

### *Scotland win Arthur!*



**Members of Team Scotland - winners of the Celtic Challenge**

Photos by Editor

**Celtic Challenge in words and photos**

**Vets in Malta**

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## Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Frank Mills is currently not well so I have written this on his behalf. I am sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. John Mason has taken on the role of event manager for the Winton Cup, with support from committee members. If you are taking part and have not yet booked your dinner please do so online on our website by 28<sup>th</sup> August. If you have not yet bought a BVF 100 club number you can do so at the dinner as well as some tickets for the dinner raffle.

I hope you have been able to have a break of some sort during the summer and are raring to start the new season. A busy season lies ahead for some of you with the Winton Cup, the Veterans World Championships and the Veterans Commonwealths and for our Welsh members, the WVFA Nationals, plus of course a plethora of open competitions.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the Winton!

Kind regards,

**Gillian Aghajan**  
Editor

## BVF Calendar 2014

See BVF website home page for European competitions and events - [www.veterans-fencing.co.uk](http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk)

BVF CALENDAR 2014	
Aug 24-29	Veterans Training Camp, Valles (BZ), Italy
Aug 24-31	Veterans Training Camp, Lizzano, Italy Event Manager - Marcia Stretch
Sep 6-7	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall Event Manager - Frank Mills
Oct 11-12	Welsh Veterans Championships, Wrexham details: <a href="mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net">g.aghajan@virgin.net</a>
Oct 21-26	World Championships, Debrecen, Hungary Event Manager - David Sweeney
Nov 16-19	Veterans Commonwealth Championships, Largs, nr Glasgow
Nov 30	BVF v Royal Navy, <i>HMS President</i> 72 St Katharines Way, London. E1W 1UQ Event Manager: Pete Baron

## Celtic Challenge 2014

The Celtic Challenge, originally started by the WVFA, has taken place every two years since 2004. The first three events were hosted by Wales, followed by Cornwall in 2010, Galicia, Spain in 2012 and this year by Scotland in Queensferry, Edinburgh.

Veteran fencers are invited from the Celtic regions: Brittany, Channel Islands, Cornwall, Galicia, Asturias, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, The Republic of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

The rules of the competition are:

Fencers must be a minimum of 40 years of age, a member of BVF or their own national Veterans Governing body and in possession of a valid and current fencing licence. To qualify to fence in The Celtic Challenge a fencer must also meet one of the following criteria:

- have been born in one of the Celtic countries or regions named above
- have a parent or grandparent who was born in one of the Celtic countries or regions
- be currently and permanently resident in one of the Celtic countries or regions for a minimum of four years.

Spouses or partners of fencers who do not meet any of the above qualifying criteria are not eligible.

The Celtic Challenge is run as individual competition but the Regions nominate 3 of their fencers in each weapon at the start of the event whose results are used to calculate the overall Team Results.

Winners have been as follows:

2004	Wales
2006	Wales
2008	Wales
2010	Cornwall
2012	Galicia
2014	Scotland



**Karen  
receives  
Arthur!**

As well as fencing, there is of course, always a social evening with a dinner and it has almost become a competition in itself for the hosts put on a great evening. Cornwall broke the mould in 2010 in Truro with superb live music by Jon Salfield and Simon Stanton. In 2012, the Galicians too were excellent hosts, and in tribute to Carol Wengraf, who tragically died on piste during the event, the gala dinner was held in her honour with traditional Galician customs and Flamenco dancing in Santiago de Compostela.

Karen Grant and her fellow Scottish team of organisers were also excellent hosts, with a well run competition in a good venue and an unusual social event. Despite the one evening of not so good weather, the social dinner cruise on The Maid of Forth on the Forth of Firth was a fantastic evening with everyone enjoying neeps and haggis and a good sing-song.

The standard of fencing continues to get higher and the event is very competitive and keenly fought, but as always as Vets events the mutual respect and camaraderie is tangible. Arthur is a coveted trophy. This year Scotland won, with Wales in second place.

Full individual and team results can be found on Scottish fencing's website:

<http://scottish-fencing.co.uk/results/2014/07/28/scotland-win-celtic-challenge-2014>

Grateful thanks from all the 2014 participants go to Karen Grant and her team for their hard work in preparing and running the event.

Ireland will be hosting the next Celtic Challenge in 2016.

