

NVA News



Photos from the Veterans Quad 2009

Above from David Worsfold
England Women's Epee

Below from Fiona Haldane
All Ireland and Scotland Women's Foil
teams



May 2009

16th Sheffield open
19th European Veterans
23rd Chichester open
30th Inverclyde open
30th 31st Oxfam open
31st Hertfordshire open

June 2009

Fence Home or Away !!

6th Madrid Spanish Vets
13th 14th Germany Vets Open
13th 14th Sweden Ystad Open
14th Netherlands Vets Open

For more European Vets details see

<http://www.european-veterans-fencing.com/>

13th Gateshead International FIE Satellite
13th Wrexham Open
20th Cumberland Open
28th Cauchard Cup- I hit mixed Epee
28th White Horse Team Trophy
<http://www.britishfencing.com/>



Obituary for Dorothy Nash by Henry de Silva

Dear Linda

I am sorry to announce the death of Dorothy Nash (HAMON).

Dorothy was one of the NVA'S earliest members and from Guernsey. She competed in our Nationals and also invited the Veterans to fence in Guernsey. She last fenced, as a Veteran, at the Commonwealth in Wrexham.

Dorothy started fencing in Glasgow and moved to Guernsey in 1956. She was one of the founder members of Sarnia Sword club, flourishing to this day, and was the first chairperson in 1969.

First in Guernsey to win Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in achievement. Dorothy fenced in many countries winning Gold, Silver and Bronze awards at foil. In 2003 she obtained the B.F.A Club coach award at foil.

Dorothy always had a cheerful disposition and taught many fencers, not only to enjoy the sport, but also was a great ambassador for the sport in life and in competition.

Yours
Henry.



Veterans Quadrangular Match 2009

This year's Vet Quad was unique in 3 ways:
It was the first time that the event was held in Belfast.
It was the first time that all 4 countries had full teams present (and some even had reserves!)
It was the first time ever (to my knowledge) for a full 'All Ireland' team to compete in any fencing event – and almost every weapon had a mixture of fencers from Dublin and Belfast.

Approximately 80 fencers, with friends and team supporters, from all over the British Isles travelled to Belfast; they seemed to arrive in a very cheerful and excited mood at the prospect of the competition ahead.
Even Richard Bonehill appeared not to be too upset at being greeted as 'Mr Dunghill' by the rather recently trained hotel staff!

Belfast cannot have known what hit it as the Vet fencers paraded through the city centre to descend on the excellent venue – the sports hall at Royal Belfast Academical Institution, or Inst as the school is always known.

Despite an 11.00am start on Saturday morning a certain (mad, eccentric) Frenchman, who has lived in Dublin for 9 years managed to get lost and arrived late. With typical French aplomb, he declined to bother to go to the changing rooms and got changed at the side of the piste, to general admiration, before dashing on for his first fight.

At the end of the afternoon a nail-biting 'All Ireland' vs England Men's Foil match finished with a 45-44 victory to 'All Ireland' – and left the rest of their team in a state of total collapse with the excitement of it all.

England and Scotland had tied with 8 victories each, so all would be decided on Sunday morning.

There was a very convivial and informal dinner on Saturday evening for 70+1 fencers, despite a few 'Basil Fawlty' moments from a rather young and inexperienced catering manager. The first problem was that 'chicken veloute' turned out to be chicken soup... and there already was another soup choice on the menu. So when he found he had soups left over he threw a hissy fit, but was calmed down with the assurance that there would be no problem with the next course, and fencers DID know what they had ordered.

Ten minutes later he marched the organisers over to one (nameless, hapless, rather pink) Scottish fencer, pointed an accusing finger at him and screamed 'there is a man here who says he has not ordered ANYTHING!' I'm afraid to say that this was discovered to be entirely true – but the manager's complete lack of skill when dealing with noisy, veteran customers was breath taking!

Rather to the surprise of the caretaker, the Scots were clamouring to get the school gates open early on Sunday morning.

After some very competitive team fencing the final result was England 13 victories, Scotland 11, 'All Ireland' 7 and Wales 5.

Even though we finished in third place, we considered achieving two complete weapon wins at Men's Foil and Women's

Epee to be a wonderfully successful result. Connie Adams was delighted to accept the cup on behalf of the English team – and she intended to bring it to Norwich on Monday night, where she was going to be presented with an 'Inspirational Sports-woman' Award.

