



NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2011

Age Group Qualifiers results and photos!



The new AGQ venue - Bletchley Leisure Centre

Photo by Editor

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

The year has started well with excellent attendance at the Veterans Age Group Competition held at the new Bletchley Leisure Centre over the weekend 22nd/23 January.

Everyone was very complimentary about the facilities we enjoyed and about the smooth running of the event, so my thanks to the committee team and referees who all helped to make this such a good competition for the BVF and its members.

Our next big event is the British Veterans Championships on 4th, 5th and 6th March in Gloucester and we hope that you will be with us taking part in this event and in the AGM on 4th March at the Holiday Inn hotel. Notice of the AGM accompanies this Newsletter, together with our accounts and report for 2010.

April 16th brings the Unisex foil and epee competition in Oxford and it is hoped that you will take part as this was a most enjoyable "fun" competition for everyone who took part last year.

The European Veterans Individual Fencing Championships in June are likely to be well attended and, as this is not a selection event, provide an ideal opportunity for BVF members at all levels to gain experience in international competition.

Entry for GB fencers should only be made via the "Head of Delegation" and for GB that is myself as Team Manager and not direct to the French website. This was laid down by the EVFC. The entry form and details of the competition are in preparation and will be on our website shortly. Those not having email will receive details in the post. Our thanks go to you for your continued support and we look forward to meeting you at the Championships in March and at the other events during the year.

Sincerely

Frank Mills,
Chairman BVF

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BVF CALENDAR 2011

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	7 Nations (formerly 4 Nations), Wrexham, Wales
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, Agadir, Morocco
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

Henry de Silva at the Veterans Commonwealth in Melbourne 2010

I travelled by Korean Airlines arriving early on the day of the competition. Arriving at the venue, someone from England had said I was not arriving and I had been scratched. Soon reinstated, all my equipment passed first time and I was ready to fence at 10.30 am. By 3.30 pm the Isle of Man had won the 1st Age Group 70+ beating an Australian, Peter Harbin 10-4. All the other age group winners were Australian.

In the sabre I beat Richard Oldcorn in the poule but lost to him, an ex-pat and Olympic fencer, in the final 10-6. Richard Cohen, Northern Ireland, won the sabre overall and 60-69 age group, so N. Ireland had 2 gold medals. In the épée I again met Peter Harbin; out for revenge I was told. It was like a red rag to a bull - no way! At first he led 3-1 but at the one minute interval I led 4-3, eventually winning 7-3. Therefore I.O.M. 2 gold medals! Australia won the most Age Group gold medals, but N. Ireland and the I.O.M. both with 2 gold medals each beat England, Scotland and Wales, all with no gold medals. I received another gold medal at the dinner for services to Veterans Fencing and was made Vice President of the Commonwealth Veterans.

Accommodation was expensive but I stayed in a Youth hostel near the venue. A good flight back home with an overnight stay in Seoul. Returning to the I.O.M. there was no recognition from the I.O.M. Commonwealth Association although their games team came from Delhi with 2 bronze medals.



Photo by
Robert Streeter

Henry de Silva
Life President BVF

Age Group Qualifiers Results

Foil Cat 1

Lloyd Ingleson
Austen Rose
Richard Hopkins
Gerry Gajadharsingh
Darryl Hazlewood
Joanne Reynolds
Gerald Brosnan
Michael Bex

Epée Cat 1

John Prime
Stephan Munn
Jeremy Raj
Dale Broadbent
Matthew Gibbs
Darryl Hazelwood
Philip Jordan
Paul Williams
Paul Willmott
Paul Baillache
Paul Drake
Peter Beverdige
Jacqueline Hibbert
Katherine Warner

Sabre Cat 1

Simon Axon
Paul Balliache
Adrian Medhurst
Michael Bex
Jo Hayward
Sue Atkinson
Joanne Reynolds

Men's Foil Cat 2

John Troiano
Richard Sage
Paul Lowen
Nick Fihosy
Anthony Conyard
Graham Thornton
John Hyde
Stephen Rennie
Jacques Portal
Corsini King
Dean Menegas
Paul Winter
Michael Kocan
Antony Brown

