



BVF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Copthorne Hotel, Slough, SL1 2YE

21 July 2024

MINUTES

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

24/18 Apologies

Beth Davidson

24/19 Actions from previous meetings

The following actions were noted and are ongoing:

Action	Member	Status
Set up BVF Facebook group	LW	Ongoing
Investigate possible initiatives	JH	Ongoing
Contact Steve Kemp re tapping into BF ADP	KA	Ongoing
Find someone to run Guildford	GP	Ongoing
Write newsletter article about competition organisation	PB	Complete
Check First Aid cover at venue during Senior Winton	LW	Complete
Tell Marcia we need blade straightening boards/carpet	LW	Complete
Put website on next agenda	LW	Complete
Book competition venues	CM	Complete
Impose penalties on late competition payments	LW	Ongoing
Black cards and selection on selection discussion agenda point	LW	Complete
Distribute survey re reinforced clothing for vets	LW/GP	Ongoing

It was decided to postpone launching a BVF Facebook group for now because it is not the ideal forum for discussion. Conversations can become lost and fragmented and not everyone is on Facebook.

JH suggested organising a trip to Malcolm Fare's fencing museum which would be open to all members, possibly combined with a pub lunch. It was agreed to find out which dates would suit Malcolm and then send out an email to the membership. **JH**

KA reported that he is still attempting to get hold of Steve Kemp regarding the ADP. **KA**

Ben Paul will send the survey once the Olympics is over. **LW/GP**

24/20 Finance: Treasurer's Report

Key points:

- Approx £64000 in the bank including money taken for the World Championships and the Winton Cup.
- Guildford broke even
- Age Groups lost approx. £2000 largely due to costs for running on the Friday
- Nationals lost £900

- European Teams lost £1800 which is usual.
- In total PB expects BVF will make a small loss this year.

The Treasurer and Team Manager commented that some people pay and send back registration forms for their World Championship entry very late and only after several reminders. The deadline is 10 days away and a third of the squad has not yet paid.

PB reported that the PayPal account has been locked and that John Mason will need to help sort it out as he is still the administrator. **PB**

24/21 **Competitions**

24/21.1 **World Championships**

It was decided that GA send a reminder to those who have not paid to say that if they do not pay by the deadline, then their entry will be subject to a £30 administration fee. **GA**

All participants have paid the BF entry levy through Sport80 and all is going to plan.

24/21.2 **Winton Cup**

LW reported that she had attended the Senior Winton at the venue which BVF will be using this year and had the following points to report:

- Car parking might be a problem but Swanhurst School staff car park is nearby, as is the rugby club and both could be approached. The Senior Winton organisers had printed papers for the dashboards of cars so that people could write down their name and region and double park. This created another 8-10 spaces.
- The medical cover was basic cover provided by the venue with medic fencers known to the organisers.
- The organisers recommended all pistes should be roll out pistes. The armourer sent Peter Huggins and LW details of the tape used which worked well.
- There are only three power points.
- Boards were not supplied to straighten weapons.

These points have been sent to Marcia.

It was decided to ask St John's Ambulance to provide medical cover. CM to let Marcia know. **CM**

JH suggested the committee look at ways of ensuring there was the maximum amount of fencing for everyone, suggesting that possibly fencers could fence twice or borrow people from other weapons. LW had suggested that younger fencers could be asked to fill teams and their results would not count, but that some Team Captains did not like this idea.

It was decided to see how things go at this venue before making a decision about whether or not to return to Lilleshall next year. Lilleshall had proposed a short notice cancellation clause which the committee did not deem acceptable.

24/21.3 **Guildford**

Mike Robinson will be head of DT on the day. GP to ask Phil Palmer if he can also assist as it is too big a job for one person. **GP**

GA offered to be the person to organise and deal with enquiries and issues on the day and to co-ordinate the medal ceremonies.

Joe Pearce to be asked if he can organise the referees on the day. **GP**

The committee agreed to use the same medal design as last year, but PB was asked whether they could be gold, silver and bronze this time. **PB**

Bill Berkeley has been booked to provide medical cover.

A discussion took place regarding referees, resulting in the following decisions:

- Objection on principle to ban on U21 referees by EVF. Will assess situation in November. May need to write a letter of derogation.
- Referees should be contacted as soon as possible to ensure they are booked.

- KA to contact referees who reffed last year. **KA**
- Rate agreed at:
 - £90 plus travel which is capped at £50 plus accommodation to be agreed
 - £45 for fencers for half a day reffing – no travel or accommodation

24/21.4 **Age Groups**

DT needs to be arranged. **ND/KA/GP**

PB to book Bill Berkeley for medical cover. **PB**

Harvey Hadden has been booked. No Friday event this year due to costs. CM to confirm the time with Harvey Hadden for the Friday booking. **CM**

Foil and Sabre on Saturday, Epee on Sunday.

ND to send LW the rules for publishing. **ND**

ND will not be available to run the event. PB to be the public face for the Sunday.

Competition sub-committee needs to find someone for Saturday. **ND/KA/GP**

It was agreed to ask Excalibur if they would provide pistes in exchange for having a kit stand at the event. **CM**

Referee rate was agreed at £80 plus reasonable travel and accommodation as agreed. ND to contact last year's referees. **ND**

24/21.4 **Nationals**

The venue has been booked.

Sabre on the Friday, Epee Saturday, Foil Sunday

DT needs to be arranged. **ND/KA/GP**

24/21.5 **Refereeing**

Refereeing had been discussed as part of the discussions for each competition.

It was decided to sort out referees for all events as soon as possible. **ND/KA/GP**

KA to register all three events with the BF refereeing system. **KA**

24/21.6 **Seeding**

ND reported that merging categories proves tricky for seeding and that a system needs to be decided and published to avoid complaints.

