

South West retain the Winton Cup!



The victorious South West team

Photo by Frank Mills

BVF New Ranking System
Winton Cup
BVF v BDFA

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

A big "thank you" to all who took part in the 4th Veterans Winton Cup which was held at RAF Cosford on 10th & 11th September.

We have received many favourable comments on the change of venue this year and will therefore be looking at using RAF Cosford again next year.

Although it will be a busy year with the 2012 Olympics and the Paralympics, we will be looking at a later date for this competition and discussing it in committee in order to give you more time for your own calendar planning.

In this issue of the Newsletter, you will see published the BVF Ranking system which has been under discussion by the committee for some time. I hope that you will welcome the opportunity for a change to a more transparent system which will be regularly updated as the season progresses. A number of competitions, exclusively for veteran fencers, have been included as a starter, and the locations for these have been chosen to reflect the geographical spread of membership, but other locations within the British Isles will also be considered for inclusion.

Please let us have your views on this new ranking system as feedback is important to us.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing our Great Britain team every success in the Veterans World Championships in Poreč, Croatia later this month and we look forward to hearing news as the championships get under way.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Mills
Chairman

BVF CALENDAR 2011

Sep 27 - Oct 2	World Championships, Poreč, Croatia
Oct 8-9	Welsh Veterans Championships, Wrexham Contact Gillian Aghajan g.aghajan@virgin.net for details
Nov 5/6	Leed Open - BVF nominated ranking competition
Nov 26	BVF Christmas dinners

NOMURA

British Veterans Fencing Ranking System

After comments were received during the 2010 European Championships in Skopje and further comments received from members subsequently, it was decided that a review of the Selection Procedure should be undertaken.

This review has been undertaken within the committee and a ranking system for British Veterans Fencers, based on a fencer's performance in a rolling annual circuit of nominated veteran events, is proposed as the basis to be used for qualifying for selection for the World Veterans Fencing Championships and representative Teams e.g. the European Veterans Team Championships. It is believed that this will prove to be more transparent and easier to follow. It is the committee's intention to implement this.

It is intended that a circuit of at least 6 nominated veteran events situated around the country will be established in which the points awarded at an event reflect the strength of competition at that event. The best, (up to 4) results achieved, from the circuit at any weapon will be used to calculate a fencer's ranking at that weapon.

At each weapon event the points available will take into account the number, ability, experience and age categories of participants calculated according to the following formula.

The total number of points contributed by each of the groups of participants below is calculated by multiplying the number in the group by the coefficient for that group.

Group		Coefficient
The number of competitors in the weapon event	K_e	1
The number of fencers in the top 32 places of the current ranking list at the weapon concerned. These points are allocated as follows:		
The number of fencers currently ranked 1 st to 4 th	K_{r1-4}	8
The number of fencers currently ranked 5 th to 8 th	K_{r5-8}	6
The number of fencers currently ranked 9 th to 16 th	K_{r9-16}	4
The number of fencers currently ranked 17 th to 32 nd	K_{r17-32}	2
The number of fencers who have represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games, the World Championships at Cadet, Junior, Senior or Veteran at any weapon, or Modern Pentathlon at any time (Vifs)	K_{vif}	3
The number of fencers in the 40-49 age group	K_{C40}	2
The number of fencers in the 50-59 age group	K_{C50}	1

The points contributed by each participating fencer are cumulative.

All of the points, contributed by each participating fencer at a weapon event are added together to give the maximum ranking points available for that event.

At the end of the event the first placed fencer will be awarded the maximum points available.

For each place below first, the fencer will be awarded the maximum points available less the total points available divided by the number of fencers competing (rounded up).

Example

50 fencers take part in an event, included in the entry are the following:

- 2 fencers in the top 4 of the current weapon ranking (K_{r1-4})
- 3 fencers in the 5th to 8th positions in the current weapon ranking (K_{r5-8})
- 2 fencers in the 9th to 16th positions in the current weapon rankings (K_{r9-16})
- 5 fencers in the 17th to 32 fencers in the current weapon ranking (K_{r17-32})
- 4 Veterans international fencers (K_{Vif})
- 4 fencers in the 40-49 age category (K_{40})
- 5 fencers in the 50-59 age category (K_{50}).

