



BRITISH VETERANS  
**FENCING**

## NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2012

### *Spot the Vet Volunteers!*



***Some familiar faces to be found in this photo of the 2012 Paralympic Wheelchair Fencing team and Gamesmakers***

**Ev becomes an 'Olympian'  
Fencing in St Petersburg  
Training in Italy**

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## Chairman's letter

Dear members,

Just a reminder that the Veterans Winton Cup is approaching and some teams are still looking for the odd fencer (or even the more sane amongst us!); so if you are keen to fence, then please contact me.

Our glittering 25th Anniversary fencing and Gala Dinner is on 1st December at Beaumanor Hall, Loughborough with details in this Newsletter, and we hope that you will be able to join us for this landmark event. Again, just contact me if you wish to be with us to celebrate the 25 years of our existence, during which time many of you have contributed so much to the success of our organisation.

A consultation document on potential changes to the Selection Rules will be issued shortly on-line and by post to those not available on email. This document will ask for your opinion on the two rule changes which could come about as a result of the Survey earlier this year and we hope that you will respond in good numbers to this.

British Fencing has four Board vacancies with the election process currently taking place. There are a total of eight people standing for election and amongst these are three veterans; myself, John Troiano and Graham Paul.

You can see each of the candidates' backgrounds and aims on the BF website, so please look out for the voting papers if you are not on the web, or use your on-line vote at this important time for fencing in Great Britain.

Finally, I am sure that you will join me in conveying best wishes to the Great Britain Squad travelling to Krems for the World Championships in October.

Kind regards,

**Frank Mills**  
**BVF Chairman**

British Fencing link:

[Candidates' election statements](#)



## The Icing on the Cake

Well, it's all over now and I have done it again. I have volunteered to do this article. I hardly know where to begin!

It does not seem so long ago that Eddie Izzard was on the big screen at the Wembley Arena telling us what we were letting ourselves in for. I thought the hype generated could not possibly be maintained. I was wrong! On the journey to the games, quite a few hoops were to be jumped through not least an operation just before the test event so that I could be in peak condition for the games. I did just the Olympics as I was none too sure if I could last the 100 hours without any afternoon lie downs!

I was very fortunate in living in an Olympic borough with more than one option of travelling. As it was, I used my car, the Central Line and the DLR. On a good day I was able to get there and through security inside an hour. Many of us had very long journeys to add to the shifts worked but all came in on time and left in happy mood and with a smile on our faces.

With most Gamesmakers being fencers, our operation was very smooth from the start with only light touch supervision required. In the training hall we were never exactly stretched. We found the fencing teams liked to return to the Olympic village quite early missing the evening practices. This enabled many of us to see the finals. We got up close and personal, sitting cheek by jowl with paramedics and the like. Were there any down sides to the jobs we did? Well, possibly. Training hall manager Jon Milner asked me to keep a sharp eye on some female fencers who needed to be wearing plastrons. His words were, "It's a rotten job but someone's got to do it". Incidentally I can now add laminating to my CV together with experience in empire building!

At my time of life the weeks fly by all too quickly, but for me the culmination was not the closing ceremonies but the victory parade. There was a real bond between the athletes on the floats, the London crowds and the Gamesmakers. In conclusion, I am reminded of the speech from Henry V involving those who were able to make it and those who were not!

Finally, I will be cruising in a week's time and taking my uniform, but not for wearing it for dinner!

**Colin Lutman**



**Gamesmakers  
at the Parade**

**Photo courtesy  
of  
Colin Lutman**

## Ev the 'Olympian'!

It all started with an email:

Picture yourself fencing on the genuine 2012 finals piste!  
Imagine standing on the Olympic podium in the ExCeL  
fencing arena, receiving a medal!  
This could be you!

I thought no chance. There are a lot more Veterans with more experience, higher rankings, more contacts and altogether much more deserving than I, but I replied anyway. A few days later an email came through from Katie Dolan with details of the event. With total disbelief I rang her to ask if she had made a mistake, but no, I was in. Excited? Mmm yes!

We had to arrive at 9 am and must not be late. Never having the need to have mastered the tube system before, I set off early and arrived at 8 am to be greeted by Paul Straupmanis. After a tense wait and some hiccups at accreditation we were passed into the security area which was just like an airport with our allocated minders. We were then led through the bowels of the magnificent building (designed by Paul) up the stairs to check in, where we were allowed to jump the queue, and guided towards our hall.

