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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that four months have passed since the start of lockdown. Rules are gradually being relaxed, so I hope life is getting easier as we all face a different and constantly changing 'normality'.

Fencing clubs cannot yet open but some coaches have been doing social distancing outdoor sessions and there are many online training sessions available. British Fencing has been keeping up to date with government regulations, publishing resources and regular updates: <https://www.britishfencing.com/training-guidance-new-social-distancing-england/>

At the time of publishing this newsletter, FIE has not confirmed whether the Veterans World Championships will go ahead. I understand that FIE Comex has recently had a Zoom meeting, so it is expected that there will be an announcement soon at which time we will be able to inform you. In the meantime, the BVF committee recently had a Zoom meeting of our own and we discussed what we would do for selection. Whilst the general feeling was that the event is most likely to be cancelled, we thought it was best to be prepared and we agreed on selection rules. An addendum to the existing rules has been published on the website and an email sent to membership. Full copy is on page 4 of this newsletter.

Thanks to Carl Morris and the Selectors; Jane Hutchison, Neal Mallett and Gillian Worman and, of course, to the committee.

The committee has not yet agreed on selection rules for the European Team Championships, which may be rescheduled. We await for confirmation from EVF so will keep you informed. Likewise with the EVF circuit events for which the provisional timetable can be found on page 5.

The Hampshire Open and Hampshire Veterans Open have been cancelled.

BVF was sad to recently announce the deaths of three well known people who contributed so much to the world of fencing:

- Eileen Pitman MBE - Respected fencer, coach and long-standing member of the SE Region committee
- Bert Bracewell 1936-2020 - Former National Coach for Scotland
- Aleksander Anastasov 1945-2020 - Hungarian sabreur and former Veterans World Champion.

In these uncertain times, from me and the rest of the committee, keep safe and keep well.

Sincerely,

Gillian Aghajan
BVF Chairman

2020 Calendar	
Jan 4-5	BVF Ranking event Cambridge Winter Tournament, University of Cambridge Sports Centre, Philippa Fawcett Drive, Cambridge CB3 0AS
Jan 4-5	BVF Ranking event, EVF Epee Circuit and BVF Selection event BVF International Open, Spectrum Centre, Guildford Event Manager: Graham Paul BF Licence: 35973
Feb 1-2	European Ranking event EVF Foil Circuit, Faches
Feb 8-9	BVF Ranking event Merseyside Open, Greenbank Sports Academy
Feb 28- Mar 1	BVF Ranking event and BVF Selection event BVF Championships 2020, Nottingham :Friday Sabre; Saturday Foil: Sunday Epee Event Manager: Marcia Stretch
Feb 29- Mar 1	European Ranking event EVF Epee Circuit, Kiev
Mar 7-8	European Ranking event EVF Sabre Circuit, Bologna - CANCELLED
Mar 21-22	European Ranking event EVF Foil Circuit, Graz - CANCELLED
Mar 28-29	BVF Ranking event and BVF Selection event Age Groups 2020, Manchester Fencing Centre Event Manager: Mike Swiffin - POSTPONED
Apr 4-5	European Ranking event EVF Sabre Circuit, Liege - CANCELLED
Apr 4-5	European Ranking event EVF Epee Circuit, Wroclaw - CANCELLED
Apr 18	Veterans Home International 2020, Bristol - venue TBC - CANCELLED
May 21-24	European Team Championships, Brussels, Belgium Team Manager: Gillian Aghajan POSTPONED
June 13-14	BVF Ranking event West Midlands Open 2020, Dudley, West Midlands Event Manager: Marcia Stretch - CANCELLED
July 23-25	RAF Open, Cosford - POSTPONED
July 23-25	Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championships Unionville, Ontario - POSTPONED
Sep 19-20	BVF Ranking event Hampshire Vets Open, Portsmouth Tennis Centre Also a Senior Open on opposing days - CANCELLED
Sep 26	BVF AGM, Telford Centre Hotel by Accor, Telford TF3 4NA 6:00pm - CANCELLED
Sep 26-27	Veterans Winton Cup 2020, RAF Cosford Event Manager: Marcia Stretch - CANCELLED
Oct 24-30	Veterans World Championships, Poreč, Croatia TBC Team Manager: Gillian Aghajan

Addendum to 2020 BVF Selection Rules

World Championships 2020 / COVID 19

The FIE is currently consulting with the organisers of the World Championships and is expected to make a final decision in July to cancel or allow the championships to go ahead. The Committee has been under the impression that the event would probably have to be cancelled and that is still a prevailing view. However the most recent information suggests that it MAY still take place.

