



BRITISH VETERANS
FENCING

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2013

Battles at Bletchley - 2013 Age Group Qualifiers!



Cat 1 Sabre - Beth Davidson attacks Stephan Leponis

**Age Group Qualifiers
Fencing in St Petersburg, Russia
England Veterans news
Competition results**

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Well done to all of those who battled through the snow and ice to take part in the Age Group Qualifiers on 26th and 27th January. We had a record entry of 179 fencers and, as a consequence, it was a real struggle to keep things moving with such numbers taking part in the 21 different competitions over the weekend despite managing to muster an extra two pistes at the venue.

As event manager, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of those who worked very hard in the organisation and running of the competition, and to all you fencers who made the competition a very satisfying one to organise.

Our next big event will be the British Veterans Championships in Gloucester on the first weekend in March and we hope, with so many new BVF members joining since last year, that entry numbers will be high.

On Friday 1st March, at the Holiday Inn, the 2013 AGM will be held and the Agenda and notices for the meeting will be issued to all members shortly. One area of possible development for the BVF is the introduction of a Cat. "0" for fencers aged 30-39. Several veteran organisations in Europe include this category with some starting at age 30 and, in the case of Germany, 35 years old.

It has been suggested that the sport loses a significant number of fencers after the age of 30 who never return and this could be a way to keep them interested. Obviously, the potential to increase BVF membership, and revenue to enhance our fencing programme, would be there too.

There are, however, other considerations in that introducing a Cat "0" into our competitions, like the BV Championships may not be welcomed by many members fighting for a selection place. The Age Group Championships is already a packed event with so many different category events to fit in and would need to be reviewed if a further category should be added.

Other competitions like the Winton Cup, The Leeds Veterans Open, The West Midlands Open and Hampshire Open, currently undersubscribed, may well benefit from an influx of fencers and opportunities would exist in overseas open veteran events for fencers in this category.

There are, I'm sure, many more pros and cons involved in the introduction of this category and that is why we are placing an item on the AGM agenda asking for the meeting to agree, or not, a proposal that the BVF Committee explore the possibility of introducing the category. If you have views on this then please write or email me.



We look forward to welcoming many members in Gloucester for the Championships and before then, at the Veterans Hampshire Open in Portsmouth in February. This was an extremely good competition last year and well worth competing in, so do consider entering. The entry form is on the BVF website in Latest News.

Sincerely

Frank Mills
BVF Chairman

Lost Property

Items left behind at the AGQs, Bletchley:

- Foil body wire
- Red tracksuit top with 'City' on the back

Lost: RH Sabre jacket, red inside, maybe marked 'Stephen Rennie'

Please phone or email Frank Mills if either of the items left behind may be yours or if you have found Stephen's sabre jacket.

Tel: 01908 310516

millsfba@aol.com

BVF Calendar 2013

BVF CALENDAR 2013	
Feb 23-24	Hampshire (Veterans Tournament), Portsmouth
Mar 1-3	BVF Championships, Gloucester
Apr 13-14	West Midlands Open, Dudley, West Midlands
Apr 27-28 ?	Germany v GBR, Germany
May 4-5	5 Nations, Dublin
May 9 -12	European Individual Championships, Terni, Umbria, Italy
Sep 14-15	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

Age Group Qualifiers Winners!



