



The Vets

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SPECIAL EDITION

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A fabulous job - SUPERB - Spectacular - Outstanding

These are just a few of the compliments that I have received from people around the world.

Although I have been delighted to receive these comments I do so on behalf of everyone who helped to make the World Veterans Championships in Bath the fantastic success that it was. Without the help of the many people involved we would not have managed the standard setting performance achieved.

The Steering Group of Hilary Arnold, John Mason, Hilary Philbin and myself, with Richard Bonehill (Entertainments) and Frank Mills (Marketing and MC), set the target of "the best ever event".

This vision was passed onto the Activity Heads: Gillian Aghajan, Peter and Janet Baron, Eileen Buist, Lawrence Burr, Pat Casey, Chris Green, Malcolm Fare, Peter Huggins, Linda Lawes, Maggie Myers, Gerry Simpson, Penny Spink, Sue Sweeney, Mavis Thornton and Yvonne Walls, all of whom adopted the vision and passed it on to the many volunteers enrolled to work with them.

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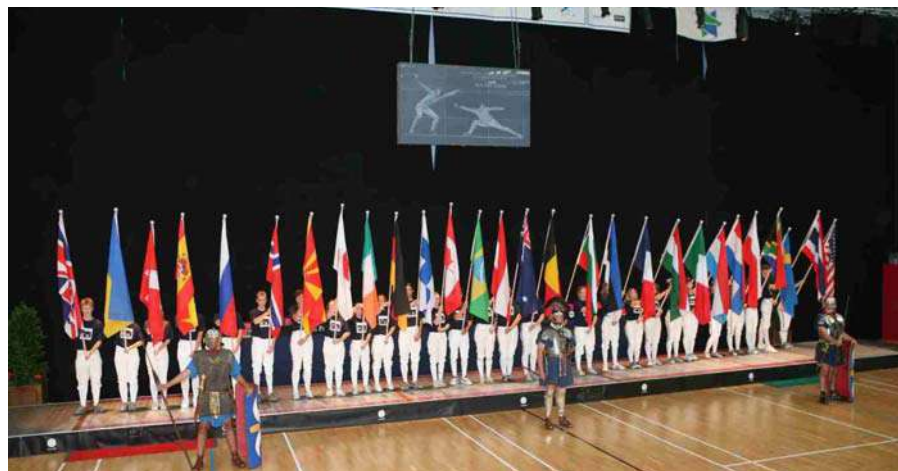
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Parade of the National Flags Bath 2006: Courtesy Lahna Pottle (thephotoman)

There were several groups of volunteers all smartly dressed to stand out and to add to the feel good factor of the event. The accreditation personnel were efficient and kept the queuing time to an acceptable level. The Armourers dealt with the more than 3620 items submitted for control with speed, diplomacy and firmness under pressure. The flag carriers with their slick and cheerful performance got the opening ceremony off to a good start. The Floor Management and Marshals teams ensured that the fencing areas were maintained at FIE standard with no incursions from coaches, spectators or fencers. The referees worked tirelessly ensuring fairness and order on the pistes. The British Referees were sporting their smart new uniforms for the first time.



Referees hard at it in Bath 2006: Courtesy Chris Green

Everyone was fed and watered, sometimes under difficult circumstances. Receptions were held every day for VIPs and invited guests. The Closing Ceremony was as spectacular as promised even though the expected film crew did not turn up. We had live broadcasts on local radio. The BBC and ITV sent in cameras and footage was shown over the weekend.

While all this was going on we still found time to hold a Civic Reception on the Thursday evening, entertaining the FIE officials on the Friday evening, have a volunteers party on the Saturday evening and a Gala Dinner for 330 people on the Sunday night.

All of this would not have been possible without the army of cheerful and willing volunteers.

There are some other people who deserve a mention, the FIE/DT team of Gabriela Mayer, Jie Ao, Barry Flood, Keith Smith, Mehmet Karamete, Sayed Naghavi, who kept the fencing running to the highest standards and Peter Jacobs who stepped in to manage the protocols during the medals and closing ceremonies.

We must not forget our sponsors; Awards for All, British Fencing (for both cash and the loan of equipment), Leon Paul, Karcher, The Bath Sony Centre, Kennedys, Hamptons International, Simpsons, The Bath Chronicle, British Fencing Southwest Region, Bath Sword Club.

Finally it must not be forgotten that there were people who supported the event in other ways. The members of the NVA 100 club, the members who sold and bought tickets for the NVA lottery and the many benefactors both large and small.

Personally, and on behalf of the Steering Group, I thank you all for your help and participation, no matter how great or small, in making our championships the great success that it was.

