



The Vets

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Leon Paul

THE PEOPLE JIGSAW

“Let’s run the World Championships”, they all said, or most of them, at the NVA’s AGM 2 years ago, in those far off distant days when it seemed like a good idea and no one quite realised what was involved. As reality dawned, the number of tasks that had to be dealt with and the number of volunteers needed to make everything run smoothly began to assume nightmare proportions.

But first the NVA Committee appointed a Steering Group to run the whole shooting match. This was, in many ways, a dream team: Dave Sweeney (Chairman) – chief mover and shaker, who at one point found himself responsible for 44 jobs with another 38 still to be allocated; Hilary Arnold (Secretary) – administrator extraordinaire, who prepared all the job descriptions and will be the event manager to whom all activity heads report during the championships; John Mason (Treasurer) – systems guru and webmaster, who made the mistake at one meeting of pointing out the need for an overall project manager and naturally found himself nominated; and Hilary Philbin (Quality Controller) – co-ordinator and team-building specialist, whose job included thinking of the worst-case scenario and then finding a way out of it. Continued on page 2



Women’s Epée: European Team 2006
Kate Smith, Jenny Morris
Kate Elvin, Janet Cooksey
Photo: Nick Stokes

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They identified 12 general tasks, most of which involved admin and event management and many of which were later broken down into specific activities, like Opening & Closing Ceremonies, Weapon Control, DT, Finals and Gala Dinner. Dave Sweeney and Frank Mills handled the early marketing and fundraising efforts and later John Mason successfully applied for an Awards For All grant of £10,000. By October 2005 a further 15 activities had been added: FIE liaison, Floor management, Historian, Information desk, Photographer, Publicity, Registration, Secretariat, Security, and co-ordinators for Catering, Marshals, Social, Transport, Referees and Volunteers.

In total over 100 volunteers were needed, some of them involved in deeply time-consuming and complex activities. Richard Bonehill is Mr Entertainment, responsible for putting together a team to present slick and professional opening and closing ceremonies. Pat Casey is co-ordinating the supply of some 20 referees, half provided by foreign delegations. Lawrence Burr is organising a team of smartly dressed 'heavies' to keep order, specially trained in NVC (non-violent communication), which seems to mean they are not allowed to hit people.

Maggie Myers and Sue Church will run the information desk, which will include a French speaker and runners, and Peter Baron will organise linguists and announcers. Gerry Simpson is responsible for transport – not only shuttle buses for fencers, but also pick-up arrangements from Bristol airport and the provision of cars for members of the FIE. As floor manager, Linda Lawes will ensure that the sports hall has all pistes, equipment, roped off areas, marshals and signs in place.

The *Directoire Technique* and weapon control will be in the hands of experienced professionals, Barry Flood and Peter & Janet Huggins respectively. Chris Green is the official photographer and Malcolm Fare the historian, tasked with recording the event for posterity and future organisers. Mavis Thornton will have her work cut out as finals manager ensuring that the FIE

European Team
Men's Sabre

Gold: Italy
Silver: Russia
Bronze: Great Britain

Photo: Nick Stokes

presentation party, cushion bearers, flags and anthems, prizes and medallists are all in the right place at the right time. Penny Spink is running the secretariat, which will collate and put up results, make up folders for foreign delegations and sort out any unexpected requests.

Gillian Aghajan is handling social/catering activities, making sure there are refreshments available for referees, vouchers for volunteers, and marshals to stop gatecrashers at the VIP reception, where Sue Sweeney will act as hospitality coordinator, and gala dinner. Co-ordinating the volunteers will be Yvonne Walls and Janet Baron. Some jobs never seemed to find an owner, so things like publicity and design are shared by whoever is around.