Then everyone departed - some to go home, some to go on the sightseeing bus tour, some to continue with a short break elsewhere before returning home.

I would like to thank John Crouch who ran everything with effortless efficiency on the day – it really did run like clockwork. Belfast could not supply enough referees, partly due to definite 'burn out' after the World Cadet Championships just two weeks earlier, and so thanks are also due to those who did referee, tirelessly and uncomplainingly throughout the event.

I fully intend to recruit our armourer and piste layers as soon as they become eligible for veterans events; they discovered the 'vet atmosphere' to be most congenial.

Veterans are just amazing people with their energy, their enthusiasm, their friendliness and their love of their sport.

We are looking forward already to Scotland next year!

Fiona Haldane

Also:

Left behind: one sabre under-plastron (given to Jane Hutchison), one left handed glove, one foil body wire, and one pair of white socks....any claimants?



Photo from Fiona Haldane
Wales and England Women's Foil



Veterans Quadrangular Match 2009 Full teams

ENGLAND			
Men's Epee	Men's Foil	Men's Sabre	
John Morris	Nick Stokes	Richard Bonehill	
Malcolm Fare	Jeff Kiy	Duncan Rowlands	Manager
Malcolm Allton	Dave Sweeney	Peter Baron	John Crouch
Women's Epee	Women's Foil	Women's Sabre	
Sue Hanney	Moya McNamara	Jane Hutchison	
Mariette Mason	Karen Garvie	Grace Roberts	
Connie Adam	Caron Hale	Silvia Earl	
Sylvia Brown			
WALES			
Men's Epee	Men's Foil	Men's Sabre	
Edmund Gray	Steve Gristock	Carl Morris	Captain
Gareth Law	Gareth Law	Mark Robinson	Harry Toland
Rob Brooks	Harry Toland	Nick Hawksworth	Manager
Jamie Morris	Rob Venerables	Harry Toland	Mike Norfolk
Women's Epee	Women's Foil	Women's Sabre	
Carol Wengraf	Maggie Myers	Wednesday Jones	
Rose Gregory	Lisa Evans	Carol Wengraf	
Gillian Aghajan	Jane Reynolds	Gillian Aghajan	
Pat Shepherd-Foster	Carol Wengraf	Lisa Evans	
ALL IRELAND			
Men's Epee	Men's Foil	Men's Sabre	
Tom Rafter	Peter Cripwell	Andrew Murphy	Managers
Michael Ryan	Philip Lee	Yves Carnac	Isabella Codd
Eric Kemp	David White	Colin McClurg	Yvonne Murphy
Shane Whelan			
Women's Epee	Women's Foil	Women's Sabre	
Kate Elvin	Gillian Worman	Linda Kent	
Fiona Haldane	Isabella Codd	Sheila Williams	
Yvonne Murphy	Roisin Lacey	Michelle Murray	
Michelle Murray	Janice Carlisle		
SCOTLAND			
Men's Epee	Men's Foil	Men's Sabre	
Brian McMiken	Alan Loveland	Phil Carson	Manager
Mike McEwen	Mike Rollinson	Barry Coulter	Mike McEwen
Andy Pearson	Mike McEwen	Julian Ghosh	
Julian Ghosh		Andy Pearson	
Women's Epee	Women's Foil	Women's Sabre	
Viv Frith	Sheila Anderson	Michele Narey	
Michele Narey	Julia Bracewell	Viv Frith	
Ann Swinney	Ann Swinney	Ann Swinney	

VETERANS WINTON CUP 2009

12th 13th SEPTEMBER- LILLESALL

South West Dave Sweeney	mrdswweeney@hotmail.com
South East Alan Ault and Jane Clayton	janeaclayton@hotmail.co.uk
Southern Jenny Morris	jennyellen.morris@gmail.com
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PLEA FROM JENNY MORRIS FOR WOMEN'S FOILISTS please email Jenny

Or ring Linda 01235 530090 or Frank 01908 310516

Potential Captains: If you would like to put together a team from your region, say All Ireland, Cornwall or Scotland, please ring Linda ASAP and we can chat about the possibility of making the event larger. Possibly not this year, but what about next ??

NOTABLES- TOP HALF- WELL DONE !!!