Cat 1 Epee Unisex



Cat 2 Men's Sabre



Cat 3 Men's Epée



Cat 2 Women's Foil



Cat 2 Women's Sabre



Cat 4 Men's Sabre



Cat 4 Men's Foil



Cat 3 Women's Epée



Cat 4 Men's Epee



Cat 3 Women's Foil



Cat 1 Sabre



Cat 2 Women's Epee



Cat 1 Foil



Cat 3 Women's Sabre



Cat 4 Women's Epee



Cat 3 Men's Sabre



Cat 3 Men's Foil

Age Group Qualifiers Medallists *(full results are on the website)*

Cat 1 Foil

- 1 Mike McKay
- 2 Kamal Yasin
- 3 Kate O'Connell

Cat 1 Epée

- 1 Chris Howser
- 2 John Prime
- 3 Darryl Hazlewood

Nicola Hull - best woman

Cat 1 Sabre

- 1 Beth Davidson
- 2 Stefan Leponis
- 3 Kamal Yasin

Men's Foil Cat 2

- 1 John Troiano
- 2 Paul Abrahams
- 3 Anthony Bartlett

Men's Foil Cat 3

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

Men's Foil Cat 4

- 1 Malcolm Cawton
- 2 Brian Millo
- 3 Malcolm Fare

Men's Epée Cat 2

- 1 Neal Mallett
- 2 Anton Pollard
- 3 Jon Nottingham

Men's Epée Cat 3

- 1 Graham Paul
- 2 Robin Davenport
- 3 Jonathan Stanbury

Men's Epée Cat 4

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

Men's Sabre Cat 2

- 1 Chris Prevett
- 2 Barry Coulter
- 3 Julian Ghosh

Men's Sabre Cat 3

- 1 Richard Cohen
- 2 Carl Morris
- 3 Geoff Silverman

Men's Sabre Cat 4

- 1 Bill Osbaldeston
- 2 Peter Baron
- 3 Malcolm Cawton

Women's Foil Cat 2

- 1 Caron Hale
- 2 Jenny Morris
- 3 Gillian Worman

Women's Foil Cat 3

- 1 Clare Halsted
- 2 Margaret Myers
- 3 Sue Benney

Women's Foil Cat 4

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

Women's Epée Cat 2

- 1 Kate Smith
- 2 Jenny Morris
- 3 Jane Hutchison

Women's Epée Cat 3

- 1 Kate Elvin
- 2 Caryl Oliver
- 3 Silvia Earl

Women's Epée Cat 4

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

Women's Sabre Cat 2

- 1 Jane Hutchison
- 2 Grace Coulter
- 3 Caron Hale

Women's Sabre Cat 3

- 1 Sue Benney
- 2 Yvonne Walls
- 3 Viv Frith

Women's Sabre Cat 4

- 1 Connie Adam
- 2 Silvia Brown



Cat 4 Women's Sabre



Cat 2 Men's Epée

Photo of Men's Foil winners not available

Photos by Frank Mills

Action from the AGQs!



*Photos by
Editor*

Competition results (top half)

Cambridge Winter Tournament 5/1/2013

MF (60) 15 Nick Fihosy
18 Paul Lowen
19 Michael Medhurst
21 Paul Baillache
22 Austen Rose
26 Paul Abrahams
29 David Exeter

ME (67) 3 Adam Stenner
5 John Prime
9 Pete Eames
17 Stephen Domek
22 Howard West
23 Simon Pink
33 Chris Green

MS (24) 6 Steve Potter

WF (21) 6 Dawn Townsend

WE (24) 8 Nadya Yordanova
11 Janet Baron
12 Silvia Earl

WS (19) 9 Tracy Russen

Aldershot Open - 2/1/2013

MF (40) 5 Nick Mort
6 Paul Lowen
8 Nick Fihosy
14 Austen Rose
16 Paul Abrahams
18 Graham Paul
19 Paul Baillache

ME (81) 1 Chris Howser
2 Jason Scrimshaw
6 Robert Flatt
12 Will Miller
13 Adam Steiner
34 Rob Brooks

WE (25) 10 Susan Brooks

Congratulations to Chris Howser, 1st place Aldershot Open Men's Epee!



Apologies to Marcia

From last month's article by Henry on 25th Anniversary: 'Marcia Stretch and Dennis Hunt, original winners of the Ladies' Epee and Men's Sabre, were unable to come due to Marcia being ill.'

Marcia won the Ladies' Foil (not epee) several times!

Editor

Carl Morris and Geoff Silverman face up to each other at the AGQs

Photo by Editor

British Veterans Fencing Trips Abroad

The BVF Committee would like to provide a range of trips to overseas friendly matches, Veterans Tournaments and Training Camps. To this end we are looking to enrol the help of Volunteer Organisers to arrange and take part in trips to selected European Veterans events.

The Volunteer organisers will receive help with the organisation of these trips and a manual will be available for reference.

The Volunteer Organisers could expect a contribution of up to 30% of their travel and accommodation cost depending on the numbers participating in the trip.

We have already piloted this initiative with a trip to St Petersburg organised by Carole Seheult which was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. You will find a report from Carole following this notice.

If you are considering taking part in any of the European events on the BVF Calendar or would like to receive more information, please contact David Sweeney, BVF International Fencing Officer using the contact details below.