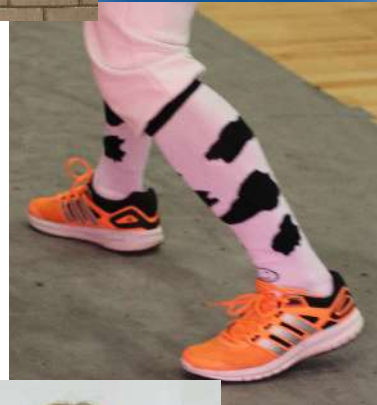
***Gillian Aghajan***



***Jon and Simon  
2010***



***A Galician custom  
(a potent brew....) 2012***



# On the Firth of Forth

Photos  
by  
Editor



## Vets go to Malta

Three Vets travelled to Malta for the 17th St Paul's Fencing Club Malta Open in June.

### Day one – foil

There was a time when the GB contingent had little difficulty with one of them coming back with the Foil trophy. It is now quite a number of years since we have been able to achieve this and the best we did this year was for Mike Bradbury to finish 5<sup>th</sup> and Jim Pilkington 11<sup>th</sup>. The weapon was won by Juan Alconero from Spain with Nikol Milkovic from Malta taking 2<sup>nd</sup>. The weapon is always closely fought and it is the one at which the Maltese are the most challenging.

### Day two – épée and sabre

The épée poule round began on a sweltering hot day to the sound of fireworks thundering in the heat and punctuated regularly by Sunday morning church bells.

It was a small turnout but with fencers from USA, Spain, France, Britain, Honduras, Slovenia and of course Malta the event had a truly international flavour. British Veterans were represented by Mike Bradbury (8<sup>th</sup>), Jim Pilkington (12<sup>th</sup>) and Mark Richardson (10<sup>th</sup>).

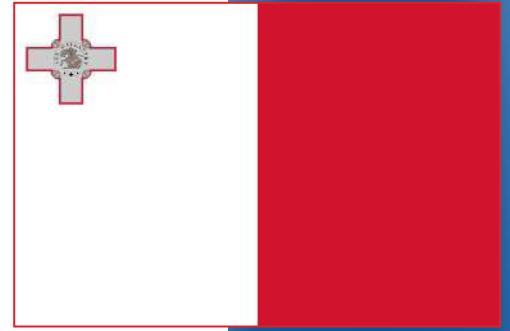
After the individual épée there was time for a small sabre competition with Mark and Jim fighting it out for a place in the last four. It was a close match but Richardson just scraped by with a win only to be eliminated in the semi final by Norman Martinez from Honduras.

Then came the team épée. Juan Formosa split the fencers up according to final positions in the individual round so the teams were evenly matched. Mark and Jim made up a team with André Zahra from Malta and fenced against two other mixed teams. They were all pretty close matches but Mark, Jim and André took the gold after being undefeated at the end of the poule unique.

Just for fun at the end of the day, with all of us pretty much on our last legs, Juan single handedly took on, Jim, Mark and André in a team sabre match to 45 points which he won convincingly!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day of fencing with a great atmosphere and plenty of new friendships made.

### Golden Bay



*Salt Pans - Gozo*



The rest of the week was spent holidaying on Malta with trips to Gozo, Comino and lovely beaches around the island. Mark and Jim ended each day by fencing on the hotel roof as the sun began to set over St Paul's Bay.

One change that will be made next year is to the recommended place for the GB fencers to stay. For the last 10 years the recommendation has been the Santana Hotel in Qawra. This hotel still provides good facilities for the price charged but we have been offered a better deal by one of the Maltese fencers, Kyle Borg who owns the Luna Holiday Complex in Mellieha.