Glasgow Open - 4/4/2009

ME (59)	11	Brian MCMIKEN
MS (32)	8	Steve RENNIE

Letter to the Membership

I was shocked to read in the Sword magazine that we, the NVA, had made a financial award to British Fencing. I cannot recall it being mentioned in the AGM minutes and if it wasn't raised there I question the authority of the committee to make such an award and its very appropriateness. Its authority, as our Constitution makes no mention of granting awards and its appropriateness because the NVA exists to promote Vets Fencing. I am also interested to know what controls are in place if the NVA is indeed permitted to make donations.

British Fencing still holds substantial funds from the sale of the De Beaumont Centre and is the recipient of significant annual funding. We on the other hand have accumulated a humble sum through the endeavours and charitable giving of our members. I would encourage the Committee to better donate money to those Vet fencers selected for representative competitions who lack their own resources to pay for those trips and decline attendance after selection. Vets fence for numerous reasons but we should not presume that all can afford the costs. We select the best on merit. We shouldn't end up taking on income.

Cary Zitcer

Response to Cary Zitcer's letter ref the NVA donation to Keith Smith's appeal

Dear Members,

In March Keith Smith launched an urgent appeal to help young fencers attend the World Cadet and Junior Championships in Belfast.

The committee considered the appeal and decided that it was appropriate for the NVA to make a donation in cash of £1,000 to cover the expenses of one boy and one girl attending the event who otherwise would not have been able to attend. Each member supported the donation for one or more reasons including

It was appropriate that the older fencers in the UK support the youngest in the only way that we could i.e. cash

The publicity as a result of the donation would increase awareness of the NVA

It would further promote the working relationship between the NVA and British Fencing

It was our way of putting something back into our sport of fencing.

We were quite shocked to receive Cary's letter questioning whether the payment was constitutional as frankly this had not occurred to us. The committee looked at the constitution and came to the conclusion that we had no mandate to support non-veteran events and that we had indeed acted unconstitutionally. The committee therefore agreed to restore the £1,000 donation back into NVA funds from their own pockets. This has now been completed.

Cary made a separate point about support for vets to take part in representative competitions. We do not want to get into the area of means testing members but we do subsidise representative events from NVA funds and this is detailed in the accounts presented at the AGM.

Frank Mills Chairman NVA

Commonwealth Veterans Championship

St Helier, Jersey 9 – 12 July 2009

The closing date for this event is 31st May 2009.

Entry forms can be found by visiting the competition website at
<http://www.commonwealthfencing.creodont.co.uk/index.html>

Fencers not able to enter via the web please contact Dave Sweeney directly.
See last page for contact details.

England fencers are reminded that selection for the team event will be by performance in the individual competition on the day. We will endeavour to enter as many teams as there are fencers wishing to compete.

Would England fencers please inform Dave Sweeney that they have entered the competition so that we can keep England Fencing aware.

John Crouch

Congratulations are in order to **John Crouch** who recently passed his BFA Coaching Course Diploma in Foil at level 5.

Well done John !

Ed.

Would you like to be in a Veterans Team ???

**Peter Baron is our domestic fencing officer, and that means he is tasked to putting Veterans Teams together for any open team event around.
For this he needs to know YOU want to be considered !!!**

**Don't be shy, if you would like to represent the NVA at the
White Horse Team Trophy (June- Abingdon)
or the Duel on the Beach (August late bank Holiday Cornwall)
let Peter know you are prepared to travel and he will fit you in the team if he can.
These are NOT selection events.**

**Contact Peter on
nva@baronfencing.plus.com 01384 400 242**

To whom it may concern

The BBC is making a third series of the popular Saturday night lottery show, ***Who Dares Wins***.

We are looking for intelligent, competitive and charismatic personalities who would like to take part.

People who attend your groups may be potential contestants for the show.

We will be holding auditions in Cardiff on 27th May. Please get in touch as soon as possible!

Contact us TODAY for an application form.

Email: applications@12yard.com

Or write to: Who Dares Wins Applications,
12 Yard Productions, The Hub, Pacific Quay Glasgow,
G51 1DY

There is no charge for requesting an application form by e-mail, although internet service provider's fees may apply.

The closing date for requests for an application form are Wednesday 27th May 2009

All applicants must be over 18yrs of age

See Veterans Web site for more details.

**Sponsor of
the NVA**



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