



# The Vets



National Veterans Association Volume XX Issue 9 September 2007

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The National Veterans Association  
is an Associated Body of the  
British Fencing Association (BFA)

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**Leon Paul**

“When shall we three meet again  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?”  
“When the hurlyburly’s done,  
When the battle's lost and won.”

**Macbeth.....**



## **The French way to Open Champagne!**

The losers buy the drinks!  
Germany 1<sup>st</sup> Great Britain 2<sup>nd</sup> France 3<sup>rd</sup>

| GERMANY v GREAT BRITAIN v FRANCE                |                         |                               |                        |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Triangular Match Bonn August 2007 Results Table |                         |                               |                        |
|   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Germany | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Great Britain | 3 <sup>rd</sup> France |
| Women's Sabre                                   | 10                      | 14                            | 3                      |
| Men's Sabre                                     | 11                      | 6                             | 10                     |
| Women's Foil                                    | 13                      | 8                             | 6                      |
| Men's Foil                                      | 10                      | 8                             | 9                      |
| Women's Epée                                    | 7                       | 10                            | 10                     |
| Men's Epée                                      | 13                      | 7                             | 7                      |
| Totals  | 64                      | 53                            | 45                     |

## **Bonn Training Camp and GB : France : Germany Match**

Twenty-eight fencers and friends travelled to Bonn to attend a four day training camp, and take part in the new Great Britain : Germany : France triangular.

This was running for the first time and was held in the German city of Bonn. We were training in the Olympic Fencing venue with three experienced coaches:

"Bundestrainer der Deutschen Mannschaft" Mr. Schomakov (Bulgarian).  
Henri Jansen, (Belgian), one of the best trainers in Germany for foil.  
And for Epée, Michel Perrin from Marseille.

We started with Henri on day one with a 20 minute warm up and something like 40 minutes footwork. For the foilists this was the way each day started. All 3 weapon coaches trained slightly differently with Henri for foil being the most physical! On the last day the foilists went out for a 20 minute run, then another 20 or 30 minutes of obstacle courses, jumping, running and lunging whilst the epéeists appeared to train for some time seated on the floor... All great fun, and when you hear the German Veterans hold a training camp EACH MONTH you can see, we have a lot of catching up to do.

I asked those that attended for a one line summary of the week, here are the ones I CAN print...  
From Andy " Bunnch is best.....!!

We drank much great beer from strange shaped glasses, found out who those strange heads belonged to, took part in a warm-up which seemed to last forever but in fact had only taken ten minutes (how will we last until lunchtime?) and followed Linda home from all over the city!!

(From Lynne)

Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to.....!!

"I realise it will be good fun to grow old disgracefully"

"Never in the field of fencing conflict has so much been achieved by so few so old".

The standard and the quality of the training was quite unexpected, great venue, great atmosphere and I believe it has had the effect of bringing us closer to our European neighbours. After all when you are kick boxing and ball room dancing down a piste looking utterly stupid, it does create a sort of bond."

Quote from Team Captain following hard fought bout - "We thought you were levitating!" Well, the rule changes haven't excluded it yet, and in VETs fencing we need to use all the tactics available!

Always remember - 80% of success is showing up on the piste! (Especially after the night before).

And from one of our German Friends, this gives you a flavour of the week!!

Dear friends,

I hope you arrived well back at home!!? It were very nice days with you. But why we are having painful muscles:- from the hard training or the lots of laughing?

I think, that the workshop was a good jump into our success of fencing-may be in Sydney or in the following season! Tomorrow I will go to the training in my Club in Nürnberg, again! When I swing my sable I think of all of you!!

Kindest regards and have a good success Birgit



Photos from Steve Potter, Gillian Worman, Colin Walls, Richard Sage, Linda Lawes, Jane Hutchison, Dave Sweeney and Marnit Budde



**The Fencers at the Training Camp**



**The Fencing Venue Bonn**



**John Chalmers makes a hit!!**



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



**Men's Sabre Team Bonn**



**The Inspirational Henri Jansen**



**Boat trip down the Rhine**



**Women's Sabre team Bonn**



**Men's Foil Team Bonn**





Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through Awards for All



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Stourbridge Fencing Club is proud to announce that it has just received an Awards for All grant from the Lottery fund of nearly £10,000.

