

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2011

Russell Howard is Connied!



Connie Adam wins over Russell Howard

Photo - BBC iPlayer

**Connie Adam - Mystery Guest on
Russell Howard's Good News BBC3**
Selection rules update for 2012
Leeds Veterans Open

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

At our BVF Committee meeting on 19th November the matter of the selection rules was discussed at length.

The committee has been working for some time to produce an improved system and rules for selection for the World Championships, European Team Championships and representative competitions such as international veteran's matches.

The changes mooted so far have provoked a good deal of comment, both for and against the introduction of these changes, but only a small percentage of the membership has provided feedback.

Within that feedback however, a number of suggestions have been made and the committee has therefore decided that every member of the BVF should have the opportunity to voice an opinion before any changes to the selection criteria and rules are made.

A BVF Questionnaire is in compilation for issue to every member as soon as possible, and we request that you please take the time to respond to it so that as wide a perspective as possible is encompassed in decisions taken as a result of the views contained.

At the meeting on 19th November, the committee took the decision that until the results of the questionnaire are analysed, we will revert to the 2010 Selection Rules, unchanged in any way, for the 2012 season.

It was also decided that the returns for the Questionnaire will be analysed by an adjudicator appointed independently to the committee.

This therefore means that the competition entitled "Bletchley Open" announced recently as part of a ranking circuit, will revert to being the Age Group Qualifiers and run as last year. The rules can be seen on our website, as can the 2010 Selection rules and appeals procedure and, of course, the entry form and details for the competition.

The series of Open competitions, which started with the Leeds Veteran Open on November 5th and 6th, will still be run as this provides more fencing opportunities for members and, whilst they will not feature in any selection process for 2012, a pilot ranking table will be compiled using these competitions.

I mentioned the Leeds Veteran Open competition, and must extend thanks on behalf of the committee to Tom Exeter, organiser of the Leeds Open, for including our event on this weekend. Our competition was not high in numbers, but was enjoyed enormously by everyone who took part in the strongly contested weapon categories. Many of the vets fencing, were taking part in a vet's competition for the first time, and told us that they had enjoyed the experience so much, that they will be entering our other events too.



On behalf of the committee (and I suspect everyone else who saw the programme) I must congratulate Connie Adam on her appearance on the Russell Howard Good News TV programme this month.

Her ready wit and personality, together with her fencing skills, enabled Connie to take over the show and demonstrate that fencing is fun, whatever your age.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Age Group Qualifiers, so please get your entries in soon!

Sincerely

Frank Mills
Chairman BVF



BVF Calendar 2012

BVF CALENDAR 2012	
Jan 21-22	Age Group Qualifiers, Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes
Feb 11-12	Hampshire Open (Veterans Tournament)
Mar 2	BVF AGM Gloucester
Mar 2-4	British Veterans Championships, Oxtalls Indoor Tennis Centre, Gloucester Friday - Sabre; Saturday - Foil, Sunday - Epée
April 14-15 (tbc)	Veterans West Midlands Open
April 21-22	Home International (5 Nations) - Leeds
May 16-20	European Team Championships, Kalmar, Sweden
June 23-24 (tbc)	Celtic Challenge, Galicia, Spain - venue tbc
Sep 27 - 30	Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Singapore
Oct 6-7 (tbc)	Veterans Winton Cup, RAF Cosford
Oct 13-14 (tbc)	Welsh Veterans Championships, Aberystwyth Contact Gillian Aghajan (g.aghajan@virgin.net) for details
Oct 17-20	World Championships, Krems, Austria

See BVF website home page for European competitions and events - www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

Connie Adam stars on Russell Howard's Good News BBC3

Last month I received an email from Michael Burnett, a BBC researcher, who books the mystery guests for Russell Howard's Good News BBC3. He was looking for a female fencer, preferably someone older, who had been in the news recently, to appear on the show in November. Connie is BVF's oldest female member and Connie being Connie, I immediately knew that she would be perfect. Connie readily agreed, so following several emails and phone calls with Michael to sort out arrangements, she was the guest of the BBC for a day to film her part on the show.

She rehearsed in the afternoon of recording with a stand in for Russell, as Russell genuinely has no idea who the mystery guest is going to be each week or what they are famous for. When Russell got to meet mystery guest Connie he guessed immediately that Connie is a fencer; and if you have seen the show it was rather obvious! The producer stopped the show at that point and told Connie to say and do whatever she wanted and said 'if he's rude to you, you be rude to him!' Connie was fearless and proved to be not just a natural TV star but also a fantastic ambassador for fencing.