David Sweeney

From Mr H. DE SILVA B.I.S.C.
President of the NVA

I wish to thank everyone sincerely for the magnificent show that you put on. I have been to many high level events, Olympics and Commonwealth, this World Championships has beaten the lot! Especially as this was not state sponsored.

Thanks to all the referees and the beneficiaries.

You certainly showed the F.I.E and the B.F.A that the Veterans can put on a show. They were astounded at the number of volunteers and it is due to them that the show went so well.

The steering Committee did steady work meeting after meeting and finally praise for Dave for putting it on a completely astounding World Championships, He deserves his F.I.E medal.

Henry de Silva

From the British Fencing Website

World Veteran's Championships
07 September 2006

Bath University, September 2006

In the name of British Fencing and also personally I would like to extend an enormous thank you to the NVA and in particular the NVA Organising Committee of Dave Sweeney, Hilary Arnold, John Mason, Hilary Philbin, Frank Mills and Richard Bonehill for a truly magnificent World Championships in Bath. I was truly impressed with the volunteers who gave of their time, effort and money to help with this event. I hope they enjoyed the Volunteer's Party. I thought the Opening and Closing Ceremonies were memorable and the whole atmosphere was so friendly and sporting and yet competitive on the piste, that it made a great impression on myself but also on all the FIE delegates and also all the foreign delegations.

I take my hat off to you all. You have set a standard for World Veteran's Championships that will be hard for others to match. I was much touched by the foreign competitors who told me that they felt this time they really had been treated like competitors at a World Championships.

Naturally I would like to congratulate our British medal winners, Kate Smith with a Silver medal and Jenny Morris, Ralph Johnson, Jim Philbin, Janet Cooksey, Brian Causton and Andy Bornemisza who all won Bronze medals.

British Fencing is honoured to have helped sponsor this excellent event and I have received a very positive feedback from the FIE President, Mr Rene Roch. This was a showcase of how events can be run with forward planning, a very positive group of volunteers and finally a team spirit.

Keith Smith
President British Fencing

Kate Smith receiving her silver medal from Henry de Silva: Courtesy Chris Green



Panorama of the large fencing hall: Courtesy Frank Mills



VETERANS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Historian's Tale

"The most successful veterans' world championships ever." That was Dave Sweeney's aim when he set out to run Britain's first individual veterans' event and that, by general consensus, was what he and his team achieved. The enormous effort made by the NVA Steering Group and its army of helpers paid dividends. All 12 competitions ran smoothly and the few cracks that did appear were not noticed by the majority of the 300+ participants from 28 nations who took part.

Foil

For Britain's quartet of potentially strong contenders in the men's Cat. A competition (50-59), the event was something of a disaster. Jim Philbin and Graham Paul won just one bout in their respective pools and Jim failed to make the cut. Graham emerged as 20th seed and promptly went out 9-10 to Hinoshita (JPN) in the L32. Rob Bruniges and Tony Bartlett started reasonably well with three victories each in the pools to claim 12th and 14th seed respectively, but then immediately lost, Rob to Burkhold (GER) 6-10 and Tony to Milligan (USA) 8-9. Enough said.

All the semi-finalists were former gold and silver medallists. Haertter (GER), winner in 2004 and as elegant as ever, lacked his normal precision and lost 8-10 to Bernhard (SWI), runner-up to Graham Paul in 2001. In the other semi, the two Italians Galvan, reigning champion, and Paroli, champion in 2002, reached 7-all before Galvan pulled away to win. In the final he was simply too fast for the Swiss, winning easily 10-4.

No one emerged unscathed from the men's Cat. B (60+) pools. Of the four Brits, Simon Hartley, Brian Causton and Malcolm Fare each won four bouts to become 4th, 5th and 9th seed respectively with byes to the L16. Edward Ben-Nathan won three and held on to 16th seed by beating Anastasov (MKD) 10-4 in the L32, before falling to the No. 1 seed, Lapoue (FRA), 6-10.

This stage also saw the departure of Simon 7-9 to reigning world champion Steffen (GER) and Malcolm 9-10 to the eventual silver medallist Adams (USA). But Brian pressed on, first disposing of Link (LUX) 10-4 and then Steffen 10-5 to reach the semi-finals. Here he went astray against the sensitive timing and distance of Adams, going down 5-10.

In the other half of the draw, Spertini (FRA) defeated Hirt (GER) 10-7 in the semis and went on to beat Adams 10-6 in the final, his long beat attacks and neat ripostes proving effective against all styles.

In the women's Cat. A, Moya McNamara notched up just one victory in the pool and failed to make the cut, but Clare Halsted won two and Jane Clayton and Hilary Philbin each won three to reach the DE as 19th, 13th and 6th seed respectively.