One of the strongest and oldest fencing clubs in the West Midlands, the club currently has members in the top 100 in the National Rankings in their respective weapon and two current Veterans Internationals – one a former World champion in his category. Further background details about the club, which meets at Pedmore Technology College Stourbridge on Tuesdays & Thursdays, are given in a separate file that is attached.

The grant of £9,300 is almost certainly the largest made to a fencing club in the West Midlands region and possibly the whole country, since the grant threshold was raised to £10,000 from £6,000 only in April this year.

The grant is earmarked for purchasing equipment that is to be used to support the twin aims of the club's scheme. The first of these is to promote the sport in the area and increase participation and the second to raise the competitive standard of its members.

Fencing, recently described as Britain's fastest growing sport, was given a further boost by James Bond in "Die Another Day" and its appeal has been broadened by the thousands of children each year experiencing a taste of the sport in activity centres. The club already provides regular beginners' courses and will be now better equipped to cope with demand. Competitive level fencing will be promoted by improved scoring and personal electrical equipment and the Club's Crystal Open Teams competition will be enhanced by the purchase of two metallic pistes.

The first part of the action plan will be beginners' courses starting on 11th and 13th September 2007.

Keith Smith, President of British Fencing and a former SFC member, said "Brilliant news. Excellent news for you and fencing in general. £9300 is an excellent sum to have been awarded!!"

For further information/interviews/ photo opportunities/club visits etc., please use the following contact details:

Peter Baron (Vice Chairman) by email to [stourbridgefencers@bigfoot.com](mailto:stourbridgefencers@bigfoot.com) or phone 01384 400242

Phil Palmer (Chairman) by email to [phil.pjpalmer@virgin.net](mailto:phil.pjpalmer@virgin.net) or phone 01384 411309

# FENDUKO...

Introducing the first ever Fenduko. From an original idea by Linda Lawes!  
Kindly do not reproduce without permission.

The rules are the same as the World Famous Sudoku.

Using Just the 9 Letters from the words : SABRE FOIL

Use each letter only once in each vertical row and once in each horizontal row.  
Also each letter must only appear ONCE in each square of 3 x 3 (shaded and un-shaded) GET IT?

The letters do not work out in the Diagonal. Solution next month.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | F | S |   | O | B |   |   |
|   | S | I |   |   | L | A | E |   |
| E |   |   |   |   |   |   | F | R |
| L | A |   |   | I |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | O | F | B |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | L |   |   | O | E |
| F | B |   |   |   |   |   |   | I |
|   | L | R | B |   |   | E | A |   |
|   |   | A | R |   | I | F |   |   |

# TORONTO 2007: COMMONWEALTH GAMES

SORRY.....Amended results .....SORRY  
To those fencers whose results were wrong in the last newsletter.



## AGE GROUP RESULTS: GB VETERANS

|             | GOLD MEDAL            |                    | SILVER MEDAL |                         |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
|             | Women                 | Men                | Women        | Men                     |
| 50-59 Foil  | Jenny Morris          |                    | Sue Benney   |                         |
| 50-59 Epée  | Lynne Bornemisza      | Rob Brooks         | Sue Hanney   |                         |
| 50-59 Sabre | <b>Jane Hutchison</b> | <b>Carl Morris</b> | Jenny Morris | <b>Richard Bonehill</b> |
| 60-69 Foil  |                       | Brian Causton      |              | Frank Mills             |
| 60-69 Epée  | Pat Shepherd-Foster   | Richard Sweatman   |              | Bob Turner              |
| 60-69 Sabre | Pat Shepherd-Foster   | Andy Bornemisza    |              |                         |
| 70+ Foil    | Sylvia Brown          | Alan Ault          | Diane Austin | <b>Henry de Silva</b>   |
| 70+ Epée    | Connie Adam           | Henry de Silva     | Sylvia Brown | Alan Ault               |
| 70+ Sabre   | Sylvia Brown          |                    | Connie Adam  | Alan Ault               |

### *A Request from Henry de Silva*

Whilst in Toronto Henry had his camera and photographs stolen.  
Do any of you from Toronto have photos of Henry receiving his medals that you can send him please?

