



## **BVF COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Via Zoom**

**29 January 2025**

### **MINUTES**

Present: Carl Morris (President) CM, Theo Ayanwale (TA), Naomi Donaldson (ND), Jane Hutchison (JH), Paul Baillache (PB), Graham Paul (GP), Lucy Wright (LW), Lyn Robinson (LR).

#### **25/1 Apologies**

Beth Davidson, Gillian Aghajan

#### **25/2 Competitions**

##### **25/2.1 Guildford**

GP has booked the venue for the second weekend in January for the next three years. GP suggested holding a team competition in 2026 with epee on the Sunday and Foil & Sabre on the Monday. The small hall is available to hire for about £500 on the Monday. GP suggested asking for entries to be submitted by the first weekend of December to see whether there was an appetite for this event. He suggested an aggregate age of 180 and for one member of each team to be available as a referee with a limit of one team per nation, per weapon.

Lyn had prepared a report after the Guildford event and presented it to the committee. The event itself had gone well but there were the following points to note:

- Due to problems with the computers paper copies of poules and tableaux will be posted on the walls in 2026.
- A break of one hour was suggested in between the morning and afternoon events
- The organiser could consider starting at 9 due to hotel breakfasts not being served until 7.
- More seating should be requested
- Medical cover to be provided by a local third party agency (Clare Halsted may be able to recommend).
- Changes to rules are announced in July and should be checked. Kit rules should be communicated to fencers at the outset.
- Consideration should be given to adding breakfast to referees' hotel deal.
- Minimum poule size should be 6
- Should revert to EVF re early closing date as Christmas makes it impossible to be later.
- Foreign fencers should be told not to book accommodation before their entry is accepted.
- Goodie bags were suggested but would be too costly
- There was a long wait on the Sunday afternoon between poules. The organisation should be tighter and be on top of these things. A professional organiser was suggested, but would be costly.
- The armoury should close by 3.30pm on Sunday to allow them to pack up.

- The finals piste should be barriered off.

Lyn was asked if she would organise the event in 2026 and said she would consider it.

#### 25/2.2 **Age Groups**

Entries are now open.

Mike Robinson is running DT with assistance from Lyn if her leg is still injured. PB to be the 'face' on Sunday but still need a 'face' for Saturday. GA may be available?

Venue is booked but deposit needs to be paid. **PB**

Andy Malkin is providing medical cover.

Medals have been bought.

A few referees still needed. Sam Ogden will organise refs.

Need a co-ordinator for Friday night and volunteers to set up. LW to email out. **LW**

Cafe will open 10am to 3pm both days.

PB to buy ref's food on Sunday. Someone needs to volunteer to buy for Saturday.

#### 25/2.3 **Nationals**

TA sorting out referees. BD has also been approached to help sort out refs. Alex Pearson is a ref and is at MFC so may be able to help. **TA/BD**

Max Reeve is DT. ND to give his contact details to CM. **ND**

Hotel rooms need to be booked. **TA**

#### 25/2.4 **Winton**

Marcia is unable to run the event due to illness. LW volunteered to organise.

Lilleshall has been booked. LW to email membership to let them know. **LW**

St. Johns' need to be booked. **LW**

John C and Phil P to be asked to do DT. **LW**

GA has organised the hotel and dinner.

LW has organised the dinner entry.

ND to help with raffle.

Team captains will be contacted with details. **LW**

#### 25/2.5 **Bard's Bash**

JH to be organiser with Chris Buxton.

**JH**

#### 25/2.6 **German Match**

It was decided to wait for the date of the Criterium to be announced before fixing a date.

Possible venue at Medway or at Peter Wright's salle.

#### 25/3 **Selection**

GP proposed that the following clause be inserted into the selection rules in the case of one of the top four ranked fencers being unavailable to fence:

'However if the selectors consider that there is a very strong candidate ranked beneath the next fencer on the ranking, the selectors may at their complete discretion, select that fencer.'

This was discussed between the members of the committee present and will be discussed at the next meeting when it is hoped other members will be present to cast their vote. On this first vote a majority voted 4 to 1 against the proposal.

#### 25/4 **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Friday 7 February at 10.30am