

South West does it again!



Members of the South West Team - winners of the 2014 Winton Cup

Photo by Editor

Winton Cup - report and photos
Training in Italy
Competition results

CONTENTS

Front Page
Team South West -
winners of the Winton
Cup

Pages 2-3
Chairman's letter
Winton Cup results

Page 4
Winton Cup report

Pages 5-6
Winton in photos

Pages 7-9
Training in Lizzano

Page 10
Competition results

Page 11
Caption competition

Page 12
BVF contacts

Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

You will have received a letter from me informing you that Frank Mills had made what was both a carefully considered and difficult decision to resign as Chairman because of his health, and that I have been appointed as Chairman until the next AGM by the committee, but for the benefit of our circle of international readers I include the following extract here:

'Frank Mills was taken ill a year ago and seemed to make a full recovery following chemotherapy. He has now been diagnosed with further complications that require a more aggressive treatment. He has taken the difficult decision to resign as Chairman of BVF and from the BVF committee. The committee members and I are saddened at his decision but fully understand his reasons. I am sure that you will join me in wishing him the very best as he faces another round of chemotherapy. He has assured me that he intends to continue to show an interest in all things BVF and to attend events when he is in better health.'

'Frank had been a committee member of the BVF (previously NVA) for 18 years, and served as Chairman since March 2008. He has always worked tirelessly for the benefit of BVF, and the committee and membership will miss his presence. His quick wit has put a smile on many faces on many occasions and his smooth voice, as master of ceremonies at many events, has always been appreciated and enjoyed.'

Frank has asked me to say that he very much appreciates all the messages of goodwill that you have sent.

The Winton Cup was a great success and it was heartening to see some very familiar faces and some new ones too. Well done to South West on retaining their title. With three teams tying for second place, final positions took some working out! Frank had started the organisation but handed over the role of Event Manger to John Mason, who did a sterling job. My thanks go to both of them and also to the rest of the DT team, John Crouch and Marcia Stretch; to Peter Baron and Janet and Peter Huggins for setting up the pistes together with a band of volunteers on the Friday evening in record time, and of course to the Huggins for running the armoury and to Bob Head from Leon Paul. To those of you who helped set up and/or clear up at the end of the event, thank you. It was superb team work!

Thanks also to Marcia for organising the dinner raffle and auction. You will see her report in this newsletter. The dinner was very well attended. It is always an enjoyable challenge for me to plan a dinner and this one was no exception. I hope those of you who attended had a good time. Congratulations to the team who had full marks in both of the quizzes! I think next time though I might consider confiscating mobile phones.... or will have to think of something where the answers can't be found on the Internet...!

(contd)

October sees the Veterans World Championships in Debrecen, Hungary. Good luck to our GBR squad in both the individual and team events, and to Team Manager David Sweeney. I hope it will be both a successful and enjoyable experience for all of you who will be there.

The Senior and Veteran Commonwealth Championships are being held in Largs, Glasgow in November and I am very pleased to inform you that some BVF members will have a presence at the Senior Event. Congratulations to Jane Hutchison, who will be fencing sabre for England, Beth Davidson who is England's Team Manager, and to Georgina Usher and George Liston who will both be fencing épée for Scotland.

Sincerely,

Gillian Aghajan
Chairman

Winton Cup Final Positions

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 st | South West |
| 2 nd | Yorkshire |
| 3 rd | South East |
| 4 th | Southern |
| 5 th | Midlands |
| 6 th | London |
| 7 th | North West |
| 8 th | Wales |
| 9 th | North Britain (NNE) |

Full results can be found on the website:

<http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/results/winton-2014.pdf>



Foil action at the Winton

Photo by Editor

Trek in the Himalayas

**5 day trek in the Annapurna region
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Winton Cup 2014

This year we were able to have access to the venue on the Friday evening again and thanks to volunteers who kindly turned up to help, 18 pistes and boxes were laid out in 1½hrs. As there was no sound system, a loudhailer was available but unfortunately was not effective in the morning but several loud voices helped throughout the day. Pool sheets were prepared and the competition was under way. Looking down from the balcony was an impressive sight to see so many veteran fencers at one time. The first day progressed well and finished in good time for people to return to hotels to get ready for the Dinner which was held in the Park Inn - 123 people attended. Gillian, as always, had surpassed herself with two quizzes. One table won both quizzes with a maximum score – perhaps Google helped! The raffle took place with a slightly different format of the dinner place cards being used as the draw which also meant that only one prize could be won by each person drawn. A slight change to normal was an auction of a Leon Paul bag and a briefcase that had been donated. The total amount raised from the Raffle and Auction was £462.00 which will go towards the budget for the European Team Championships 2016 which we will be hosting. A disco played after dinner for those more enthusiastic dancers while the rest moved to the bar area or bed.

