

Record numbers at Bletchley!



John Crouch, John Mason and Pat Casey busy behind the scenes at the Age Group Qualifiers

Photo by Editor

Age Group Qualifiers winners

Vets in Rome

Marie Chantal Demaille in London

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

I must start in this first Newsletter of 2012 by wishing you all a Happy and Successful New Year.

Our first big event, The Age Group Qualifiers, was held successfully at the Bletchley Leisure Centre on 21st and 22nd January and we had a record number of 164 veteran fencers enter the competition.

On behalf of the committee, volunteers and referees who made the event run so well, I must thank the many of you who have taken the time and trouble to write and express your thanks for the way the competition was conducted. It seems that enjoyment was pretty universal and, in turn, I must congratulate all of the fencers taking part for the friendly but highly competitive way in which every fight was undertaken.

I must now inform you that one of our committee members is very ill at present. David Sweeney has recently been diagnosed with cancer and had an operation to remove a primary growth in his throat 2 weeks ago. He will shortly be receiving radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

As we all know, David is a fighter and I am sure that you join with me and all of his many friends on the committee and within the BVF, in wishing him a speedy return to health and our thoughts are with him and Susan at this difficult time.

February 11th and 12th sees the next of our Veteran Open events at the Hampshire Open in Portsmouth and entry is available on-line via our website.

The British Veterans Championships will be taking place at Oxtall's Tennis Centre, Gloucester, on 2nd – 4th March. Online entry is via the BVF website.

All of us on the committee look forward to seeing you at the various BVF events throughout 2012 and wish you a successful season's fencing
Sincerely

Frank Mills
Chairman

BVF - Annual General Meeting 2012

The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn,
Crest Way, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3RX
on Friday 2nd March 2012 at 20.00 hrs in the Tennyson Room.

The agenda, annual report and a copy of the accounts
will be circulated to members by 9th February 2012.



Age Groups Winners!



