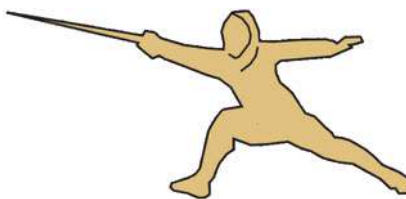


British Veterans Fencing



Newsletter - July 2010

First UK Veterans Open!



Photo by Andrew Brown

Full report and results in this issue on the West Midlands Veterans Open

Gold medal winners:

Tim Miles

Rob Penton

Malcolm Allton

Caron Hale (2 weapons)

Nickola Beck

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Since the last Newsletter, we have received a number of further comments and responses on the matter of selection, and this was an item of special discussion at our BVF committee meeting on 13th June.

We have formed a sub-committee to look into every aspect of selection and they are charged to report back to the committee for our next meeting in September and we will keep you informed of progress and decisions on this as we progress.

Although small in terms of entry, the West Midlands Veterans Open competition proved to be very enjoyable to everyone who was able to take part, and thanks to Peter Baron for organising it. Let's hope this event will grow over the years to become a firm favourite in the BVF calendar.

We had an excellent response from members to our call for new logo designs and we will announce the winning design in our next Newsletter.

Meanwhile, the next big competition is the Veterans Winton Cup and we look forward to seeing many of you in Telford.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Mills
Chairman BVF

BVF CALENDAR 2010

Jul 17-18	Celtic Challenge - Hosted by Truro Fencing club in Cornwall
Sep 11-12	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall National Sports Centre
Sep 29 - Oct 3	World Championships, Porec, Croatia
Sep 29 - Oct 5	Commonwealth Veterans - Melbourne, Australia
Oct 9-10	Welsh Veterans Championships, Swansea Contact Gillian Aghajan for details
Oct 31	Middlesex Epée - details to follow
Nov 27	Xmas dinner and fencing - details to follow

West Midlands Open - a report and photos by Peter Baron

Before I report on the events of the weekend, I would first like to issue an apology. The event was one of several balls I was trying to juggle in the period leading up to its taking place. It is also true to say that I was extremely disappointed with the entry. The result was my final reminder to enter ended in being couched in rather terser terms than intended. Several people had felt fit to send their apologies. In my exhortation to send in an entry I sought to save those people the bother of reading the email. As I do not feel that anyone has a need to apologise for not entering any event, I also sought to forestall further apologies.

I can see now that it could be inferred that I was saying "An apology was expected but if you haven't done so don't bother now." That was not the intention. I can understand that some people may have read it that way and why, in that case, they would be offended. I therefore apologise to anyone I have offended by my hastily composed message and my inadequate use of language.



As to the events of the weekend, I am relieved to say that everything went well. Numbers were, indeed, low but sufficient for everyone to have a good deal of fencing. Most importantly everyone appears to have enjoyed themselves – I have received no complaints - and I have had several emails confirming that individuals have enjoyed the event.

Rob Penton refs the Women's Sabre

The lowest numbers, strangely, were in the foil which had a couple of late scratches to reduce numbers further. A mixed poule unique was run followed by separate DEs for Men & Women. The only slight surprise was to see Caron Hale put some of the men in their place and finish 3rd behind Tim Miles and Malcolm Fare – not entirely surprising, however, as she is an improving fencer and is training hard. The 5 ladies then fenced their DEs with Sue Church and Dee German having to fence off for a place in the semi. Both had struggled in the first round, Sue after several years of being unable to fence and Dee a relative novice. Sue's experience told and she won the dubious privilege of facing Caron. In the first semi Moya McNamara, struggled a little before getting past Catherine Heyes 10-8. Sue then had little answer to Caron in her present form. The final wasn't particularly close either with Caron taking the gold with a safe 10-4 margin.



The 8 man Men's DE produced no shocks. Fred Shepherd squeezed past Michael Bex 9-8 to reach the semi, in on paper the closest fight. Mark Robertson, Malcolm Fare and Tim Miles also progressed. Tim & Fred's fight ended at time with Tim in front 9-5. Malcolm progressed more sedately and then the final turned out to be a cagey affair, again ending with the clock at 6-3 to Tim.