Men's Foil Cat 3

Graham Paul
Steve Fox
Jim Philbin
Malcolm Fare
Brian Causton
Mike Bradbury
Brian Millo
Malcolm Cawton
Fred Sheppard
Michael Compton
Alex Jablonowski
Peter Baron

Men's Foil Cat 4

Alan Ault
Henry de Silva
Jim Pilkington
Bill Poynton

Men's Epée Cat 2

Neal Mallett
Anton Pollard
John Morris
Rob Brooks
Stephen Steinberg
Niall Campbell
Gerry Simpson
John Hyde
Paul Straupmanis
Nick Hawksworth
Stephen Rennie
David Karlin
Evert Van Gemeren
Mark Richardson
Paul Winter

Men's Epée Cat 3

Robin Davenport
Ralph Johnson
Graham Paul
Lawrence Burr
Jonathan Stanbury
Malcolm Fare
Chris Green
Andrew Brown
Mike Bradbury
Simon White
Brian Speight
Mick Meyer
Tony Bardell
Alex Jablonowski

Men's Epée Cat 4

Bill Osbladeston
Robert Phelps
Bob Turner
Nigel Hinchliff
Jim Pilkington
Stephen Higginson
Bob Perry
Robert Sonderman
Henry de Silva

Men's Sabre Cat 2

Chris Prevett
Anthony Silver
Barry Coulter
Carl Morris
Mark Hall
Nick Hawksworth
Stephen Rennie
Evert Van Gemeren
Paul Lowen
Tim Noble
Paul Winter
Mark Pryor

Men's Sabre Cat 3

Jim Philbin
Richard Bonehill
Steve Fox
Michael Compton
John Norrie
Malcolm Cawton
Peter Baron
Tony Bardell
Paul Brenda
Simon White
Alex Jablonowski
Brian Millo

Men's Sabre Cat 4

Alan Ault
Bill Osbaldeston
Jim Pilkington
Dennis Hunt
Mark Cwynarski
Bob Perry
Henry de Silva

Women's Foil Cat 2

Debbie Taverner
Jane Clayton
Jenny Morris
Kati Archer
Gillian Worman
Marilyn Wheelband
Caron Hale
Lynette Robinson
Kim De Large
Angela Findlay

Women's Foil Cat 3

Clare Halstead
Margaret Myers
Kate Harris
Lynda Norrie
Silvia Earl
Pressie Madrangca
Sue Church
Carole Dixon

Women's Foil Cat 4

Janet Cooksey
Sylvia Brown
Ann Cornwall

Women's Foil Cat 4

Janet Cooksey
Sylvia Brown
Ann Cornwall

Women's Epée Cat 2

Jenny Morris
Jane Hutchison
Jane Clayton
Susan Hanney
Alice Lawrence
Mariette Mason
Gillian Aghajan
Janet Baron
Caron Hale
Angela Findlay
Helen Easter

Women's Epée Cat 3

Fiona Haldane
Kate Elvin
Margaret Myers
Silvia Earl
Carole Seheult
Patricia Shepherd-Foster

Women's Epée Cat 4

Janet Cooksey
Sylvia Brown
Connie Adam
Carol Wengraf
Ann Cornwall

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Women's Sabre Cat 2

Jenny Morris
Jane Hutchison
Yvonne Walls
Jane Clayton
Caron Hale
Gillian Aghajan
Frances Woodward

Women's Sabre Cat 3

Clare Halstead
Vivien Frith
Patricia Shepherd-Foster
Margaret Myers
Jeanne Brooks

