

Mike Norfolk receives his MBE!



Mike Norfolk and his wife Bunny at Buckingham Palace

Photo courtesy of Mike Norfolk

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Chairman's Letter

Dear Members,

A Happy New Year to you all from the committee and we hope that you will enjoy another successful and enjoyable year of fencing.

The Age Group Qualifiers are nearly upon us and at a new venue in Bletchley, Milton Keynes. The venue was changed from last year as many people were not happy with the lighting or heating, but that will not be a problem at Bletchley where the leisure centre was built only some 6 months ago and boasts every modern facility. Closing date for the competition is 15th January, so there is still time to enter.

The year always races on apace and it will not be long before the BVF British Championships in March. Apart from the fencing, this is the time for our AGM and the time when the committee for the year is elected. For the benefit of new members who may not be aware of the form this part of the AGM takes, the entire committee stands down and those wishing to do so, put themselves up for re-election.

This means that every position is open for any member who wishes to stand and serve on the committee and any member wishing to do so should have a proposer and seconder with the nomination to be received by the Hon. Sec. 7 days before the meeting on 4th March.

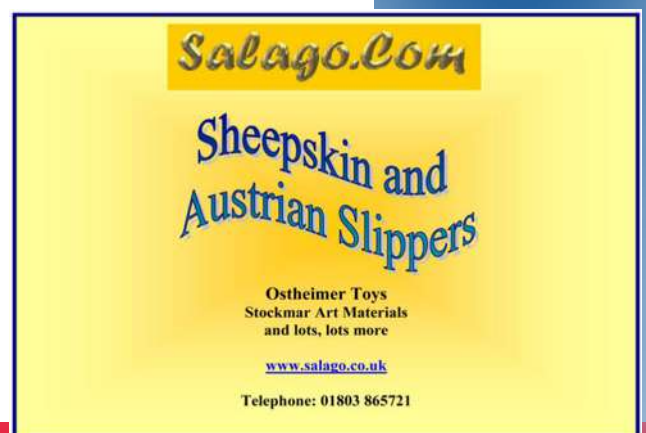
The committee also has the ability to co-opt members to the committee at any time, so if you are interested, then please let the Hon. Sec. know. We are currently without an elected Hon. Sec. and Peter Baron is acting in that role at present, so if you feel that you can help the BVF in this role, we will be pleased to hear from you.

The official notice of the AGM will be issued to all members in February as constitutionally, we must make this notice 21 days before the meeting. As no item can be discussed at the AGM unless it is on the agenda any items, including AOB, should be sent to Peter 28 days before the meeting (5th February) and the committee decides whether it is to be included or whether it is more appropriate for action by the committee.

Your committee is working together on a number of items, including the selection process and rules which we will be discussing in depth at our meeting on 16th January, and we look forward to seeing you at the BVF events during the coming season.

Sincerely

Frank Mills
Chairman



2010 British Veterans Fencing Report for British Fencing Association

British Veterans Championships 2010

	Foil	Epee	Sabre
Men	Robert Kiss	Neal Mallett	Duncan Rowlands
Women	Linda McMahon	Jane Clayton	Beth Davidson

The year 2010 saw a name change from National Veterans Association to British Veterans Association when the membership (now totalling 528) at the AGM in March, felt it was more descriptive of what the association represents.

Our organised competitions were well supported and this year, we re-instated the Unisex Foil & Sabre Competition which was held in Abingdon.

The European Veterans Team Championships in May, were held in Skopje, Macedonia, where the Women's Sabre Team won Gold for Great Britain. Men's Foil, Women's Foil, Women's Epée and Men's Sabre all achieved top ten placing and Men's Epée 11th.

At the Veterans World Championships in Porec, Croatia in October, Great Britain achieved 2nd place in the overall medal table with 4 Gold medals and 5 bronze medals.

Despite the resignation of the Hon. Secretary in September, the committee remains strong and hard working, and has been further strengthened by the addition of two co-opted members, and we look forward to another successful year in 2011.

Frank Mills
Chairman

Communications about events

Since emailing members about the recent match versus the Royal Navy, I have been pondering what response to expect from the membership. Having upset a few people in the run up to the West Midlands Open and, for a moment, fearing I had done the same again with emails sent out about the RN match, I feel that it is perhaps best if I clear up the issue.

