



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2015

Winners at the Worlds!



**Medallists at the Veterans World Championships
Limoges, France**

Photos by Editor

World Championships

Dawne Bird

SeniorPlus vote

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

What an amazing week at what was a very well organised and enjoyable Veterans World Championships in Limoges, France. Some very tense and exciting matches with some great results for our squad. Special congratulations to our medal winners:

GOLD	Paul Wedge Men's Foil Team:	Men's Foil Cat B John Troiano, Richard Sage, Paul Wedge, Graham Paul, Brian Causton, Malcolm Fare
SILVER	Tony Bartlett Viv Frith Bill Osbaldeston	Men's Foil Cat B Women's Sabre Cat B Men's Epée Cat C
BRONZE	Peter Baron	Men's Sabre Cat C

Four of our fencers narrowly missed out on winning a medal by just one hit: Brian Causton and Malcolm Fare (Men's Foil Cat C), Andy Bornemisza (Men's Sabre Cat C) and Janet Cooksey (Women's Foil Cat C). You will find reports on the Championships on pages 5-9.

It was sad to hear of the death of Dawne Bird, one of the first members of the NVA.

Thank you to all of you who replied to the SeniorPlus email with comments and votes on the FIE Veterans Council proposal for FIE to change the name of FIE Veterans to FIE SeniorPlus. I received 246 replies (37% of the membership as at the closing date.) The results were:

Number of votes:		Votes as percentages:	
YES	92	YES	38%
NO	146	NO	59%
no opinion/abstain	8	no opinion/abstain	3%

As this was a fair and open process, as agreed by the BVF committee, BVF has requested and recommended that the Great Britain FIE Council representative votes NO to the proposal if the vote takes place at the FIE Congress in China later this month.

Don't forget that the closing date for ordering a new BVF tracksuit to ensure delivery before ET16 is 1st December. An ideal present for Christmas! These tracksuits are designed by fencers for fencers. Full details were in the September newsletter and there is a reminder on page 10.

It is time to lead the way with a new image and 2016 is the ideal time!

Sincerely,
Gillian Aghajan
Chairman



BVF Calendar 2015

BVF CALENDAR 2015

Dec 4-8 Veterans Training Camp, Imolal (Bologna)

Dec 6 BVF v Royal Navy, HMS President 72 St Katharine's Way, London. E1W 1UQ
Event Manager: Peter Baron

See BVF website home page for European competitions and events - www.veterans-fencing.co.uk. There is a good selection of European events before Christmas.

John Mason receives his British Fencing Gold medal at the BF AGM from Hilary Philbin, President of BF

Very well deserved John!

Photo by Karim Bashir



Dawne Bird - 1930 - 2015

A letter from Henry



Dear Gillian,

It is with regret I announce the death of Dawne Bird. She was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2012. She went into remission but in March this year it returned.

Dawne had always wanted to do fencing as a youngster, but couldn't afford it through bringing up a family, and also her job as a dance teacher limited her time. Through her work as a dance teacher she was invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

After learning about the Vets, she was one of the first, at the the age of 60. Encouraged by her husband Bob, she joined Woodhouse Eaves Fencing Club, run by myself. She had individual lessons at her dance studio and to have a rest she would tell some jokes, then start her lesson again, then tell more jokes.

Dawne helped out at the Leon Paul Junior series in order to raise funds for the Vets. She was the after dinner entertainer, getting together her crew of Pressy, Maureen Hillier and Sue Church for a song and dance at Beaumanor Hall.

Bob encouraged her to join 'Henry's Army' and she travelled around. In Corsica her daughter joined her from Cyprus. She won several medals and certificates: a Bronze in the 70+ at the Europeans in Hungary, a Gold in the Plate at the Wenlock Games beating people who were fifty years younger than herself.

Even though her illness stopped her fencing, she still went to Woodhouse Eaves to help out. She enjoyed giving of herself a ready smile, a joke, and typically has donated her body to Science. There will be a memorial service at a later date.