Women's Sabre Cat 4

Carol Wengraf
Janet Cooksey
Sylvia Brown
Connie Adam

*Photos courtesy
of Frank Mills*



Cat 1 Foil
Austen Rose
Lloyd Ingleson
Joanna Reynolds
Richard Hopkins



Cat 1 Epée
Jeremy Raj
John Prime
Stephan Munn
Jacqueline Hibbert



Cat 1 Sabre
Jo Hayward
Simon Axon
Paul Baillache
Adrian Medhurst



Men's Foil Cat 2
Richard Sage
John Troiano
Paul Lowen



Men's Epée Cat 2
John Morris
Neal Mallet
Anton Pollard



Men's Sabre Cat 2
Barry Coulter
Chris Prevett
Anthony Silver



Women's Epée Cat 2
Jane Hutchison
Jenny Morris
Jane Clayton



Women's Sabre Cat 2

**Jane Hutchison
Jenny Morris
Yvonne Walls**



Women's Foil Cat 2

**Jane Clayton
Debbie Taverner
Jenny Morris**



Men's Foil Cat 3

**Jim Philbin
Graham Paul
Steve Fox**



Women's Sabre Cat 3

**Viv Frith
Clare Halstead
Pat Shepherd-Foster**



Women's Epée Cat 3

**Margaret Myers
Fiona Haldane
Kate Elvin**



Men's Epée Cat 3

**Ralph Johnson
Robin Davenport
Graham Paul**



Women's Foil Cat 4

**Ann Cornwall
Janet Cooksey
Sylvia Brown**



Women's Foil Cat 3

**Margaret Myers
Clare Halstead
Kate Harris**

Men's Sabre Cat 3

**Richard Bonehill
Jim Philbin
Steve Fox**





Women's Epée Cat 4

**Connie Adam
Janet Cooksey
Sylvia Brown**



Men's Epée Cat 4

**Robert Phelps
Bill Osbaldeston
Bob Turner**



Men's Foil Cat 4

**Jim Pilkington
Alan Ault
Henry de Silva**



Women's Sabre Cat 4

**Janet Cooksey
Carol Wengraf
Sylvia Brown**



Men's Epée Cat 4

**Jim Pilkington
Alan Ault
Bill Osbaldeston**

Christopherson Holdsworth Cup

Date: Sunday, 13th of March 2011

Format: Poule unique. Each match shall be a 6 weapon team relay to 30 points. Weapon order shall be randomly drawn immediately before each match.

(The organisers maintain the right to move the competition to poules and direct elimination if entry numbers necessitate)

Prizes: Whilst the Christopherson and Holdsworth trophies shall remain in Durham the winning team will receive 24 Beers.

Check In Closes: 10:00am

Venue: Maiden Castle Sports Centre
Stockton Road
Durham
DH1 3SE

***If you are interested in
being in a BVF team,
please contact
Peter Baron for further info.
contact details -page 16***

*Photos courtesy
of Frank Mills*

Work, rest and play at the Age Group Qualifiers

Photos by Alex Jablonowski



England Veterans Fencing Association

Profit and Loss Account 2010



Income

Contribution BVF £408.00

Edinburgh Home
International 24/25 4 10

Team entry fees £190.00

Polo Shirts £198.00

Expenditure

Edinburgh Home
International 24/25 4 10

Team entry fee £180.00

Badges/pins £ 69.30

Polo Shirts £ 132.07

Officials' accommodation
expenses £140.00

Commonwealth £ 10.00
Membership fee

Hon. Secretary's postage £ 11.52
expenses

£796.00

£542.89

BALANCE SHEET

Assets as at 1.1.2010

Bank Current A/C £1039.81

Assets as at 31.12.2010

Bank Current A/C £1356.74

Diane Austin
Hon Treasurer, EVFA

31st December 2010

Competition Results (top half)

Scottish Open - 8/1/2011

WF (29) 8 Caron Hale

Aldershot Open - 8/1/2011

ME (68) 9 David Karlin
26 Gerry Simpson
30 Simon Pink
31 Lawrence Burr
34 Jonathan Stanbury

WE (23) 3 Jane Clayton
6 Jenny Morris

Northern Ireland Open - 15/1/2011

ME (23) 2 Stephan Munn

WE (9) 3 Fiona Haldane

Cambridge Winter Tournament - 15/1/2011

WF (17) 5 Kim De Large

7 Kate Harris

8 Dawn Townsend

WS (11) 5 Vivien Frith

MF (51) 8 Paul Lowen

14 Anthony Conyard

15 Paul Baillache

ME (63) 7 Robin Davenport

10 Anthony Klenczar

14 Jeremy Raj

16 Evert Van Gemeren

22 Andrew Brown

26 Rob Phelps

MS (29) 11 Jorge Esteves

Bill is back!