It had been arranged for Russell and Connie to fence so Connie taught him some basics first (not all aired on the show). Connie suggested that the audience could referee, which was a great way to ensure audience participation. Russell clearly enjoyed himself as much as Connie did and following the show I received an email from Michael which included the comment : 'she was absolutely fantastic on Tuesday and a pleasure to spend the day with – everyone loved her – Russell especially.' Connie said she had 'a brilliant time' and has since received many congratulatory phone calls.

Connie's performance is now on BBC iPlayer, Youtube (with well over 1000 hits so far), and has links on both Facebook and the Fencing Forum.

*".. She was so natural and such a star."
"She'll have her own series soon!"
"WOW! She is wonderful!! That was fantastic!"
"One of the best clips on fencing I've ever seen!"*

So, well done Connie, super star!! We are all very proud of you for raising the profile of fencing in such a fantastic way (and you certainly brightened our recent committee meeting - we watched the clip during our short lunch break!).

[BBC iPlayer](#) and [Russell Howard's Good News- Youtube](#)



Photos
- **BBC iPlayer**

Editor

Leeds Veterans Open

The event had a mixed response from members with the Men's Foil and Epée being reasonably well attended but with only 4/5 fencers in the rest of the events with the exception of the Women's Foil which had only one entry and was cancelled.

The event attracted interest and some surprise at the standard of fencing on display. Several fencers and/or spectators of sufficient maturity expressed interest in joining the BVF and one would have entered the Women's Foil on the spot had it taken place.

We were forewarned shortly before the event that the organisers of the main event may not have the capacity to organise our events and so it turned out but we were able to do that ourselves.

As to the fencing, the Men's Foil had two poules of 6, one of which was dominated by Nick Stokes, with David Exeter 2nd in the poule with 3 victories. The other poule was a much closer affair, with Jonathan Dawkins and Frank Mills coming out on top with 4 victories each, separated by the odd hit. These four top seeds then proceeded to the semi-final with both Nick and David and Frank and Jon renewing their acquaintance from earlier. Whilst Nick sailed through little troubled into the final, the other semi was a repeat of the earlier close fought encounter with Jon again winning by the odd hit. Jon gave Nick a little more trouble than David but Nick took the gold with a 10-4 victory.

In the men's Epée a poule unique of 9 was followed by DE. Anton Pollard negotiated that without dropping a fight and then progressed equally untroubled to the final. Jim Harris was 2nd seed and Andrew Brown, despite looking like death with a severe cold (thanks for sharing Andy) was 3rd. These two, together with Ellis Charlesworth, also progressed to the semis. Here Andrew avenged his earlier 5-4 defeat by Jim with a 10-7 victory. In the final he gave Anton a good run for his money, finally losing 10-7.

The Women's épée had only four entrants. The poule produced nothing clear cut with two fencers on 2 victories and two having 1 each. In the end the result matched the original seeding with Alice Lawrence beating Janet Baron 10-8 and top seed Kate Elvin beating Jenny Armour 10-3. Alice gave her more trouble in the final, Kate ending up the victor by 10-7.

There were also 4 entrants in the Men's Sabre. In the poule Ev van Gemeren was undefeated beating everyone comfortably. Peter Baron was second, with 2 victories, having beaten Mike Compton comfortably for a change. In the semi-final, Paul Brenda took 6 hits off Ev before succumbing. The other match see-sawed most of the way through with Peter coming from 9-8 down to snatch the fight 10-9. Then in the final he overturned his earlier result against Ev with a 10-7 victory.



Men's Foil
Nick Stokes
Jon Dawkins
Frank Mills
David Exeter



Men's Epée
Jim Harris
Anton Pollard
Andrew Brown
Ellis
Charlesworth

The women's sabre had 5 fencers, the poule being a very close affair with no-one really dominating it. Yvonne Walls was top seed with three victories. Monica Gilmore was the top of the three on 2 victories to be 2nd seed. After some confusion among the ladies as to who had byes, the one quarter final fight was won by Viv Frith over Frances Woodward quite comfortably. Then the semi-finals were both cliff-hangers with Yvonne just pipping Viv 10-9 and Lynn Keogh doing the same to Monica. Lynn then overturned the seeding to beat Yvonne 10-7.