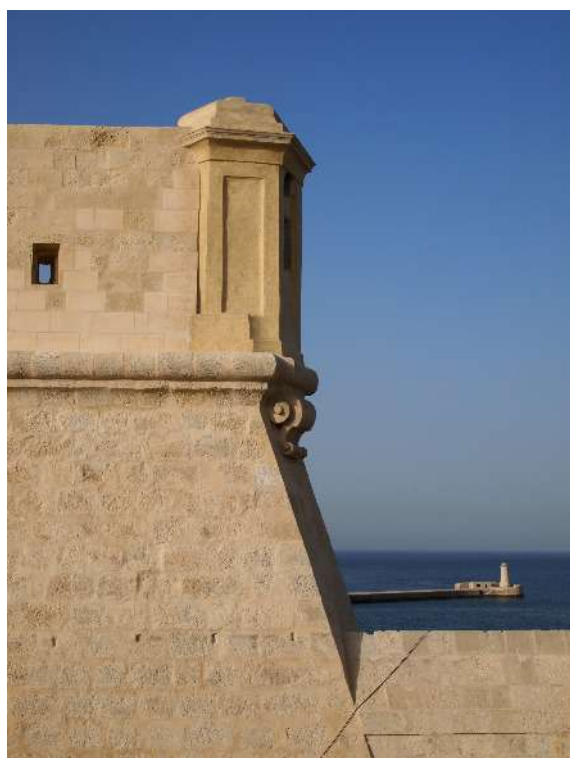
### ***Blue Lagoon Comino***

It provides well-appointed rooms (each with its own cooking facility) and the plan is to encourage all the visiting fencers to stay there and make a minibus a viable option for getting to the venue: not only that, but also to add the possibility for a bit of sparring with the other visitors in the evenings. A bit of freeplay with Juan Alconero who for two years running has won both the foil and epee trophies may be useful in finding his weaknesses!

Dates and updated info will be posted on the Salago website in the autumn.

[www.salago.co.uk](http://www.salago.co.uk)

***Mark Richardson***



### ***Fort St Elmo Valetta***

***Photos courtesy of  
Mark Richardson***

### ***Trek in the Himalayas***

**5 day trek in the Annapurna region  
plus 5 days in Kathmandu - just £695**

**For info click on [www.salago.com](http://www.salago.com)**

## Competition results (top half)

### Oxfam Open - 21/6/2014

WS (9) 3T Lisa Deluca

### KCC Open - 6/7/2014

ME (40) 2 John Hyde  
3 Will Miller  
5 Howard West  
12 Mike Bradbury  
15 Mark Richardson

### Elite Epee - 12/7/2014

ME (74) 14 Jason Scrimshaw  
15 Chris Howser  
22 Tim Buzwell  
23 Stephen Domek  
25 Howard West  
30 Robin Davenport  
33 George Liston  
34 Neal Mallett  
18 Paul Drake  
19 Max Telfer

WE (55) 20 Sara Spence  
23 Kate Smith  
24 Nicola Hull

### Norfolk Open - 19/07/2014

MF (48) 3T Richard Sage  
6 John Troiano  
17 Paul Abrahams  
20 Philip Westley

ME (39) 9 Andrew Brown  
12 Paul Willmott  
13 Mark Richardson  
3T Nicola Hull

MS (16) 8 Tony Bardell

WF (18) 7 Kate Harris

WE (11) 3T Silvia Earl  
3T Mariette Mason

WS (8) 3T Tracy Russen

### London Open - 26/7/2014

ME (43) 15 Will Miller

### Leon Paul Summer Open - 10/08/2014

MF (31) 6 Paul Wedge  
11 Anthony Bartlett  
12 John Troiano

ME (61) 2 Jason Scrimshaw  
14 Howard West  
16 Hugh Kernohan

WE (17) 6 Helen Thouless  
7 Marg Oniye



**Fancy a flutter? Feeling lucky?  
Like to win £500, £300, £20?**

***Your BVF needs you!***

**We are privileged to be hosting the European Veterans Team  
Championships in Medway, Kent in 2016**

There are many plans to be put in place, but very good progress is being made

Please help by supporting the BVF 100 Club

Choose your favourite number between 1 – 100  
Each one costs £20

Pay on-line to S Church,  
Sort Code 09-01-28      Account No. 59581043

Cheques payable to Sue Church and send to  
Sue Church, 3 St Martin's Cottages, St Martin's Road,  
Bilborough, Nottingham NG8 3BH

Cash is welcome

Please indicate your second choice of number in case your first choice has already been snapped up

Please get in touch!      [sue.trysport@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sue.trysport@tiscali.co.uk)

When the 100 tickets have all been sold the draw will take place at a BVF dinner e.g. BVF Championships, Veterans Winton

Prizewinners will be announced in the BVF Newsletter



## Editor's Note:

The BVF newsletter is your voice: a chance for you to put forward your views, send reports, letters, photos or articles.

Please speak up!

Send to me:

[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

## Caption Competition July/August

send your entry to Editor

[g.aghajan@virgin.net](mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net)

*Photos  
by Editor*



## Caption Competition June

*'Seniors' Competency Test:  
"Can you show ten past two on the big clock?"'*

**Paul Brenda**

*'Our world-class training scheme for foil referees guarantees  
absolute accuracy and consistency'*

**John Roberts**

*"Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Ooh... We told him  
he was too old to flèche"*

**Kate Elvin**



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**PLEASE NOTE**  
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