Clare won her first match against Yamada (JPN) 10-3, but then went down to the No. 3 seed Walters (USA) 6-10. Hilary had a bye to the L16 where she completely lost her way, crashing out to Gardini (ITA) 1-10. That left Jane, in her first world championships, who first beat Kostadinov (BUL) 7-6 in the L32 and then scored an excellent victory against the No. 4 seed, Schneider (GER), 10-3. But she had nothing left in the quarter-finals against 2003 & 2004 champion Wessel (GER) and lost heavily 2-10. Wessel in turn went out to her compatriot, sister-in-law and No. 1 seed Kircheis 7-10, while in the other semi Gardini beat Amari (JPN) 9-5. The final was won effortlessly by Kircheis, who demolished the Italian 10-2.

Cat. B saw Janet Cooksey in commanding form in her pool, beating all five opponents, including the redoubtable Marie-Chantal Demaille (FRA). This made her No. 2 seed with a bye to the L16. Janet Pearson won two pool fights and beat Abrahams (USA) 10-7 to reach the same point, where she was unfortunate to draw her namesake. Cooksey showed no mercy in handing out a 10-0 thrashing.

Ann Cornwall, called up at the last minute, did not make the cut, but had the consolation of one victory in her pool. Meanwhile, Lynda Norrie, with a respectable four wins in her pool, emerged as No. 10 seed with a bye to the L16. She deserved better than a meeting with Demaille, who has the extraordinary record of never having been beaten in DE in the veterans' world championships at foil or epee. This occasion was no different, as she won 10-4 and went on to trounce Janet 10-3 in the quarter-finals.

The semi-finals were fairly one-sided. Demaille faced Palm (SWE), the reigning Cat. A world champion and newly qualified for Cat. B, and took her apart, at one stage leading 7-1 before relaxing to win 9-4 at time. In the other semi, Hendricks (AUT) beat Württemburger (GER) 10-3. The final started slowly until, after 2 minutes, Demaille unleashed an explosive attack. Despite a sound defence, Hendricks could not prevent the agile Frenchwoman repeatedly finding the target with lightning attacks into preparation and long well composed lunges. The end was never in doubt: another championship for Demaille 10-3. Such was her domination that no one scored more than 4 hits on her in any DE fight.

Epee

All four of the men's epee Cat. A Brits found themselves in the top half of the draw after the pools. Reigning world champion, Ralph Johnson, began in fine form, winning five out of six fights to become 5th seed with a bye to the L32, where he beat Kocab (USA) 10-7 and then Ide (JPN) 10-6. Unfortunately for GB, in the quarter-finals he met Jonathan Stanbury, who was going well, having staved as 20th seed and beaten Kachur (GER) 10-6 before taking out the No. 4 seed Panca (ITA) 10-8. Ralph won their encounter 10-3.

Meanwhile, Lawrence Burr as 33rd seed had to fight Ballard (CAN) for the privilege of meeting the No. 1 seed, Fantoni (ITA), and just lost 9-10. Rob Brooks, after winning four fights in his pool, emerged as 16th seed and beat Cuomo (ITA) 10-3 before going out to Fantoni 5-10.

In the semi-finals Ralph also came up against Fantoni, who was in fine form. At 2-all the Italian executed a beautiful one-two attack into Ralph's preparation and shortly afterwards demonstrated his sound defence by parrying one of Ralph's fast high-low attacks. This left Ralph 3-5 down and having to push all the time to make an opening or draw an attack to parry. Gradually the gap widened as Fantoni shrewdly picked his moments to drive home an attack or anticipated Ralph's own attacks and riposted effectively, winning 10-6.

Ralph in action: Courtesy Chris Green



The other semi saw former senior world champion and runner-up to Ralph in 2004, Volker Fischer (GER), demolish Lelouarn (FRA) 10-3. But first he had to wait 20 minutes while the President of the DT, Gabriela Meyer, objected that the lettering on his jacket was too faint. Eventually, after Leon Paul had resprayed the jacket, she allowed fencing to continue.

The final was a slow tense affair between two old foxes, each trying to draw the other into committing himself. Fischer's nerve broke first and he fleched but missed – 1-nil to Fantoni after 3 minutes. The German tried again and was parried, but the riposte missed, 1-all. After good hits from both sides, the same thing happened, followed by a good direct attack to wrist by Fischer to put him 4-2 up with just 30 seconds left. Forced to attack against a master of defence, Fantoni grew increasingly desperate and could do little to prevent Fischer winning 8-5.