Having volunteered at the European Championships Sheffield previously, I was expecting a similar excellent set up, but no, as many of you now know, spectacular doesn't quite cover it. WoW!

We were introduced to the armoury check in to have our kit checked. As I had spent half the previous day fiddling with grub screws, super glue, hotmelt glue, emery paper, wire wool, weights, gauges and my multi meter I knew my weapons would pass with flying colours. This was not the case. Two failures. They were rather strict! But at least my battered mask passed!

From there we were shown to our lounge and our changing rooms and our practice pistes which we used for their intended purposes. Whilst standing chatting a Ukrainian gentleman came up to me saying ipi? ipi? Eventually my dim wits kicked in and realised he wanted to borrow an epee. He needed to test the circuits and Bluetooth systems in the main hall. I asked could I accompany him to find out how it all worked. He agreed and explained it all to me. I am always fascinated by how things work. Anthony Silver asked me what I was doing there. I replied fencing shortly! He laughed and retorted 'yes right, haa haa, in your dreams!'. I did not correct him further.

We were then taken to see my new Ukrainian friend to be kitted up with the wireless system or, for the technophobes, the pretty lights in our masks and allowed to free fence for a while. Then the call up came. The first eight fencers' names were read out. Who would I get? An easy fight? A hard fight? A Jason Scrimshaw fight? It was Jason Scrimshaw!



***Ev stands proud on the finals piste***

***Photo by Editor***

I was introduced to another minder, whose duty was to escort me everywhere, and I mean everywhere. Luckily I didn't need to go! My minder took me to the next stage where I was passed to another minder who had me connected, tested and passed back. We then had to wait in the warm up room where our coaches could give us our last advice or rites, and then be led to the piste. Some dramatic music came into my head, something to do with tigers eyes.

Jason and I were allocated our piste. I started well, forcing Jason off the back of the piste. I think I hit him. A lesson he learnt well, as he then proceeded to take my best game apart. I am pleased all my five hits were single lights, but then that also makes all Jason's fifteen hits singles too. As a true epeeist my back was aching a little, the point was a tad sticky and my laces must have been loose. Oh and those lights were so hot at my end of the piste. Next time!

I thus became an observer, talking to all my good friends from the Vets, including Anthony who promised to believe me in future! Lunch in the massive dining hall was pleasant and tasty, but the only drinks available were from a global giant providing twenty three spoons of sugar in one drink (allegedly). Gillian to edit as required here! Back down to the fencing hall to watch Jason dispatch Ralph Johnson 15/4.

We were then required to act as Olympians to check the timing of the processions. We were given pseudonyms of real fencers. I was to be Dmitri Reallygoodfencerski and along with Jason asked to line up with our bag handlers, leaders, coaches and our referee Mr Max Telfer. Hi Max- nice trousers. We had to march out to the red piste, where we were announced..... On the red piste Dimitri and Jason! We bounded up on to the piste and saluted the pretend crowds or in my case a very nice man choosing which two fingers to show me. Cheers Harry! Bring a man back down to earth.

Salute your opponent! Salute your referee! Referees start your fight! The booming voice of the announcer came over the Tannoy. We did this again and again until the timing was right for the organisers. Then, as no photos were allowed at any stage, those of us who were still kitted up, posed for some forbidden shots on the finals piste !

The final was between Jason and Anton Pollard in the warm up area, as the organisers decided we had had enough fun in their hall. Jason just squeezed Anton out 15 /3. Jason, Anton and Robert Flatt, received their special medals from our controller Lawrence Burr. Ralph Johnson missed out as he had left the building.

In summation the whole fencing event was being held together with the very able veteran fencing squad. You know who you are, you were all the stars of this event. From a humble Olympian for the day, I thank you profusely! So in my mind I lost one fight against the champion with a better score than the other fencers, so almost a Winner?

Yours

**Delusional Ev van Gemeren**

## Training the Italian Way in Lizzano

The Camp was in Lizzano in Belvedere or three days and held in the mountains closer to Bologna than Florence.

The hotel was good, clean and comfortable; the food was not what I was expecting. Very good breakfast and then lunch; firstly, antipasti followed by homemade pasta, then if you are able, meats and vegetables. Top that off with desert and fruit, wine and water; it's all offered - up to you how hungry you are. Then 4 courses for supper, always different dishes. God Bless the Italians!!!!

