



BVF COMMITTEE MEETING

VIA ZOOM

28 FEBRUARY at 6pm

MINUTES

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

24/01 Apologies

Kola Ayanwale and Beth Davidson

24/02 Actions from previous meetings

Action	Member	Status
Produce Expenses Policy for adoption	PB	Ongoing
Contact Edgbaston University re Winton Cup	CM	Complete
Liaise re RN Match	LW	Complete
Find out whether Sussex has rollout pistes for Guildford	KA	Complete
Contact fencers directly to help Guildford set up / take down	GP	Complete
Draw up competition organisation check list	CM	Complete
Contact Joe Pearce re referees for Nationals	KA	Ongoing
Contact Mike Robinson re DT for Nationals	KA	Complete
Produce and publish information sheet for Nationals	KA/LW	Complete
Arrange date for Age Groups format meeting	LW	Complete
Contact Chris Buxton re date for Bards Bash	JH	Complete
Contact fencers re selection error	GP/CM	Complete
Set up BVF Facebook group	LW	Ongoing
Investigate possible initiatives	JH	Ongoing
Contact Steve Kemp re tapping into BF ADP	KA	Ongoing
Organise Henry's birthday celebration	LW	Complete

24/03 Competitions

24/03.1 Guildford 2024 (GP organiser)

Main takeaways from the survey:

- Second hall cold
- Announcements were missed
- Piste numbers should be on screens / paper should also be used
- Runners should check everyone is where they should be
- Date of event cannot be changed due to calendar and availability of venue – this needs to be explained
- Start times should remain the same for next year

- GP reported he had received two emails concerning the black card issued at Guildford, despite a report having been submitted to British Fencing. It was decided to refer these emails to Caryl Oliver as EVF President. **GP**
- The BF insurance for foreign fencers needs to be paid at a rate of £3.50 per fencer. **PB**
- 24/03.2 **Nationals 2024 (KA organiser)**
 No report had been received from KA regarding referees – CM to chase. **CM**
 The Master at Arms rules have been written up and sent to DT.
 Each selector will seed their event.
 A minute’s silence will be held on each day in memory of Henry de Silva. **CM**
- 24/03.3 **Age Groups 2024 (ND organiser)**
 Leon Paul has confirmed equipment hire.
 Venue and armourer secured.
 Joe Pearce organising referees, but a local event means that there may be more need for referees to come from afar.
 Entry is open and the early closing date has been announced.
 LW to email out a reminder for Nationals and Age Groups. **LW**
 Costs will be higher due to the high cost of hotels.
- 23/03.4 **Bard’s Bash**
 The date has been confirmed as 1-2 June. Entry can open once fees have been decided. **LW/GP**
- 23/03.5 **Winton Cup**
 A suitable venue is proving hard to find. The senior Winton is being held at Billesley Tennis Centre which might prove suitable. **CM/MS**
 It was suggested that the Spectrum at Guildford might be available as a back up.
- 24/04 **AGM 2024**
 The Age Groups give the ideal opportunity for a physical AGM as holding previous AGMs via Zoom had not resulted in a high attendance and was not an easy platform to use for debates.
 It was decided to hold the AGM at the Age Groups venue on the Saturday after the fencing has finished (approximately 5pm).
 It was decided to hold a Q & A session after the AGM. **LW/CM**
- 24/05 **Selection**
- 24/05.1 **Existing World Champion selection**
 The Committee had decided to allow an existing World Champion to defend their title as long as they competed in at least one qualifying event and at this meeting decided that no particular result would be demanded. This is only for the 2024 season and will be reviewed when the rules are set for 2025. LW to update the website accordingly. **LW**
- Whilst discussing the World Championships CM informed the Committee that British Fencing would need to levy of £15 per fencer to cover the considerable amount of administration involved in the entry process. This will be added on to the individual fencer’s entry fee.
- 24/05.2 **Selection Error**
 There was an error made when the team for the 2023 squad was selected. One fencer dropped out and the replacement fencer selected did not appear to be next in the rankings. This caused understandable upset to the next-ranked fencer. This was a simple error, made

by the Chairman of Selectors under difficult personal circumstances and under great time pressure.

The overlooked fencer received an apology at the time from both the Chair of Selectors and President, but it has come to light that some fencers thought this oversight was deliberate. This is absolutely not the case.

In future, the procedure will be that the weapon selector makes all selection decisions, which are then checked by the other weapon selector and also the Chair of Selectors.

As it happens, it turned out at a later date that although an initial error had been made, the correct replacement fencer had in fact been chosen.

24/05.3 **Automated ranking system**

An external automated system has been suggested by a BVF member. The offer was appreciated but, due to technical issues previously explored, the committee decided to keep the system managed internally by the Committee and selectors.

24/05.4 **European Teams**

If any selector is selected for the European Team, the other weapon selector will make the team selection.

24/06 **European Veterans Fencing**

The committee discussed various issues which have arisen and had the following concerns:

- What is the black card procedure?
- Communication with and between federation reps
- Are there rules or guidelines?
- Communications of rule changes
- Who makes the rules and how are they decided?

The Committee discussed the EVF proposals for outdoor social fencing events. Unfortunately the UK is not ideal for outdoor fencing and the costings unrealistic for the UK, but the committee thought it a very good initiative and hopes it is well supported.

The EVF asked whether European Circuit rankings will be used for GB selection. The committee was not in favour of this suggestion due primarily to costs for fencers in time and money and the difficulty comparing different results in different events. It is possible that the European Individual may be used as a selection event, but this poses problems as it is biannual.

The Committee discussed the issue of Russian fencers being allowed to fence at a recent circuit competition and a Ukrainian fencer scratching from the competition on principle. As far as BVF is aware there is a ban on Russian and Belarusian fencers competing in EVF events as published on the EVF website and the response to the recent situation was poor. GA was asked to write to find out what the rules are on who can compete and how they can be implemented in Circuit events.

GA was asked to communicate all the above to EVF.

GA

24/07 **Treasurer's Report**

PB has started on the annual accounts, which will be audited by the time of the AGM.

A donation has been received for which BVF is very grateful. The committee decided it should be spent on accommodation and travel to attract referees at the Nationals and Age Groups.

24/08 **AOB**

The European Teams website is open, but the hotels are inadequate.

PB said he would circulate proposed changes to the constitution in time for the AGM agenda to be published.

PB

Action	Member
Produce Expenses Policy for adoption	PB
Contact Joe Pearce re referees for Nationals	KA
Set up BVF Facebook group	LW
Investigate possible initiatives	JH
Contact Steve Kemp re tapping into BF ADP	KA
Refer emails to Caryl Oliver	GP
Pay BF insurance for foreign fencers	PB/GP
Chase KA re referees	CM
Minute's silence at Nationals	CM
Email reminder for Nats and Age Groups	LW
Fix entry and BBQ Fees for Bards Bash and open entry	GP/LW
Obtain Winton Cup venue	CM/MS
AGM agenda	CM/LW
Publish WC rule on website	LW
Write to EVF with committee concerns	GA
Circulate proposed constitution amendments	PB

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Lucy Wright

BVF Secretary

19 March 2024