After a brilliant start in the men's Cat. B event, winning all six fights in his pool to become No. 2 seed, Bill Osbaldeston ran into the sand in his first DE against Sexton (USA), going down 3-5 in a low-scoring match. Robin Davenport was 5th seed after topping his pool of five and easily defeated Abrahamson (SWE) 10-1, followed by Hrovat (AUS) 10-3, before meeting the difficult Schiel (LUX) in the quarter-finals, just going down 3-4 in another long drawn out match.

Mike Bradbury only won two bouts in his pool, but quickly disposed of the No. 7 seed, Wurtz (GER), 10-2 in the L32, only to fall to Spielberg (USA) 3-7 in the L16. Chris Green, totally distracted by his responsibilities as chief photographer for the championships, won just one bout and did not make the cut.

The semi-finals saw Pasmans (BEL) overcome Schiel 10-8 and reigning champion Lapouge (FRA) crush Sexton 10-3. Lapouge took an early 4-1 lead in the final with his fast prise-de-fer attacks, but gradually the tall Belgian

found his range and equalised at 6-all. Pasmans then pulled ahead with a counter-attack into the Frenchman's fleche and kept control to win 10-8.

Kate Smith, although an experienced international, came to Bath to take part in her first veterans' world championships and proceeded to deliver an extraordinary performance in the women's epee Cat. A event. After winning all five bouts in her pool, she emerged as No. 2 seed and sailed serenely on to the final, brushing aside Theriault (USA) 10-2, Martin (FRA) 10-4 and team-mate Jenny Morris 10-2.

Jenny came in as 19th seed, with two wins in her pool, and had a good run, defeating Balot (AUT) 10-7 before eliminating the No. 3 seed, Gardini (ITA), 10-9 and then Nagele (GER) 10-7 to claim a bronze medal. Kate Elvin, 9th seed, and Mavis Thornton, 24th, unfortunately met in the L32, Kate winning 10-8 before going down to Jansen (GER) 3-10.

In the final against Aubailly (FRA) Kate Smith started in scintillating form. A riposte to arm, continuation of an attack, neat foot hit, prime riposte, one-two to arm – everything she tried worked and by the break she was 5-1 up. Immediately afterwards she maintained the pace with a counter-attack and a remise to lead 7-2. But she was tiring rapidly and with physical fatigue came mental paralysis. Suddenly the situation was reversed and the Frenchwoman came storming back to equalise and then lead 9-8. Kate made a last desperate attack to foot and scored. Two doubles followed before the inevitable: an attack by Aubailly clinched the title, with Kate wishing she'd had enough energy to see out the last 3-minute period.

Kate in the final: Courtesy Chris Green



Three of Britain's quartet in Cat. B collected four victories in their pools and byes to the L16 – Janet Cooksey, seeded 5th, Sylvia Brown, 8th, and Carol Wengraf, 10th. In the DE Janet first beat Meijer-Evers (NED) 10-5 and then Mehrle (GER) 7-2 to reach the semi-finals, where she bowed out 5-10 to No. 1 seed Dobloug (NOR). Sylvia lost to Lindeman (FIN) 6-10, but Carol beat Graham (USA) 10-6 before meeting the formidable Demaille (FRA) and going down 4-10. Meanwhile, Connie Adam, having won two bouts in her pool against considerably younger opponents, was narrowly eliminated by Mehrle 9-10.

The final did not go all Demaille's way for once as Dobloug fought her every inch of the way. There was

never more than one hit different between them as they each produced fine moves. A long doublé lunge by the Frenchwoman was followed by a fleche attack by the Norwegian. A beat low-high fleche from Demaille was promptly countered by a precise hit under the wrist by Dobloug. Then, at 9-all, Demaille produced a final devastating fleche to clinch another world title.

Sabre

With five pool victories, reigning men's sabre Cat. A champion Richard Cohen became No. 3 seed and had a bye to the L16, where the unimaginable happened – he lost to Richards (USA) 8-10. Richards then went out to Korfanty (USA), whom Richard has beaten on his way to the title for the past 2 years. Such is life.

Jim Philbin, with three wins and 10th seeding, defeated Mauceri (ITA) 10-6 and then No. 2 seed Jacobson (USA) 10-7 to reach the semi-finals and a meeting with Korfanty. Jim appeared strangely indecisive and static as the American made all the running to win 10-4. Chris Prevett, 12th seed, also collected three wins and took out the No. 5 seed, Loiseau (FRA), 10-9 before falling to Paroli (ITA) 2-10. Richard Bonehill had to withdraw from the event, as he was too involved in preparing the closing ceremony video compilation.

In the final Korfanty gave a sabre lesson to Reynan (FRA), who good-humouredly knelt and presented the American with his sabre in acknowledgement of his superiority in winning 10-2.