The Sports hall was close by, though it might be an idea to rent a car at either Florence or Pisa airport, (lots of flights from the UK) not sure about Bologna. It is in the mountains, and I'm not sure how frequent the public transport is. Very scenic road to get there.

The facilities were very good; space for lots of pistes and areas for footwork etc. They had training for all 3 weapons; some people chopped and changed between the 3. Apart from separate footwork, training for the weapons was together. They had very good stretch classes and warm up in the morning, before footwork, then fencing as well as individual lessons. You also had actual fencing against the fencing Coach, in my case Guiliano Pianca, like trying to get past a brick wall. We started at 9:00 break for lunch at 12.30.... start again at 3.00 then finish at 6.30. We finished the day with 45 minutes of stretching which was much needed. The coaches were all very, very good.

As for Language, not a problem, so many spoke English. It was a great group. We worked hard, though it never felt like it, there were always smiles and lots of laughter, pure comedy at times.

I will definitely go next year, it was very beneficial. Next year they plan another, covering all weapons, and an option of doing a week, plus they plan to hold a 3 day training before the Individual Europeans next year in April or May in Bologna, a really beautiful city, with the same club that organised Lizzano.



**Laurie Laschetti**

*Photos  
courtesy of  
Laurie  
Laschetti*

# Smiles at the Paralympics



Photos by  
Editor



## Veterans Epée Competition in St Petersburg, Russia 27th October 2012

A party of intrepid Epéeists are making the trip to St Petersburg, Russia to take part in an Epée tournament. While there the group will take the opportunity see the sights of the St Petersburg.

Built by Czar Peter the Great in the 18th century as the new capital of Russia, St Petersburg has many fabulous sights and attractions that may be enjoyed during the quieter and more relaxed autumn season.

Several of the group will be going to see Borodin's Opera Prince Igor which is being staged at the World famous Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg on the Sunday; the tickets are reasonably inexpensive.

The trip offers the opportunity to fence other veterans from several countries, including Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway as well as enjoying the sights of the fabulous city of St Petersburg and, if you wish, soaking up a bit of culture in the very impressive Mariinsky Theatre.

The Epée tournament is for veterans and will be poule unique, unisex and there will be a handicap in favour of the older participants. A competitor fencing an opponent 10 years older will concede 1 point in the bout. If the age difference is 20 years or more 2 points will be conceded.

Entry visas are required for trips to Russia and it takes about 8 working days to arrange.

**Budgeting information is as follows:**

Direct flights to St Petersburg from London Heathrow - approximately £270 from BA  
Flights to St Petersburg via Amsterdam from Newcastle - approximately £370 from KLM

### Hotel Accommodation

Double/Twin room at £61 per night for 4 nights: £244

Single room at £52 per night for 4 nights: £208

Single entry Russian Visa - £119 per person.

If you are interested it is not too late to express your interest by contacting Carole Seheult at [c.seheult@btinternet.com](mailto:c.seheult@btinternet.com) or by phone:

Tel: 0191 386 9581  
Mob: 0781 0810 380.



**Views of St  
Petersburg**

**Photo -  
Wikipedia**



## Competition results (top half)

### Essex Open - 1/9/2012

|         |    |                 |
|---------|----|-----------------|
| MF (93) | 14 | Paul Lowen      |
| ME (97) | 17 | Jason Scrimshaw |
|         | 23 | Robin Davenport |
|         | 32 | Granville Ward  |
|         | 39 | Anton Pollard   |
|         | 43 | Howard West     |
|         | 45 | Tom Chrisp      |
| MS (9)  | 3  | Julian Ghosh    |
| WF (53) | 21 | Gillian Worman  |
|         | 25 | Angela Gould    |
| WE (36) | 3  | Nicola Hull     |
|         | 18 | Sara Spence     |
| WS (10) | 2  | Silvia Earl     |

### Bristol Open - 15/9/2012

|          |    |                    |
|----------|----|--------------------|
| MF (120) | 55 | Paul Kennea        |
| ME (156) | 5  | Neal Mallett       |
|          | 18 | Howard West        |
|          | 38 | Robert Flatt       |
|          | 42 | John Chalmers      |
|          | 48 | Keith Barnett      |
|          | 48 | Andrew Ramsay      |
|          | 58 | Johnathan Stanbury |
| WF (63)  | 25 | Angela Gould       |
| WE (96)  | 30 | Gillian Stone      |
|          | 42 | Mariette Mason     |
| WS (38)  | 5  | Jane Hutchison     |