The second day started earlier but again thanks to the admin team, the competition ran very smoothly and finished at 3.30pm - the earliest yet! The result was that three teams tied for 2nd place which was decided on overall victories with only a narrow margin between them. The SW again won the Winton Cup.

Again thanks to stalwart volunteers the equipment was cleared away as pistes became free. Thanks must go to Peter & Janet Huggins for all their hard work as Armourers and to Bob from Leon Paul.

We now look forward to next year's Winton Cup and hope that it may be possible for full teams at all weapons to make an even more enjoyable and challenging event.

Marcia Stretch

***Fencers listen intently
at the Winton!***

Photo by Editor



A taste of Winton



Winton winning smiles :-)!



Photos by Editor

Training in Lizzano, Italy

Master Team 2014 Foil, Epée, Sabre

As you may have seen, the committee has decided to take the initiative to encourage those considering taking part in foreign events by providing a clearing house for those expressing an interest in attending an event, with a coordinator nominated for certain events chosen for their likelihood of attracting interest. Those considering going would then be put in touch in order to discuss travel and other arrangements.

One of the first of these was the veterans' training event offered internationally by the Virtus Fencing Club in Bologna.



Three BVF members decided to give it a try, Peter & Janet Baron and Caron Hale. Here are some details and impressions of the camp.

Venue: Lizzano in Belvedere, Bologna region, Italy. Set in lovely Appenine mountain scenery some 60 km from Bologna and 90km from Florence, the fencing was in the local sports hall with 15 metal pistes and a warm up area. We were told that it was "just down the hill - 300 metres." It turned out to be at least 1/4 mile to the turn off to the sports centre and then the 300 metres must have meant from the road down an even steeper hill – which needed to be climbed on the way back of course. But we did go to get fit.... didn't we?

Duration: Two options were offered;

- 7 days' training, with dinner on arrival Saturday 23rd August with departure after breakfast on Sunday 31st
- 3/4 day's training with dinner on Thursday 23rd August with departure after breakfast on Sunday 31st.

The latter probably had more local fencers in mind since fencing for that version started on Thursday but there was the option to train on Sunday before departing for home.

Accommodation: Participants were divided between the Hotel Montepizzo, where any foreign guests were housed, and another hotel on the neighbouring side of the small piazza.

The hotel was very pleasant with a large dining room, a comfortable lounge area with a mixture of sofas and tables with armchairs, an outside terrace, of course, and a more private sun terrace on the first floor. The rooms we saw were comfortable and had good private facilities but ours was a little cramped as a double. Our kit bags lived at the sports centre for the week and in the car when not there. Where we would have put them in the room is only to be guessed.

*Lizzano in
Belvedere*
[http://
www.panoramio.
com](http://www.panoramio.com)



Accommodation was billed as full board. It was. Breakfast was a buffet with a good choice of the usual continental selection, which varied daily. We were expecting to be provided with a packed lunch but, no, we all trooped back to the hotel for a 4 course meal! Main meals consisted of a starter buffet with plenty of variety followed, naturally, by a pasta dish – don't think we had spaghetti once - and then a main course, which, in typical Italian style was your meat dish with a garnish of a vegetable or potato. Dessert was a fairly limited choice options but included tiramisu, ice creams and sorbet, of course. Sometimes there was also a cake option. On the whole the food was very good and certainly sufficient in quantity.

Training: There were some 70 youngsters from about 10/11 upwards, virtually all sabreurs, plus a handful of Vets, perhaps 10 there for the whole week. The day was divided into 2 sessions: for the oldies, the morning was 09:30 – 12:00 and then 16:00 – 19:00. The children started about half an hour earlier. Wednesday afternoon was a rest period – I think for everyone, as the head coach spent the afternoon on a short jaunt in the mountains on his mountain bike – just 40km or so.

The routine varied slightly but each day started with a warm up – “tailored to Veterans” for an hour followed by half an hour's stretching exercises. The afternoon started with a shortened version. There was certainly an element of sufficiently strenuous exercise aimed at improving fitness over the week. What followed varied from day to day and from weapon to weapon. I think it is true to say that the whole camp was basically aimed at sabreurs, with the rest as add-ons. The lead coach Vittorio Carrara, known to a number of BVF members as one of their top veteran fencers and 50+ World Champion, is one of Italy's top sabre coaches. Of the Veterans there were only a couple each of epeeists and foilists. Things improved from that point of view with more Vets, all Italian, arriving on the Thursday.