Four pool wins gave Malcolm Cawton top seeding among the British contingent in Cat. B, 8th, and a bye to the L16, where he lost to Boite (FRA) 6-10. Then came Michael Compton, two wins and 20th seed, who lost to Urban (CAN) 5-10.

Andy Bornemisza, also two wins and 21st seed, began a on roll in the DE, edging out the 10th seed, Klein (GER), 10-9 and then did the same to No. 5 seed, Gieger (GER), before beating Urban 10-7 to reach the semi-finals, where he lost to No. 1 seed, Apostol (USA), 6-10. Brian Causton, filling in as a sabreur, won a fight but did not make the cut.

Sue Benney, with three wins in her women's sabre Cat. A pool, became 9th seed and was the only Brit to get out of the L16, beating Chikubu (JPN) 10-3 before losing to the No.1 seed, Eyre (USA), by the same score. Jenny Morris, 7th seed after winning three bouts in her pool, lost to Gardini (ITA) 6-10, while Yvonne Walls and Lynne Bornemisza, 14th and 15th seeds, went out to Cummins (USA) and Pestotnik (USA) respectively, both 4-10.

The final saw Turner (USA) race to a 5-1 lead against Aubailly (FRA) at the break and extend the gap in the second period, winning 10-5.

Cat. B produced the smallest competition, with just 12 fencers in two pools. Carol Wengraf won five bouts and received a bye to the L8 as No. 4 seed, but then lost to the 5th seed, Langton (RSA), 6-10. Sylvia Brown, with three victories, was 7th seed and met Pat Shepherd-Foster (two victories, 10th seed) in the L16, winning 10-6 before losing to Martin (FRA) 5-10. Connie Adam won one bout but didn't make the cut.

Langton went on to win her semi-final against Greunke (GER) 10-4 and the final against Hurst (USA) 10-7.

Overall, the British haul of one silver medal and six bronzes, while not as impressive as in previous championships, was respectable. One cannot expect gold medals every year.

Malcolm Fare

Check-in desk: Courtesy Chris Green



World Championships 2006 Results with British placing

Men's Foil – Cat. A		Women's Foil – Cat A.	
1	GALVAN, Maurizio (ITA)	1	KIRCHEIS, Astrid (GER)
2	BERNHARD, Marco (SUI)	2	GARDINI, Iris (ITA)
3=	HAERTTER, Klaus (GER)	3=	WESSEL, Ute (GER)
3=	PAROLI, Giulio (ITA)	3=	AMARI, Kaoru (JPN)
17	Rob Bruniges	8	Jane Clayton
18	Tony Bartlett	12	Hilary Philbin
21	Graham Paul	16	Clare Halsted
24	Jim Philbin	24	Moya McNamara
Men's Foil – Cat. B		Women's Foil – Cat B.	
1.	SPERTINI, Alain (FRA)	1	DEMAILLE, Marie (FRA)
2.	ADAMS, Jim (USA)	2	HENDRICKS, Judith (GER)
3=	CAUSTON, Brian (GBR)	3=	PALM, Kerstin (SWE)
3=	HIRT, Franz (GER)	3=	Wurtemberger, Karin (GER)
10	Simon Hartley	6	Janet Cooksey
13	Malcolm Fare	10	Lynda Norrie
15	Edward Ben-Nathan	15	Janet Pearson
		21	Ann Cornwall
Men's Epee- Cat A		Women's Epee-Cat A	
1	FISCHER, Volker (GER)	1	AUBAILLY, Corinne (FRA)
2	FANTONI, Adolfo (ITA)	2	SMITH, Kate (GBR)
3=	JOHNSON, Ralph (GBR)	3=	MORRIS, Jenny (GBR)
3=	LELOUARN, Serge (FRA)	3=	SOMEROJA, Marja (FIN)
7	Jonathan Stanbury	11	Kate Elvin
15	Rob Brooks	24	Mavis Thornton
35 ^t	Lawrence Burr		
Men's Epee- Cat B		Women's Epee-Cat B	
1	PASMANS, Leo (BEL)	1	DEMAILLE, Marie (FRA)
2	LAPOUGE, Gerard (FRA)	2	DOBLOUG, Astrid (NOR)
3=	SCHIEL, Robert (LUX)	3=	COOKSEY, Janet (GBR)
3=	SEXTON, Ray (USA)	3=	MARTIN, Brigitte (FRA)
6	Robin Davenport	6	Carol Wengraf
16	Mike Bradbury	12	Sylvia Brown
17	Bill Osbaldeston	21	Connie Adam
37	Chris Green		
Men's Sabre-Cat.A		Women's Sabre-Cat A	
1	KORFANTY, Ed (USA)	1	TURNER Delia (USA)
2	REYNEN, Frederic (FRA)	2	AUBAILLY, Corinne (FRA)
3=	PHILBIN, Jim (GBR)	3=	EYRE, Jane (USA)
3=	PAROLI, Giulio (ITA)	3=	PESTOTNIK, Chery (USA)
7	Chris Prevett	7	Sue Benney
10	Richard Cohen	10	Jenny Morris
		14	Yvonne Walls
		15	Lynne Bornemisza
Men's Sabre-Cat B		Women's Sabre-Cat B	
1	APOSTOL, Paul (USA)	1	LANGTON, Margue (RSA)
2	PINKUS, Larry (USA)	2	HURST, Susan (USA)
3=	BORNEMISZA, Andy (GBR)	3=	GREUNKE, Brigitte (GER)
3=	VOLKMANN, Rudy (USA)	3=	MARTIN, Brigitte (FRA)
12	Malcolm Cawton	6	Carol Wengraf
21	Michael Compton	7	Sylvia Brown
23	Brian Causton	10	Pat Shepherd-Foster
		12	Connie Adam

