



BVF COMMITTEE MEETING

VIA ZOOM

12 APRIL 2023

MINUTES

Present: Carl Morris (President) CM, Gillian Aghajan GA, Kola Ayanwale KA, Paul Baillache PB, Beth Davidson BD, Naomi Donaldson ND, Jane Hutchison JH, Graham Paul GP, Lucy Wright LW,

23/1 CM welcomed JH and ND who had been appointed as members of the committee replacing LW and Lyn Robinson. CM also congratulated BD and KA who had been re-elected.

Dates of future meetings are: 13 May (Zoom), 22 July (physical), 10 September (Zoom), 5 November (Zoom).

23/2 **Apologies**

None

23/3 **Actions from previous meetings**

The following actions and their status were noted:

Action	Member	Status
Tracksuit development	GA	Complete
Silver Swords spar day	BD	Being held on Sunday of Nationals
AGM arrangements	NH	Complete
Update rules & regs	LW	Complete
Publicise Age Groups	LW	Complete
Selection policy	GP/CM	Ongoing
Update Winton Cup rules	CM	Ongoing
Photos of nominees for AGM	NH	Complete
Finance report from Guildford	PB	Ongoing
Arrange Winton captains meeting	CM/LW	Ongoing

23/4 **AGM**

This year various technical issues encountered before the meeting started resulted in the President not being seen by all attendees. There was a discussion as to whether AGMs should be held by Zoom, in person or a hybrid. It was decided to continue with Zoom AGMs because this offers attendance to the widest audience. There was a suggestion that a physical meeting could be held at some point during the year (e.g. the Winton) where BVF members have the opportunity to speak to the Committee.

Due to some confusion expressed by members after the AGM, CM suggested the tenure of ordinary committee members should be changed to a single year rather than a three year term, with only officers being elected for three years to ensure continuity. The committee was unsure that a change was needed, but needed more time to think about the benefits and implications of altering tenures which would require a constitutional change at an AGM. It was decided to defer this item for further consideration at the next meeting.

23/4 **Roles**

CM allocated the following roles to members:

- BD – development
- GA – EVF representative, Team Manager
- JH – membership (to liaise with LW)
- GP – Chair of selectors

23/5 **Sub-committees**

CM held the allocation of members to the Editorial and Competition Organisation sub-committees in abeyance until the next meeting. Dates, venues and format of competitions are committee decisions, so the sub-committee is not required immediately.

23/6 **Selection Policy**

The Committee discussed the selection policy for next season's European Teams.

The most recent policy states:

Two places allocated to the highest placed eligible and available older category fencers from the Ranking List.

In the event of parity of scores for second place on the Ranking List, the fencer will be chosen at the discretion of the Selectors.

The three remaining places will be awarded at the Selectors' discretion who will take into account the positions on the Ranking List and chosen from the Veteran or Grand Veteran Category as a whole.

As this is a team event, overriding all qualification results will be the Selectors' judgement of team suitability.

CM asked the committee to consider whether it wished to stay with this system or to introduce a rule so that the highest placed eligible and available younger category fencer from the Ranking List should be automatically selected. This was discussed with consideration given to encouraging fencers in the younger categories, particularly Cat 1s who are due to be included as a category in the World Championships within the next few years. The Committee voted by majority to include a rule so that the highest placed younger age category fencer from the Ranking List would be automatically selected.

The Committee also decided that fencers being given discretionary places must have competed in at least one BVF competition in the relevant season.

23/7 **Competitions**

23/7.1 **Age Groups**

The Committee agreed that this year's competition was well run with generally positive feedback, however it was felt that a better geographical spread of the qualifying events is fairer to members. Moving away from the Leon Paul Centre would also mean an additional vets competition in the calendar. It was decided to look into venues in the Midlands e.g. Nottingham or Birmingham. CM and LW to find out availability of venues in this area for

2024. There was a suggestion that Cats 3 and 4 could possibly fence on the Friday evening so that the competition could take place over one weekend and the older vets could fence one weapon per day.

23/7.2 **Nationals**

There was a discussion as to whether a dummy fencer should be used in an attempt to mitigate the effects of short poules. Having assessed the advantages and disadvantages of this system, the Committee decided against using a dummy fencer.

Mike Robinson has produced a seeding method which was accepted by the Committee.

A BVF member who is not a British citizen asked to be able to fence in the Nationals and it was decided that he rules cannot be changed for one person and that the eligibility criteria must be enforced.

23/7.3 **Winton Cup**

CM is finalising the rules after consultation with John Crouch and Phil Palmer.

LW will organise a captains zoom meeting.

There was a conversation about offering team training to the GB squad and the venue has been booked on the Friday afternoon to allow this to take place.

The main aim is for the squad to meet and get to know each other and build team spirit. It was also suggested that a short session on psychology could be run. BD offered to liaise. CM to discuss this with BD.

PB is organising the medals.

LW to co-ordinate floating fencers with the region captains. JH offered to assist.

23/7.4 **Bard's Bash**

Chris Buxton is running this event in Stratford at King Edward the Seventh school on 15/16 July. It will be an individual competition – teams were considered, but may restrict income. GP has offered to host an evening barbecue in his garden which is not far from Stratford. Final arrangements are still to be made by CM/GP.

23/7.5 **German Match**

The German match will be held in Munster on Saturday 12 August. Not much interest has been shown so far, so more advertising is necessary.

23/7.6 **European Individual Championships**

GA submitted the final figures of entry which are on a par with previous years.

	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4	Totals
ME	3	15	8	7	33
MF	3	13	14	6	36
MS	4	7	6	6	23
Totals M	10	35	28	19	92
WE	2	7	8	6	23
WF	2	5	7	2	16
WS	3	6	5	4	18
Totals W	7	18	20	12	57
Totals Cat	17	53	48	31	149

Now that numbers are known EVF will produce a detailed schedule.

23/8 Expenses Policy

It was decided to defer this to the next meeting.

23/9 AOB

GA stated that there was no conflict of interest when she organised the new tracksuit design. Three quotes were obtained and it was the Committee's choice which company to appoint.

BD asked the Committee to encourage people to take part in the Silver Swords Spar Day initiative. 6 places have been sold and there is space for a maximum of 12 participants.

A question was asked about what was happening with the World Championships. The USA is carrying on with arrangements for this year.

Action	Member
Review of tenures on agenda for next meeting	LW
Liaise re membership role	LW/JH
Allocate members to sub-committees at next meeting	CM
Update ET selection rules for 2024	LW
Investigate venues for Age Groups 2024	LW/CM
Organise Winton Cup captains meeting	LW
Update Winton Cup rules	CM
Team training	BD/CM
Winton Cup medals	PB
Co-ordinate Winton Cup floating fencers	LW/JH
Bard's Bash arrangements	CM/GP
Advertise German Match	LW
Expenses Policy for next meeting	PB
Treasurer's report from Guildford for EVF	PB
Encourage Silver Swords participants	ALL

The meeting ended at 8.04 pm.

The date of the next meeting is 13 May at 9.30am.

Lucy Wright
BVF Secretary

19 April 2023