Phone number on the front cover.

### *STILL TIME TO ENTER THE*

### *MIDDLESEX UNISEX EPEE SUNDAY Sept 30<sup>th</sup>*

*Don't miss the special one off event of the Newsletter editor fencing, and I use the term loosely, fencing Epée.....*

*Another FUN fencing event  
USE IT OR LOSE IT.....*

***To Enter RING Hilary Arnold***

**020 8373 7953**

Middlesex University, Trent Park, Bramley Road, London N14 4YZ  
15 minutes from the M25, Junction 24

# Important Rules of which you may be unaware:

## Rules which have changed in the last two years

- Hair must be kept inside the mask or jacket, so that it does not obscure any target area or the name, and so that it does not have to be rearranged during the fight (i.e. it must be SECURE). Because of the reference to obscuring the name, it applies to all three weapons. The penalty is a yellow card.
- The bend in a foil blade is now allowed to be a maximum of ONE centimetre, not two. Epée and sabre remain at 1 cm and 4 cm respectively. At foil and épée the bend must be in the vertical plane: at sabre in the horizontal plane. If you come on guard with a bend in excess of these limits, the referee should yellow card you (but many will give the blade a pointed look before it comes to that, so be aware of such coded signals).
- Foils must be presented to weapon control without tape on the blade (so they can check it is a legal point which incorporates two screws: some pointless tips have been banned). You then tape your foils before you compete; you do not present them without tape on the piste.
- An offensive or defensive action with the unarmed arm is now an instant RED card (Group 2). (This isn't a new rule – just a change of severity of the penalty). This is usually seen as a back arm parry. Mere covering is still a yellow on the first instance, though I predict that somebody will argue that covering itself is a defensive action and all hell will then break loose.
- Referees are now very hot on covering with the HEAD at foil. Any significant nod of the head which drops the bib further down the target area is likely to be penalised with a yellow card. Abnormal positions of any sort which restrict the target area at foil are also likely to be penalised, such as the “ironing board” where the body and head are horizontal. However, Vets are not normally flexible enough to worry about covering the target with the leg!
- If your jacket fails during the competition and you have to use a spare, you have until the next round to get your name and nationality put on. If you don't do this, you will be eliminated.
- Non-combativity (which used to be called passivity) has now been defined as any two of the following
  - No hit for one minute
  - Fencers out of step-lunge distance
  - No blade contactIt applies only in DE fights and team matches. On the first occurrence, both fencers receive a yellow card, and move straight to the next period of 3 minutes without a 1 min break. Second and subsequent offences are penalised by a red card each (though with Vets' rules there can only be 2 occurrences anyway). If it occurs in the final 3 minute period, the penalty is applied, and then lots are drawn for priority. The fencers then fence for one more complete minute, with all hits during that minute scoring. If the score at the end is equal, the fencer with priority wins. (This is the current version but it has changed several times in the last 2 years).
- Video refereeing is now used at the major championships, but I don't know if it is to be in use in Sydney. If it is, and your piste is equipped, you have the right to ONE challenge of a referee's decision in a pool fight, and TWO in a DE fight. If your challenge is successful, you retain your full entitlement (ie you still have one challenge in a pool fight or two in a DE). The referee will sometimes look at the video for his own benefit anyway, particularly at assault point. The fencer does NOT get to see the video.
- With the exception of video refereeing, remember you cannot appeal a referee's decision on a question of FACT; only on application of the rules (so if the referee says it was your opponent's beat attack and not your parry-riposte, you cannot appeal). You may appeal a misinterpretation of the rules as long as you state IMMEDIATELY that you want to appeal, and the DT will be called. However, if the referee's decision is upheld you will receive a yellow card for an unjustified appeal.