When trying to encourage people to enter the WMO, my first mail shot produced a high number of apologies from those who couldn't or wouldn't take part. When entries failed to increase dramatically with the event getting close, in my second mailing I intended to make clear that I didn't feel apologies were necessary.

However, as I have previously stated, I fully accept that my frustration at the lack of entries showed through my choice of words and it could be construed that I was criticising people for apologising, although that was not actually my intention.

My feeling is that is that for this type of individual event an apology for not entering is not necessary. One wouldn't apologise for not entering an Open. I know we, as Vets, like to be more polite than the average but whilst not asking you *not* to apologise, I would not feel deprived should you choose not to do so.

The response to my belated appeal for volunteers for the RN match far outstripped my expectations. In the short time that I have been organising teams for veteran events, such as this one, the Wellesbourne, etc., never has there been such a response. Usually I have had to go round persuading people to turn out to make a team up. I failed to get enough volunteers for the White Horse last June - i.e. I couldn't find 3 people out of 500 members.

In all, I had over 150 replies to my request for RN match volunteers, a large percentage of them the same day. By the end of Friday I had almost filled the teams and enough spares to be able to field "B" teams when it became clear that it would be acceptable to bring them - and still have to disappoint a few people. Among the first arriving emails were a number of apologies and I have to confess I groaned; not because I didn't wish to see apologies but because I thought, at that stage, that that was all I was going to get. Later, as I was getting to the point where I had only a few places left to fill, those apologies proved useful information; I knew who *not* to contact.

Having reflected on the matter, I would like to suggest the following:

1. Individual events - Replies to reminders need only be in the form of an entry to the event. OTHER RESPONSES NOT REQUIRED. No criticism will be levelled whether you send a reply message or not. If you feel the need to apologise for not entering, then please feel free to continue to do so.

2. Team events - Replies both positive and negative are ALL very useful information. ALL RESPONSES, BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE WELCOMED. May I suggest that the quickest way for them to be categorised would be to add the word "Yes" or "No" to the subject line in your reply. Indeed, if the answer is "No", then no further explanation is strictly necessary.

I am aware that the late request for volunteers for the RN match left those who rely on Royal Mail for their communications out in the cold. I shall endeavour to make those requests in good time so that they get a fair chance to volunteer and get their bid in in time.

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So that you can plan ahead, the following are the team events for which we traditionally enter teams, selected on a first-come-first-served basis:

The Crystal Open Teams run by Stourbridge Fencing Club

Venue: Castle High School Dudley (as for WMO)
Date : TBC late April 2011 (Easter falls on the traditional weekend so a new date will be required)
Format: Mixed teams of 3, one at each weapon. Multiple teams allowed.

The White Horse Open Teams run by Abingdon Fencing Club

Venue: Abingdon Leisure Centre
Date : 26th June 2011
Format: Mixed teams of 3, one at each weapon. Multiple teams allowed.

The Wellesbourne Teams run by Wellesbourne Fencing Club

Venue: Slough Leisure Centre?
Date : Mid-late October 2011 (Cancelled last year due to poor entry.)
Format: Teams of 2 at each of the 6 weapons (i.e. 12 person team).

I shall be consulting about having these events listed on the events calendar, so that they are there as a permanent reminder of what is ahead.

In addition we could enter the British Championships team event in July. My own feeling is that, given the strength of some of the opposition we might need to select on form from among volunteers (assuming enough volunteers to require any selection method to be used). That would be open to discussion.

I am also charged by the committee to arrange other friendly matches and shall be working on that shortly. So watch out for other opportunities to fence in a team.

Peter Baron

Wheelchair fencing training

The BDFA is holding some training days at Stoke Mandeville and is looking for 3 female foilists or épéeists to spar with wheelchair fencers on the morning of Friday 21st January. Stoke Mandeville is not too far from Bletchley, so if you are going to stay there on Friday evening for the BVF Age Groups this is a good opportunity for some extra fencing! There is also a coach training evening on Thursday 20th with accommodation at cost. Please let me know if you are interested - g.aghajan@virgin.net

Gillian Aghajan

Can you help Fiona Haldane?

