are on our website
www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

Please enter online

Venue

Bletchley Leisure Centre, Prince's Way, Bletchley,
Milton Keynes MK2 2HQ

Closing Dates

Entries must be received before January 15.
Places for the dinner cannot be guaranteed after
January 15, and the accommodation deal at the
hotel must be taken up by January 8.

Eligibility Open only to paid up members of the BVF who hold a British passport.

This event will be used for selection for the 2011 World Championships, therefore the qualifying date for your category is your age on September 1 2011.

Relevance At Category 2 and Category 3, and at Category 4 Men's Weapons, the winner and runner up at each weapon will automatically qualify for selection for the next World Championships. Unless there is a successful discretionary application to the Selectors, the person in third place will also automatically qualify.

The rankings may also be taken into account in selecting for any representative event.

Withdrawal Any fencer who knows in advance that they will be unable to fence is requested to inform the Event Manager as soon as possible.

Entry fees will not be refunded. Payments for dinners will be refunded if there is no cost to the BVF.

Social The social will again follow our highly popular formula, with a dinner and free quiz night on Saturday at the Holiday Inn, Newport Pagnell. The quiz is a written paper which is hotly disputed over dinner, and there is a small prize for the winning table.

Hotel We have an accommodation deal at the Holiday Inn Milton Keynes East (caution, there are two) London Road, Newport Pagnell MK16 0JA Tel: 01908 613688.

Bed and breakfast costs £55 per room per night whether single, double or twin. Please quote fencing when booking.

A letter for the committee and our reply

Dear Editor,

Please would you ask the committee to explain in the newsletter exactly why it is necessary to hold a passport in order to enter UK Veteran's events. One is not required for equivalent senior events.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours,

Dawn Townsend

Dear Dawn,

Thanks for your query, which I circulated to the committee members. The rule was changed in 2009.

From April 09 minutes, Item 6i:

i) The rules of eligibility for NVA selection events currently state that an entrant must be eligible to hold a British passport. It was agreed that this should be modified to read that an entrant must hold a British passport, in line with British Fencing's practice.

We don't ask to see passports, but just make it a condition of entry so that the onus is on the fencer to comply.

However, the committee is currently reviewing selection criteria and rules, and this will be added to the agenda for our forthcoming January special meeting on selection.

Kind regards,

Gillian (Editor)

Competition Results (top half)

Welsh Open - 13/11/2010

MF (72)

24 Tim Miles

ME (127)

37 Anton Pollard

55 John Leahey

WF (62)

26 Caron Hale

WS (33)

8 Jane Hutchison

Hereford and Worcester - 4/12/2010

ME (67)

10 John Leahey

12 Jonathan Stanbury

22 Darryl Hazlewood

24 Granville Ward

25 Colin Harvey

MS (34)

8 Peter Baron

10 Jorge Esteves

12 Julian Ghosh

WF (29)

8 Caron Hale

14 Kati Archer

WS (15)

5 Vivien Frith

Vets battle with the Royal Navy



A brave band of Veterans travelled from far and wide on what was possibly the coldest day in London so far this year (though not since!) for the annual match against the Royal Navy at HMS President, the London HQ of the RN Volunteer Reserve in Wapping; a spectacular setting in a warehouse conversion extended out over the Thames by Tower Bridge.

The fencing took place in a hall built over the Thames, known as the quarterdeck, containing displays of various naval battle honours and flags – the foil piste was by a display case honouring a veteran of Gallipoli containing his Victoria Cross. However no feats of extreme bravery were required in the face of the enemy from our fencers, as the Royal Navy team were all very friendly.

The Vets put up an A & B men's team and a ladies team at each weapon, and the Navy a single team, giving the Navy two chances to beat us. The Navy put forward teams comprised of fencers of all ages and experience – from fencers on active naval service to a number of younger fencers from the Navy Cadets. It was a day of really enjoyable, very friendly but competitive fencing, and a great opportunity for some of our newer and less competitive fencers to take part in the match.



The results of the matches were as follows. Although some matches appeared pretty one-sided, the Navy gave it a good go, and in my event, men's foil, I thought they were better than the score suggested.

**Ladies RN v Vets
(Winners Vets 3-0)**

Epee 21:45
Foil 22:45
Sabre 3:45

**Men's RN v Vets A
(Winners Vets 2-1)**

Epee 18:45
Foil 11:45
Sabre 45:42

**Men's RN v Vets B
(Winners RN 2-1)**

Epee 33:45
Foil 45:19
Sabre 45:42



Thanks to Peter Baron for assembling 9 full Vets teams at very short notice, and to the many people travelling very long distances for the match, despite the bad weather. Fencers came from Yorkshire, Norfolk, Gloucestershire, and the Midlands, but the record must go to the fencers who came over from Guernsey, despite the airport being snowed in the day before. Hopefully everyone eventually got home safely!

Thanks as well to the Royal Navy for their warm welcome and hospitality, and we look forward to a return match next year.

*Photos courtesy
of Alex
Jablonowski*

Paul Baillache





Christmas Training Camp 2010

28 – 30 December

29 - Special Day for Vets!

**Gillett Centre, 998 Bristol Rd,
Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LG**

Team Melia are organising their 4th Christmas Performance training camp and would like to invite veterans of all ages and weapons to join them in Birmingham for an end of year fencing opportunity.

The training will be tailored to suit the needs of all fencers and will include conditioning, technical sessions, tactical exercises and freeplay. Individual lessons will also be available for those who want personal attention from the coaches who are: Federico Meli (ITA), Glen Golding, Lynne, Jamie & Rhys Melia.

Attendance can be for a single or multiple days at a price of £30 per day or £80 for all 3 days. Local accommodation can also be arranged; Team Melia will be using the local Premier Inn at Great Park, Rubery for the younger fencers; however, there are several well priced B&Bs in the area that are recommended.

Full details will be provided on request or receipt of booking. To secure a place please contact warren@teammelia.org.uk or phone 07507 645667.



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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
December
send your entry to Editor
g.aghajan@virgin.net



Photo courtesy of Alex Jablonowski

Caption Competition
November Editor's choice
"Then Gilly said if I argued again she'd get me in the captions."
Paul Brenda
"You won by how many?"
Alan Payne



Photo by Editor

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Happy Memories of 2010!

*Just a few of
some very good
times in 2010
- Editor*



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

Fencing Word Search

S E M I R P J J J D G U Y I I
 P I F S M Z F E N B N A S R H
 L N I E A V C O T G R T H C R
 E T I A R B C B E R Z Y V U S
 C O U N T E R A T T A C K L T
 R C P I S T E E H V T U R A O
 E V A T C O W R S R E E Q R P
 I T H N F E O Z F Q T M E P H
 T K V R I U T L L N X I E A I
 E E G A G N E S I D B T P R T
 U K O H J C Q U O O T P E R R
 S A C O H W Q P D P F E H Y S
 H U O E P H J I R D I S Y M V
 T H S O M R O N G U A R D U X

22 words to find while
you enjoy a mince pie or 2!

Editor

CIRCULAR PARRY
 COUNTER ATTACK
 DISENGAGE
 EPEE
 FEINT
 FLECHE
 FOIL
 LUNGE
 OCTAVE
 ON GUARD
 PISTE

PRIME
 QUARTE
 QUINTE
 REFEREE
 RIPOSTE
 SABRE
 SECONDE
 SEPTIME
 STOP HIT
 THROUGH CUT
 TIERCE



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PLEASE NOTE

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

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 by 5th January 2011

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 email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net