## Other rules of which veterans are often unaware

- You must be STILL before the word “Play”, and properly on guard. At sabre, you must be on guard ON the on guard line, not behind it.
- At foil and sabre you may not be “point in line” before the word “Play”. Referees will also apply the unwritten convention that at foil you must be in sixte, and at sabre in tierce. Depending on who is in charge on the day, you may also be required to come on guard in sixte at épée.
- Corps a corps TO AVOID BEING HIT is an offence even at épée (yellow card). So is leaving the piste to avoid being hit.
- A deliberate hit not on the opponent is penalised by a RED card (Group 2). This needn't always be an attempt to cheat (though it often is at the highest levels); sometimes occurs when you think you have hit, you step back and test your point on the floor off the piste – DON'T DO IT!
- Leaving the side of the piste with ONE foot as well as two stops the fight, and your opponent is advanced one metre. You are then put back on guard at correct distance, i.e. both with point in line, and the points must not overlap. If this puts you behind the back line, that's tough. So do NOT go off the side of the piste if your opponent is anywhere near your 2 metre line.

(continued)



- You cannot score a hit if both your feet are off the piste, but you are allowed the hit if you only left the piste with one foot and the action started before that foot left the piste.
- If your opponent leaves the piste or passes you, you are allowed ONE IMMEDIATE action after this has happened, even if you have to turn round to do so.
- You may not turn your BACK to your opponent (there is a popular myth that the rule says the back of the head – it doesn't). Turning is therefore relative to the OPPONENT, not to the piste, the referee, the spectators or anybody else. Penalty – yellow card.
- An unwritten convention is that a fencer who is CLEARLY the VICTIM of corps a corps or jostling may be allowed an immediate riposte even after the corps a corps (this is so the victim is not penalised by his opponent's offence). In all other cases, anything after the corps a corps is nullified.
- You must SALUTE the referee, opponent and spectators at the end of the fight as well as the beginning. You now also have to return to the on guard line to do so at the end (a bit like judo). The referee will not announce the winner of the fight until this is done – because until it IS done, there is no winner – anyone who doesn't salute correctly is disqualified.
- You may not place or drag the point on the piste at foil or épée, or bend or straighten the blade at all three weapons on a metallic piste. If you need to straighten your blade, it must be done off the piste, and ask the referee's permission first. The referee is entitled to disallow a foot hit at épée if it has slid along the piste before arriving on the foot, AND apply the penalty, which is a yellow card.

Mavis Thornton.

A huge thank you to Mavis for writing this article.  
Please read, take note, and use those new rules if you need to.  
Ed.

## CAPTION COMPETITION SEPTEMBER: Entries to the Editor



## **AUGUST CAPTION COMPETITION ENTRIES**

"Richard wonders why he doesn't have normal friends like everyone else"

Who's the alien? (Asks small pink person)

Another happy "Internet Brides" customer.

A very lucky salesman finds the perfect customer for this season's pink handbag

Most people with hangovers see pink elephants. Richard sees pink Snow troopers! (You mean you can see it too?)

Why does the weirdo always stand next to me? (Says small pink person)

This makes a change to "fairies" at the bottom of my garden

See you washed your kit with your red knickers again.

Richard feels the new advertising campaign for safe sex is nearly ready to launch

### **Editor's Favourite:**

China unveils new spec' clothing for 2008 Olympics

Ivan and Cath Ward....

### **CAPTION COMPETITION!!!**





"AT THIS POINT, FRED REALISED HIS DANDRUFF WAS OUT OF CONTROL"

But don't be put off - enter your name for a really enjoyable day of fencing at

**Loughborough Leisure Centre  
at the 2nd Annual**

# **VETS TEAM CHALLENGE**

**SUNDAY 7th OCTOBER 2007**

ANY VET WHO HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR GREAT BRITAIN SINCE MARCH 2007 IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO FENCE THE WEAPON FOR WHICH THEY WERE SELECTED

**ENTER NOW & WE'LL PLACE YOU IN A TEAM OF 9 FENCERS -  
3 MIXED FOIL, 3 MIXED EPEE & 3 MIXED SABRE**

CLOSING DATE. 30TH SEPTEMBER 2007

NAME..... ADDRESS.....