"I will be in St Albans before the Age Groups. Is anyone likely to be passing nearby on the Saturday on their way to Milton Keynes?"
Please email fhaldane@xsmail.com

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, 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

Other Veterans Events

Jan 29-30	Levi Open Arctic Challenge	FIN	Levi	F E	Details
Feb 6	French Vets Circuit	FRA	Faches-Thumesnil	F S	Details

BVF Age Group Qualifiers 22nd-23rd January 2011

Full details and entry form are on the BVF 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 15th.

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

Competition Results (Top half)

Miller-Hallett 11/12/2010

ME (134)

42 Jonathan Stanbury

Milner-Barry 11/12/2010

WE (79)

24 Amanda Webster

30 Sara Spence

39 Gillian Stone

2011 British Veterans Fencing Championships

The 2011 British Veterans Fencing Championships will be held at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre, Gloucester. The Championships will take the same format as last year with Sabre being contested on the afternoon of Friday 4th March and Foil and Epée taking place on Saturday 5th March and Sunday 6th March respectively.

Full details and entry Forms are available on the BVF website www.veterans-fencing.co.uk . Entries can either be made online or by post.

We have negotiated a concessionary rate for accommodation, on a bed and breakfast basis, at the Holiday Inn, Crest Way, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3RX, which is within easy reach of the fencing venue.

A Championship Dinner will be held in the Sheridan Suite on Saturday 5th March, at the Holiday Inn, starting at 20:00 hrs.

BVF AGM

The BVF AGM will be held in the Tennyson Room at the Holiday Inn, Crest Way, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3RX on Friday 4th March at 20:15 hrs. The agenda for the BVF AGM, annual report, and a copy of the accounts will be circulated to every member in February and also published in the February newsletter.

(The England AGM will follow the BVF AGM.)

2011 European Veterans Fencing Championships

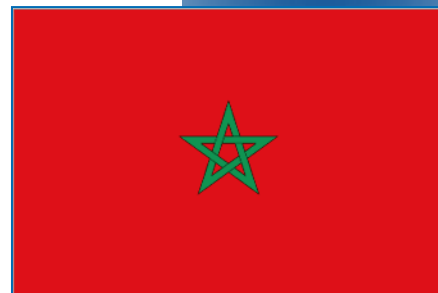
The European Veterans Individual Fencing Championships are being held in Hénin-Beaumont, France from 2nd-5th June. Initial details are available on the website www.escrimeveteranshb2011.com, but it is still under construction and not live.

2011 World Veterans Fencing Championships

The venue for the 2011 World Veterans Individual Fencing Championships has been changed. The Championships will now be hosted by the Moroccan Fencing Federation and will be held in Agadir from 27th September to 2nd October 2011.

No other details are available at this time but more information will be circulated as it becomes available.

Agadir is a holiday resort on the Moroccan Mediterranean coast and it is a good place to combine participation in the World Championships with a holiday or even to make a holiday and support our Veterans Squad.



England Veterans Fencing Association

Your committee have discussed selection for events in 2011. The following indicates our decision.

The Six Nations (previously the Home Quadrangular) 16th-17th April 2011 in Wrexham

We will again need to field a strong team this year if we are to retain the trophy. The intention, therefore, is to select the team on the results of the National Championships taking into account results from the Age Groups.

Chairman's Report 2010

The year has been a busy one with the Commonwealth Veterans in Australia and the Home International in Edinburgh. The committee have met once and communicated by email and telephone to select teams and organise events.

The Commonwealth Veteran's Championships were held in Melbourne on 29th September to 5th October 2010. This was the first time that the veteran's event had been combined with the senior championships. I felt it was a successful tournament and that both age groups gained from the experience. As far as the fencing went, we did well considering that most of our top fencers were competing in the World Championships in Croatia, and Australia turned out a very strong squad. This provided some fencers, who might not normally have had the opportunity, with a chance to represent England. A summary of our results is:

Individual

Bronze

Michael Thomas – men's foil
Keith Rogerson – men's sabre
Angela Findlay – women's epee
Vanessa Hendra – women's sabre

Team

Silver Men's sabre, Women's epee, Women's foil
Bronze Men's foil, Men's epee



The fourth Home International was hosted by Scotland in Edinburgh in April. This proved to be very competitive with Scotland determined to win on home soil. The final result was in doubt until the final weapon, with our epeeists beating Scotland to retain the Justin Smith trophy. Next year's event returns to Wrexham in April with the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands also competing. We will need to put out a strong team if we are to win again.