Unisex Epée



Unisex Foil



Unisex Sabre



WE Cat 2



WE Cat 3



WE Cat 4



WF Cat 2



WF Cat 3



WF Cat 4



WS Cat 2



WS Cat 3



WS Cat 4



ME Cat 2



ME Cat 3



ME Cat 4



MF Cat 2



MF Cat 3



MF Cat 4



MS Cat 2



MS Cat 3



MS Cat 4

*Photos by
Editor
(and
Anne Mills)*

Results (medallists) - full results are on the BVF website

Unisex Epée Cat 1

- 1 Jason Scrimshaw
- 2 Stephen Domek
- 3 Leslie MacDonald

Best woman Nicola Hull

Unisex Foil

- 1 Michael Thomas
- 2 Paul Baillache
- 3 Dawn Townsend

Best woman Dawn Townsend

Unisex Sabre

- 1 William Lucas
- 2 Paul Baillache
- 3 Michele Narey

Best woman Michele Narey



Women's Epée Cat 2

- 1 Jane Clayton
- 2 Jane Hutchison
- 3 Caryl Oliver

Women's Epée Cat 3

- 1 Moya McNamara
- 2 Janet Baron
- 3 Silvia Earl

Women's Epée Cat 4

- 1 Janet Cooksey
- 2 Carole Wengraf
- 3 Carole Seheult

Women's Foil Cat 2

- 1 Jenny Morris
- 2 Jane Clayton
- 3 Gillian Worman

Women's Foil Cat 3

- 1 Hilary Philbin
- 2 Clare Halstead
- 3 Sue Benney

Women's Foil Cat 4

- 1 Janet Cooksey
- 2 Silvia Brown
- 3 Carole Dixon

Women's Sabre Cat 2

- 1 Jane Hutchison
- 2 Jenny Morris
- 3 Grace Coulter

Women's Sabre Cat 3

- 1 Sue Benney
- 2 Silvia Earl
- 3 Yvonne Walls

Women's Sabre Cat 4

- 1 Carole Wengraf
- 2 Janet Cooksey
- 3 Connie Adam

Men's Epée Cat 2

- 1 Neal Mallett
- 2 Anton Pollard
- 3 Hugo Veryzer

Men's Epée Cat 3

- 1 Jonathan Stanbury
- 2 Ralph Johnson
- 3 Robin Davenport

Men's Epée Cat 4

- 1 Robert Phelps
- 2 Bill Osbaldeston
- 3 Malcolm Fare

Men's Foil Cat 2

- 1 John Troiano
- 2 Nick Fihosy
- 3 Anthony Conyard

Men's Foil Cat 3

- 1 Brian Causton
- 2 Graham Paul
- 3 Paul Lowen

Men's Foil Cat 4

- 1 Malcolm Fare
- 2 Alan Ault
- 3 Jim Pilkinton

Men's Sabre Cat 2

- 1 Barry Coulter
- 2 Chris Prevett
- 3 Anthony Silver

Men's Sabre Cat 3

- 1 Jim Philbin
- 2 Carl Morris
- 3 Andy Bornemisza

Men's Sabre Cat 4

- 1 Bill Osbaldeston
- 2 Peter Baron
- 3 Alan Ault



*Photos by
Editor*

Alice in Rome

What a great way to start the New Year and get rid of any excess calories consumed in the previous week! 6 hours a day of warm-ups, fencing, lessons, and stretching at the Club Scherma Roma.

We'd all signed up for the delightfully named 'Master's training' – not 'Master of Arms', or *maestro*. 'Master' (they seem to use the English word) refers to a Veteran in Italy. Now, to me, a 'veteran' sounds a bit old. 'Master' on the other hand, sounds much more positive; however, I have to be honest, the word does suggest a certain level of proficiency, which I certainly have not yet attained. Others in the British contingent, I'm happy to say, did merit the term.

The training consisted of 8 x 3 hour sessions over 5 days. The morning sessions involved a full hour of stretching, muscle-toning exercises and fencing related footwork with the onus on keeping fit and preventing injury. Lots of interesting exercises involving stockinged feet, hip swinging and spine stretching were then followed by jogging up and down the sports hall while kicking our own backsides and doing other leg strengthening work.

Riccardo, a professional basketball coach and PE teacher, knew just how much to push us and emphasised the importance of injury prevention - he advised us that if a movement hurt, we shouldn't do it – just what I like to hear! Afternoon warm-ups were a much lighter 30 minutes.

The rest of the time was taken up with free fencing, mostly epee, with over 30 very friendly fencers from Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Ireland and Spain, and with a wide range of levels of experience and proficiency. This meant that it was great fun, as well as a good learning environment.

Epée lessons were provided by an Argentinian coach, Carlos, who was very patient but certainly pushed us to improve our skills and performance. Foil and sabre coaching were also available.

On full days (i.e. 2 sessions), the three and a half hour lunch break was very welcome – lunch, shower, washing sweaty t-shirts and finally a siesta – bliss – before warm-up and fencing resumed. By the third day, we were pretty tired but began to gather momentum for the fourth day in preparation for the competition on the last morning.



Stephen Colover
Geraldine Dooley
Hugo Veryzer
Alice Lawrence
Richard Sage



In the evenings we were so tired we just relaxed over dinner and only once managed to go into the city centre for a meal. I was glad to have arrived a day early so that I could visit some of the main sites. Two highlights were a super evening meal just outside Rome and the competition (poule unique) in the final session, in which our very own Veteran 'new hips' Hugo Veryzer came third in the Epée. If there was a medal presentation or acknowledgement of the winners, I must've been in the changing rooms – when I came out, everyone was tucking into champagne and panettone. It was a close run thing with, if I remember correctly from the score sheet, the same number of victories and just a couple of indicators' difference.

All in all, a great venue, great fencing and friendly fencers in a great city. I for one, aim to make this a regular feature of my fencing year.

Alice Lawrence

And Richard goes too!

Another year, another New Year trip to Club Scherma Roma for the Italian Master's training camp. I flew out on the first Tuesday in Jan and joined Geraldine Dooley, Alice Lawrence, Stephen Colover, Hugo Veryzer and Mark Kent (not quite a vet but over in Rome with his family - Mark has been coaching at the Club Scherma Roma and was a very welcome addition to us oldies), all of whom had already arrived. I got there for the afternoon session which had the advantage that I missed at least one of the twice daily (tough) warm up routines!