John Crouch takes a well-earned break

A late scratch and no-show meant 8 Men sabreurs. As there were 11 Women the 2 sabre events were kept separate. No surprises in the Men's event at any stage, with Rob Penton, Steve Potter and the improving Jorge Esteves the first 3 seeds. All three progressed without many alarms along with Jim Pilkington. Steve then polished off Jorge comfortably 10-5 and Rob saw off Jim easily 10-2. Then final was at least a closer affair with Rob taking the gold 10-7.

The surprise to some might have been the inexperienced Wednesday Jones finishing the round top seed in the Women's Sabre. "Baby Vet"(birthday 14 June) Lynne Melia was 2nd seed. Nearly every fight in the DE was close, with just a couple of relatively easy victories in the L16. Sylvia Brown came nearest to grief with a big wobble, against the less experienced Sharon Booth, before going through to the L8 by 10-8. In the quarters 3 hits was the biggest margin, with two 10-9 cliff-hangers. In the semi Wedz couldn't quite keep up her form and was seen off fairly comfortably by Nickola Beck. Likewise Lynne had a fairly comfortable passage past Lisa Evans. True to form the final went to 10-9, giving some excitement to the audience. Fortunately most of the sabreurs and some of the foilists were still there to see it which gave a good atmosphere. Nickola the more experienced, in sabre terms, took the gold.

Sunday's Epée events were again large enough for separate events. Again they were run as poules unique. Matthew Gibbs topped the Men's ranking, whilst Sue Hanney topped the Women's. In the Men's Andrew Brown struggled and local boy John Morris recovered from a poor start to end up 5th seed, with the two Malcolms (Allton and Fare) finished alphabetically correctly in 2nd and 3rd respectively. In the L16 9th seed Paul Drake pipped 8th seed Andrew Brown 10-9. In the L8 Nigel Hinchcliff (6) very nearly put out Malcolm Fare (3). John Morris (5) did produce a minor shock taking out Paul Willmott (4), then in the semi went one better by taking out 1st seed Matthew, to reach his first ever individual final. Malcolm A, beat Malcolm F in the other semi. John's joy was nearly complete when, after having first led, he matched Malcolm up to 6-6, only to see the latter jump to a 9-6 lead. In one of the most gripping fights of the weekend, John fought back to 9-9 before his patience that had so rewarded him up to that point deserted him and an impetuous flèche resulted in Malcolm picking up the last point.

The Women's DE went according to seeding in the incomplete L16 but there things changed. Silvia Earl (8) took out Sue Hanney (1) 10-4 whilst Angela Findley (6) beat Moya McNamara 10-6. Kate Elvin and Caron Hale both went through 10-6. Kate and Caron both went through their semis 10-4 before Caron took her second gold of the weekend by 10-5.

There seemed to be no dust ups, (well, one little contretemps, which soon blew over) very few, if any, breakages of weapons and certainly not of people. The St Johns volunteers seem to have been totally unemployed. So, a very successful weekend.

As usual there are many people to thank for that. Among them but not exclusively, for the supply of kit, Stourbridge Fencing Club, in particular, West Midlands Region and Bath Sword Club who all provided it at short notice; for his usual efficient organisation, John Crouch, orchestrating things with an ensemble of computer and comb and paper; for refereeing, Lynne Melia, who came specially in time to referee the foil, Malcolm Allton who did a large amounts on both days, & Nuno Esteves who is a surprisingly good referee for his tender age and only came to support his dad. He is also a very promising sabreur but sadly we shall not be able to recruit him for a while yet. There were also several people who did sterling work in between their own fencing. In particular, thanks to Steve Potter and Rob Penton for their refereeing of the later Women's sabre fights. Alain Barbasiewicz came to coach one of his fencers but also put in a long stint of refereeing. Last but not least, thanks to all those who helped set up and strip out the equipment.



Kate Elvin watches pensively from a distance



What is the collective noun for a group of Veteran fencers? Suggestions to Editor!