### Hamlet - 1/9/2012

|          |    |                |
|----------|----|----------------|
| MS (119) | 46 | Julian Ghosh   |
| WS (61)  | 6  | Jane Hutchison |
|          | 29 | Vivien Frith   |

**See BVF website home page  
for European competitions  
and events -**

**[www.veterans-fencing.co.uk](http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk)**

## BVF Calendar

| BVF CALENDAR 2012 |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Sep 27-30         | Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Singapore  |
| Oct 13-14         | Welsh Veterans Championships, Aberystwyth<br>Contact Gillian Aghajan (A5g.aghajan@virgin.net) for details |
| Oct 17-21         | World Championships, Krems, Austria   |
| Nov 3-4           | Leeds Veterans  |
| Nov 10-11         | Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall, Telford (Note NEW DATE)  |
| Nov 25            | BVF v Royal Navy, A1:A9 HMS President, 72 St Katharine's Way,<br>London E1W 1UQ                           |
| Dec 1             | 25th Anniversay Gala, Beaumanor Hall, Leicestershire (fencing at Radmoor<br>Centre, Loughborough College) |
| BVF CALENDAR 2013 |   |
| Jan 26-27         | Age Group Qualifiers, Bletchley   |



# 5th VETERANS WINTON CUP

Inaugurated by Sir Nicholas & Bobby Winton



Be part of one of the most enjoyable  
fencing competitions in the calendar

**Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th November 2012**

at

**Lilleshall National Sports Centre, near Newport, Shropshire TF10 9AT**

**A 2-Day competition between 9 Regional teams at all 6 weapons**

**Open to BVF Members (with BFA membership)  
who are invited to apply to be part of a Regional team**

**If you would like to fence, contact**

**Frank Mills**

**01908 310516**

**[millsfba@aol.com](mailto:millsfba@aol.com)**

**who will put you in touch with a Team Captain**

Entry is £25 per person via a Regional Team Captain

Accommodation has been arranged At The Telford Whitehouse Hotel, Telford TF1 2NJ  
at special rates

of £55 double or twin, £45 single. **Tel. 01952 250700** and mention Vets Fencing.

There is a Gala Dinner on Saturday night and you may book your  
dinner on the BVF website (Latest news)

**If you're fencing, book your hotel now to avoid disappointment  
as rooms in Telford that weekend are in short supply.**

**Rooms not booked by 2nd October will be released by the hotel**



# 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner



## Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, Leicestershire Saturday 1st December 2012

Join us to celebrate at the original "Home" of the NVA (now BVF), in this historic house, built in the 19th Century for the Herrick family as a grand country home and used as a signals unit in WWII.

Dinner is £30 per head with a choice of menu.

During the evening there will be entertainment, dancing, quiz and raffle.

7 pm– 11 pm.

Dress: Black tie.

During the day, from 10 am–5 pm, there will be a Team Fencing Tournament for mixed teams of 3 fencers (1 at each weapon) at the Radmoor Centre, Loughborough College, Radmoor Road, Loughborough LE11 3BT

Either form a team for £30 entry per team or enter as an individual for £10 and we will put teams together.

### **The following hotels are convenient for Beaumanor Hall**

Link Hotel 01509 211800 (5 minutes from Beaumanor) Twin/Double B&B £84

Premier Inn, Loughborough (centre of town) 0871 527 9314 Rooms from £29

Ramada Loughborough (centre of town) 01509 233222 Single B&B £60, Double B&B £70

Burleigh Court Hotel & Leisure, Loughborough University 01509 861135 Single B&B £62 Double B&B £83

Cedars Hotel, Loughborough 01509 214459 Single £47.50 Double £59.50

Accommodation will also be available in the Residential Huts at Beaumanor Hall if sufficient numbers require it.

