

### *Great Britain v Germany in Durham!*



Jonathan Stanbury (GB) versus Wilfried Suchanek (Germany) in the épée match at the beautiful venue of the City of Durham Town Hall

*Photo courtesy of Beth Davidson*

#### **In this issue:**

**Report on the GB v Germany match**

**Training in Imola**

**Crystal Open**

**BVF Car stickers!**

## CONTENTS

Front page	GB v Germany
Page 2	Letter from Chairman BVF Calendar
Pages 3 and 4	GB v Germany match report
Pages 4 and 5	BVF members letters and news
Page 6	Information for BVF members BVF Car stickers and pens for sale
Pages 7 - 8	'All Ireland' at the 5 Nations
Page 8	Competition results
Page 9	Training in Imola
Page 10	Crystal Open
Page 11	Caption Competition
Page 12	BVF Contacts

## Chairman's Letter

Dear Members,

I am writing this after returning from the Great Britain Match against Germany in Durham which, though well fought by every GB Veteran throughout, saw Germany the overall victors once again. On behalf of the BVF I would like to express thanks to the many who volunteered to help and to those who fenced for Great Britain and made the weekend so enjoyable for our visitors. A report of the Match appears later in the Newsletter.

We were very concerned to hear that Malcolm Allton suffered a heart attack when fencing in the Excalibur Tournament in Bath but it is good to hear that he is well on the mend and I know that you will join with me in wishing him well and in looking forward to seeing him back on the piste soon.

It is regrettable that Hilary Arnold has taken the decision to resign from the BVF. We are grateful for the years of excellent work she undertook for the association when serving on the committee and wish her well for the future.

The European Veterans Individual Championships are nearly upon us and with our record number of entries from 110 fencers and spanning 152 weapon entries, we look forward to the Championships with optimism and, as Team Manager, I wish every fencer success and an enjoyable time in Hénin-Beaumont.

Sincerely

Frank Mills  
Chairman BVF

### BVF CALENDAR 2011

**June 2-5** European Individual Championships, Hénin-Beaumont, France

**Jul 2-3** Veterans West Midlands Open

**July tbc** Oxford Unisex Foil and Sabre

**Sep 10-11** Veterans Winton Cup, RAF Cosford, Telford

**Sep 27 - Oct 2** World Championships, Pereč, Croatia

**Oct 8-9** Welsh Veterans Championships, Wrexham  
Contact Gillian Aghajan [g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net) for details

**Oct 30** Middlesex Epée

**Nov 26** BVF Christmas dinners



## Great Britain vs Germany Match - 14<sup>th</sup> May

The ancient City of Durham was host to the traditional Match against Germany which was last held in Cornwall in 2007 and we had a great organising team in Duncan Rowlands, Beth Davidson and Carole Seheult, with Rob Kirby and his team providing the equipment and weapon control. They all used their local knowledge and fencing expertise to make sure that both the Match and entertainment for the teams during the weekend was to the highest standards. We also received much help from fencers and friends in the area, including Marie Mathieson, Chair of North East England Fencing, who arranged for the loan of one of her company's lorries and drivers to transport equipment to and from Durham.

The German team, led by Dr Volkhard Herbst, Chairman of the German Veteran's Federation, arrived on Friday and, in the evening, both teams visited a well known local hostelry, The Court Inn, for a pre-match get together and where many friendships were renewed.



On Saturday, the Match took place in the City of Durham Town Hall which stands in the Market Place and incorporates the 14<sup>th</sup> Century Guildhall, and the fencing got underway in the Main Hall which is wood panelled throughout and features carvings, paintings and an impressive stained glass window depicting four Bishops of Durham.

The Great Britain teams for Men's Epée and Women's Sabre got off to a fine start. The German Epée fencers are notoriously strong but Andrew Brown, Leslie MacDonald and Jonathan Stanbury fought well to hold the match 5-4 to Germany.

The Women's Sabre team of Beth Davidson, Jane Hutchison and Michelle Narey took the German sabreurs by storm to give us a 7-2 victory.

Our Men's Sabre team with Steve Fox, Barry Coulter and Rob Penton achieved victory with a 5-4 win and the Women's foil with Maggie Myers, Debbie Taverner and Caron Hale fought hard to hold on to 3 victories against an extremely strong German team.