The next Commonwealth championships should be in Singapore in 2012. This will just be a Veterans' event and will be open to everyone. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for further details of these events

Finally I would like to thank the members of the committee for the time and enthusiasm they have put into another successful year.

John Crouch
Chairman England Veterans Fencing

Treasurer's Report 2010

A copy of the England Veterans Treasurer's report will be produced in the February Newsletter.

England Veterans Fencing Association Annual General Meeting

**Venue: Tennyson Room, Holiday Inn, Crest Way, Barnwood,
Gloucester, GL4 3RX**

Date and Time: Friday 4th March 2011, 21:00 hrs*

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 5th March 2010
3. Matters arising
4. Reports of Officers
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
5. Election of Officers and committee members
6. Any other business



* Please note that the meeting will follow the BVF AGM. The time given above is approximate and time may be limited.

Any items for AOB should be received by the Secretary no later than 7 days before the meeting (i.e. 25th February 2011)

Nominations for Officers and Committee may be made at the meeting, but prior notification is welcome.

Michael John Norfolk MBE for Services to Healthcare and to the sport of Fencing in Chester and Wrexham

I was extremely proud when I received the official letter in June 2010 telling me I had been awarded a MBE (The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire) on The Queen's Birthday Honours list 14th June 2010.

In November I was informed that my Investiture would be in Buckingham Palace, held by The Prince of Wales on Friday 17th December 2010, and that I could invite three guests, my wife "Bunny", my son Christopher and my sister Sally. My cousin Diana insisted that she would be our chauffeur which was really nice, but she was not allowed into the Palace!

On arrival at The Palace gate the car was searched and our Invitations and identities verified. Then we were allowed to walk into The Palace. I was separated from my guests to hand in my hat and mobile phone and rejoin my guests to walk up the Grand Staircase together toward the Ballroom. We were separated again and my guests were taken to be seated with all the other guests. I was escorted to a room to join 182 other Recipients and I met and chatted to some remarkable people.

I was instructed on the protocol of being presented to The Prince of Wales and had a clip put on my lapel. We were escorted into the Ballroom in groups of ten or twelve and I was in one of the last groups to be invested. When it was my turn I stepped in front of HRH, bowed my head, stepped three paces forward, then Prince Charles hooked the medal onto my lapel. He asked me about fencing, did I still fence and was it a growing sport? He asked who my guests were, then shook my hand. I stepped back, bowed again and walked through into another room for the medal to be removed and put in a box. Then I was escorted back into the Ballroom to join the other Recipients and Guests for the remaining honours to be presented.

After The National Anthem was played, Prince Charles was escorted out followed by the five Yeomen of the Guard. Then I was able to join my family guests and Diana. Tracy and my three grandchildren had been waiting outside the Palace gates in an icy wind and it had snowed, but they were able to join us and allowed to step inside the Entrance Hall to congratulate me and get a little warmer. The head doorman suggested he took our photo on the steps outside the main Palace door.

I would like to thank all the people who nominated me, and for their testimonials and support enabling me to be honoured. The whole day was exciting and humbling but it was an outstanding experience which I will never forget.

Mike Norfolk MBE!



Mike proudly shows his MBE medal

Photo courtesy of Mike Norfolk

Kate on TV!

About 8 months ago I had an email from the BBC asking me to apply for the Weakest Link as they had never had a fencing coach on the programme before. I had a screening and passed that and then had the go ahead for the real thing.

I went to the filming at BBC Glasgow on the 25th November and was told to arrive the night before where I was completely Norma no mates until the filming began the following day at 11.45!

The filming took over two and a half hours and the 'It's time to vote off the Weakest Link' bit of writing the names took over ten minutes every time! Anne Robinson stayed in character the whole time and apparently even the production crew don't know the real Anne! I was voted out in the second round having been the strongest link in the first round, and felt more than peeved as those of you who watched it will have seen!

It was an experience, but one I would not repeat, I'd rather do The Cube!

Kate Morwell Neave

Merseyside Open and Veterans

The Merseyside Open 2011 will be taking place over the weekend of 19th/20th February 2011, once again at the Greenbank Sports Academy in Liverpool. As ever, we will be awarding a Best Veteran medal at all six weapons, for which only BVF members or the members of other similar national Veterans associations will be eligible. MOFT has always been a popular event for Vets and we are hoping to be able to welcome both old friends and new faces to this year's tournament.