There were about 30 fencers in total I'd guess; the GB contingent, Juan (a Spaniard) and Kerstin Palm from Sweden (with whom I trained at the same event last year).

As last year it was great fun. If anything I'd say the fencing was more intense this year. I stuck with foil and fenced with Kerstin, Fabio (a very good Italian), Elvis (a very strong Cuban) and anyone else who would give the noble weapon a go.

There were plenty of sabreurs and épéeists but I thought "why go all that way to fence a junior weapon?".

There were two senior coaches, Nicola and Carlos. Both were great although I had lessons from Carlos this year. He was first class. He worked me hard and showed me a whole new style and 'dynamic' to timing, movement and the way I work the blade and point. After over 40 years of fencing I'm still learning, in fact I think I'm learning more from Vets fencing than I learned in the 20 years running up to it. (Maybe that's because I have to think more these days as the body won't do what it used to).



**Richard Sage
with Italian
sabreur
Gianni Mauceri**

Socially it was fun as these things always are. I chose to stay on the sports campus this year, rather than in a local hotel. The sports campus covers a wide area and services a range of sports, with restaurant, bar (I'm an athlete so of course I didn't partake) and accommodation. The fencing facilities were great with a large dedicated salle serviced by numerous electric pistes. The other GB fencers stayed in a local hotel. I joined them on Thurs evening for dinner which was great (thanks for the wine Alice!).

We all went out on Weds night to a restaurant chosen by the Italians. Excellent food, wine and company. Again, with such a diverse group of people there was such a lot to talk about.

We had a competition on the Friday morning and I left to fly home Friday evening. I believe the others stayed for a day or two recovery, sorry, sightseeing.

All in all another great trip. The Italians made us all very welcome and, while the training is serious, it is fun. We thanked them heartily for their hospitality and friendship. I left hoping to see them again but secretly hoping not to meet Fabio or Elvis on the piste at any future competitions!

Richard Sage

BVF Calendar 2012

BVF CALENDAR 2012	
Feb 11-12	Hampshire Open (Veterans Tournament)
Mar 2	BVF AGM Gloucester
Mar 2-4	British Veterans Championships, Oxtalls Indoor Tennis Centre, Gloucester Friday - Sabre; Saturday - Foil, Sunday - Epée
April 14-15	Veterans West Midlands Open
April 21-22	Home International (5 Nations) - Leeds
May 16-20	European Team Championships, Kalmar, Sweden
June 23-24	Celtic Challenge, Galicia, Spain - venue tbc
Sep 27-30	Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Singapore
Oct 13-14 (tbc)	Welsh Veterans Championships, Aberystwyth Contact Gillian Aghajan (g.aghajan@virgin.net) for details
Nov 3-4 (tbc)	Veterans Winton Cup, RAF Cosford
Oct 17-20	World Championships, Krems, Austria

See BVF website home page for European competitions and events - www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

Marie Chantal Demaille visits London

The beginning of December 2011 brought from France to London the arrival of one of fencing's most respected veteran champions, Marie Chantal Demaille. Invited by Annaick Dulac (Escrime Academy, London), Marie Chantal devoted five days and evenings to sharing her expertise with the club's fencers. She worked tirelessly and with boundless energy: training, encouraging and inspiring the fencers. Despite dedicating several full days to coaching others, the indefatigable Marie Chantal still had the motivation to find the time to keep up with her own training schedule!

At the suggestion of her friend and long-standing training partner, Caryl Oliver, Marie Chantal was keen to train at St Paul's Fencing Club. Fencing master and coach at the school Jim Philbin, welcomed the veteran to the club. The atmosphere was one of charged excitement and anticipation, as the club's fencers eagerly awaited their chance to bout with such an esteemed athlete. Marie Chantal's unwavering enthusiasm was infectious and many epeeists benefited from her talent and expertise.