A number of the Vets also entered the main Leeds event and whilst full results are not relevant here, they made their presence felt.

Peter Baron



Women's Epée
Janet Baron
Alice Lawrence
Kate Elvin
Jenny Armer



Men's Sabre
Michael Compton
Peter Baron
Ev Van Gemeren



Women's Sabre
Viv Frith
Monica Gilmore
Lynn Keogh
Yvonne Walls

*Photos
 courtesy of
 Frank Mills*



Training in Rome



VETERANS TRAINING

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th January 2012

Roma, Italy - venue to be confirmed

Details will soon be available at:

<http://www.european-veterans-fencing.com/events/roma2012.pdf>

and on the BVF website



Competition results (top half)

Elite Epee - 23/10/2011

ME (83)	14	George Liston
	16	Howard West
	32	Will Miller

NW Open - 22/10/2011

WE (10)	1	Fiona Haldane
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Allstar Cup - 29/10/2011

ME (34)	16	Denis Callanan
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WS (8)	2	Michele Narey
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Leeds Open - 5/11/2011

MF (74)	15	Jonathan Dawkins
	27	David Exeter
	31	Paul Maxwell
	37	Nick Stokes

ME (60)	6	Granville Ward
	20	Max Telfer
	29	Paul Drake

MS (30)	12	Peter Baron
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WF (24)	2	Kati Archer
	5	Kim De Large
	7	Kate Harris
	9	Moya McNamara
	10	Liz Chinn

WS (15)	5	Yvonne Walls
	7	Sheila Williams

Correction - October newsletter

Apologies to Rob Brooks. In the report on the World Championships his DE score was incorrect. The correct score was a win to Le Louarn (FRA)10-8 (not 10-4). Also Feyen is from Belgium, not Romania.

Editor

Welsh Open - 12/11/2011

ME (113)	14	Howard West
	20	John Leahy
	26	Rob Brooks
	29	Nick Lee
	30	Jonathan Stanbury
	41	Granville Ward
	45	Leslie MacDonald
	47	Keith Barnett
	54T	Anton Pollard

MS (91)	36	Julian Ghosh
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WF (60)	30	Caron Hale
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WS (45)	14	Jane Hutchison
	18	Michele Narey



Christmas Invitation

Bath Sword Club would like to invite BVF members to our Christmas Meal at Jimmy Spices, Bath on Thursday 15th December at 7pm.

Check out the menu at <http://www.jimmyspices.co.uk/seasonal.php>

Please email me for further details if you would like to join us - g.aghajan@virgin.net

Gillian Aghajan



French Veteran National Tour

Foil and Sabre - Sunday January 22nd 2012

Foil and Sabre Veterans Competition

Entry fee 12 €

Courtesy shuttle bus.

Further details
available:

www.escrime-ffe.fr
(section Compétitions)

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DIMANCHE 22 JANVIER 2012
TOUTE LA JOURNÉE, DÉBUT 9H00

FLEURET SABRE

QUALIFICATIF
CHAMPIONNATS DU MONDE

CIRCUIT NATIONAL VETERAN
FINALES À PARTIR DE 15H30

FACHES THUMESNIL FFE escrime Comité Départemental du Nord NOVOTEL Leon Paul CA

FACHES THUMESNIL - 7 RUE DE LA LINIÈRE
COMPLEXE SPORTIF JEAN ZAY

Accommodation at Hotel NOVOTEL downtown Lille (3 stars)

Located in the centre of Lille, and at 5mn walking from the Lille Railway stations (Lille Europe and Lille Flandres), this hotel is perfect to discover the City on the Saturday afternoon.

Single room, breakfast included : 76€ instead of 181€

Double room (2 single beds), breakfast included: 65€/person

Hôtel location :

116, r Hôpital Militaire
59800 Lille

0033 3 28 38 53 53

0033 3 20 78 06 18

Don't forget to mention « escrime » when you book your room.



MOROCCO

TRAVEL FOR REAL

Paralympics 2012

Congratulations to BVF members
Lynne Melia and Duncan Rowlands who
have both been selected to referee
Wheelchair Fencing
at the 2012 Paralympics!

Well done both!!

Editor

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

Caption Competition November

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net



Caption Competition October

Editor's choice

"Graham goes pool-side"

Geoff Silverman

"PBT report that they are unable to explain a recent fall in sales at competitions."

Paul Brenda

*Photos by
Editor*



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

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by 17th December 2011

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