Given this possibility we have had to consider revising the published selection criteria as only two of the three scheduled qualifying events have taken place.

It may be that the FIE revises certain aspects of the tournament relating to age categories or Team events, this is still to be decided, but bearing this in mind the Committee has decided that for this year selection, if needed, will have to be more flexible and has agreed the following Selection criteria.

Individual Selection

The first 3 fencers in the Selection Ranking Table, showing points from the two events held, will be selected for the World Championships.

In the case of equality of points in the Selection Ranking Table between two or more fencers for the 3rd place, the Selectors will select the fencer they consider to be the strongest.

The 4th place will be allocated at the Selectors' discretion taking all known facts and results into Consideration.

If one or more of these 4 selected fencers are unavailable, then the Selectors will select replacement fencers at their complete discretion.

Team Event

For the team event the rules remain the same.

We are aware of the possibility that some people selected may choose not to go and the Selectors may have to look below the top 3 in the table. Therefore if you believe that you may have a chance of being selected and wish to go, the Committee's advice is to stay as fit as you can under these difficult training circumstances.

To assist you with your training Mike Swiffin is compiling a guide to fitness for each category. Hopefully you will find this helpful.

Finally the Committee is still waiting for a decision to be made regarding the Euro Teams 2020, in that it could possibly be rescheduled. Further information on selection for this event, will be forthcoming as soon as, and if, a decision to reschedule is made.

Carl Morris
Chairman of Selectors

Who can you recognise?

This photo shows the Great Britain Fencing squad for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. How many of the squad can you identify? There are several who are now Vets.

Thanks to Ziemowit Wojciechowski for the photo!



EVF Circuit Provisional Timetable

MKD	Orhid	September 2020	Sabre
HUN	Budapest	September 2020	Foil + Epee
FIN	Turku	October 2020	Epee
ESP	Madrid	November 2020	Sabre
GER	Munich	December 2020	Foil
GBR	Guildford	January 2021	Epee + Foil
FRA	Faches-Thumesnil	January 2021	Foil + Sabre
UKR	Kiev	February 2021	Epee
ITA	Bologna	March 2021	Sabre
AUT	Graz	March 2021	Foil
BEL	Liege	April 2021	Sabre
POL	Drzonkow	April 2021	Epee

BVF and British Fencing

British Fencing continues to be supportive of BVF. In addition to supporting our major events on Facebook and the British Fencing website, and articles in The Sword: coming soon to help BVF promote Veterans fencing to a diverse and inclusive wider community, British Fencing has agreed to publish a profile of a Veterans fencer each month as a news item on the BF website.

Many thanks to Georgina Usher and British Fencing!



Lockdown activities

What have you been doing to while away the time during lockdown? Have you done something creative - painting, drawing, sewing, doing jigsaws, baking? Have you made a fencing dummy? Have you been exercising? Send in your photos and I will publish a selection in the Autumn newsletter and on Facebook.

Editor

g.aghajan@btinternet.com

Here's a start!



Fun times!

I am sure that, like me, you have a lot of happy memories of fun times at events with Veterans fencers. Here's to hoping that it won't be too long before we can make new fun and happy memories!

Gillian



**Caption
Competition
Summer 2020**

Send your entry to Editor
g.aghajan@btinternet.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@btinternet.com

Editor

PLEASE NOTE

Any articles or letters for the Autumn newsletter should be sent to:

Gillian Aghajan
by 18th September
2020

email:

g.aghajan@btinternet.com



**Caption
Competition
Spring 2020**











Editor's choice :

*"I'm not moving until you give me the name
of your hair stylist."
Paul Brenda*



Photos - Editor

BVF contacts

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IT Consultant

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Selectors

Carl Morris (Chairman)
Jane Hutchison
Neal Mallett
Gillian Worman

Ranking System

John Mason (Chairman)
Hugh Kernohan
Graham Paul
Lindsay Watkiss