

NVA News



Veterans Winton Cup 2009
Winners the SOUTH WEST

September 2009

24th 27th World Championships

Moscow

November 2009

1st Middlesex Epee

Entry forms on the web and with this newsletter

November 21st Christmas Dinner and Fencing

NEW FUN FENCING FORMAT

Dear Members,

Vets Honoured by British Fencing at Winton Dinner

The Winton Dinner held on 12th September saw the NVA working in partnership with British Fencing to launch their 2009 Awards and 160 diners enjoyed good food and entertainment at the Park Inn, Telford.

This was one of the largest social gatherings of fencers in the UK and it was particularly pleasing for all of us who were present, to see four of our members receive awards and honours for achievement, presented to them by the President of British Fencing, Keith Smith.

Our oldest active fencer, 91 years old Dennis Willcock, who fences weekly at Plymouth Fencing Club, was presented with an inscribed tankard in recognition of his 64 years fencing career.

Next to be honoured was Jenny Morris who was presented with a British Fencing Bronze Medal for her years of service to fencing, and then NVA Treasurer and Membership Secretary, John Mason was presented with a British Fencing Bronze Medal for his service to the sport.

NVA Publicity Officer Malcolm Fare was honoured by being appointed a British Fencing Vice-President for his services to fencing and in recognition of his 30 years as Editor of "The Sword" journal.

Following these special honours, the British Fencing Awards 2009 were announced and the results of the voting by NVA members saw the Veteran Fencer of the Year Award won by Jane Hutchison, who holds Veteran World and European titles in 2009.

The dinner also heard that the NVA membership had grown to 490 members spread around the UK, and this figure was achieved, when a fencer present at the dinner, was recruited into our fold during the pre-dinner reception.

A raffle organised by Penny Spink to launch "The Bobby Winton Appeal" for younger fencers raised £400.

The whole Veterans Winton Cup weekend proved to be a big success with the fencing on Saturday and Sunday held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. Our members were also generous in contributing to the "Help for Heroes" appeal announced by Lt Col. Lawrence Burr during the fencing, and gave £130 towards the fund for our soldiers wounded in conflict.

The event was highly competitive but, as always with Vets events, very competitive and ran smoothly thanks to Organiser Linda Lawes, assisted by yours truly, John Mason and Hilary Arnold with the backing of a team of volunteers.

Frank Mills
Chairman NVA

A quote from one of the recipients

" I felt really honoured to have been nominated for an award. I was thrilled to bits to win and felt quite emotional going up for it. Can't even remember if I was accompanied by 'match of the day' or 'horse of the year' show but it still felt like the Oscars!

Keith was charming and funny as usual, shook my hand and muttered in the same breath 'sorry we spelt your name wrong but we got your daughter's right and we will get you another one ' It could have had 'bugs bunny' written on it, I probably wouldn't have noticed. But I did notice there was a sea of clapping and smiling faces, I just felt really happy and lucky to be amongst so many Veteran fencing friends. "

Jane Hutchison

Veterans Winton 2009

Total victories by teams and position

Full results on the web site latest news.

<http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/winton-2009.pdf>

	LON	MID	NNE	NW	SOUTH	SE	SW	WALES	YORK	POINTS	POSITION
LON		24	34	36	24	25	15	28	26	4	5
MID	27		28	40	27	22	12	21	21	4	6
NNE	20	26		36	25	16	17	19	15	1	8
NW	7	11	13		7	7	8	12	7	0	9
SOUTH	15	24	29	28		23	18	22	15	2	7
SE	29	32	38	47	31		27	37	22	6 1/2	3
SW	34	42	37	43	31	27		37	31	7 1/2	1
WALES	26	33	35	42	32	17	17		20	4	4
YORK	28	33	39	47	39	32	23	34		7	2

By way of explanation.

Each team had to beat every other team by amassing more victories.

For each team you beat you collect one point.

If you draw a match (27 victories each) you amass 1/2 points. No points for a loss.

