



BVF COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Zoom

7 February 2025

MINUTES

Present: Carl Morris (President) CM, Gillian Aghajan (GA), Theo Ayanwale (TA), Paul Baillache (PB), Jane Hutchison (JH), Graham Paul (GP), Lucy Wright (LW)

25/5 Apologies

Beth Davidson, Naomi Donaldson

25/6 Selection

25/6.1 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 had been discussed at the previous meeting with the members of the committee present and was discussed further. Adding the votes together from both meetings the majority voted 5 to 2 against the proposal.

25/6.2 Ranking lists: who to include

CM has compiled the ranking lists for the past few years and omits members who are not eligible to fence for GB, because the ranking lists are used for the purpose of selection.

CM wished to clear up a recent suggestion that omitting ineligible fencers was something introduced by him this year. He explained that during the last few years that he had been compiling the ranking lists he had never included people that he knew were definitely not eligible. Even though including all BVF members is something that could be considered and discussed, it was never his understanding that this was the purpose of the lists.

GP proposed including all BVF members on the ranking lists, regardless of eligibility, and then taking them out at the end of the season for selection. This would mean that all members could rate their performance amongst their peers.

Various concerns were raised about including everyone:

1. The additional administration of including a fencer’s results and then removing them
2. Confusion to fencers about whether or not they will be selected
3. Difficulty finding out who is eligible
4. Different eligibility criteria for different events
5. Whether a fencer’s position in the lists is affected by ineligible fencers

It was clear that this issue is a lot more complex than it may appear and more thought and consideration needs to be put into a decision. For this reason, and also the fact that we are mid-season, it was decided to keep the ranking lists how they are at the moment and to discuss this further and make a decision for the new season after the AGM.

25/7 European Championships

The President officially appointed GA as Team Manager for this event.

GA reported that initial information has been published and that the official invitation is expected to be published next week. It was decided to keep the levy at £25.

25/8 **World Championships**

The team format has been announced as being the same as the European Team format. It was decided to keep the selection criteria the same as the European Teams. LW to amend the published WC rules to reflect this. **LW**

25/9 **AGM**

It was agreed to hold the AGM on 22 March after the Age Groups events have finished. There were no extraordinary items for the agenda. CM, GA and JH will be the committee members whose positions are up for re-election. There will be a Q and A session, if needed, after the meeting. LW to circulate the agenda. **LW**

25/10 **Website**

The website is potentially vulnerable due to the former webmaster having written bespoke code and he is being relied on to fix bugs etc that no-one else has the expertise to do. It was suggested and agreed to begin exploring more robust, longer term solutions. CM and LW to investigate options. **CM/LW**

25/11 **Sponsorship**

Goody bags for Guildford have been suggested. It was agreed that TA should approach the Hogsback Brewery near Guildford to see whether they would sponsor the event by donating beer for the competitors/winners. **TA**

25/12 **Trips to the fencing museum**

These trips, organised by JH, have been very successful. JH has written an article for LW to send to membership which should generate more interest for more people to visit this year. **JH/LW**

25/13 **AOB**

The newsletter did not go out in December and nobody has commented. It was decided to have two issues a year. One after the European Teams or Individuals and one around Christmas time after the World Championships. This will remain under review dependent upon feedback. **GA**

25/14 **Date of the next meeting**

The provisional date for the next meeting is 26 April