



BRITISH VETERANS  
**FENCING**

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2012

*Merry Christmas to all our readers!*



**Vets and guests at Beaumanor Hall**

**25th Anniversary  
BVF v Royal Navy  
Competition results**



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## Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

As 2012 draws to a close, it is tempting to include the many high, and some low, points of the veteran fencing year but these have been well chronicled in our monthly Newsletters compiled so ably by Gillian Aghajan. Throughout the year, medals and titles have been won on the domestic and international stage but the vast majority of our members just enjoy their fencing whether at club level or in matches or open events.

We have also lost good friends and colleagues who will be remembered fondly by us.

There are also many unsung veteran heroes who coach and organise fencing events and activities every year and without whom, our sport and younger fencers would be the losers.

So well done vets and keep up the good work in 2013.

Talking of which, we have the Age Group Qualifiers taking place in Bletchley on January 26th and 27th so if you haven't yet entered, please do so and book your hotel by 26th December and then your place at the Gala Dinner.

In February, we have the Hampshire Veterans Open at all weapons. The Hampshire Open is an excellent competition in Portsmouth run by Jenny and Carl Morris and the timing of the Veteran's competitions allow fencers to compete in both.

Next year also sees the European Veterans Individual Championships in May and details will be available shortly in the New Year from Team Manager, Gillian Aghajan. As you probably know, you are able to enter the Individual Championships without any requirement for selection and last time this event was held in France in 2011, 106 GB Vets took part and flew the flag so successfully that GB topped the country leader board for medals. Let's see what we can do in Terni, Umbria in 2013?

I will finish by wishing you, on behalf of all of us on your Committee, a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Successful New Year.

Sincerely

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



***What does  
Father  
Christmas do  
when his  
elves  
misbehave?***



***He gives  
them the sack***



## Celebration of 25 Years of Veteran Fencing

It was at the historical home of British Veterans Fencing at Beaumanor Hall, Loughborough that members came to celebrate our 25th Anniversary on 1st December.

In those early days, we used to stay in the "Huts" which accommodated around 30 in bunk bed dormitories and meals cooked by us in the hut kitchens.

We soon got to know who snored, who had nightmares and who sleepwalked in those days and it's a wonder that any of us managed to keep our eyes open for fencing in the Beaumanor Gym the next day! The Gym had to have carpets rolled up before pistes could be laid down and there was only room for two pistes for the fencing, but then numbers were less in those early days.

What a difference today with the NVA, as was, now the BVF and with 574 members.

It was a proud day for our Founder and Life President, Henry de Silva, who had booked Beaumanor over a year ago for the celebration and it was particularly pleasing to have the Mayor of 1987, Mavis Mason and husband Raymond as guests of honour at the dinner.

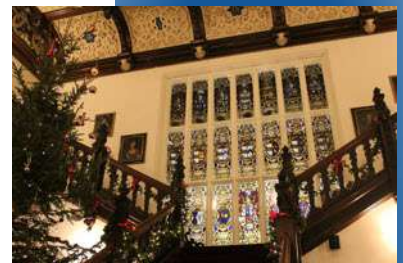
During the day, teams of 3 fencers took part in a fun fencing competition at Loughborough University and this was won by Silvia Earl's team, the Earl Greys, with Andrew Brown and myself.

In the evening, Beaumanor Hall looked sparkling with its Grand Staircase topped by a beautiful stained glass window and a giant Christmas Tree and festive decorations throughout.

After a welcoming glass of Wine courtesy of Henry, 48 diners sat down to an excellent meal and much nostalgic chat. The room looked most inviting with table menus and place cards by Gillian Aghajan together with Christmas Crackers and decorations and pride of place was given to a very special cake made by Rosemary Perry and iced with the NVA and BVF logos. It was delicious.

Speeches were given by Henry and yours truly and the evening finished with disco entertainment.

We are most grateful to all who contributed prizes for the raffle, especially to Leon Paul who donated one of their wheeled team bags and to everyone who helped to make this such an enjoyable day of celebrations to mark a true milestone in the history of our Association.



*Photos by  
Editor*



*Frank Mills*



## A letter from Henry de Silva

Dear Gillian,

On the 1st of December at Beaumanor Hall, a former secret decoding establishment and ancestral home of NVA/BVF, a black tie formal 25th Anniversary event was held.

The place was decorated, welcome drinks provided, a screen showing past events, and a seating plan in place. Our welcome guests, the past Mayor and her husband who attended our first function joined us. John Payne, on crutches, made the journey from Bournemouth. (Winner of the first ever championships - epee.)