At this stage of the Match, Great Britain was 2 fights in the lead and we were feeling cautiously optimistic going into the last two weapons. The German Women's Epée team were however, very strong and used all of their experience and strength to win the match 8-1 against a fiercely fighting team of Kate Elvin, Sue Hanney and Jane Clayton.



**GB Women's  
sabre team**

**Michelle Narey  
Jane Hutchison  
Beth Davidson**

**GB Men's  
sabre team**

**Barry Coulter  
Rob Penton  
Steve Fox**

On Saturday evening, the fencing equipment was cleared and the Hall made ready for the Match Dinner, organised by Carole, and with excellent food and a special beer brewed locally and arranged by Beth who produced commemorative labels for the bottles, we celebrated a very well fought match undertaken in the great spirit of friendship always enjoyed when veteran fencers get together.

On Sunday, various sightseeing trips were made to the Cathedral, Castle and local beauty spots, of which Durham has an abundance.

This was a memorable weekend and the thanks of the BVF go to the many who contributed to its success.



***GB and German Women's Foil teams***



***A convivial time at the Dinner***

***Frank Mills  
Event Manager***

***Photos by  
Frank Mills***

## **Letters and news from BVF Members**

**Dear Editor,**

WANTED - Any Vets who were at Oxford or Cambridge Universities are asked to contact me at 6 Little Meadows, Andreas, Isle of Man. It is proposed to hold an Oxford versus Cambridge Veterans match.

If any club would like to visit the Isle of Man they are welcome. Also if any club would like a coach for a weekend or a longer course I would be willing to coach.

Regards

**Henry de Silva**

**NOMURA**

**Dear Editor,**

I am disappointed by the committee's response to my letter.

They simply repeated their own opinions, with no independent enquiry or evidence.

They failed to mention that a member of the legal profession has shown that their actions were unconstitutional.

Neither did they admit that one of the selectors has already resigned over this matter.

It is embarrassing to be associated with this unprofessional attitude, and also potentially damaging.

I hereby resign as selector, effective as soon as the appeals process for the 2011 World Championships selection is complete. I will also resign my membership of BVF at this point.

Regards

**Hilary Arnold**

*Dear Hilary,*

*Thank you for your letter. Best wishes for the future.  
Editor*

**Dear all,**

When I step on to the piste on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the European Championships it will be a year to the day that I started my breast cancer treatment. I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of you who gave me encouragement throughout the difficult days and have been so welcoming on my return to fencing.

However there is one team that I hope you will help me thank. They never gave up on me or my family and totally believed I would achieve my "daft" idea of competing at the Europeans. The team is Macmillan Cancer Support. I am using the occasion of fencing at the Europeans to raise money for them. I have a giving page at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/MarietteMason](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/MarietteMason)

It goes into more detail and how you can sponsor me. If you want to get very involved I actually have a special poster designed by Macmillan to send out and share with others!

Thank you again for all your thoughts and well wishes. You have no idea how much it has meant to my family and myself.

**Mariette Mason**



## For BVF Members' Information

The BVF Committee has sought clarification of British Fencing's position vis a vis our competitions and the Constitution, and the reply from Piers Martin was as follows:-

"Regarding your competitions: I confirm that BF is, and has always been content to delegate the BVF to run its competitions for its veteran members without reference to British Fencing".

## Car bumper stickers and pens

Let your car display a BVF sticker with pride! Ideal if you are driving to France for the Europeans!



Also available:

BVF pens (black ink)



Prices:

Sticker and pen	£5
Sticker	£3
Pen	£2.50

(a small profit will go to BVF funds.)

I will be bringing a supply to the Europeans, and to future Veterans competitions but if you would like an order sent to you in the post, please email or phone me for details:

Email: [g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

Phone: 07747 792712

**Gillian Aghajan**  
Editor

## 2011 Home Nations Match Justin Smith Trophy Thoughts from 'All Ireland'

The 'All Ireland' Team set out from London, Belfast, Dublin, Boston Spa, Doncaster, Grimsby, Wales – from far and wide – to travel to Wrexham for the Veterans 5 Nations, held on the weekend of April 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>. We were returning to where this event had first started five years ago in 2007, seeking Ysgol Clywedog, even if we couldn't pronounce it, and with great enterprise two fencers from Dublin managed to acquire a police escort to get them there.

