



## **BVF COMMITTEE MEETING**

**VIA ZOOM**

**13 MAY 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,

#### **23/10 Apologies**

None

#### **23/11 Actions from previous meetings**

The following actions and their status were noted:

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

LW agreed to provide GA with a list of new members for the newsletter.

#### **23/12 Tenure**

There was a discussion regarding whether the three year tenure for committee members should be changed, due to resignations of committee members mid-term which are difficult to track and concern that members do not fully understand the system. There was a vote on three options:

1. Keep the current system

2. Change the system so that the three officers serve three years and ordinary members one year.
3. Change the system so that all members including officers serve only one year

On a majority vote it was decided to leave the system as it is.

GA volunteered to manage the record keeping of which committee members are due for election at the AGM.

### 23/13 **Treasurer's Report**

The Nationals 2023 made a small loss due to increased referee costs and a reduction in competitors. Expenses are constantly increasing and BF have set the threshold for referee remuneration quite high, which BVF will need to match. External pressures are making it difficult to obtain referees.

It was agreed that the expenses policy should offer 250 miles @ 40p per mile and 25p per mile for the remainder.

Receipts have all been taken and almost all payments have now been made for the European Individuals, but currency fluctuations have meant that BVF is about £200 adrift which has been absorbed by the levy. EVF has swiftly issued refunds.

### 23/14 **Competitions**

#### 23/14.1 **Nationals**

Entries were down somewhat, but the competition was well run and successful. There was a brief discussion about holding the competition in Manchester. The advantages are that there is no set-up and that it spreads the competitions geographically, but the disadvantage is that it involves travel for the majority of the membership. It was suggested that BVF ask BF to contact fencers over 40 who live in the northern part of the UK and encouraging them to attend the Nationals.

#### 23/14.2 **European Veteran Individuals**

CM thanked GA for her work as Team Manager. Numbers are good and everything is going smoothly, with good communications between GA and the fencers and EVF. KA asked whether there would be any co-ordination from BVF for the Criterium. PB and KA offered to set up a WhatsApp group for BVF members attending the competition.

#### 23/14.3 **The Bard's Bash**

Chris Buxton (CB) is organising and has sent the information. LW to set up entries using John Mason's system.

There was a discussion about what handicap system to use to keep things competitive. The EVF system was preferred, but the final decision will be left til numbers are known.

Currently there is no provision for an epee team event. There may be time to run one in the afternoon after the individual if time allows.

CM was asked to check with CB that there would be First Aid provision.

This event is being run by CB for BVF and there was a suggestion that BVF should underwrite any losses. CM to ask CB what his outgoings are.

PB offered medals from the remaining BVF stock and CM to check whether these are needed.

#### 23/14.4 **German Match**

Currently short of WE and WF. GP to approach fencers at the Euros and invite them.

GP has proposed an aggregate age of 170 for men and 150 for women.

PB asked if BVF is due to hold this competition next year and whether another country or countries should be approached to give more fencing. GP to find out whether the Italians and/or French would be interested.

#### **23/14.5 Veterans Winton Cup**

CM has rewritten the rules after consultation with Marcia and DT. Even though the rules have been tightened to determine a winner in the event of equality of victories or and overall fights there is still the possibility of equality in the event of a 3 or more tie. It's extremely unlikely this will ever happen but it was agreed that if this were to ever happen the deciding contingency plan will be to go to indicators. This will need hits to be added up manually as they are not routinely recorded. This should not be a problem because the situation will become apparent during the Sunday and the adding up can start well before the last fights. If the Welsh kit is being borrowed, then someone will need to collect it. If this is not possible, Chris Howser is storing England Fencing pistes and the RAF may have pistes which may be available to borrow. It was decided pistes are not strictly necessary for foil which could make things easier. Pete Huggins is willing to lend 12-16 boxes from Kent. Marcia to price up hire from Leon Paul. It was suggested that BVF buy a couple of pistes, but storage is a problem. Marcia has visited and met with venue and hotel staff to finalise arrangements. PB to pay the deposit.

LW and CM to set up a Team Captains' meeting and WhatsApp group to share ideas and information.

#### **23/14.6 Team Training**

Team training sessions for the GB Worlds squad will be held on the Friday afternoon before the Winton Cup. All squad members will be invited regardless of whether they are fencing at the competition.

It was agreed to subsidise a psychology course for squad members.

#### **23/14.7 Dates and venues for 2024 selection events**

It was decided that the final venues and dates will be decided at the meeting on 22 July.

LW to investigate venues in Nottingham for the Age Groups. It was suggested that Cats 3 and 4 fence on the Friday evening so that those doing more than one weapon only fence one competition a day and this will also take pressure off numbers on the Saturday and Sunday.

#### **23/15 Selection**

Selection for the World Championships 2023 has been decided. The top 4 of the Ranking Tables will be selected with a selector's decision being made for Men's Sabre A due to equality of fourth place.

The event is definitely due to go ahead in Daytona Beach and the official invitation will be issued in mid-June.

Russia and Belarus will be invited but are unlikely to obtain visas. There was a discussion about whether BVF should have a position on fencing Russian and Belarus fencers, but this is not possible until more information is available. Any decision should be made before fencers commit to travel arrangements. The committee may need to meet by Zoom to make its decision if this is necessary before the next meeting.

#### **23/16 AOB**

GA (EVF rep) needed the committee's decision on who to vote for at the EVF AGM. The Committee decided by majority to vote for:

Caryl Oliver – President

Michiel Undentag – Technical Director

Atila Csak – Director

The Committee decided to object to the proposed changes on the Constitution due to concerns that giving all past Presidents and Members of Honour may cause problems.

BD reported on the Silver Swords Spar Session which took place at the Nationals. 6 people were booked and 5 attended. Feedback was that they would have liked more fencing, but the information provided was good.

This initiative needs to be developed to gain traction. Attaching to competitions is a successful way of delivering the session.

CM thanked BD, GA and Ev Van Gemeren for their hard work.

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

The meeting ended at 11.51 am.

The date of the next meeting is 22 July. Details to be confirmed

Lucy Wright  
BVF Secretary

11 June 2023