Competition Results

West Midlands Open

Men's Foil

1	MILES	Tim
2	FARE	Malcolm
3	ROBERTSON	Mark
3	SHEPPARD	Fred
5	INGLESON	Lloyd
6	BEX	Michael
7	MILLO	Brian
8	MOORE	Austen

Men's Sabre

1	PENTON	Rob
2	POTTER	Steve
3	ESTEVEZ	Jorge
3	PILKINGTON	Jim
5	ELLWOOD	Steve
6	CWYNARSKI	Mark
7	BRENDA	Paul
8	PERRY	Bob

Men's Epee

1	ALLTON	Malcolm
2	MORRIS	John
3	FARE	Malcolm
3	GIBBS	Matthew
5	WILLMOTT	Paul
6	HINCHLIFF	Nigel
7	ROBERTSON	Mark
8	DRAKE	Paul
9	BROWN	Andrew
10	PATACA	Alex

Women's Foil

1	HALE	Caron
2	MCNAMARA	Moya
3	CHURCH	Sue
3	HEYES	Catherine
5	GERMAN	Dee

Women's Sabre

1	BECK	Nickola
2	MELIA	Lynne
3	EVANS	Lisa
3	JONES	Wednesday
5	EARL	Silvia
6	AGHAJAN	Gillian
7	FRITH	Vivien
8	BROWN	Sylvia
9	BOOTH	Sharon
10	WOODWARD	Frances
11	WILLIAMS	Lynn
12	SHEPHERD-FOSTER	Patricia

Women's Epee

1	HALE	Caron
2	ELVIN	Kate
3	EARL	Silvia
3	FINDLAY	Angela
5	HANNEY	Susan
6	MCNAMARA	Moya
7	BARON	Janet
8	SEHEULT	Carole
9	BROWN	Sylvia
10	AGHAJAN	Gillian

Cumberland Open - 26/6/2010

ME (16) 6 Steve Hannah WF (12) 3 Kati Archer

MS (14) 2 Julian Ghosh WE 8 Carole Seheult
 3 Andy Pearson (A115) 10 Alison Crosby
 7 Steve Hannah



Caption Competition June

Editor's choice:

.....so I tk 3 stps + lngd + ht hr on th arm. Ref gv th ht 2 hr, sd it ws pry rpst. I sd pry rpst! Yr hvg a laf; hr ft ws on grd b4 mne + sh ws out of tme. He sd he ddnt c tht. I sd wht wr u wchng. He sd smthg in Fr , pssbly v. rde. Ref Fr, bsd + blnd. Gmn gls cch sd I xstpd. Ref sd ddnt c tht eythr. I shwd ref my actn. He sd I ddnt do tht, my arm ws 2 lw. Gmn grl sd ony 1 lght. I sd 2 lgths. Ref still Fr, bsd + blnd, still gve ht 2 hr....Mre dtls whn I gt hme.

Paul Brenda

"You twit?"

"Yeah, left my battery on overnight."

Richard Cohen



*Photo courtesy of
Richard Bonehill*

Caption Competition July

Send your caption to:

g.aghajan@virgin.net



*Photo courtesy of
Andrew Brown*



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Flying Vets!

Several members competed in an International competition held this year in Brussels in early June known as the **Flying Friendship Cup**.

This annual competition was initiated by BEA (now British Airways) and Aeroport de Paris in 1959 (51 years ago!) by a former Veterans Chairman Joe Garratt, who was a British Airways senior manager. When he was still at British Airways Joe, who had fenced since his Navy days, joined my former club, Wellesbourne Sword Club, and asked if we would like to come to the competition as he had no other BA fencers. For as long as I can remember Wellesbourne has been fencing as the British Airways team which is a bit strange. However I worked at BEA for 2 years in the 70s fitting the staff uniforms so feel I can justify this and now the club likes to carry on the tradition. My family business is a uniform manufacturer (Hobson & Sons).



Janet and Peter Baron proudly display their medals

So each year we fence in a different city against KLM, in Amsterdam, Iceland Air in Brussels, Air France and Aeroport de Paris (where else) and although most of Joe's old friends have retired we have made many new friends over the years. We have hosted the event here in the UK on three occasions. Unfortunately KLM whose membership includes our old friend Kristin Payne were unable to come this year.

Last year due to a lack of competitive fencers at the Wellesbourne I asked several Vets to join us to fence in Chantilly in France and they enjoyed it so much that they were keen to come again this year; so Janet and Peter Baron, Malcolm Fare, Mike Bradbury & Nigel Hinchliff joined several Wellesbourne club members including Sylvia Brown and Malcolm Allton & younger first timers to the international scene as well as Silvia Earl and myself.

The competition is run both as teams (for the Flying Friendship Cup) and individuals in a poule system followed by Direct Elimination. It is a closely fought affair with a team of four, one fencer in each of the four disciplines. The team from Iceland Air included international fencers who were part of the Belgian Vets team who fenced in Macedonia this year. The French always bring young strong teams and unfortunately BA only managed 6th & 7th place in the Cup. However Peter Baron came 3rd in the Sabre Individual (see photo) and Silvia Earl (W/Foil) and myself (epee) both came 4th. Janet Baron also won a medal.

