



BVF COMMITTEE MEETING

HOLIDAY INN - SWINDON

22 JULY 2023

MINUTES

Present: Carl Morris (President) CM, Gillian Aghajan GA, Kola Ayanwale KA, Paul Baillache, Graham Paul GP, Lucy Wright LW,

23/16 Apologies

JH, BD, ND

23/17 Actions from previous meetings

The following actions and their status were noted:

Action	Member	Status
Provide GA with list of new members for the newsletter	LW	Complete
Keep track of committee members' tenure	GA	Ongoing
Publish sub-committee details on the website	LW	Ongoing
Produce Expenses Policy for adoption	PB	On agenda
Set up WhatsApp group for Criterium	PB/KA	Complete
Set up entry for Bard's Bash	LW	Complete
Check First Aid, outgoing costs and medals with CB	CM	Complete
Identify and invite WE and WF to German Match	GP	On agenda
Invite Italians and/or French to join next German Match	GP	On agenda
Final Winton equipment organisation	MS	On agenda
Winton Cup Captains' meeting	LW/CM	Complete
Psychology course and team training arrangements	CM	Complete
Investigate Nottingham venues for Age Groups	LW	On agenda
Decision re BVF policy towards Belarus and Russia fencers at the Worlds	ALL	On agenda
Voting at EVF AGM	GA	Complete

23/18 Treasurer's Report

In summary:

	31/12/2022	30/06/2023	Change
Current accounts	38,520	50,050	11,530
Deposit account	10,270	10,320	50
Medal stock	520	520	-
Total Reserves	49,310	60,890	11,580

There is a surplus so far this year of c£11,500.

This arises from : (very approx.)

Guildford	4,500
Nationals	(500)
Thionville	1,060
Excess of subs over admin	6,520
Total	11,580

The Age Groups (run by Leon Paul Centre) and the Bards Bash (run by Chris Buxton) made no money for BVF.

The Winton Cup should break even or may lose up to £400 based on prior years.

The remaining significant expense is the World Championships which will cost BVF approx £1,000, in line with previous events. This cost is effectively the excess of team entry fees and team manager costs over the fencer levies. We have the Thionville surplus to offset this, however there will be no such surplus to help with the costs for Dubai next year.

Consideration should be given as to what to do with the surplus. GP suggested that the administration of a large event could be contracted out to a third party. There might be an issue finding a venue large enough to host the European Individual, but the European Team event has a smaller entry.

PB presented a first draft of the Expenses Policy and welcomed comments from the committee. It was noted that the mileage was 40p for the first 200 miles (not 250 miles which had been incorrectly minuted as per min ref 23/13).

There was a discussion as to whether members who helped with the organisation should have their fees held over and credited to the next competition, but this was deemed unnecessarily complicated. Those who help should be paid at the time.

23/19 Competitions

23/19.1 European Veteran Individual Championships

It was agreed that this had been a very successful event. GA, as EVF rep, was unable to record an objection to the alteration of the EVF Constitution allowing all previous Presidents voting rights as this had been previously agreed and the decision was only being ratified.

The following venues have been decided:

- 2024 Euro Teams: Ciney, Belgium
- 2025 Euro Individuals: Klagenfurt, Austria
- 2026 Euro Teams: Madrid, Spain
- 2027 Euro Individuals: Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

23/19.2 Bard's Bash

CM reported that this went very well, although entry numbers were not as high as they could have been, given that it was its first year, this was felt acceptable, especially as new faces were present. Team entry prices need to be fully discussed and agreed next year. The premises (King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon) and organisation were excellent and Chris Buxton was thanked.

The social event was a major part of the event's success and Janet, Jenny, Naomi and Lucy were thanked for their contribution towards the food preparation.

It was decided to run the event again next year on the same weekend. **COMP CTTEE**
There was a discussion about the possibility of using the venue for a qualifying event. The location is excellent, with good travel links, but expensive.

23/19.3 The German Match

GP has found full teams. It was decided to subsidise each team member's travel by £50. A discussion took place about next year's event in the UK. To make it more attractive, the following ideas were put forward:

- A training day on the Sunday
- Inclusion of Italians and/or French (the Italians were keen)
- Field an A team and a B team
- Keep the level down, so that it isn't only the elite fencers who take part

23/19.4 Veterans Winton Cup

LW to plug the Gala Dinner.

LW

CM, LW and Marcia (MS) were at a Zoom meeting for the captains who all attended. A WhatsApp Group has been set up to help with communication and to try and achieve full teams this year.

MS is hiring equipment from Leon Paul as this is more straightforward than taking advantage of the free Welsh kit which would need transportation.

The medal design is complete and Kola designated as Welfare Officer for the event.