BFA No.....

Email..... TEL.....

Send to Frank Mills, 7 Audley Mead Bradwell Milton Keynes Mk13 9BD

**OR** Telephone either Linda Lawes 01235 530090 or Frank Mills 01908 310516 to secure a place (or due to absence for World Champs.call John Mason 01225 761788)

Special rates have been negotiated with The Quality Hotel, New Ashby Road, Loughborough (J23, M1) Tel. 01509 211800 and mention Vets Fencing when booking

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER A TEAM OF 9 ELIGIBLE VETS  
WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU**

ENTRY: £10.00 PER PERSON (CHEQUES PAYABLE TO NVA OR COLLECT ON THE DAY)

**HOT & COLD FOOD ALL DAY    SPECIAL HOTEL RATE - £45 DINNER B & B**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2007

**STILL TIME TO ENTER THE**

### **MIDDLESEX UNISEX EPEE SUNDAY Sept 30**

*Don't miss the special one off event of the Newsletter editor fencing, and I use the term loosely, fencing Epée.....*

***Another FUN fencing event: USE IT OR LOSE IT.....***

***To Enter RING Hilary Arnold***

**020 8373 7953**

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15 minutes from the M25, Junction 24

### **SUNDAY OCTOBER 7**

#### ***Veterans Team Challenge, Loughborough***

***NO selection required, OPEN.***

***Enter a full team of 9, or as an individual and we will assemble teams.***

***Entry form in THIS newsletter***

***ENTER NOW!!!!***



***CHRISTMAS DINNER AND FENCING  
RAMADA HOTEL WREXHAM  
Saturday DECEMBER 1st  
Limited number of places available***



***See Flyer in this Newsletter.***

***Please BOOK EARLY for this event. Limited Places available.***

***Ring Frank Mills 01908 310 516 for more details***

# VETS CHRISTMAS 2007

## THE PARTY MOVES



## TO WALES

AT THE RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL, WREXHAM

FUN FENCING FOLLOWED BY DINNER & DISCO

To book Dinner and Fencing

Phone Frank Mills 01908 310516 or email: [millsfba@aol.com](mailto:millsfba@aol.com)

**BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE**  
**LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE**

For the special room rate of £70 B & B double or £55 single  
phone the Ramada 01978 291400 (mention Vets Fencing)

Dinner:£35 (see attached menu)

Fencing: £5.00



# VETS CHRISTMAS 2007 MENU

## SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007

### Starter

- Cream of Parsnip and Apple Soup   
Salmon and Haddock Parfait served with Capers and Lemon Dressing   
Fan of Melon, garnished with Fresh Passion Fruit Coulis

### Main Menu Choices

- Traditional Roast Cheshire Turkey with Chestnut and Cranberry Stuffing   
Sirloin of Beef with a Fricassee of Wild Mushrooms, Shallot and Red Wine Sauce   
Supreme of Salmon with a Red Pepper and Spring Onion Salsa   
Creamed Artichoke and Shallot Tartlet, glazed with Emmental Cheese

### Dessert

- Traditional Christmas Pudding served with a Rum Sauce   
Baileys Cheesecake, Irish Liqueur Cream and Chocolate Sauce   
Citrus Tart served with a Strawberry and Mint Salsa

Freshly Brewed Coffee or Tea with Mince Pies

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Please reserve  places at Dinner @ £35 per person  
I have marked the menu choices with a tick for each diner

I wish to take part in the Fun Fencing Competition  
£5 for ANY number of weapons. Please indicate which weapons you will fence.  
Foil  Epée  Sabre

Please send full payment for dinner and fencing (cheques payable to NVA)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Frank Mills, 7 Audley Mead, Bradwell, Milton Keynes MK13 9BD