Hilary Philbin has made sure the whole operation is bus-proof – in other words, if anyone falls under a bus, a back-up is available to take over. Once deputies and assistants are factored in, the numbers not only increase alarmingly, but the knock-on effects become interesting. Wives, husbands and partners may suddenly find themselves in the front line. For example, if John Mason, who, having nothing else to do, is running the Registration desk, goes down, his wife Sonya takes over with back-up from Lynne Bornemisza.

While managing this jigsaw of friends, family and anyone remotely connected with fencing, Hilary Philbin also found herself in June and early July with a BBC contract that involved working 16 hours a day, to say nothing of having to find another flat and prepare for a major South American holiday in August. Let us hope she is not the only one fleeing the country.
MF.



£10,000 Lottery Grant!!!!

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, John Mason has secured funding from Awards For All, the branch of the National Lottery that gives support to sports organisations in the regions.

This is what John wrote:

“I prepared the bid that was based around using the forthcoming World Championships as a focal point to improve volunteer skills and thereby leave a lasting benefit for fencing in the South West.

The skills targeted were those in armoury and weapon control and in event management.

The following is an extract from the bid application:

The plan takes advantage of the World Veterans Fencing Championships (WC2006) that will be held in Bath in September 2006. This event will bring together the best competition organisers available and provides an opportunity to give training and practical experience to volunteers in the South West.

We see the WC2006 event as an opportunity to:

Improve the organisational skills of sports administrators

Increase the pool of capable volunteers

Improve the technical skills of fencing administrators, particularly armoury skills.

These skills will be retained in the South West long after the event and will be a sound base for the ongoing development of volunteers towards the London Olympics in 2012.

Volunteers

Volunteers are a necessary part of the sport of fencing and are involved at club level and in the running of competitions.

There are not enough volunteers in the UK to service local clubs; there are not enough volunteers at a regional level to service regional competitions.

The WC2006 event will require around 100 volunteers per day. It is proposed to recruit and train at least 80% of these in the South West.

All volunteers will experience the pressure of a world class event. They will be involved in the whole event including setting up, running the competition, managing the social events and finally dismantling and clearing the venue.

Armourers

Armourers are a necessary part of fencing and are involved at club level and in the running of all competitions.

At club level they repair fencers' personal equipment and the club's scoring equipment and are involved in checking that equipment is safe.

At competitions they repair competitors' fencing equipment, check that such equipment meets the FIE (international governing body) standard and also diagnose and repair faults in the scoring equipment. There are not enough armourers in the UK to service local clubs; there are not enough armourers to service regional competitions.

It is proposed to identify a group of Candidate Armourers. Preference will be given to applicants from the South West. The group will attend formal training courses and then attend the WC2006 event. There they will observe at close quarters the best armourers we have and they will do useful work under close supervision of experienced armourers. They will be examined for a formal qualification with the Guild Of Armourers.

Management Skills

Weapon Control is a management skill rather than a technical skill.

Control at international competitions is designed to ensure that equipment used by competitors is of a consistent and legal standard. There are a number of checks that are prescribed for each item of equipment.

The management skill is to ensure that large amounts of equipment (up to 12 items per competitor) are collected, inspected and returned to competitors in a short window of time for the competition to start. Teams of 10-20 armourers are involved in a major event managed by a Weapon Control Manager.

It is proposed to give Candidate Armourers access to the design documents describing Weapon Control, to observe Weapon Control in action and to be able to question the best weapon control managers available in the UK.”

And it clearly worked. Thank you, John, for all your hard work.

GALA DINNER TICKETS

The Gala Dinner for the World Championships will be held on Sunday 3rd September, in the Assembly Rooms in Bath. Tickets will be sold in the first instance to participants and partners, but there may be spaces left when the entry closes on 10th August.

If you would like to attend, please send a cheque for £40.00 per ticket, made out to NVA, to John Mason, 18 Sandringham Road, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 0JU. Tickets are restricted to two per NVA member.

If the event is oversubscribed, tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis, with the priority given to those who have volunteered to help at the event.

You will be sent your ticket/s or returned cheque shortly after 10th August.

URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP

From the Sabre Competitors in the World Championships.

It is an FIE requirement that all sabre competitors wear Visor masks for the World Championships in Bath. Not all members of our squad are full-time sabreurs, so don't have one, therefore:-

Each of the following G.B. sabre fencers would like to borrow a full FIE sabre mask with 1600N bib and clear visor.

We don't actually need one mask per fencer, the schedules allow some transfer.

PLEASE HELP

Category A (50+)

Men (Fri 1st) Women (Sun 3rd)

Name	Size	Name	Size
		Sue Benney	L
		Jenny Morris	S
		Yvonne Walls	S/M?? (Still measuring!)

Category B (60+)

Men (Sat 2nd) Women (Fri 1st)

Name	Size	Name	Size
Peter Baron	S	Connie Adam	L
		Sylvia Brown	M

And there may be others among those whom I have not managed to contact.

When responding, please say whether:-

- You are able to bring a visor mask to the World Championships, and when it is available
- You can't come but can get a mask to someone you know who is coming, and when it is available.
- You will help, but need to tailor-make an arrangement.

If you are able to help, please contact Sylvia Brown (SYlvieB@tesco.net)

By: Weds 2nd August at the latest. Thank you.

Sylvia Brown

THE VETS TEAM CHALLENGE

The first annual friendly team competition open to all our members
- except those qualifying internationally this year.



Sunday 15th October 2006

LOUGHBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE

Each team to comprise 3 mixed foil, 3 mixed epee and 3 mixed sabre at
a cost of £10.00 per fencer.

*If you would like to enter, but don't have a full team, we will endeavour to
help you put a team together from vets in your area/region.*

CONTACTS TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR TO GET AN ENTRY FORM:-

FRANK MILLS TEL. 01908 310516 OR EMAIL: Millsfba@aol.com

LINDA LAWES TEL. 01235 200643 OR EMAIL: linda.lawes@ntlworld.com

CUBA CALLING

Fancy fencing in Cuba? Negotiations are in hand for a friendly match at foil and épée with Cuban vets, men and women, next February. If you are interested in taking part and sight-seeing for a few days afterwards, please contact Malcolm Fare on 01684 311197 or malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk

Letters to the Chairman:

Dear Dave

As you said in your letter, the Vet's are a very friendly crowd. I was made most welcome and very soon was involved in 'fencing' conversation.

Being a new Vet and at 88 years possibly the oldest there was quite naturally much curiosity about my fencing background. However, you will look in vain for my name in the record books as my modest successes were only at club and county level.

I was very impressed with the Vet's in action and thoroughly enjoyed meeting them on the piste. But I was somewhat puzzled and disconcerted when my indirect repostes failed to score, also with a fleche attack, which I was confident I had right of way as it arrived on target and was courteously acknowledged by my opponent.

It was then that I realised that your boxes were set on the new timings! This was my first experience of them. Andy Hill our Plymouth coach had decided to delay the changes on ours until it was known for certain that they would be permanent. Soon?

My apologies for the dull electric jacket and thank you for the loan of a replacement.

I am looking forward to our World Championship in September and hoping my domestic commitments will allow me to offer my help and support.

Again my thanks to all the Vet's who made me feel so welcome and for a very enjoyable Saturday evening social.

With best wishes and kind regards

Dennis Willcock

President Plymouth Fencing Club

DUEL ON THE BEACH
August Bank Holiday Weekend.
Perranporth Beach.
Mixed teams of 3 at Foil and Sabre.
Contact Frank Mills if interested in joining the team.

World Veterans Fencing Championships, 1st-3rd September 2006.
University of Bath.
Book your room and Gala Dinner tickets: see this newsletter.

Middlesex Unisex Epée, 1st October 2006.
Middlesex University.

Open to all NVA members. Entry forms and details will be circulated with a later newsletter.