The Referee's Tale

I have been around the world a bit in recent years as a referee and have seen the good, bad and indifferent as far as competitions go. I have arrived at Church Halls and been asked to help set up the boxes, I have found myself carrying out weapon control first thing in the morning, I have been asked to referee in Italian for the benefit of local TV as I was walking towards the piste to take a final. So I guess it's fair to say I know when referees are getting a fair deal and when they aren't.

I had no idea exactly what I was going to find when I arrived in Bath. Sure I knew that a whole lot of work had been going on behind the scenes, that an enormous number of people were trying to put on the best spectacle that they could. But how would it be for me as a referee? I adopted my usual approach, turn up, get on with it and see.

When I arrived the whole place was in the process of being put together and as I stood on the upstairs walkway and watched the coloured pistes for the DE being laid out I started to believe that this might be a very special event indeed.

That this was an event that was going to be scrutinised by the great and the good became all too clear when FIE President Rene Roch joined our own President Keith Smith for the referees' seminar.

The first chance I got to see how the whole thing was going to work came in my first poule on Day One. Down went a fencer and we needed the Doctor. This can take an age to sort out. I had not one, but two people making sure it happened (Thanks Linda and JD).

I felt quite spoiled at having all the room I needed to referee in. Having unobtrusive, but effective, Marshals and Floor Managers who just got things done. When a fencer dared to take a chair into the fencing area I didn't even have to ask for it to be moved. As soon as the fencer's bum left the seat Denis Ward whipped the offending furniture away and across the barrier.

All I had to worry about was doing my job.

I was fed and watered, and when the DT hijacked the referees' coffee the problem was sorted and I even got sandwiches brought to me the next day.

What did the foreign referees think? Well I think that this is best summed up by a friend of mine from France. "C'est une vrai Championats du Monde".

I have had the good fortune to walk out at a number of Major Events to take finals, but I shall always treasure the experience of doing it in Bath, just down the road from Bristol where I first fenced and in front of so many people who have known me for so long. That was really special. Just as special as the whole presentation of the World Championships from the Opening Ceremony to the Closing Ceremony.

All I can really say to Australia is "Follow that!"

Mike Thornton



Finals Hall Spectators: Courtesy Chris Green

The Social Organiser's Tale

When David Sweeney asked me to be Social Events Activity Head I thought "Great, I get to go to all the parties!" Little did I realise how much work it would involve. Weeks of negotiating then days spent in the office making badges, menus, meal vouchers and goodness knows what else – I got sick of the sight of my PC and printer and was dreaming at night of giant laminators, paper cutters and flags! But when the big event actually started, feeling very important in uniform and red scarf, I had a very busy but very enjoyable time. I lost count of the number of times I drove up and down Bathwick Hill, as I was somehow given the job of personal chauffeuse to René Roch, and it was not an easy task trying to converse with him in my schoolgirl French when I took him back to Bristol International Airport, but a nice guy nevertheless. In fact all of the FIE representatives were very amenable. I must have walked miles too, backwards and forwards in the STV – Norman Golding lost count of the number of times I walked past him in headless chicken mode.

Some of us enjoyed a Civic Reception at the Pump Rooms and a visit to the torchlit Roman Baths on Thursday evening. The buzz of anticipation was tangible and the overseas visitors were enthralled. I took my social event duties a bit literally though by showing some USA competitors where the best restaurants were in Bath and was invited to join them for a meal. (I only had one drink!)

The volunteers' party on Saturday was great fun. Good food, good company and disco dancing, and thanks to Lawrence for doing his bit! Keith Smith kindly provided an abundance of wine with compliments of the BFA. The Gala dinner on Sunday went well too – about 320 people sat down to a delicious meal and then enjoyed a live band and dancing; a superb way to finish a marvellous few days. I fell into bed at 2 am exhausted, but I believe quite a few of you partied on into the early hours!