A cracking dinner was served in the Brussels Automobile Museum after visiting the Belgium Fencing Museum which is in the same building – a most interesting visit where Malcolm Fare presented his book to organiser & fellow collector of swords and all things fencing Yves Bertino. Malcolm also collected a piece of fencing memorabilia he had bought recently on eBay which had been delivered to the museum.

A most enjoyable & interesting time was had by all.



Andrew Brown

Brussels Automobile Museum

photos by Andrew Brown



VETERANS TRAINING

22 –28 August 2010
Fencing Technical Centre IMOLA (BO)

The CIRCOLO DELLA SCHERMA IMOLA , in collaboration with AMIS, organises training reserved to all veteran fencers, to prepare for both the 2010 Veterans World Championship and the incoming 2010-2011 season.

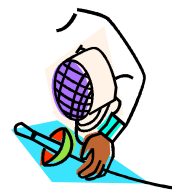
VENUE of the training is Centro Tecnico di Scherma e Ginnastica Artistica, Via Ercolani, 16 – IMOLA (Bologna-Italy), located 500 metres from the A14 motorway toll-booth (exit Imola, direction "Centro")

PROGRAMME from Monday August 23rd to Saturday August 28th 2010

Morning: 09:00-10:00 Physical training
10:00-12:30 Fencing lessons and bouts

Afternoon: 16:30-19:00 Fencing lessons and bouts

Saturday: Final tournaments



The Technical Centre has a big fencing hall with 7 boards and a reserved area for physical training, a well-equipped weight room and adequate male and female dressing rooms. Fencing activities will be integrated with free water activities by the swimming pool of the Molino Rosso hotel. Upon request, it will be possible to play other sports, like tennis, riding, or golf.

TECHNICAL STAFF

The following trainers will be available for the participants:

Responsible fencing master: Nicola Comincini – Coach of the Italian Veterans National Team - Master of foil, épée and sabre

Physical trainer: Andrea Terenzio

Physiotherapist: Filippo Polgrossi

Equipment technician: Giancarlo Ferri

ACCOMMODATION at Hotel Molino Rosso**** Via S.S. Selice,49 – IMOLA

<http://www.molinorosso.it> Tel. +39054263111

Constructed on the site of an ancient mill, the Hotel Molino Rosso of Imola is renowned for its exceptionally warm hospitality and superb facilities. Its experience as a first class hotel began some 25 years ago, in which time it has developed an enviable reputation for quality and efficiency. Situated within extensive gardens, boasting an impressive array of sports facilities, and being a mere stone's throw from Imola's famous "Dino and Enzo Ferrari motor racing circuit" makes the Molino Rosso Hotel the ideal destination. With its superb in-house business and leisure facilities, it is a popular choice for the business traveller, conferences and meetings, sports teams and of course for passing tourist visiting its immensely diverse region. Sports equipment enriches the complex and allow stays rich of healthy activities: approved football field and Olympic size pool.



Participation FEE	
o Fencer in single room all services included	Euro 510
o Fencer in double room all services included	Euro 460
o Companion in single room	Euro 440
o Companion in double room	Euro 390

The "Fencer" fee includes: - All the activities at the Technical Centre from Monday August 23rd to Saturday August 28th , 7 days full board by Molino Rosso Hotel, from Sunday August 22nd dinner to Sunday August 29th lunch.

The "Companion" fee includes 7 days full board at Molino Rosso Hotel, from Sunday August 22nd dinner to Sunday August 29th lunch.

Organisation of cultural visits and wine-gastronomic excursions has been envisioned. The participation fee is to be paid on arrival.

RESERVATIONS and INFORMATION

For reservations and additional information, please contact the AMIS secretary: IRIS GARDINI, telephone and fax +39 0541 782371, mobile +39 338 7781719, e-mail amis.italia@yahoo.it

Expiry date for reservations is Wednesday August 18th ; however advanced reservation is welcome. The training will be made if there are at least 10 participants.

ORGANISER CLUB - CIRCOLO SCHERMA IMOLA,
e-mail: info@schermaimola.it, website: www.schermaimola.it
Reference: Mr LORENZO MUSCARI, mobile +39 335431918.