David Sweeney

Tel: 01453 758 372

Mob: 07881 908 629

email: mrdsweeney@hotmail.com



Alexander Vetrov Veteran Epée Tournament St Petersburg (27th October 2012)

The invitation to attend the competition came about via Alex Posnov, a keen veteran fencer and member of the St Petersburg club who I had initially met at the Ystad International last June.

After speaking with Dave Sweeney and carrying out some initial research regarding flights it was decided to make the trip over four nights, Thursday 25th October to Monday 29th October. Happily the timings of the BA flights lent themselves to making the maximum use of our time in Russia. I was convinced that if we had a half dozen who were willing to sign up, I would be prepared to go ahead and take on leadership of the visit. Dave very kindly composed the advert and John Mason put out the information to the BVF membership.

Initially there was a lot of interest expressed, however several people felt the trip was either going to work out as very expensive or was too close to the World Championships in Krems. Nevertheless we ended up with six people who were happy to sign up.

The first person to contact me was Jim Pilkington who was extremely keen to learn more about the trip and also, as a keen opera lover, was also very interested in taking in a performance of Prince Igor which he had discovered was to take place on the 28th October at the Mariinsky Theatre. As a result of this interest we decided to make the possibility of the opera an "optional extra", in the event taken up by all and thoroughly enjoyed!!!

The remaining members of our party were Mark Richardson (balletomane and holder of "O" level in Russian, without whom we would have not eaten!), Simon White (historian and absolute whizz on modern military history!) and Dianne and Brian Causton (benchmarks of sartorial elegance and owners of real fur coats!). We all got on like a house on fire and had a really great time.

BA had one flight a day leaving Heathrow T5 at 9:20am and getting in to St Petersburg about 15:40. (About a 3 hour flight). Fencers made their own travel arrangements. We used the visa agency Travel Direct who are based in Edinburgh. They have an excellent website and were extremely helpful and efficient and visas arrived promptly in 8 working days as advertised.

Alex Posnov had arranged a discount for fencers at the Hotel Suvorov. This is a centrally placed hotel described in the Lonely Planet guide as "small but welcoming" and "offering all the amenities you need in a modern (albeit bland) setting." The hotel staff spoke English as did the manager, Irina, who communicated with me promptly and efficiently by email. The hotel was approximately 5-7 minutes' walk from Nevsky Prospect, the main commercial street of St Petersburg. Six Finnish fencers arrived by train the day before the competition and stayed at the same hotel as ourselves.

The host club arranged for us to be met at the airport with a minibus and driver, Vladimir (the competition organiser) and Elena, an English speaking guide. All this was complimentary, as was transfer to the club for the competition on the Saturday.

The competition was advertised as a Team Epee competition for Veterans. Teams were mixed three fencers in each and there were 18 fencers in total. Mark, Brian and Simon fenced as GB Vets, while Jim and I were joined by Russian Vet Anna Zakarhova to become the British-Russian Friendship Team! Before starting the Team matches we all fenced the other two members of our teams thus allowing the organisers to rank men and women individually as well between teams. In addition when fencing a fencer of the same gender there was a handicap of one hit per ten years of age difference.

We all enjoyed the fencing very much and after a hotly fought match between the Russian men and Team GB the Russians emerged as gold medallists and the Brits as Silver medal winners. Brian Causton won Bronze in the individual medal competition and I managed somewhere in the middle of the girls having beaten the Finnish Ladies but despite the ingenious handicapping system being unable to stay ahead of the young Russian women! One other notable point was that the organisers provided free bananas and bottled water.



**Brian
keeps
warm!**

We were all totally delighted by the warmth of the welcome and hospitality afforded us by our Russian friends and hosts! Not only did they help us and advise us regarding arrangements for the trip but did everything to make our stay in St Petersburg interesting and memorable.

The morning after our arrival the six of us were picked up the minibus and, accompanied by Elena the guide, were then taken off on for a comprehensive tour of the City. This took in all the top tourist sights of the city plus many more. Throughout the morning we were regaled with the fascinating back story of the city of St Petersburg through the different eras. At lunchtime we stopped for coffee and an opportunity to sample some delicious pies.

At 2 pm we arrived at the Hermitage Museum, the second largest museum in the world and after only a short queue were admitted to wander through room after room filled with the art treasures collected since the time of Catherine the Great. (Cost about 400 roubles plus 200 roubles for a photography pass.) This was an amazing experience only halted at 6 pm by the closure of the museum. I am sure that we all left knowing that in that time we had hardly even scratched the surface of what these lovely palaces have to offer. Plenty more to see next time! Once again throughout the afternoon we were accompanied and guided by the indefatigable Elena.