Marcia Stretch and Dennis Hunt, original winners of the Ladies' Epee and Men's Sabre, were unable to come due to Marcia being ill.

The atmosphere was friendly and many of those present were original members of the now over 500 BVF members. Rosemary Perry had made a most glorious Anniversary Cake. The meal was good, service very good.

Frank made his usual speech but was unable to include 'Fred'. The evening continued with a photo of everybody on the Grand Staircase. Connie and myself dressed up in our Olympic torch gear. The evening finished with dancing.

Thanks go to Frank and the Committee organising the fencing and the event.

Regards,  
Henry de Silva



**Connie and Henry proudly display their Olympic torches**



**Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year! Best wishes for successful fencing in 2013!**

**John Mason**



**Photo by Editor**

## BVF team sinks the Royal Navy!

Sunday 25th November; an early start and down to HMS President, a stone frigate, or shore establishment of the Royal Naval Reserve on the banks of the River Thames near Tower Bridge. The event was not a belated call-up but the annual Royal Navy/British Veterans match. HMS President is a good (if a little small) venue and has an interesting history. It was where the Queen landed to review the river pageant this summer.

Peter Baron had asked me to be Team Captain for the day and I'd like to say "thank you" (or is that a Navy "hurrah"?) for those who came along, particularly to those who travelled a long way. I'd like to offer a special welcome to quite a few "new" veterans for whom this was their first veterans match.

The Vets team were arriving as I turned up at about 09:15 for a 10:00 start. The green marker pen came out and we checked ourselves off the list of the teams that Peter had set up for us - thank you Peter. It isn't easy getting teams together and but for Peter's efforts we would not have been there. I thought I'd travelled a fair distance but 1½ hours down the M11 was nothing to friends and fellow vets who'd come from as far as Plymouth, Exeter and Burnley, but I guess Andy Higgs probably came the furthest from Guernsey - sunny Guernsey as he put it and we could have done with some of your sun Andy as HMS President was cold!

I was a bit concerned that the Navy team had clearly had a good dinner the evening before. I personally didn't go to the dinner (too far from Cambridge to go and come back again) but I understand a very good time was had by all. Marcia Stretch said that the food and wine was excellent and the port was seemingly unending! I understand the backdrop of Tower Bridge lit at night was fabulous and, I'm told, a VERY good evening was had by all. Maggie Myers, ex-RNR (Wren) who was RN Ladies Champion at Arms for many of her 30 years service says these dinners are always great fun but bad for the kidneys and Sara Spence says she is available for selection again next year, wants to go to the dinner and is even prepared to buy a new frock to do so. I'll stick to black tie if I'm lucky enough to go next year (I don't wear my frocks out!). It was clearly a good evening as some of the Navy team were looking a little jaded on Sunday morning with one chap lying prone on the floor. Having said that a number of you said to me what a nice bunch of people the Navy team members were and how hospitable they were at the dinner and during the fencing on Sunday.

***Aerial action!***



***Hurrah!***







*Photos courtesy of Richard Sage*

*Photo of Dennis courtesy of Annaick Dulac*

It was a good match, fenced in good spirit on both sides and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Unfortunately a number of the women had a long wait for just one match - a result of the Navy only fielding three women, Jenny Keates, Leanne Parry and Emma Bould, who between them took on all of our women's teams (and lost!). Thanks to all who took on refereeing duty and especially to Marcia and Dennis Hunt who did quite a few matches. I was delighted that Dennis Wilcox, who at 94 is our oldest Vet, was able to participate in both the foil and the epee. He didn't have a foil lame jacket so borrowed one of mine (with my name on the back) - quite a number of people said it was good of me to bring my dad along!

We fenced a relay format with teams of 3 and first to 45 and I'm pleased to say we won overall 11-7, largely due to our women who, with a clean sweep, won all their matches. Overall the Vets men won 5 matches to the Navy's 7 and the Vets women won 6 matches to the Navy's 0. There were some close matches, the Navy just beating our men's epee A team by 45-41, and some not-so-close matches, our ladies Sabre A team beating the navy 45-15 and Tony Conyard and Stephen Steinberg getting 15 hits in a row without being hit against the Navy B foil team. Tony was particularly pleased we won the foil A team match, something to do with old Army/ Navy rivalry? Peter has written to the Navy to thank them for their hospitality and I too would like to thank Cdr M A Barton RN, our overall host, and Lieutenant Emma Bould RN, who organised the dinner, for their and the Royal Navy's hospitality.