Getting a team together can be a nightmare and when two out of the three male foilists pull out on the Thursday before... well, we consider we deserve a prize just for getting a full team there. There were five new members of our team this year, and help from three 'WIrish' sabreurs was also needed and much appreciated. They, and the Women's foil and sabre teams, fenced well and with the usual Vets spirit of friendly and enjoyable competition on Saturday.

However, our scratch Men's Foil team proved to be a revelation - Des Eames, wearing his 1970's N. Ireland tracksuit, was joined by a volunteer épéeist, Stephan Munn, and the husband of one of the Women's foil team, Jim Harris, who was just coming along to support his wife (he had announced his retirement from fencing the previous week and was now devoted to table tennis). They really gelled as a team and in a magnificent last fight against England Des, at one stage 40-44 down, managed to win the match with a stunning display of skill and calm.

We all enjoyed an excellent and convivial dinner on Saturday night, superbly organised by Gillian Aghajan as usual. We had the chance to admire Mike Norfolk's MBE, see photographs, and hear first-hand of his experiences at the Palace.

On Sunday our Men's Épée team fenced valiantly but the Women's Épée team, for the fifth year, proved to be unbeatable – we only fence as a team once a year, but we reckon we could give lessons on the psychology and sheer fun of team fencing.

Thanks to all the Welsh organising team, to John Crouch and to the referees for a great weekend. The Lord Mayor perceptively remarked at the dinner that he could feel the warmth and friendship amongst the fencers in the room, and it was just so true.

But be warned - with two weapon wins we are very determined to do even better next year in Sheffield.....!

**Fiona Haldane**



**The 'Wirish'  
sabreurs**

**Andy Gize  
Mark Pryor  
James Longton**

**Photo courtesy  
of Fiona  
Haldane**

## 'All Ireland' Team 2011

### Men's Epée

Shane Whelan  
Stephan Munn  
Tom Rafter  
Eric Kemp

### Men's Foil

Des Eames  
Stephan Munn  
Jim Harris

### Men's Sabre

Andrew Gize  
James Longton  
Mark Pryor

### Women's Epée

Kate Elvin  
Fiona Haldane  
Yvonne Murphy  
Michelle Murray

### Women's Foil

Isabella Codd  
Roisin Lacey  
Kate Harris

### Women's Sabre

Sheila Williams  
Johanna Hayward  
Michelle Murray



## Competition results (top half)

### Elite Epée - 17/4/2011

ME (77) 14 George Liston

### Birmingham International - 23/4/2011

ME (110) 36 Rob Brooks  
46 John Prime  
49 Tim Pearce

MF (103) 39 John Troiano

MS (85) 25 Stewart Watson  
39 Julian Ghosh

WF (73) 35 Dawn Townsend

WS (46) 12 Jane Hutchison  
13 Beth Davidson

### Manchester Open - 14/05/2011

MF (38) 11 Nick Stokes

ME (49) 2 Chris Heaps  
7 Granville Ward  
9 Rick Kent  
11 Paul Willmott  
16 Anthony Klenczar  
21 Paul Williams  
23 Tom Chrisp  
24 Evert Van Gemeren

MS (8) 3 Evert Van Gemeren  
3 Michael Compton

WF (9) 3 Kati Archer  
3 Kim de Large

WE (18) 6 Alice Lawrence

**ENLIGHTEN**   
ESCRIME EQUIPMENT  
[www.enlightenfencing.com](http://www.enlightenfencing.com)



## Training in Imola, Italy

When I booked the Italian Veterans Fencing training course it seemed like a cunning plan. Nearly three days of fencing bouts and tuition could be combined with a duty visit to see my in-laws (who live near Imola) and an Easter holiday in Italy. I know that I could have taken a flight to nearby Bologna and hired a car but driving our own car offered more flexibility of itinerary as well as a chance to stock up on Italian food and wine!

The fencing facility was just outside of the centre of Imola - famous for the motor racing circuit. Told that it was 500 metres from the hotel I contemplated walking there wheeling my fencing bag. The lack of a pavement convinced me to abandon that plan which was just as well as the distance was more like 5 kilometres. No directions for its location were available so I only found it by following somebody else, which gave me some anxious moments. The Imola fencing club is a Fencing and Gymnastics facility dedicated to those sports with eight permanent metal pistes with a weights room and good changing and showering facilities.