The day after the competition, Sunday morning, we were told to wrap up warm and we would be picked up together with the Finns to be taken to the Peter and Paul Fortress. This is built on the site where Peter the Great is said to have begun the building of St Petersburg. When we arrived we were met by Alex, Anna, Vladimir and several other Russian fencers and their families. There was clearly something afoot! At 11:45 am Alex called everyone together to give us our instructions. We were all to keep together and do exactly as we were told! In just a few moments we were to follow Alex and climb up the steps that lead out onto the fortress walls where I and the leader of the Finnish delegation had been selected to fire the midday gun over the City! Luckily the whole procedure would be under the control of two Russian Naval officers who would guide me step by step as to what I had to do! Attention! One-two-three-four-Five! On five pull back the firing pin and Boom.

After the firing of the gun there was the presentation of the trophy to commemorate the competition, a stainless steel shell-case, polished and engraved (in Russian!). And after the presentation all retired to a small shelter on the walls where there was vodka and nibbles and toasts all round.

Following the visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress the whole party were taken off to a very pleasant Russian country style restaurant where the Brits and the Finns were guests of the Russians at an excellent lunch. More vodka, more toasts and lots of opportunity to talk and cement new friendships including the invitation to return next year and the news that next year the French will be coming.



Naval Officers prepare the gun!



Engraved shell case

Undoubtedly one of the major tourist attractions of a visit to St Petersburg is the Mariinsky Theatre; however attending a live performance of Prince Igor has to be "the icing on the cake!" Having taken up Jim Pilkington's proposal to go to the opera, a relatively small amount of research on the Internet allowed us to book and pay for tickets in advance. Seats in the stalls cost around £65 but there were plenty available higher up that would only have been half the price.

As all of the participants were keen on a trip to the opera I took on responsibility for booking tickets in advance online. I picked up the tickets from the Theatre box-office during our city tour. This turned out to be very straightforward.

Altogether I found my first experience of leading a group fairly straightforward although quite time-consuming. I am sure I could have made life easier for myself but as the party was quite small and people very co-operative and helpful I have not been put off. I could have been more formal and had spread sheets and things and certainly think that had the party been much larger would have needed to do this.

Although I had taken along personal gifts for Anna and Alex I think that if we went again we would need to take a more special gift for the club. The Finns, coming for the second year, were better prepared and presented Vladimir with a very nice piece of Finnish glass.

Despite us asking how we could pay for the Day's guided city tour it seemed that this was not expected and had been laid on by the club! Similarly all the transfer (airport to hotel; hotel to competition venue) were complimentary.

Carole Seheult

Mystery Fencer

I read with interest the reports on the 25 year celebration published in the December Newsletter.

As a long standing épée fencer, I was pleased to hear John Payne (winner of the épée championship 1987), a fencer I have crossed swords with many times, was present.

Consequently I examined the list of winners, past and present, to find I knew them all except one D. FACEY 1980.

Can anyone advise who D Facey is and why he is such an early winner of this championship?

Howard West



Vets at the Opera

Photos courtesy of Carole Seheult

England Veterans Fencing Association

Chairman's Report 2012

The year has been a busy one with the Commonwealth Veterans in Singapore and hosting the Home International at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. 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 Singapore at the end of September. This was the first time that the veteran's event had been run under the auspices of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation. A team of 17 men and 7 women represented England in an 11 nation event with just over 160 competitors. A successful event produced 17 gold, 7 silver and 2 bronze medals to leave us in first place just ahead of Australia. Detailed results were printed in the BVF newsletter.

We were supported by England Fencing who paid for Tristan Hale to go as referee and they also paid our team entry fees.

The sixth Home International was hosted by us in Leeds in April. We again retained the Justin Smith trophy after an exciting weekend of fencing. This year's event will be in Dublin at the beginning of May.

There has been much discussion between England Fencing and the committee to agree a way ahead towards making England Veterans an Associate Body of England Fencing. I have tried to keep everyone informed through the newsletter and hope that you are happy to go ahead with the proposal we are putting to this AGM.