The total ranking points

Points available (P_{max})

$= (50*1) + (2*8) + (3*6) + (5*2) + (4*3) + (4*2) + (5*1) = 127$ points
The highest place fencer at the event will be awarded the full 127 points.

The second highest placed fencer will be awarded
 $127 - 2*(127/50) = 127 - 2.38 = 122$ points.

The two third highest placed fencers will be awarded
 $127 - 3*(127/50) = 127 - 7.14 = 120$ points.

Similarly the 40th placed fencer will be awarded
 $127 - 40*(127/50) = 26$ points,
and the 49th placed fencer will be awarded $127 - 49*(127/50) = 3$ points.

Each event will be run using the Engarde computer program for fencing competitions.

The formula will be one or two rounds of poules, with no elimination after the poules, followed by Direct Elimination.



The nominated veteran events are:

1. Leeds Open	Leeds	5th/6th November
2. Bletchley Open	Buckinghamshire	21st/22nd January
3. Hampshire Open	Portsmouth	11th/12th February
4. The British Veteran Fencing Championships	Gloucester	2nd /3rd/4th March
5. The Invicta	Kent	17th/18th March (tbc)
6. The West Midlands Open	West Midlands	14th/15th April (tbc)

At this stage the results of foreign international events will not be considered.

For the purposes of the ranking system the date used to calculate the Age Category of fencers will be the qualifying date for the FIE World Veterans Individual Championships.

For the purpose of inaugurating the ranking system we will use the rankings from the 2011 British Veterans Championships to seed fencers for the first event.

After each subsequent event the ranking points will be calculated and the new BVF ranking list at each weapon at each age group category will be published on the website and in the BVF Newsletter. These will be used for World Championships selection purposes, and the overall ranking for use as part of the selection criteria for representative teams, taking into account age restrictions, team dynamics etc.

The system is not as complicated as might at first appear. It will produce a straightforward and totally transparent ranking of BVF fencers. Members will therefore be able to see their likelihood of selection at a glance.

If you would like more information or would like to see the details of the calculations involved please send your questions to David Sweeney tel: 01453 758372 or email: mrdsweeney@hotmail.com .

BVF Committee

***The 1st BVF nominated Ranking Competition
is the Leeds Open
5th/6th November 2011!***



BVF Nominated Ranking Event 2011

in conjunction with ***Leeds Open 2011***

Both the Open and the Veterans Competition will each run with complete six weapon events, with those who qualify receiving BFA and BVF ranking points. BVF members may enter both the Veterans event and the Open event, The tournament is situated in the state-of-the-art sports complex The Edge at The University of Leeds. Please see www.leedsopen.co.uk for full details.

Check-in closing time for all weapons is as follows:

Saturday 5th November 2011

Men's Open Foil – 9:00am
Veterans Women's Epée – 09:15am
Veterans Men's Epée – 10:45am
Women's Open Foil – 11:00am
Veterans Men's Sabre – 10:30
Women's Open Sabre – 12:00 noon

Sunday 6th November 2011

Men's Open Epee – 9:00am
Veterans Men's Foil – 09:00am
Veterans Women's Foil – 10:30am
Open Women's Epée – 11:00am
Men's Open Sabre – 12:00 noon
Veteran Women's Sabre 12:00 noon

Veterans Competition Format:

It is intended to have 2 round of pools with no elimination followed by Direct Elimination. The Organisers reserve the right to amend the format to ensure the smooth running of the competition. Prizes for the top four in all weapons. In addition prizes for the best cadet in the Open tournament.

The entry fee is £20 per weapon and £30 for two weapons (You may enter both a veterans and an Open event but only ONE entry per day). The closing date for entries is Monday 31st October, any entries received after this date will be at the discretion of the organisers, and a late fee of £10 will be applicable.