Where team victories and points are equal I counted back the total number of victories and placed the 3 teams equal on 4 points in order of total victories scored.

Linda



Dear Linda,
A great day - and a great result of course!

Thank you and all the Committee for hosting such a flawless competition. In all the best traditions of the NVA, the organisation was excellent, the timings spot on, the Gala Dinner and Disco brilliantly orchestrated and the fencing of a better than ever standard. What more can one wish for..

On an added note, I would be grateful if you would pass on my sincerest thanks to all those from the NVA who bought items and donated money to my collection for Help the Heroes. When I got home last night I was amazed at everyone's generosity when I counted out a staggering £130 from the collecting box! All of this money will go directly to the Charity and will make a real difference to those returning injured from Afghanistan and Iraq. Thank you all.

Very best wishes,
Lawrence

Missing Persons Charity - How some members are helping

Mike McEwan of Scottish Fencing has initiated a charity activity which will - with the support of one of our better-known members Bruce Dickinson - lead to a high profile and visibility of Fencing in engaging with the wider community.

As some of you know, Mike ran a poster campaign two years ago after his 19 year old nephew Kyle had disappeared, with great support from his employer (Royal Bank of Scotland - RBS) who arranged for posters to go on staff notice boards throughout Scotland. Sadly, a month later, police reported finding his body, and the campaign was wound down. However, knowing how much it helped the family to run such a campaign, Mike decided to work with the charity Missing People and his employer, to get posters on recent cases put up on staff notice boards in as many RBS buildings as possible throughout the UK. This has just been launched in Edinburgh, London and Croydon. To get an idea of the problem being tackled, there are currently 210,000 reports of missing people in a year (which is about 2 every 5 minutes), of which 30,000 turn to the charity because they need extra help. Of these, 77% get resolved, and the family knows what has happened.

To publicise the launch and do some initial fund-raising, Mike wanted to hold events with celebrities and leisure activities like fencing which encourage people to stay engaged in social life and in touch with friends and family. Richard Bonehill was the first port of call, and to help and raise funds he kindly supplied an item for auction related to a well-known SF film of the 70s (no prizes for guessing which!). More importantly, Richard suggesting contacting Bruce to see if he could help. Mike made the request via the NVA, and Bruce immediately responded to say he was happy to help. The outcome is that Bruce will be in Edinburgh on 12th October as the focal point of the publicity. Mike is auctioning a few slots for people to fence against Bruce (with the proceeds going to the charity) and is arranging filming of this for local press and TV coverage. In addition, Bruce has gone above and beyond the call of duty, and has agreed to attend an open day the charity have arranged for 13th October hosted by Sir Trevor McDonald. The Missing People website will include a description of all this and make reference to Bruce's connection to fencing as the reason why he got involved.

To help raise the profile and visibility of this worthy cause, please ask your friends, relatives and colleagues to have a look at the Missing People website at <http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/> over the next couple of months, and tell them why Mike is doing this. There is also a specific fund-raising activity going on up to end October, where donations made by mobile phone text message will be logged as a result of Mike's campaign, and if so, will be matched by RBS to double the amount going to the charity. To donate in this way, and to signal the support for Calum Templeton of RBS who is trying to find his missing brother Alan, text

ALAN 6

to

82010

and the £5 donation will be charged to your mobile phone.

NOTABLE VETS OF THE PAST

David Craig (1887-1961)

The oldest fencer to represent Britain at an Olympics or world championships was David Craig, who was 61 when a member of the British epee team at the 1948 Olympics. The previous year he had come third in an open epee tournament in Copenhagen.

Craig began fencing in Milan in the early 1920s at a club run by Giuseppe Mangiarotti, father of the great Eduardo Mangiarotti. By 1924 he was good enough to represent Great Britain at the Paris Olympics. He went on to fence in European and world championships in Vienna, Budapest, Paris and Lisbon, and captained a British team in Warsaw in 1934. But he refused to take part in any major competition that was non-electric and so failed to capture a British epee title when he might have done in the 1920s and early 30s. In 1939 he won every Epee Club cup except one, when he was runner-up.