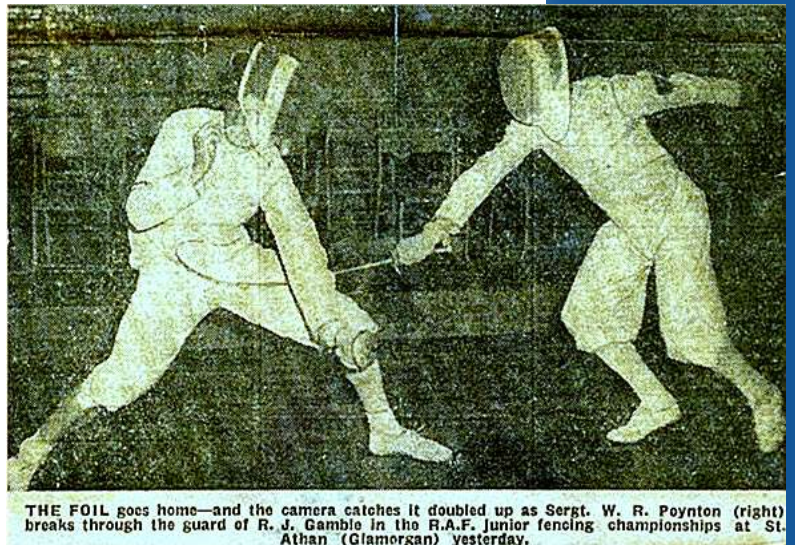
I started fencing at 15 when I joined the RAF as an apprentice in 1951 and this photo was printed in the South Wales Echo in 1956 during my first competition following a spell in Egypt and Cyprus. Please note the heavy canvas fencing jacket (which had to be scrubbed white before every competition) and the equally heavy mask (which had to be blanco'd similarly!). We were very regimental in those days.

Five overseas tours interrupted the continuity of my fencing and I finally retired from the RAF in 1975 following a relatively successful fencing career in RAF and Inter-Service competitions, settling with my wife and family in Oxfordshire where I fenced locally in Abingdon and Oxford.

In 1990 I made a big mistake and gave up fencing altogether to concentrate on a new business venture which entailed long working hours, a decision I now regret, because an extended period of ill-health in 2009 drained the weight off me, losing some 3 stone, and left me with few reserves of energy to draw on when I most needed it.

With active encouragement from my wife Pauline I tentatively stepped back into fencing at the beginning of last year with Abingdon Fencing Club, who were extremely welcoming. In fact, wherever I've fenced since, this welcome has been extended, most particularly at the recent BVF Age Groups Qualifiers at Bletchley.

You can imagine how I felt..... it was nearly 40 years since my last competitive event! I'm not fully fit yet, my instinctive reactions aren't as fast as they used to be (but I'm working on that), I'd had no experience in fencing to 3 minutes (I lost 2 points that way), I lost a further point in stepping back too far (damned if I could see the rear line, and I was concentrating on Alan Ault!). OK, I didn't win any fights but I scored some good hits and was immensely pleased at making that first step. Most of my pleasure was due to the fantastic welcoming attitude of the fencers, both during the competition and at the dinner afterwards. Everybody was wonderful, and I'll come back for more!



THE FOIL goes home—and the camera catches it doubled up as Sergt. W. R. Poynton (right) breaks through the guard of R. J. Gamble in the R.A.F. Junior fencing championships at St. Athan (Glamorgan) yesterday.