Venue: The Edge, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT (Parking, armoury, Allstar equipment suppliers, café, swim/sauna and sports therapist facilities are available over the course of the entire weekend).

All fencers must be current members of the BFA, licences will be checked and all competitors should be aware of the BFA guidelines on clothing and equipment (established 1st January, 2006) for this event. Full details available at the BFA website (www.britishfencing.com). The minimum age for Veterans is 40 as at 5th November 2011.

General enquires and on the day emergency number: 07920031154

Leeds Veterans and Open 2011 Entry form

(please complete in BLOCK capitals)

Name:.....

Tel:.....

Email:.....

Nationality:.....

BVF Number: Club:.....

BFA Licence Number:.....

Current Senior Ranking (if known):.....

Emergency Contact Name & Number:.....

Men's Veterans Weapon: Foil..... Epee..... Sabre.....

Men's Open Weapon: Foil..... Epée..... Sabre.....

Women's Veterans Weapon: Foil..... Epée..... Sabre.....

Women's Open Weapon: Foil..... Epée..... Sabre.....

Enclosed entry fee of: £.....

All cheques made payable to '**Leeds Open Fencing**'. Entry form and fees sent together to: **Tom Exeter, Apartment 51 Crown Street Buildings, Crown Street, Leeds, LS2 7DA.**

All fencers must be members of the BFA and be aware of the BFA guidelines on clothing and equipment (established 1st January, 2006) for this event. Full details available at the BFA website. I accept that the organisers cannot be held responsible for any accident, injury, loss or damage sustained at the tournament.

Signed:..... Date:...../...../.....

If you prefer you can enter online:

www.leedsopen.co.uk



The 4th Veterans Winton Cup 2011

Earlier this year the Lilleshall National Sports Centre informed us that we could not have their facilities as another organisation had booked accommodation with them and their booking took priority over ours. Fortunately, RAF Cosford was available and the excellent Stone Gymnasium with its newly laid floor (costing £375K), proved to be even better than the Lilleshall venue of the last three years with a large amount of space allowing plenty of room for referees and fencers on each piste. The RAF could not have been more helpful and even laid on a cafeteria for us on each of the two days.



In the months running up to the event, it was women fencers at épée and sabre who were proving hard to find, and this was reflected in a shortfall of those fencers in a number of teams. Despite this, the contest was hard fought and highly enjoyable throughout with, again, a good number of fencers taking part in a veteran's competition for the first time. It was interesting to hear comments back from several of them who said that they were a little wary of the high level of fencing they would encounter but they welcomed the opportunity to fence international fencers. At the end of the event, they were pleased with both the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of the competition and were surprised that they had actually achieved some good results.

At the end of the first day's fencing, the winners of the competition since its inception, the South West, had nudged into the lead and it was apparent that they were the team to go for again this year. Hot on their heels, were the teams from Midlands, South East and Yorkshire.



Saturday saw the Match Dinner at the Park Inn at Telford with nearly 120 guests wining, dining and "discoing" until the early hours. The Dinner gave me the opportunity to thank the team of helpers who worked hard to prepare the venue and run the competition so well and so smoothly and whose efforts were greatly appreciated by all the participants.

At the dinner, and during my rounds of the tables, I met up with Graham Paul who complained to me that I had not thanked him alongside the organising team. I told him that I was at a loss to bring to mind exactly what he had done, to which he replied "I've spent the entire day advising the referees on their decisions." Good one Graham!



*Photo
courtesy of
Jane Clayton*

Sunday was an early start to the competition at 9.30 but only one fencer didn't manage to hear the alarm clock, so fencing commenced on time and he caught up with the action shortly after.

As the day progressed, the South West team proceeded to establish their lead in the competition and went on to beat every other team to win the competition for the fourth time.

The teams from Yorkshire, South East and Midlands each lost two matches and tied for 2nd place with Wales 4th, South 5th, London 6th North West 7th and North East in 8th.