David Craig and his wife Elizabeth were artists – his portrait of Charles de Beaumont in Olympic blazer hung for many years in the foyer of the de Beaumont Centre – and their beautifully furnished Chelsea studio was the setting for many fencing parties.

Also a skilled craftsman, he always made the handles for his epees to a strange and individual design and, when he took up archery, he made his own bows and arrows.

In social circles Craig made a name for himself as a charming cultured English eccentric. Terry Beddard, a friend and former British epee champion, remembered once accompanying him to a formal country house lunch at which he appeared in his skiing clothes. When it was pointed out that the chances of winter sports in Hertfordshire in April were slim, he changed into an exquisitely cut black double-breasted suit with a wing collar and an Ascot tie: a figure of infinite distinction among the country tweeds.

Malcolm Fare



With reference to Jersey Commonwealth Games 2009

Congratulations to all our British friends. Great tournament. Once again it was a grand opportunity to see old friends and make new ones.

Wonderful memories

With best wishes

Gaby Weisz

Chair Veterans Division Canadian Fencing Federation

Calling all NVA members

Wellesbourne Team Trophy

Sunday 1 November 2009

Open 9am, fencing 9.30am to 5pm, prizes and close by 6pm

Herschel Sports Centre, Whitby Road, Slough, SL1 3BW

For details and map see <http://www.sloughleisure.com/herschel/index.html>

The venue does not have a cafeteria & only limited vending facilities.

You are advised to bring your own supplies.

The NVA has been invited to enter teams of 2 in each of the following weapons:

Men's foil: Ladies' foil: Men's epee: Ladies' epee: Men's sabre: Ladies' sabre

If you would like to be considered for the team please contact Peter ASAP

Peter Baron Domestic Fencing Officer

01384 400 242

nva@baronfencing.plus.com

And some useful team tactics - found by Jane Hutchison !!

Seniors tennis: spiked drinks, vandalism and prostitutes

You think grand slams are competitive? Clearly, you've never experienced the weird and wonderful world of veterans' tennis, said Petronella Wyatt in The Mail on Sunday. "The antics of the pensioners who play in up to 207 tournaments a year in 55 countries make John McEnroe look like a big girl's blouse", and the mind-boggling "acts of dastardly behaviour" to which they resort in pursuit of victory are almost too lurid to be true. To gain an edge, the veterans have spiked opponents' drinks, hosed courts with water and vandalised hotel rooms. At one tournament, two female players in their 70s pulled each other's wigs off. Veteran Dagmar Speneder recalls that after winning a semi-final, her opponent brazenly declared that it was "just a practice match".

Players have been known to invite their opponents for a coffee shortly before a match, only to slip a sleeping pill or laxative into



their drink, said Wyatt. "Last year a 75-year-old player had to be rushed to hospital after something very nasty was popped into his hot chocolate." One octogenarian even hired prostitutes and sent them to his rivals' hotel rooms "in the hope of rendering them *hors de combat*". Despite all this, there are no umpires at these matches - with one exception. For the recent 90-plus championship in Palm Springs, umpires had to be found for every match because none of the competitors could remember the score once it passed 15-love.

So why do the pensioners do it? Why are they so ready to suffer the pain? Local sales of painkillers, plasters, "even hair-restoring unguents", rise by an average of 50% every time a tournament is staged. The answer is clear. In the words of one veteran: "Better to play tournaments in temperatures of 32 degrees than be in a sanatorium."

Dennis Ward was 80 on the 3rd September!!!!

Happy Birthday from all the vets and members of the Espada fencing club.



And Finally a question??

Linda

Just to let you know I have moved on from Wellesbourne where I started fencing at 18 (Just had my 60th!) and am fencing at Huntingdon FC. 42 years in one club not bad but is it a record?

Best regards

Andrew Brown

I don't know-
but I suspect we will soon find out??
ED

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