CM is to present medals to the Welsh women's epee team who lost out last time due to the unclear rules.

There was a suggestion that the Winton should be handicapped and also that under 40s could be allowed to fill teams.

23/19.5 Veterans World Championships

Half the monies has already been received and organisers can now be paid.

PB

A WhatsApp group and email group has been set up by GA. The email group will receive all official information and the WhatsApp group can be used for informal discussion. **GA** Transfers are only available to those who booked via the official website, but the price of transfers is unknown as yet.

Russians and Belarusians are allowed to fence according to the FIE but might struggle to get Visas. GA to discuss with Georgina the exact position regarding black cards. **GA**

23/19.6 Team Training

Results from the post Worlds survey suggested competitors wanted team training. The Committee has arranged for psychology training which starts on 23 July with a wash-up session on the Friday before the Winton Cup (22 September). CM to clarify expenses for this session.

CM

The Committee discussed team training ideas for the Friday afternoon and KA arranged for: Sabre and Foil: session with Alex Savin on what international referees are looking for. Epee: Session with Georgina Usher on team tactics.

It was agreed that Alex should be paid £100 plus expenses. Terms are yet to be agreed with Georgina, who will be delivering the session remotely. KA to arrange equipment for GU. **KA**

23/19.7 Dates and venues for 2024 selection events

Provisional dates and venues, subject to availability:

Guildford EVF Circuit Event: 6-7 January 2024 in Guildford

Age Groups: 23-24 March 2024 in Manchester

Nationals: 19-21 April 2024 at Harvey Hadden Centre, Nottingham

These dates are subject to change but once confirmed these will be published on the website.

LW

There was a discussion as to whether or not to use the Nationals for selection purposes. The argument against using this event stems from the fact that younger age groups can knock

out fencers from older age groups. However, there are no such comments about Guildford where fencers can be knocked out by a foreigner.

The Nationals should be the most important BVF event. If it is not used for selection, there is a risk it will not be supported. The ranking table already gives fencers three chances to score enough points to be selected, so a bad result in one event can be mitigated.

Overall it was felt that the Nationals should be retained as a selection event.

23/20 Selection

23/20.i Selection Policy

KA asked the Committee to consider allowing performances in Europe to inform selection.

This proposal is on the basis that some fencers perform well internationally, but not so well nationally and that efforts on the European circuit should be rewarded.

GP pointed out that selection for European Teams does have discretion already.

There was a discussion about using European events for selection. The Committee acknowledged that fencing in Europe gives fencers a good opportunity to improve their fencing and get better acquainted with international refereeing. This should be encouraged. However, the European Individual is only held every two years, which makes it difficult to use as a selection event.

Selecting for the World Championships must select the best fencers among their peers, but the European Team event has a slightly different focus and European experience could be valuable.

It was suggested that fencers submit a 'CV' to selectors showing their results over the past two years to inform selection, but this was not taken further.

It was decided that the selection policy for 2024 should remain the same as 2023 for the World Championships and the same as 2022 for the European Teams. This will be written up and published on the website.

LW

23/20.ii Eligibility

There was a brief discussion about the issue of trans fencers. This is a very difficult topic and advice needs to be sought regarding the legal position and the position of British Fencing before any action can be considered.

PB produced a chart showing which fencers are eligible for World Championship and European Team selection, as eligibility is informed not only by BVF rules, but also FIE and EVF rules. This needs further work before it can be used.

23/21 AGM 2024

The Committee considered whether having a physical AGM would be better than a remote one. A physical meeting lends itself better to discussion. PB and GP suggested holding a hybrid meeting at the Nationals, which LW thought would be too complicated. An 'open forum' meeting at the Nationals was suggested to allow members a time for discussion, with a Zoom AGM separately to deal with the administrative matters of an AGM.

23/22 AOB

It was agreed to remove Clare Halsted as Covid Officer as this post is redundant at present.

PB suggested giving some informal awards at the Winton dinner to fencers whose achievements are not otherwise recognised. This needs to be discussed with Marcia.**PB/MS**

Action	Member
Produce Expenses Policy for adoption	PB
Confirm venues and dates for Age Groups and Nationals	CM/LW
Plug Winton Dinner	LW

Inform Marcia that KA is WO and Clare Halsted medical cover	CM
Identify and invite WE and WF to German Match	GP
Pay World Championship entry fees	PB
Discuss black card rules with BF	GA
Clarify psychology course session expenses	CM
Finalise arrangements with GU and epee team training	KA
Confirm dates and venues for Age Groups and Nationals and publish	CM/LW
Publish selection policy	LW

The date of the next meeting is 10 September. Details to be confirmed

Lucy Wright
BVF Secretary

20 August 2023