Again, the fencing went smoothly throughout the day and we managed to finish fencing by 3.30 pm allowing everyone to make for home in good time.

Thanks go to everyone at the competition for making this a most enjoyable event, both from the organising and fencing perspective.

Finally, there were a number of items left behind at RAF Cosford and the list is available to view on our website. Please contact me for return of same.

*Photos by
Frank Mills*

Frank Mills



*1st South West
2nd South East
2nd Midlands
4th Wales
5th South
6th London
7th North West
8th North East*

**South
West
winners!**

Vets at the Winton



*Photos by
Editor*

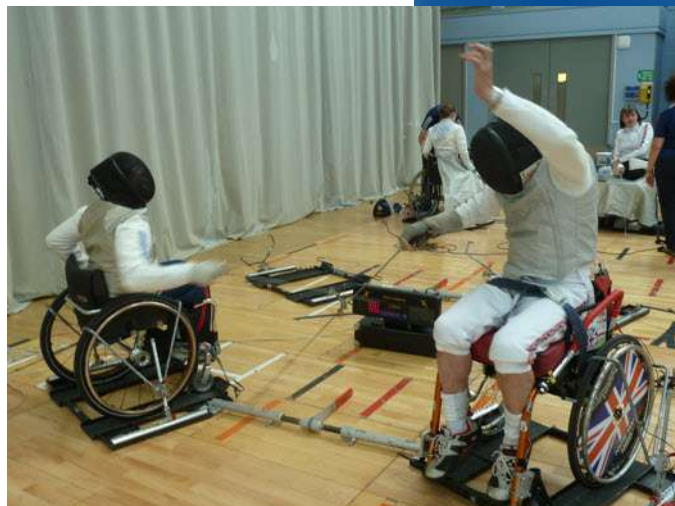


Team match against GB Wheelchair fencers

Last month the BDFA took part in the Paralympic simulation camp at Bath University in preparation for 2012. As part of their training the Performance Manager, Justine Willmott, invited BVF to field women's epee and men's foil teams to take part in a wheelchair fencing team match. Bearing in mind it was the August Bank holiday weekend, I was nonetheless disappointed at the lack of interest from our members. However Janet Baron, Sue Hanney and Ute Scholl agreed to fence epee and Peter Baron and Frank Mills foil. Not being able to find another male foilist, Caron Hale gallantly stepped in at the last minute as the third team member.

Wheelchair fencing is a lot harder and faster than it looks and once you are strapped into a wheelchair which is clamped into a frame there is nowhere to escape! In a team event two frames are used so that while two fencers are fencing the next two are ready to fence immediately after as moving and clamping wheelchairs is time consuming.

In the first men's foil match, our intrepid trio came up against David Heaton, Tom Butcher-Hall and Simon Wilson who took an early lead and at one point were 30-10 ahead. Caron picked up an incredible 15 points in a bout which went to time to make the score 34-25 to the BDFA, but it was too much for Pete and Frank to catch up and the final score was a win for the BDFA 45-28. A second match followed and Pete bowed out to allow Mike Cleary, a young fencer from Bath Sword Club, honorary Vet for the day, to take his place. This time the BDFA team was Stewart Elliott, Craig McCann and Tom. A closer score with BVF initially taking the lead, but despite a valiant effort on our part and another great performance from Caron, the BDFA pulled ahead and triumphed at 45:30.



A flamboyant Pete in action against David



Frank and Simon



Caron and Tom set fencing distance

In the meantime the women were battling at épée. Janet, Sue and Ute took on Vivienne Mills, Suzannah Rockett and Olywn Fitzgerald and fought a tight battle to reach a score of 35-33 to the BDFA, but in the last two bouts the wheelchair team upped the ante and scored 10 hits against 2 to win the match 45-35.