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

***Happy England fencers
at the Gala dinner in
Singapore***

Photo by Editor



England Veterans Fencing Association Annual General Meeting

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

Date and Time: Friday 1st March 2013, 21 00 hrs *

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 2nd March 2012
3. Matters arising
4. Reports of Officers
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
5. Proposal: It is proposed by the committee that the England Veterans Fencing Association becomes an Associate Body of England Fencing
6. Election of Officers and committee members
7. 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. 22nd February 2012).

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

Hampshire Open - 23rd and 24th February

The Hampshire Open 2013 will take place on 23rd and 24th February 2013. You will be guaranteed the warmest welcome of all the Opens to make sure the Hampshire becomes a "must" on your fencing calendar.

Veteran Fencing Events in All Three Weapons!

This year's Hampshire Open will incorporate a veterans competition in all three weapons to make this an unmissable event for those 40+ fencers who want a weekend away in 'happening' Portsmouth. The veterans events will run on the opposing day to the senior weapon, meaning that energetic vets will have the chance to fence in both! Veteran fencers must all be members of BVF.

Full details can be found on the website:

<http://www.southhampshirefencing.co.uk/hampshire-open/details/>



*John and Moya
at the Gala
dinner in
Singapore*

*Photo by
Editor*

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

NOMURA

**Caption Competition
January**

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net



*Photo by
Editor*

**Caption Competition
December**

Editor's choice

'Gillian was beginning to think that she should have been a little more specific when talking to the wine waiter'

Paul Brenda

'Hello boys!'

Tim Miles



*Photo by
Ralph
Johnson*



Christmas Song Quiz answers

1. Where do you hear Silver Bells? *"And on every street corner you hear", Silver Bells...*
2. Who danced with the silk hat on his head? *Frosty* of course
3. Where do you find Reindeer Paws? *Up on a housetop* Reindeer Paws...
4. What did the noisy cattle do to wake the poor baby? *The cattle were lowing.*
5. When did I see three ships? *I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day in the morning.*
6. What size were the Kings of the Orient? *Sing the first lines for the answer They were tiny little Kings, they were wee...*
7. What helps to make the season bright? *Everybody knows some turkey and some Mistletoe, help.....*
8. Who wants a pair of hop-a-long boots, and a pistol that shoots? *That's the hope of Barney and Ben - cause it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...*
9. Who still wants a hula-hoop? *ALVIN!!! still wants a hula hoop*
10. Who kept time to the drum? *Along with the drummer boy "The Ox and Lamb kept time" pa rum pa pa pum*
11. Who and what colour was the animal that gave the hay to pillow his head? *I said the cow all white and red , I gave him my hay to pillow his head. from "The Friendly Beasts"*
12. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in "*Thee*" or in the little town of *Bethlehem.*
13. What would keep me warm all the way home? *But if you really hold me tight, all the way home I'll be warm. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.*
14. What does Susie want? *Jolly old St Nicholas says "Susie wants a Dolly"*
15. Why does the child want his two front teeth? *So he can wish you Merry Christmas or (whistle?)*
16. What was the other reindeers name? *(she used to laugh and call him names) "Olive the other reindeer"*
17. What was the horse in Jingle bells named? *The bells on Bob-tail rang, so his name was Bob*
18. When will I finally go? *I'll wish you a merry Christmas, but I won't go until I get some, (or figgy pudding)*
19. What colour is Christmas without you? *Elvis said it would be a blue Christmas without you.*
20. What is the parson in the meadows name? *Frosty says that he is Parson Brown. When we're walking in a winter wonderland..*

Extra Credit

- Where does one go a wassailing? *Here we go a wassailing amongst the leaves so green.*
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ *You noticed of course : Noel*



How many?
There were 33

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	
	Secretary	Marcia Stretch  Tel: 01293 786 841 marcia_stretch@hotmail.com
Elected Members	International Fencing Officer	David Sweeney  Tel: 01453 758372 mrdsweeney@hotmail.com
	Domestic Fencing Officer	Peter Baron  Tel: 01384 400242 bvf@baronfencing.plus.com
	Newsletter Editor	Gillian Aghajan  Tel: 07747 792712 g.aghajan@virgin.net
		Jonathan Stanbury  Tel: 01823 331909 alfg8@aol.com
		Lawrence Burr  Tel: 01823 433844 lsburr@btopenworld.com
Co-opted Member	Publicity Officer	Malcolm Fare  malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk



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

Gillian Aghajan
 by 20th February
 Tel: 07747 792712
 email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net