The French veteran champion expressed an interest to return to London to repeat the experience. Perhaps a future date could be put aside in the veteran's diary? It would no doubt be fun to train and fence with Marie Chantal in a friendly environment, outside the competitive pressures of the International circuit! Watch this space...



*Caryl Oliver
Marie Chantal Demaille
Jim Philbin*

*Photo
courtesy of
Annaick Dulac*

Annaick Dulac

Competition Results (top half)

Aldershot Open - 7/1/2012

MF (56)	13	Brian Causton	WF (23)	3	Jenny Morris
	18	Paul Lowen		8	Gillian Worman
	19	Nick Fihosy			
	22	Paul Baillache			
	26	Jonathan Dawkins		WE (23)	6
		7	Mariette Mason		
ME (69)	6	Howard West			
	8	Jonathan Stanbury			
	16	Rob Flatt			
	17	Will Miller			
	20	Keith Barnett			
	24	Stephen Domek			
	28	Adam Steiner			

***Congratulations to
George Liston on
winning the Men's Epée
at the Scottish Open -
8/1/2012.
Well done George!***

Professor Bob Anderson 1922 - 2012

Bob, more than any other fencing coach of the 20th and 21st century, represented the ideal of the Fencing Master both at every level of coaching and competition in Great Britain and also in the wider world of film and television. He was an Olympic fencer who went on to train champions, then to train the coaches of champions, and, if that were not enough, he went on to become one of the world's foremost fight choreographers, even taking up the sword on screen himself as Darth Vader during his fight scenes and on television during the fencing scene of *The Prisoner*.

More recently, Bob's work may be seen in the *Lord of the Rings Trilogy* and in the *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The list of all his film credits, both as swordsman and choreographer would take be too long to relate here -- suffice to say that if it has been made in England or America in the last fifty years and includes fighting with swords of any description, then the chances are that Bob had a hand in it somewhere. A tiny selection of his credits include *The Legend of Zorro* (2005: Sword Master), *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (2003: Sword Master); *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* (2003: Additional Sword Trainer); *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* (2002: Sword Master); *Die Another Day* (2002: Sword Master); *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001: Sword Master); *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi* (1983: Stunt Performer); *Superman II* (1980: Stunts (uncredited)); *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980: Stunt Double for Darth Vader).

Bob died peacefully in his sleep at a hospital in England in the early hours of January 1st 2012 at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife Pearl and three children.

The full article from which the above is taken, video clips and tributes are on the BAF website:

<http://baf-fencing.weebly.com/prof-rjg-anderson.html>



Bob Anderson with Leon Hill and Philip Bruce at the British Academy of Fencing's Diamond Jubilee

Photo by Jon Head
www.jonheadphotography.com

England Veterans Fencing Association Annual General Meeting

Venue:

Holiday Inn, Crest Way, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3RX

Date and Time: Friday 2nd March 2012, 21:00 hrs*

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 4th March 2011
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. 23rd February 2012).

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

The Chairman's report and Treasurer's report will be published in the February BVF newsletter.

Lost Property from the Age Group Qualifiers

The following were left behind after the event:-

- Electric sabre jacket – Uhlmann size 58
- Adidas Climalite sport shirt
- Uhlmann blue clothing bag
- Blue hand towel
- Red kerchief
- Epée body wire
- Foil body wire

Please contact Frank Mills to arrange return.

Tel: 01908 310516

millsfba@aol.com



NOMURA

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



From right to left:
Malcolm Fare, Justin Pitman, Alan Ault,
Bruce Dickinson, Brian Pitman and
three unknowns.

December issue:

*Could you identify the 'actors'?

*There were 35 holly sprigs

Caption Competition January

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net



Caption Competition December

Editor's choice

"The real perpetrators of the Outrage in the Changing Room are greatly amused as Miss Marple accuses an innocent bystander"

Paul Brenda

"Put them back on it's not funny."

Carl Moffat

"I don't care if he was under the table, it's still a hit against you!"

Jerry Rowe

**Photos by
Editor**

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

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by 17th February 2012

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