It was agreed to seed from the previous year's Nationals' results and for the selectors to insert fencers who did not fence in the Nationals but have ranking points according to their previous results in comparison with other fencers who did fence in the Nationals. Unknown fencers will be seeded as 999.

It was agreed to publish the seeding for each competition as part of the rules.

24/22 **Selection**

The Committee agreed on the following selection procedure which will be inserted into the Rules and Regulations: **LW**

- There will be one selector of each gender for every weapon who report to the Chair of Selectors.
- The Selectors are appointed annually by the Chair of Selectors after the AGM
- In the case of discretion, the following procedure takes place:
 - The Selector views the fencers' results from the season
 - The Selector seeks views from as many fencers as s/he requires to assist in the decision
 - The Selector consults with the opposite gender Selector
 - The Selector makes the decision and submits this to the Chair of Selectors with a written justification of the decision.
 - If a Selector is conflicted, the opposite gender Selector makes the decision.

- If both Selectors are conflicted the Chair of Selectors should appoint a non-conflicted Selector from amongst BVF membership to make this decision.

The Committee discussed the selection rule regarding a World Champion being able to defend their title. It was suggested that they earn a certain number of ranking points for winning the WC and were still expected to fence in two competitions unless there are extenuating circumstances. This needs to be discussed at the next meeting. **LW**

The Committee discussed the issue of fencers being black carded for refusing to fence fencers for political reasons at the World Championships. This would result in the fencer not being able to fence in the rest of the competition. The committee was of the view that such a fencer would not be picked for the team because the whole team would be in jeopardy. The relevant policies need to be reviewed to ensure that this action cannot be challenged. **LW/CM**

24/23 Development

24/23.1 40-49 year olds

Until the FIE Comex in November it is uncertain whether the World Championships 2025 will include 40-49 year olds or whether this will be a demonstration event.

It was decided to prepare an advertising campaign and ask BF to help with publicity. **LW/GA**

24/23.2 Increasing membership

Winton is attracting new members. The Silver Swords initiative started positively. CM suggested that BVF should target parents of fencers. Information could be distributed at LPJS events and coaches could be contacted and asked to tap into this source. Possible a try-out session could be arranged at the Junior Nationals.

GA has a flyer which can be used to advertise. GA to send this to LW. **GA/LW**

24/23.3 Sponsorship

It was decided that before looking for sponsors, you need to decide how much you need and what you will use it for. In the past it has been very difficult to find sponsors.

24/23.4 DT Training

JH suggested running a course so that interested members could learn how to use Fencing Time and run DT. KA contacted Alex Savin who agreed that he could run such a course. PB has written an article about organising competitions for the newsletter and agreed to add a paragraph asking for volunteers to attend this course with a view to increasing the numbers of people able to run DT.

24/24 Rules and Regulations

Various amendments were noted by the secretary. **LW**
 A section on Welfare Officers needs to be inserted. **CM/LW**
 The Disciplinary Policy needs to be reviewed. **CM/LW**
 Press and Media needs to be addressed. **CM/LW**

24/25 Website

GA has been in contact with John Mason who has offered to write a document on how the back end of the website works.

It was agreed to ask John if he could tie payments to the entry system to make administration easier. **LW**

- 24/26 **AOB**
- 24/26.1 On a proposal by GP and seconded by GA it was unanimously agreed to make Malcolm Fare a Life Member of BVF. **CM**
- 24/26.2 KA suggested BVF uses the current passivity rules.
- 24/26.3 CM brought to the attention of the committee a video about the corruption of FIE referees on the Senior world circuit. There is no evidence this affects veterans fencing at the moment. It was agreed that people should not referee and coach at the same event. In Guildford this might happen and fencers should not be refereeing fights where they have an interest.
- 24/26.4 The subject of trans fencers was again raised. It was decided to alter the application form to provide more statistical information for our records. **LW**
- 24/17 **Date of the next meeting**
The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 23 October at 6.30pm.

Action	Member
Contact Steve Kemp re tapping into BF ADP	KA
Distribute survey re reinforced clothing for vets	GP/LW
Liaise with Malcolm Fare re suitable dates for a trip	JH
Sort out PayPal with John Mason	PB
Send out World Championship reminder	GA
Ask Marcia to arrange St. John's Ambulance for Winton Cup	CM
Ask Phil Palmer to help with DT at Guildford	GP
Ask Joe Pearce to organise referees on the day at Guildford	GP
Order medals for Guildford in gold, silver and bronze	PB
Attempt to book all refs from last year's Guildford	KA
Arrange DT for AG and Nats	ND/KA/GP
Book Bill for AG medical cover	PB
Confirm Friday booking at Harvey Hadden	CM
Send AG rules to LW for publishing	ND/LW
Find someone to be the public face at AG on Saturday	ND/KA/GP
Ask Excalibur to provide pistes in exchange for a stand for AG	CM
Attempt to book all refs from last year's AG	ND
Register all events on BF refereeing system	KA
Insert selection procedure into Rules and Regs	LW
Put World Champion selection on next agenda	LW
Review policies re black cards and team selection	CM/LW
Prepare advertising campaign for 40-49 year olds	GA/LW
Send advertising flyer to LW for printing	GA/LW
Amend Rules and Regs	LW
Welfare Officer for Rules and Regs	CM/LW
Review Disciplinary Policy	CM/LW
Review Press and Media	CM/LW
Liaise with John Mason over payments system	LW
Write to Malcolm Fare regarding life membership	CM
Amend application form	LW

Lucy Wright

BVF Secretary

1 August 2024