What I shall treasure most though is the memory of being part of such a fantastic team. All of you there (and the youngsters as well) were fantastic – working so hard but being supportive of each other. It was brilliant from start to finish – so slick and well organised in every aspect. Some hiccoughs but we overcame them. The opening and closing ceremonies were sensational. I am proud to have had the privilege of working with such fantastic people. Thanks!

Gillian Aghajan

Volunteers Party: Courtesy Peter Huggins



Gala Dinner Bath 2006 :Courtesy Chris Green



Some of the Armourers: Courtesy Peter Huggins



The Armourer's Tale

Weapon Control Report

I should like to start with a brief description of the Weapon Control process.

The Weapon Control opened at 14.30 on Thursday, 31st August. We were housed in a corridor some distance from the fencing halls but had sufficient space and two secure areas. Kit was submitted by individuals, was listed, recorded and labelled and a numbered receipt issued. The labelled kit was then placed in a secure "Equipment-In Store". The equipment and clothing was then examined and tested sequentially. Equipment that in our view complied with the regulations was appropriately marked whilst equipment that failed was labelled as such. On completion of the tests the batch was placed in the secure "Equipment-Out Store" to await collection. On collection details of any failures were reported to the fencer concerned. On the first day we worked until 23.20, on the second until 20.00 and on the third until 20.00. We began work each morning at 07.00. On the final day the weapon control closed at the end of the finals.

A total of 3626 items were submitted for examination over the period of the event, of these some 478 items (13.2%) failed the tests. The reasons for these failures were in the main a lack of preparation by the competitors for this World event and a lack of understanding of the requirements of the regulations, for example a significant percentage of the clothing that failed did so because it was of only CEN level 1 standard – 350 Newtons – whereas CEN level 2 – 800 Newtons – is required for this level of tournament or the competitor's name was not marked or clearly marked on the back of the jacket.

In relation to the weapons, 206 of the 947 submitted failed (21.8%). The vast majority of the failures related to high electrical resistances, though several concerned the submission of non-FIE blades and in one particular case, a non-electric weapon. In other cases the weapon was too long, too stiff or too flexible or failed in other ways.

Of the 1189 bodywires or mask wires that were submitted 96 failed (8.1%). In the main these failures were due to high resistances though a significant number just did not work.

298 masks were submitted for control with 80 of these being sabre masks. 33 (11.1%) failed the tests. The majority of the sabre masks failed because of high electrical resistances but in relation to the others

the failures came about because of their general condition or the lack of a backstrap or because they were only of CEN level 1 standard. I am worried that one manufacturer has chosen to place Vision Panels bearing the date of manufacture of 1999 in what were recently purchased masks. The same manufacturer is embossing their own date of manufacture on the visor and thus it is only on close inspection that the true date of the manufacture is found.

A total of 252 metallic jackets were tested. The 39 (15.5%) that failed did so in the main because of high electrical resistances though several had holes in and some did not have the name and country of the fencer clearly marked on the back. 132 sabre gloves and overlays were submitted of which 13 (9.8%) failed. The failures were either due to high electrical resistances or to the general condition of the gloves several of which were unsafe.

808 jackets, breeches and gloves were submitted for control. Of these, 91 (11.3%) failed. In relation to the clothing this was, as I have stated above, due to being of the wrong quality or because they did not carry the name of the fencer. A few were holed, usually because of wear and tear, though in one particular case the competitor had chosen to cut ventilation holes in the armpit.

In closing I should like to thank all the volunteer armourers who worked long and hard to achieve a satisfactory control that produced the competitors' equipment on time for their events. I should also like to thank Mr Mehmet Karamete the FIE SEMI representative for his support and assistance throughout the event.

Peter Huggins,
Weapon Controller
5th September 2006

The Marshal's Tale

“The Gathering of the Marshals”