As a result, I think I, as a sabreurs of sorts, had the best of it. The training was more structured, with class lessons – mainly footwork (Vittorio's credo is that in sabre footwork is paramount and who's to argue) - followed by “themed” free play. This was mainly in the form of fencing without blade contact, to practise the footwork exercises we had being doing. Later, when the restriction was removed there was still an emphasis on distance as the main focus. We all also had individual lessons, roughly every other day.

**Vittorio Carrara at the Veterans
World Championships in Krems,
Austria 2013**

Photo by Editor



Conclusion: Overall I think it is true to say that all 3 of us enjoyed the week and got something out of it – besides a sun tan. (Most of the physical training was done outside in temperatures of 25°C+ in the full sun). As I said, I think I benefited most. We all survived the boot camp aspect and benefited from the individual lessons that Jan and I rarely get these days. Additional benefits for me were learning to referee in Italian and knowing how to get right of way if the ref is Italian – definitely a plus point for future international events.

Would we do it again? Not sure; it was an enjoyable experience but whether we got enough benefit to justify the expense of travelling that distance is debatable. Having said that, the price of €650 was very reasonable, given that we had 2 four course meals every day. Based on what we saw of the room charges very little of the price went to the fencing side of it - unless the organisers got a huge discount. I don't know why the Italian participants were mainly sabreurs. Some obviously, would be from Vittorio's club; possibly the organising club, Virtus, is predominately sabre, although it's not obvious from their website and their main coach is currently World Masters individual and team Epée champion! Then too, as the course lead coach is a sabre specialist, it is understandable. It might be better if that is likely to remain the situation that the main participant group is sabre, it were advertised as a sabre course.

In our case, we made it an excuse to travel through France and spend a day or two in Florence. So it made for an enjoyable holiday. Others with more limited free time at any one time of the year might be less willing to give up the time especially if they do the other two weapons.

Peter Baron

BVF Calendar 2014

See BVF website home page for European competitions and events - www.veterans-fencing.co.uk



BVF CALENDAR 2014

Oct 11-12	Welsh Veterans Championships, Wrexham details: g.aghajan@virgin.net
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, HMS President 72 St Katharines Way, London. E1W 1UQ Event Manager: Pete Baron

Competition results (top half)

Oxfam Open - 21/06/2014

MF (137)	7	Ceri Richards
	8	Tony Williams
ME (32)	1	Robin Davenport
	6	Michael Ramsden
WS (10)	3T	Lisa Deluca

Essex Open - 13/09/2014

MF (137)	21	Mike McKay
	63	Nick Hills
ME (73)	7	Leslie MacDonald
	27	Paul Townson
	28	Paul Willmott
	29	Adam Steiner
	31	Stephen Domek
MS (10)	3	Duncan Rowlands
WF (59)	25	Kate O'Connell
WE (11)	1	Georgina Usher
	6	Marg Oniye
	18	Mariette Mason
WS (4)	2	Tracy Russen

Bristol Open - 20/09/2014

MF (92)	16	Nicholas Mort
ME (107)	13	John Chalmers
	22	Neal Mallett
	30	John Leahy
	33	Stephen Domek
	37	Hugh Kernohan
	50	Adam Steiner
	52	Nathan Miller
MS (72)	29	Julian Ghosh
WF (42)	20	Jenny Morris
WE (69)	1	Georgina Usher
	23	Nicola Hull
	31	Gillian Stone
WS (35)	6	Jane Hutchison

Congratulations and Good Luck to BVF members taking part in the Senior Commonwealths in Largs!

SCOTLAND

Georgina Usher - epée

George Liston - epée



ENGLAND

Jane Hutchison - sabre

Beth Davidson - Team manager



Apologies that the men's results for the Oxfam Open were not available for inclusion in the July/August newsletter - Editor

Congratulations to double medal winner Georgina Usher!

1st place WE at the Essex Open and the Bristol Open!

and to Robin Davenport - 1st ME at the Oxfam Open in June!

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

**Caption Competition
September**
send your entry to Editor
g.aghajan@virgin.net

*Photo
by Editor*



**Caption Competition
July/August**
Editor's choice -
Tony Westacott

*I can't see them
up there.*

*Don't look at me, I've
got a set of my own!*

*Has anyone seen
my teeth?*



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PLEASE NOTE
Any articles or letters for the October BVF Newsletter should be sent to:-

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