The schedule was exercises between 9 and 10 am followed by fencing bouts until 12.30 and then resuming after lunch with further fencing from mid-afternoon and finishing around 7 pm. Even the fittest and youngest participants found that a challenging plan. The final morning mainly consisted of a mini competition for all the participants. Individual tuition in all three weapons was available each day although nobody told me one had to book the time, meaning that I was left with the least desirable slots at the end of the day when thoughts of showers and food were uppermost in my mind. The standard of instruction from the Italian fencing masters was very high. It featured an aspect I had not encountered before consisting of the coach having a weapon in each hand so that one could practice against left and right handed opponents. The same type of weapon in each hand - wake up at the back there.

After Italian the communications and instructions were in English or German which were workable alternatives. The level of English varied so I would suggest to anyone thinking of attending in the future that some knowledge of Italian would be helpful. A physiotherapist was on hand though treatment was an extra cost.

Participants were, understandably, principally Italian. That was especially so at épée which seemed to have all the top female épée veterans present. The international contingent consisted of two Russians and two Germans, foil and sabre, one Finnish lady foilist and one Brit, me. Members from the local club joined in especially on the final day which was Easter Saturday. Obviously this gave them opportunities to fence new opponents as it did for the course members. I managed to avoid the challenge and probable humiliation from a young boy who looked about eight years old! Socially and on the piste everyone was friendly and helpful which contributed to a good atmosphere.



**Bob  
Sonderman  
(1st right)  
and friends**

**Photo  
courtesy of  
Amis**

## Stourbridge Fencing Club Crystal Open 2011

In the end there was, disappointingly, only one Vets team, among the 11 teams entering this year. Despite the lower entry than last year, it was, as usual, an enjoyable and almost entirely friendly event.

The Vets team could almost have been another Stourbridge one with Janet and Peter Baron fencing épée and sabre respectively and Fred Sheppard being the foilist.

Janet struggled in the first round poule unique, although, had a couple of 4-5 defeats been turned into victories her result would have looked a lot better. Meanwhile Fred came second overall in the foil – his new heavy training regime obviously paying dividends (he turned up with his kit at Stourbridge last Thursday for the first time in centuries) and Peter won the sabre medal, dropping just one fight. Fred put his second place down to “being too nice to a woman” Does that sound like Fred?

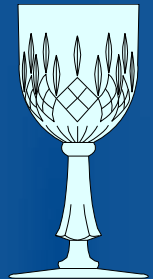
Jon Dawkins won the Individual foil, fencing for White Eagle (Bristol) "A" team.

Those results put the Vets as 5<sup>th</sup> seed for the DE and the quarter final against White Eagle "B", was helped by a kind toss of the dice, with Peter able to build up a considerable lead against the inexperienced lady sabreur in the first fight, 10-2, and Janet managed to hold on to some of it in the épée with Fred finishing it off in style in the foil over Jon's partner Anne to a comfortable looking 30-20 score.

The semi-final against local team Sutton Coldfield was a much tighter encounter. Janet started well against former Stourbridge fencer Ian Bullock but then could not cope with Ian's fast attacks, and succumbed 10-2. Against the sabreur, Dave, to whom he had lost 4-5 earlier in the day Peter clawed back that lead and finished up giving Fred a 20-18 lead going into the foil. His opponent Gianfranco Muresmo is a tenacious and technically good fencer and he broke down Fred's lead. The lead was then swapped several times until at 28 all Fred said that something was wrong, since he was convinced he had not hit his opponent. Checking proved that the box was still set on sabre! Unfortunately although Fred felt that he had earlier himself had hits registered against him that had not properly hit the target nothing could be done and drawing it to the attention of the referee did not, in the end, avail him of anything, since then Gianfranco landed the two hits that finished off the fight at 30-28. So it was the bronze that we had to settle for. Sutton then lost to Wrekin A who took the gold.

If you think you can do better, then get your names down for being in the Vets team next year.

**Peter Baron**



**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](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

**Caption Competition**  
**May**  
send your entry to Editor  
[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)



*Photo by Editor*

**Caption Competition**  
**April**

Paul does it again! - Editor

*" There is some surprise when this year's winner of the Best Dressed Veteran Competition is announced."*

**Paul Brenda**



*Photo by Editor*

## BVF contacts

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

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by 8th June 2011

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