On that Thursday they drove out of the land of the setting sun; 10 men and 2 women, all driven by one aim – to bring order, security ... and that special fuzzy warmth of “the Disney World” effect. Always smiling, always helpful, always feared, they were known as the Marshals - a close knit band of friends who were to bring the iron fist in the velvet glove to that little village in Bath where honed athletes, gathered from every corner of the globe, were to compete for the fabled round discs of golden metal. The Marshals and their fabled leader, had been called forth by the mystical band of veterans known only as “The Project Board”. These veterans had debated long and hard as to whom this awesome power was to be given. They pored over the Books of Necromancy loaned to them by the Kings of the FIE and the faded lists of Epee Club victors passed until, at last, they alighted on one name, now living in virtual obscurity in the grounds of the Norton Dragon, - the valiant hearted L’Awrence. “This is the one” they sighed and summoned him to the Council Chamber. Here they handed him the sword of power and bade him go forth. “Go forth” they said “gather a band of wily and skilled warriors who will not be afraid to look even an Italian sabreur in the eye, bring them to this place, train them in the magical arts [even those of the fearsome Guild of Armourers], and place them around the Village of Sport so that everyone might recognise them and be afraid. Arm them with the red tie of power and the walkie-talkie, teach them the words of Disney and allow them the freedom to roam unhindered through the halls of steel, combating evil and spreading the words of the all-powerful facility managers to all who would oppose them”

So it was done. L’Awrence, the Chief of the Marshals did as he was bidden and scoured the Lands of the West from the midden marshes of Totnes to the golden spires of Bath Abbey. Many were examined but few passed the test and those that did knew that this would be their hour. The ones that came are now remembered in the annals of the The Project Board and inscribed in the stone walls of the Sports Village. The names of Matthew the Cool, Duncan the Imbiber, Flora the Lustrous , Chris the Younger, Big John the Enforcer, Little John the Communicator, Tristan the Upright, Jim the Rock, Tim the Terrible, Steffi the Serene and Leslie the Lithe one – all are now a part of the History that was made on that long, windy weekend in the summer of ’06. If you were there you will remember them – and if you were not, then be very, very afraid because they may be called forth once again. They were the Marshals

Lawrence Burr

Some of the Marshals: Courtesy Lawrence Burr



thephotoman.co.uk

Chris Green and his team took many fantastic photographs of the Championships and social events. Check out his website and order some prints for wonderful keepsakes of this unforgettable event.

<http://www.thephotoman.co.uk/>

[Links to other sites with World Championship Photos](#)

Marek; Fencing Master at Brixton Fencing Club

WORLD VETERANS FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS Bath 2006
by Fencing Master MAREK PIOTR STEPIEN (1545 images) by [MarekPS](#)

If the invitation below does not show up correctly, click here:

<http://www.imagestation.com/album/pictures.html?id=2102213627&code=24162568&mode=invite&DCMP=isc-email-AlbumInvite>

Another Veteran's Site: Nick Stokes

http://www.callnetuk.com/home/leedsfencing/leeds_fencing_gallery_vwc2006.htm

**Middlesex Unisex Epée,
1st October 2006.
Middlesex University.
THIS WEEKEND!!!!!!!**

Open to all NVA members. Entry forms and details have been circulated.

New Competition: Sabre

**Cornwall Pro Sabre
Saturday 14th October**

Cash Prize for the best Veteran. See June newsletter for details.

**Veterans Team Challenge
Inaugural Competition**

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

**URGENT CALL FOR WOMEN
TEAM MEMBERS: all 3 weapons
needed!**

**Join in the fun...
Sunday 15th October**

Loughborough Charnwood Leisure Centre.
Group booking at the Quality Hotel Saturday night, special rates. Group dinner Saturday night.

Contact Linda Lawes or Frank Mills and register your interest. **NOW...**

linda.lawes1@btinternet.com
Millsfba@aol.com

**Xmas Fun Fence, Dinner and Dance,
18th November 2006.**

**Coventry. Come along and start the
Season of Good Will early!**

Open to all NVA Members. Entry forms with this newsletter

Dave Sweeney,
Chairman,
NVA Organising Committee,
Veterans World Fencing Championships,
Bath 2006

8th September 2006

Dear David,

May I place on record my warmest congratulations to you, the organising committee and all volunteers for your organisation and presentation of the recent Veterans World Fencing Championships in Bath. I thought the whole tournament was an outstanding success and salute your leadership, organisational skills and motivation. From the committee, to officials, to every volunteer each played their part in ensuring these Championships would be the best ever.

I recall talking with you about a year ago when our discussions centered on the challenge of staging a world championship and we mentioned the desire to produce the best ever games, well you and your team did just that. Whether fencers won or lost, whether volunteers played a large or small part in their contribution, everyone will have left Bath motivated by the experience, educated by the experience and enriched by the experience.

Future competitions may equal what you achieved but when set against the limited resources that were available there is no one who can exceed your standards. Having had the good fortune to attend a number of Olympics, I saw many touches in the organisation, which emulated the world's premier sports festival.

Once again may I offer my warmest congratulations to you, Hilary A, John, Hilary P, Frank, and Richard you all deserve gold medals for your fantastic achievement. I am so proud of the NVA and everyone who was involved.

Sincerely

Brian Speight

**Looks Like the crowd agreed with Brian! Enthralled:
Courtesy Marek**