**Bill (right)
scores a great
hit!**

Bill Poynton



Richard Sage's 'Roman Holiday'

I saw John Mason's e-mail about a veterans training camp in Rome and thought, hmm... a few days in Rome sounds good! I had a chat with Stephen Steinberg who went to one of the Italian training camps in the summer and told me it was great fun. So, helpful e-mails exchanged with Iris Gardini to book a place and with Gianni Mauceri to sort out how to get to the training centre from the airport, I booked my flights.

I flew out on Monday 3rd Jan, just long enough to get over my New Year's party hangover and arrived in Rome mid morning. An easy journey into Rome by train took me to the training centre, home of Club Roma Scherma (see www.clubschermaroma.it and see page "Sezione Master" for photos of the vets training session) and home to the Italian Sabre Centre of Excellence. The facilities were fantastic, a bit like our Crystal Palace in London, with at least two dedicated fencing salles both with about a dozen in situ electric pistes. The salles were dedicated to fencing and all around the walls were posters of Italian world and Olympic fencers in moments of triumph. It was hard not to feel the tradition and to be inspired by their achievements.



Richard with some new fencing friends

There were about twenty veterans fencing, under the instruction of Italian head coach Comincini Maestro Nicola, and I was given a warm welcome. There were about five foilists and, roughly, ten epéeists and ten sabreurs. All were Italian except the foilist Kirsten Palm, the current 60-70 World champion from Sweden. Those of you who know Kirsten will know what a talented competitor she is. Anybody who thinks an over 60 lady with two hip replacements would be relatively straightforward needs to think again! I was fencing well and Kirsten was consistently beating me. Having said that I think she has four world titles now and it was a wonderful opportunity to fence with someone with such experience, speed and technique.

There was plenty of fencing. Typically we started at 09:00 with an hour warm up and footwork, then fenced until 12:00, with individual lessons and free play. We then had a long lunch and started again at 15:00 until 18:00 or from 16:00 until 19:00. That said, there were also a couple of lectures. I would tell you what they were about but, given they were delivered in Italian, I have no idea what they covered!



The Romans!

Given that we were fencing in the Italian Sabre centre of excellence we shared the salle with the Italian senior team most afternoons. I found myself fencing on the next piste to a string of young, fast Italians whose footwork and hand speed was lightning fast.

The changing facilities were a little basic and the Italian senior team (men) seemed to enjoy stripping off their breeches to change into their tracksuits in the salle. I couldn't help but smile when one of the guys, about twenty five and with, I swear, some padding down the front of his briefs, stripped off to display his briefs in the colours of the Italian flag!

All the fencers were charming and made me extremely welcome. Three of us, myself, Kirsten and Giovanni, a charming Italian lawyer from Lake Como stayed in a hotel and ate together on two nights. On the third night the Italians took us out for dinner. We went to a back street restaurant that, had I been on my own I would never have found and, from the dowdy exterior probably would never have gone in. Having said that it was magnificent. Inside opened out like an Aladdin's cave. Some twenty of us took over a room and ate wonderful pasta and pork, washed down with fine red wine and a few beers. On top of that our Italian hosts generously insisted on picking up the bill for their foreign guests, Kirsten and myself. A wonderful night!



Richard and Kirsten pose for the camera!

Friday morning was a team competition which saw equal amounts of competitiveness and good humour. I left at lunchtime on Friday 6th, tired, bruised and a little hungover but with that relaxed sense of wellbeing that always follows a few good day's fencing.

So, all-in-all, a great few days and some very happy memories. The fencing was excellent and I made many friends. The Italians kindly encouraged me to go back to subsequent training camps and, for anyone thinking of going, I would urge you to do so. I met some lovely people and had a great few days. The trip was everything I've come to enjoy about veterans fencing: competitive but fun and extremely friendly.