For further information or to book a place at the dinner and/or fencing contact Henry de Silva Tel: 01624 880863

or

Frank Mills Tel: 01908 310516 email: millsfba@aol.com

## Competition in Prague

We would like to invite you to the Veterans Tournament

# VETERÁNSKÁ VRŠ 2012

2nd year

**Weapons:** foil, epee, sabre

**Categories:** Veterans AK0 30-39 years, AKI 40-49 years, AKII 50-59 years, AKIII 60+ years - all weapons

**Date:** Sunday, November 11th, 2012

**Organiser:** Sokol Vršovice Fencing Club

**Director:** Zuzana Cimlerová, phone + 420 737 166 906,  
e-mail zuzana.cimlerova@seznam.cz

**Chief referee:** Čestmír Cimler

**Software support:** Dobromil Pryl

**Venue:** [TJ Sokol Praha Vršovice Gym, Praha 10, Sportovní 3](#)  
([map](#))

10:00 foil AK0-AKIII

12:30 sabre AK0-AKIII

13:30 epee AK0-AKIII

**Modus:** the system will be decided before the begin of each category; men and women fence together, with separate evaluation

**Inscription fee:** 200,-Kč or 8,-€/starter (unlimited weapons)

**Inscriptions:** e-mail to the director or 30 min before start of the category

**Inscriptions women:** til Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

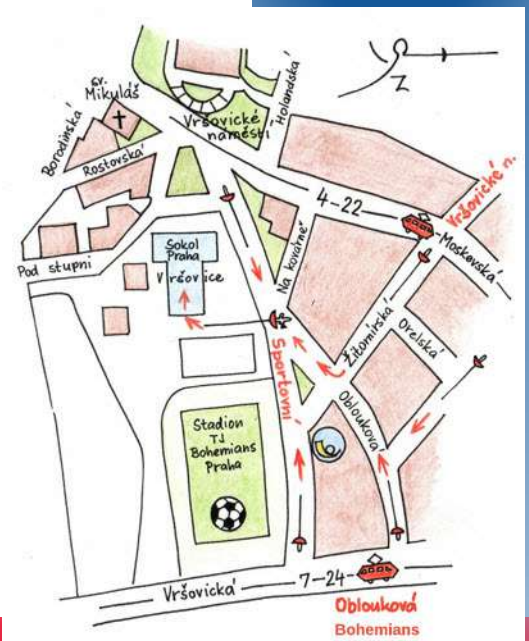
**Refreshment:** buffet on the ground floor of the building

**Accommodation:** Lokal Inn + 420 257 014 800 or search for example at

[www.praguewelcome.cz](http://www.praguewelcome.cz)

**Notes:** Hall entry only wearing indoor shoes.  
Each participant is starting on his/her own expenses and his/her own risk corresponding to the current health condition.

"Vrš" is a fish trap from which the name of our city quarter Vršovice has been derived.



**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](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

# NOMURA

**Caption  
Competition  
September**

send your entry to Editor

[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)



**Caption  
Competition  
August**

*Editor's choice*

*'The new Leon Paul breast protectors are available now! In see-through perspex, at Barry's request!'*

**Richard Cohen**

*'Leon Paul showcase their latest one-size-fits-all chest protector.'*

**Paul Brenda**

*Great minds think alike guys....  
Ed*

**Photos by  
Editor**



## BVF contacts

|                        |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Life President</b>  |  | <b>Henry de Silva</b><br><br>6 Little Meadow<br>Andreas<br>Isle Of Man IM7 4HY<br>Tel: 01624 880863                           |
| <b>Officers</b>        | Chairman                                       | <b>Frank Mills</b><br><br>Tel: 01908 310516<br><a href="mailto:millsfba@aol.com">millsfba@aol.com</a>                         |
|                        | Treasurer<br>Membership Secretary<br>Webmaster | <b>John Mason</b><br><br>Tel: 01225 761788<br><a href="mailto:BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk">BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk</a>            |
|                        | Secretary                                      | <b>Marcia Stretch</b><br><br>Tel: 01293 786 841<br><a href="mailto:marcia_stretch@hotmail.com">marcia_stretch@hotmail.com</a> |
|                        | <b>Elected Members</b>                         | International Fencing Officer  |
|                        | Domestic Fencing Officer                       | <b>Peter Baron</b><br><br>Tel: 01384 400242<br><a href="mailto:bvf@baronfencing.plus.com">bvf@baronfencing.plus.com</a>     |
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| <b>Co-opted Member</b> | Publicity Officer                              | <b>Malcolm Fare</b><br><br><a href="mailto:malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk">malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk</a>       |



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

**Gillian Aghajan**  
by 18th October 2012

**Tel: 07747 792712**  
email:  
[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