They then changed weapons to fence a foil match against Justine Moore, Olwyn and Gabby Down (aged 13). Another close battle followed with the score at 33-31 to the BDFA with two bouts left; very similar to the épée match. Again the wheelchair team found another level and won the last two bouts to emerge victorious at 45-35.

Our fencers, most of whom had very little experience of wheelchair fencing, fenced extremely well and it was a very enjoyable experience for all. As for my part, I was there as sports therapist for the BDFA, so was able to watch, but tried to be impartial.....



Gillian Aghajan

From left to right

Olwyn, Janet, Sue and Ute



Photos by Editor

A good time was had by all!

England News

Veteran's Home International

The Home International will be held on 21st/22nd April 2012 at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. Please make a note in your diaries. Details will be circulated in the New Year.

The selection process for the England team will be detailed in a newsletter before Christmas.

Veteran's Commonwealth Championships 2012

It has been confirmed that the Championships will be held in Singapore on 25-28 August 2012. Details will be available on the following website:

cvfc2012.sg

This is an open event, so any eligible Veteran can enter. The England team selection process will be detailed in the New Year.

John Crouch

Competition results (top half)

Essex Open 3/9/2011

MF (83)	8	John Troiano
ME (88)	23	Rob Brooks
	29	George Liston
	36	Leslie MacDonald
WF (34)	13	Gillian Worman
WE 55	27	Mariette Mason

Hamlet - 10/9/2011

MS (107)	38	Julian Ghosh
WS (57)	19	Jane Hutchison

Bristol Open 17&18/9/2011

MF (83)	16	Paul Kennea
ME (126)	12	Yves Carnac
	20	Jason Scrimshaw
	21	Chris Kelly
	22	Howard West
	33	Stephen Domec
	37	Ralph Johnson
	39	Robert Flatt

Bristol Open (continued)

ME	44	Anton Pollard
	54	Nick Hawksworth
	59	Leslie MacDonald
MS (67)	18	Daniel Parr
	27	Julian Ghosh
	44	Barry Coulter
WE (81)	31	Bronagh Keppler
	32	Jenny Morris
	42	Marg Oniye
WF (45)	28	Angela Findlay
WS (39)	18	Jane Hutchison

Apologies for the following omissions in the last newsletter

Wrexham Open - June

ME (47)	3T	Ev van Gemeren
MS (16)	3T	Ev van Gemeren
WS (10)	5	Lisa Evans

If you are entering an Open, you need to register as a Veteran so that your result will be picked up on our results trawl system - Editor



Mariette Mason's fight against cancer

Mariette's story

'When I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010, I was devastated. I'd had breast cancer 21 years ago and couldn't believe that I was going to have to go through it again. Before my diagnosis I'd kept myself fit. I love fencing and had represented England in competitions.'

Throughout my cancer treatment I worked hard to stay active, as it was important for me to carry on competing in fencing championships. I decided to join a gym where I followed a fitness programme designed by my personal trainer. I worked with him to build up my stamina and increase my fitness level.

It wasn't easy. Some days I found it almost impossible to get out of bed. But I continued to focus on my ultimate goal of competing in the European Veterans' Fencing Championships. This gave me the motivation I needed to stay positive and to continue with my training. Focusing on my physical fitness has been so important for me. It's one of the only things that kept me going through my second experience of breast cancer. I've carried on training and have recently been able to fulfil my dream to compete at the European Veterans' Fencing Championships 2011. Stepping out for my first fight felt wonderful, as I'd actually made it.'

'It wasn't easy. Some days I found it almost impossible to get out of bed.'

Mariette, 54, diagnosed with breast cancer

The article and photo on this page are featured in a booklet published by Macmillan Cancer Support, which is included in an activity pack given to cancer patients.

For more information see the Macmillan Cancer Support website:

www.macmillan.org.uk



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 September

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net



Caption Competition August

Editor's choice

"Whoever heard of Stretch Lamé?"

Geoff Silverman

"Mr Prevett always liked to dress smartly for the Veterans' barn dance."

Paul Brenda

**Photos by
Editor**



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

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