SEGRETERIA AMIS: VIA SONNINO, 1 -47900 RIMINI (RN) - ITALIA

TELEFONO & FAX +39 0541 782371

MOBILE +39 338 7781719

E-MAIL amis.italia@yahoo.it

WEBSITE: www.amismasterscherma.it

A personal view

We have done this camp twice but this year will be on a twin-towning visit so can't. It's run by Iris Gardini, who also trains there. There have been two excellent sabre coaches (Alberto & Claudio who are both young and gorgeous - Claudio looks like a young Nicholas Cage and Alberto's extremely short shorts are very distracting) and Maurizio Galvan coached foil one year but not last time.

Epee not so well catered for hitherto but who knows. It is for veterans but the sabre coaches' local youth appear after school from time to time. It gets VERY HOT - 35 to 40 is normal - so that needs to be coped with.

Food has been exceptionally good when taken in the little restaurant across from the hotel, which has been necessary because the hotel restaurant (food OK but not great) isn't open first half of the week. Hotel is different this year though. We liked it because of mix of nationalities & only 2 or 3 Brits, including us! Participants are extremely friendly but many have no English. If one were stand-offish one wouldn't like it. As a noisy, arm-waving honorary Neapolitan, I got on fine. Signor Rossi (lovely fellow) often does the honours in translating.

Sylvia Brown

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3rd Veterans Winton Cup (inaugurated by Sir Nicholas and Bobby Winton)

Lilleshall National Sports Centre
11th and 12th September 2010



A 2 day competition
between 9 teams
at all 6 weapons

Open to BVF members
(with BFA membership)

If you wish to enter please
contact:

lindalawes1@btinternet.com or
millsba@aol.com

who will put you in touch
with a Team Captain



The only fencers exempt from some weapons are the Winners of the Age groups (excluding cat 4) and the Winners of the Nationals - and this rule only applies to the weapon at which they were successful: they can fence ANY other weapon, so most fencers can fence their chosen weapon whilst we still keep the spirit of Bobby alive with his request that the 'elite' fencers are not eligible.

If you are not yet in a team and would still like to fence there are some 'spare' places in some teams including North West women's sabre.

Accommodation has been arranged at The Park Inn, Telford at special rates of £67 double or twin, £54 single B&B - phone 01952 429988 (quote Vets Fencing). Gala Dinner on Saturday night - details will appear shortly on the BVF website.

If you are fencing book your hotel now to avoid disappointment as rooms in Telford that weekend are in short supply.

We will be selling new design BVF T-shirts this year. Advance orders are not required.

Food is not available at the sports centre but the hotel can supply packed lunches if an order is placed the night before. We hope to have the burger van there again.

Duel on the Beach - Saturday 28th August

The Duel on the Beach is a fun competition that has rapidly become a 'must do' for anyone who has taken part. It is run by Truro Fencing Club and, yes it actually takes place on the beach, at Perranporth (brollies provided). In brief, it is a team competition with teams of 3 for each of the 3 weapons. All teams must have at least one female fencer active in every match at all times -1 reserve may be used. It is fought as a 1st round of poules of relay matches then the teams go into poules of strength. The day is topped off with a barbecue, party and raffle in the evening at the Waterhole bar (also on the beach and open all day). Entry fees are £35 PER TEAM The barbie is £12 per head.



For full details see the Truro fencing Club web site www.trurofencing.com
If you are interested in being in a team please contact me as soon as possible. Please, DO NOT WAIT TO BE ASKED! I already have enough sabreurs for at least one team and may have to ask to put in a second team if I want to fence! So you can see that places are likely to go rapidly. It is highly unlikely that I shall be ringing round trying to persuade people out of their deck chairs and onto a fencing piste.

To ensure that I have not forgotten anyone if you have already expressed interest in being in the team, would you PLEASE CONFIRM that interest?

When applying for a place please state your PREFERRED weapon (in case I don't know) and any other weapon you are prepared to use in order to get into a team.



Could you please also say whether you wish to go to the barbecue if selected?

Email me at duel@baronfencing.plus.com or phone 01384 400242

**Photos -
Duel on the Beach
2009**

by Gillian Aghajan

Peter Baron

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	Newsletter Editor Gillian Aghajan  Tel: 07747 792712 g.aghajan@virgin.net	



PLEASE NOTE

Any articles or letters for the August BVF Newsletter should be sent to:-

Gillian Aghajan

by 4th August 2010

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email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net