

Secretary's Report for AGM

We held 7 Committee meetings via Zoom from Jan 22 – Feb 23. Using Zoom continues to be advantageous as it means better committee member attendance, a reduction in our carbon footprint, and reduced expenses.

Many additional meetings were held by groups of committee members responsible for hosting our competitions and special thanks must go to, Lyn Robinson, Paul Baillache, Carl Morris, Graham Paul, and Luce Wright who all put in the hours to make sure our events go ahead.

Newsletters and general updates were sent using Mailchimp, and Gillian Aghajan did a fantastic job as Team Manager organising and informing members who were selected to fence at the European Teams and Worlds.

Luce Wright has compiled the Membership Report. On the whole numbers have stayed steady with a small decrease of around 20 members.

We are hoping to increase our membership and reach out to non-fencers with an initiative headed up by Beth Davidson called 'Silver Swords'. She is looking to train up existing members of BVF to become 'Activators'. The Activators will introduce those above forty to fencing for the first time and be involved in their training. More information on this initiative can be found on the website and/or by talking to committee members.

We will also continue to look at ways of attracting new members especially in light of the Worlds Opening up to an over forty category in 2025.

As a committee we are aware of the tougher financial climate some of our members are facing and have put in place a fund that will help negate the costs of competition entries. Please request access to this fund via the website.

Sadly, due to work commitments I am standing down from my position of secretary this year. I would like to thank all of you for your support and wish my successor a successful tenure.

Nicola Hull

March 2023