New Competition: Sabre

Cornwall Pro Sabre Saturday 14th October

Cash Prize for the best Veteran. See June newsletter for details

Veterans Team Challenge Sunday 15th October

Loughborough Charnwood Leisure Centre.

Group booking at The Quality Hotel Saturday night, special rates. Group dinner Saturday night.

Contact Linda Lawes or Frank Mills and register your interest.

Xmas Fun Fence, Dinner and Dance, 18th November 2006.
Coventry.

Open to all NVA Members. Entry forms and details will be circulated with a later newsletter.

Dear Dave

I have just competed in the Malta Open for the 7th time, and for the second occasion brought back the gold for the Men's Epee. Brian Speight was also out there working as it happened in a hotel local to where the rest of us were staying. He came up and joined us for the Men's epee, but lost his DE to Juan Formosa (the Maltese coach) who a bit like Brian can strongly take your weapon. From this aspect it was quite an interesting fight and it is shame that Brian lost. He finished 9th.

In the final we had a granddad/grandson scenario with me with my 70 years, against 18 year old Pierre Biancho who is one of their best foilists and agile to go with it. I did almost lose it though. While at the end of the first 3 minutes I was 11-8 up, Pierre had worked me out and soon reversed my lead to 14-13. At that point, I decided to change to French grip (Graham Paul style handle) and with a bit of pommeling get the next two hits. But golly though, I still feel angry with myself for letting him get to 14-13!! - and I hate to think how I would be feeling now, if I had lost!!

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of this event. Two major things have changed since the early days. The first is that the Maltese fencers have come along tremendously and while at one time, we had not too much difficulty in bringing back to the UK all their quite splendid trophies, it is now quite a different matter, and they are a pleasing challenge. The other area that has changed is the timing of the flights and the accommodation. In former times, we were packed like sardines into self-catering apartments and had to suffer overnight flights. While this gave a cheap holiday and it is still available for those who choose it, the option of having daytime flights from a choice of around 14 different airports and an air-conditioned and attractive hotel is the alternative for which most of us plumb.

In the early autumn, I will bring out info about the 10th Championships, and we are hoping that many of us who done it in the past might be tempted to come next year.

With regards

Jim Pilkington

Notable results: Top half or last 32

BILL HOSKYNS OPEN

ME (107)
 12 Neale Thomas
 26 Andrew Brown

SHEFFIELD OPEN

MF (55)
 11 Nick Stokes
 27 Jim Harris
 WF (10)
 J3 Jo Bowyer
 ME (21)
 J3 Tony Klenczar
 6 Evert van Gemeren
 WE (5)
 2 Kate Francis
 MS (23)
 10 Mark Brightman

COLE CUP

WS (21)
 8 Jane Hutchison

WREXHAM OPEN

MF (53)
 1 Nick Stokes
 ME (61)
 20 Nick Stokes
 WE (20)
 2 Kate Elvin
 MS (31)
 J3 Steve Potter
 15 John Norrie
 WS (15)
 5 Gillian Aghajan

WORLD VETERANS FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS, BATH 2006

BATH UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms with en-suite facilities are available at Bath University for £48.50 a night, including breakfast and car parking. This is a good rate for Bath in the tourist season, and many Bath hotels have no car parking or only paid parking (typically £15/day).

An obvious advantage is that the rooms are on the same site as the venue. There is a bus service into Bath (about 1½ miles down a very steep hill).

The University rooms can only be booked centrally. Please complete the form and return with payment for the full amount, to arrive **no later than 10th August**, to:

Hilary Arnold, 17 Acorn Close, Enfield, Middx EN2 8LX

Bath University Accommodation

Single rooms with en suite facilities at £48.50 per night for bed, breakfast and car parking

Arrival date Departure date

No of nights No of rooms

Total accommodation cost

£

I enclose a cheque for the full amount

or

I have paid electronically to NVA (Acc: 65 85 17 65, Sort Code 52 30 31)

Name (please print) Signed