*Adrian Lee (left) and Keith Bowers*

The team listing is below and to those who joined me in our second victory over the Royal Navy in two years thanks again for the spirit in which you took on the match and for your support on the day. I think we did the BVF proud!

**Richard Sage**

<b>MF</b> Tony Conyard Richard Sage Stephen Steinberg	<b>ME</b> Mark Richardson Rob Brooks Hugo Veryzer	<b>MS</b> Stefan Leponis Andy Higgs Carl Moffat
Dave Bolt Adrian Lee Etienne De Burgh Dennis Wilcox	Peter Beveridge Edward Hudson Stephan Munn Dennis Wilcox	Paul Baillache Denis Hunt Matthew Hearing
<b>WF</b> Maggie Myers Marion Thomas Lynn Botelho	<b>WE</b> Sara Spence Sue Brooks Nadya Yordanova	<b>WS</b> Wednesday Jones Jo Hayward Michele Narey
Sue Brooks Niké Ajibode Caron Hale	Isabel Sitz Jacqueline Hibbert Helen Easter	Annaick Dulac Dominique Kennett Sylvaine Tatard



*Dennis gets ready*

# BVF Calendar 2013

## BVF CALENDAR 2013



Jan 26-27	Age Group Qualifiers, Bletchley
Feb 23-24	Hampshire (Veterans Tournament), Portsmouth
Mar 1-3	BVF Championships, Gloucester
Apr 6-7 ?	5 Nations, Dublin
Apr 13-14	West Midlands Open, Dudley, West Midlands
Apr 27-28 ?	Germany v GBR, Germany
May 9 -12	European Individual Championships, Terni, Umbria, Italy
Sep 14-15 (tbc)	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall
Oct 12-13	Welsh Veterans Championships
Oct 16-20	World Championships, Bulgaria

See BVF website home page  
for European competitions  
and events -  
[www.veterans-fencing.co.uk](http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk)



*What did  
Cinderella say  
when her  
photos didn't  
arrive on time?*

## Competition results (top half)

### Miller-Hallet Cup - 24/11/2012

ME (146)	14	Stephen Domek
	16	Robert Flatt
	28	Neal Mallett
	33	Chris Howser
	36	George Liston
	51	Howard West
	66	Jason Scrimshaw

### Milner-Barry Cup - 24/11/2012

WE (67)	31	Kate Smith
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*One day my  
prints will  
come*

## Royal Navy Event, Bristol 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Notification of this event was passed on me in error. It was intended for a club local to the area, which has participated in the past.

Further enquiries have established that, whilst veteran fencers would be welcome, it is a training session for less experienced naval fencers to acquire some experience of team match fencing. It would not be appropriate to send any sort of representative BVF team to this event, particularly as it would be difficult to select on a principle of "worst first".

*I shall not, therefore, be selecting or entering teams for this event.* I am sorry if this disappoints those who have already expressed an interest. Whilst it would not be of any value to more experienced fencers to take part, if any BVF member, particularly the less experienced, living close to Bristol, should wish to go along as an individual to be put in a team on the day, I am sure they would be welcome. If anyone should wish to do this, they may contact me and I will pass on their contact details to Mark Barton of the RNFA and they can then liaise with him. At the same time, I would suggest that it would be of value neither to the individual concerned, nor to the RNFA fencers, if any of our members who have fenced at national or international level were to propose going to it.

**Peter Baron**

## England Veterans Fencing Association

The committee propose putting the following to the AGM in March:

"It is proposed that England Veterans Fencing become an Associate Body of England Fencing."

To support this proposal I have put the following documents on the British Veterans Fencing website:

1. England Fencing proposal
2. EVFA Appeal process
3. EVFA Selection process

I would appreciate any constructive comments.

**John Crouch**  
**Chairman EVFA**



**What do  
you call a  
penguin in  
the Sahara  
Desert?**



**Lost**

**How did  
Scrooge win  
the football  
game?**



**The ghost  
of  
Christmas  
passed**





## **European Individual Championships 2013**

### **9-12 May, Terni, Umbria, Italy**

The website for the European Individual Championships is now up and running:

<http://www.europei.circoloschermaterni.it/en>

Entry is not yet available and must be made through myself as team manager. I have exclusively blocked booked a 4 star hotel as the GB team hotel and rooms will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Thank you to all of you who have contacted me. I was hoping to send full details before Christmas but there may be changes to the timetable and I am waiting for confirmation from the organisers. The contribution for cost towards referees has not yet been confirmed either. As soon as these details have been confirmed I will be able to send out full information included booking for accommodation. The hotel is near the railway station (but not noisy) and there are trains direct from Rome.

Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

***Gillian Aghajan***  
***Team Manager***

**Excursions will be available to:**



**Lake Piediluco and the Marmore Falls**

**Todi and Assisi**

**Rome**



***Assisi***

***Photo from***

***<http://www.assisionline.com/>***

***What athlete is warmest in winter?***



***A long jumper***

## Word Search

Find some of the Veteran Competition Venues from around the World...

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

**Antwerp**  
**Balatonfured**  
**Bath**  
**Bergamot**  
**Brighton**  
**Cologne**  
**Edinburgh**  
**HeninBeaumont**

**Kalmar**  
**Krems**  
**Limoges**  
**Loughborough**  
**Moscow**  
**Moulins**  
**Porec**  
**Singapore**

**Skopje**  
**Sydney**  
**Tampa**  
**Toronto**  
**Turku**  
**Vienna**  
**Vocklabruck**  
**Wrexham**

*What happened to the man who stole an Advent calendar?*



*He got 25 days*



*How many Christmas baubles can you find?*



*What do you call two happy mushrooms?*



*Fun guys*

## Christmas song quiz

*It might work best to sing the song until you get to the answer!*

1. Where would you go to hear Silver Bells?
2. Who was it that danced with the silk hat on his head?
3. Where would you find Reindeer Paws?
4. What did the cattle do to wake the poor baby?
5. When did I see those three ships?
6. What size were those Kings of the Orient?
7. What is it that helps to make the season bright?
8. Who wants a pair of hop-a-long boots, and a pistol that shoots?
9. Who still wants a hula a hoop?
10. Who kept time to the drum?
11. Who and what colour was the animal that gave the hay to pillow his head?
12. Where do the hopes and fears of all the years meet?
13. What would keep me warm all the way home?
14. What does Susie want?
15. Why does the child want his two front teeth?
16. What was the other reindeer's name? (she used to laugh and call him names)?
17. What was the horse in Jingle bells named?
18. When will I finally go?
19. What colour is Christmas without you?
20. What is the parson in the meadows name?

Extra Credit:

- Where does one go a wassailing?
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ ?

Answers will be in the January issue!



**Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year!**

**From me and the  
BVF committee -  
Editor**



**What do  
reindeer hang  
on their  
Christmas  
trees?**



**Horn-aments**





**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



*Photo by  
Ralph  
Johnson*

**Caption  
Competition  
December**

send your entry to Editor

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

**Caption  
Competition  
November**

*Editor's choice*

*'Dominic shows off his inflatable fencing glove to an unimpressed team mate'*

*Tim Miles*

*'Oh no, too late Dominic realised he'd overdone the starch on the last rinse... perhaps it was just his inner penguin coming out.!'*

*Astrid Merrick*



*Photo by  
Editor*



## BVF contacts

<b>Life President</b>		<b>Henry de Silva</b>  6 Little Meadow Andreas Isle Of Man IM7 4HY Tel: 01624 880863
<b>Officers</b>	Chairman	<b>Frank Mills</b>  Tel: 01908 310516 <a href="mailto:millsfba@aol.com">millsfba@aol.com</a>
	Treasurer Membership Secretary Webmaster	<b>John Mason</b>  Tel: 01225 761788 <a href="mailto:BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk">BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk</a>
	Secretary	<b>Marcia Stretch</b>  Tel: 01293 786 841 <a href="mailto:marcia_stretch@hotmail.com">marcia_stretch@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Elected Members</b>	International Fencing Officer	<b>David Sweeney</b>  Tel: 01453 758372 <a href="mailto:mrdsweeney@hotmail.com">mrdsweeney@hotmail.com</a>
	Domestic Fencing Officer	<b>Peter Baron</b>  Tel: 01384 400242 <a href="mailto:bvf@baronfencing.plus.com">bvf@baronfencing.plus.com</a>
	Newsletter Editor	<b>Gillian Aghajan</b>  Tel: 07747 792712 <a href="mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net">g.aghajan@virgin.net</a>
		<b>Jonathan Stanbury</b>  Tel: 01823 331909 <a href="mailto:alfg8@aol.com">alfg8@aol.com</a>
		<b>Lawrence Burr</b>  Tel: 01823 433844 <a href="mailto:lsburr@btopenworld.com">lsburr@btopenworld.com</a>
<b>Co-opted Member</b>	Publicity Officer	<b>Malcolm Fare</b>  <a href="mailto:malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk">malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk</a>



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

Gillian Aghajan  
by 18th January  
Tel: 07747 792712  
email:  
g.aghajan@virgin.net