Full details are available on the MOFT website at www.moft.co.uk, from which online entries can be made and the entry form downloaded.

Gary Longthorn
MOFT Organising Committee



Good results for Brian Causton!

Well done to Brian Causton, of globe trotting notoriety, who was placed 8th in the Epée, out of 26, and 10th out of 20 in the Foil at the Gauteng Open in Johannesburg 4th-5th December. I have been informed that Brian has been quoted as saying: 'The SA Ladies Epée teamdid wear me out.'

In your dreams Brian ☺!

Editor

Kate in pensive mood on the Weakest Link

Photo from BBC iPlayer

French Veteran National Tour 6th February at Faches-Thumesnil

Dear ladies and sirs,

The city of Faches-Thumesnil and its Fencing Club, the CEFT are pleased to invite you to the:

French Veteran National Tour
Foil and Sabre Individual
on
Sunday 6th February 2011

The events will take place at : Complexe sportif Jean Zay, 7 rue de la Linière at Faches-Thumesnil, near Lille in the North of France.

Last year, you have enjoyed our warm welcome, this year we will try to improve and provide you an even more enjoyable stay.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in a larger number at this event, dedicated to conviviality and sportsmanship.

Guy COSTEUX
President of the CEFT

Regulation:

The registrations have to be made on line only on the French Fencing Federation website www.escrime-ffe.fr (rubrique Compétitions) before Wednesday, February 2nd 2011 at Midnight.

Registration fee: 12,00 €, payable in cash for the foreign fencers.

A tee shirt with our Club logo will be offered to every participant.

Foreign fencers, please fill up the form at the end of that document and mail it to cassoretdenis@gmail.com

Outfits and weapons:

According to the current FIE standards.

Timetable and place:

	<i>Call</i>	<i>Scratch</i>	<i>Start</i>
<i>Foil</i>	8:00 am	8:15 am	8:30 am
<i>Sabre</i>	9:00 am	9:15 am	9:30 am

Salle Jean Zay 7 rue de la Linière -59155 Faches-Thumesnil (fléché depuis l'autoroute A1)

The end of the events is scheduled between 4:00 and 5:00 PM



Events formula:

According to the federal regulation of the French veteran tour

Awards:

The first, second, third and fourth of each category will be awarded.

Physiotherapy

Art Exhibition - <http://lartenorphe.skyrock.com/3.html>

Buffet - with local specialities will be available all day long, with a complementary tasting at midday

Leon Paul stand

Accommodation

Hôtel Novotel downtown Lille (3 stars).

Located in the center of Lille, and at 5mn walking from the Lille Railway stations (Lille Europe and Lille Flandres), this hotel is perfect to discover our City on the Saturday afternoon.

Single room, breakfast included : 63€ instead of 181€

Double room (2 single beds), breakfast included:37€

Hôtel location :

116, r Hôpital Militaire

59800 Lille

33 3 28 38 53 53 or 33 3 20 78 06 18

Don't forget to mention « escrime » when you book your room.

(The Novotel hotel is offering the 'special' price for one night only. There are several Ibis hotels in Lille offering a 'Vitabis' tariff at a special sports rate.)

A courtesy shuttle will take you from the Novotel to the event on Sunday morning.

For the people arriving by train and plane we have organized a service of courtesy shuttles as follows:

On Saturday afternoon, for those arriving by plane in Lille Lesquin airport, we will take them to the Novotel in Lille. (For the people arriving at Lille railway station, the hotel is at 5 mins walking.)

On Sunday morning, at the Novotel Lille, we will pick you up at 7:30 am (foil) and at 8 :30 am (sabre).

In order to let us organise the shuttles schedules for the return to the railway station and the airport at the end of the event, please let us know your train and plane time schedules at your arrival at the event on Sunday morning.

Please register for the shuttles with your time schedules and the number of persons by email to:

cassoretdenis@gmail.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

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



Photo by Editor

Caption Competition
December Editor's choice by Paul again!

"Look what I won!"
Paul Brenda




Photo courtesy of Alex Jablonowski

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

Gillian Aghajan
 by 7th February
 2011

Tel: 07747 792712
 email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net