Photos courtesy of Gianni Mauceri

(Grazi Gianni! - Ed)

Richard Sage

Other Veterans Events					
5 Feb 2011	Spanish Veterans Circuit	ESP	Granada	F E S	Details
5-6 Feb 2011	Hesse International	GER	Kassel	F E S	Details
6 Feb 2011	Schleswig-Holstein Open	GER	Lübeck	F E S	Details
6 Feb 2011	Faches Thumenil	FRA	Faches Thumenil	F E S	Details
13 Feb 2011	Montelimar	FRA	Montelimar	F E S	Details
19-20 Feb 2011	Italian Vets Circuit	Italy	Roma	F E S	Details
5 Mar 2011	Spanish Vets Circuit	ESP	La Coruna	F E	Details
12-13 Mar 2011	North German Open	GER	Hannover	F E S	Details
13 Mar 2011	Christopherson Holdsworth Cup	GBR	Durham	F E S	Details
13 Mar 2011	French Vets Circuit	FRA	Niort	E	Details

Bournemouth MP visits Espada Fencing Club

Bournemouth East MP Tobias Ellwood took time out recently to visit Espada Fencing Club at the Littledown Leisure Centre situated within his constituency. At the invitation of the Chair and management team, he found himself taking part in warm up exercises and a step class before receiving instructions in the art of basic sword play of attack and defence. He was welcomed in the club by Brian Speight who coordinated the visit and introduced him to the current Chair, Marilyn Wheelband and members of her management team.



Meeting with other fencers around the Salle, he found himself not only talking with them but also being challenged to 'fight'. Both young and older fencers alike enjoyed a fairly extensive workout with him towards the end of the evening. Tobias saw at first hand the range of young people who came to the club and heard how Espada had taken the sport into different parts of the community including local schools, Youth Clubs as well as working with disabled and disadvantaged groups in the area.

***Tobias Ellwood
in class at
Espada
Fencing Club***

More than 52 fencers were in attendance creating a very dynamic environment for the MP. He was able to observe advanced fencing classes as well as a new beginners programme starting that evening, in addition to watching international fencers in competition with each other. "What a great club, and it is brilliant that so many young people are coming along," said the MP as he looked around the main hall of the sports centre. Joining in with all the other fencers, Tobias was happy to have his picture taken with fencers and senior members of the Espada Management team. Former Chair and now club coach, Brian Speight, was delighted with the involvement of the MP in the fencing lesson and his general integration in the club.



***Tobias Ellwood
with members
of Espada
management
team***

Espada welcomes beginners and established fencers to the club where all 3 weapons, foil, épée and sabre, are taught and fenced competitively.

For further information contact:

Brian Speight 01202 425749
email: bs@europa-mgt.co.uk
Espada Fencing Club

***Photos
courtesy of
Brian Speight***

Brian Speight

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 February

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



*Photo courtesy
of Alex
Jablonowski*

Caption Competition January

Editor's choice by Paul again!

Hopefuls prepare to audition for the BVF panto:
'Beauty and the Beast'

Paul Brenda



Photo by Editor






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BVF contacts

Life President		Henry de Silva  6 Little Meadow Andreas Isle Of Man IM7 4HY Tel: 01624 880863
Officers	Chairman	Frank Mills  Tel: 01908 310516 millsfba@aol.com
	Treasurer	John Mason  Tel: 01225 761788 BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk
	Membership Secretary	
	Webmaster	
	Acting Secretary	Peter Baron  Tel: 01384 400242 bvf@baronfencing.plus.com
	Domestic Fencing Officer	
Elected Members	International Fencing Officer	David Sweeney  Tel: 01453 758372 mrdsweeney@hotmail.com
		Linda Lawes  Tel: 01235 530090 linda.lawes1@btinternet.com
Co-opted Members	Publicity Officer	Malcolm Fare  malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk
	Newsletter Editor	Gillian Aghajan  Tel: 07747 792712 g.aghajan@virgin.net
		Jonathan Stanbury  Tel: 01823 331909 alfg8@aol.com
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PLEASE NOTE
 Any articles or
 letters for the March
 BVF Newsletter
 should be sent to:-

Gillian Aghajan
 by 7th March 2011

Tel: 07747 792712

email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net