Sincerely,

Henry de Silva



Veterans World Championships - reports

Great Britain won two gold medals, three silver and a bronze at this year's Veterans World Championships in Limoges. Paul Wedge started the ball rolling by winning the 31-strong individual men's foil category B (60-69). All the Brits in this category put in strong performances – Graham Paul and Steve Fox made the quarter-finals, while Wedge and Tony Bartlett faced off in the final. Both men fence each other regularly at the Lansdowne Club and on this occasion Bartlett raced ahead, using his speedy footwork and neat hand to build up a 5-0 lead. Slowly Wedge began to find his form, but was still 3-8 down as the end of the second period approached. A flurry of attacks from both sides and two crisp ripostes from Wedge saw him equalise at 9-all as time expired. In the minute of extra time, he took advantage of a tentative attack from Bartlett to launch a successful counter-attack and add a world title to his European gold.



At 9-9 in a very exciting final!

Wedge and Brian Causton took the leading roles in GB's stunning victory in the men's foil team event. Seeded second after the results of the individual competitions, the team consisted of three fencers and three reserves, two each from categories A (50-59), B (60-69) and C (70+). As fresh arrivals in their respective categories – Wedge (B) and Causton (C) – were the team's strongest fencers as GBR beat France and Russia in the poules and then knocked out Japan 30-20 in the quarter-finals. They met Russia again in the semi-finals by which time Causton was fading, having chalked up 36 hits in the team's previous three matches. But in the last bout he just held off the Cat C world champion, Gari Aftandilov, to win by one hit. GB then met top seeds Germany in the final. Despite a strained muscle in his left leg, Wedge hammered out 19 hits in his two sessions and Causton, after being rested for the first leg, stormed back in the last bout to crush his opposite number 10-3 and seal Britain's first world team gold by 30-24.

A very happy men's foil team!

Paul Wedge

Brian Causton

Graham Paul

John Troiano (captain)

Richard Sage

Malcolm Fare



The 49-strong Cat C men's epee saw the arrival of GB's second silver medal, as reigning world champion Bill Osbaldeston rode his luck with three last-hit DE victories to reach the final against Suchanek (GER). Both fencers probed cautiously until the final minute when the German edged ahead and then defended strongly to win 5-2, leaving Osbaldeston with silver.

Vivian Frith delivered our third silver medal in the cat. B women's sabre. Seeded 5th after the first round in her 24-strong event, she knocked out Bender (USA) 10-8 in the quarter-finals and then former champion Aubailly (FRA) by the same score in the semis to reach the final where she met reigning world champion Jane Eyre (USA), who had knocked her out in the semi-finals last year. Eyre again proved too strong and Frith had to be content with silver.



Suchanek (GER) and Bill Osbaldeston in thought before their final

Peter Baron in semi final v Pinkus (USA)



Viv Frith v Jane Eyre (USA in the final)

Peter Baron won bronze in the 27-strong cat. C men's sabre. Thirteenth seed after poules, he took out Aussedat (FRA) 10-8 and then fourth seed Bianchini (ITA) 10-7 to reach the quarter-finals against Bill Osbaldeston, an encounter he won 10-7 before going out by the same score in the semi-finals to Pinkus (USA).

Narrowly missing out on a medal by one hit were Brian Causton and Malcolm Fare (cat. C men's foil), Janet Cooksey (Cat C women's foil) and Andy Bornemisza (Cat C men's sabre). Connie Adam continued to defy the years, 17 years older than some of her cat. C women's sabre opponents, yet winning two fights in her poule and then her first DE 10-6 against Kitami (JPN), a mere 74, to finish eighth at the age of 87.

Malcolm Fare



Photos by Editor

Team Manager's Summary

This was my first Veterans World Championships as Team Manager and it was a enjoyable and memorable experience for me. The event was exceptionally well organised and run and although highly competitive on piste, there was a tangible sense of respect and camaraderie off piste both amongst the fencers, organisers and supporters; the elements which make Veterans fencing special. A few minor glitches but nothing that detracted from making the event a success. The quality of refereeing was excellent.

The team hotels; Hotel Inter-Atrium and B&B Gare were both good and the staff at both extremely courteous and helpful. Bus transfers to and from Limoges airport were well run and on time. The GBR team members all fenced their best on the day and were incredibly supportive of each other. Some spectacular and nail biting fencing, some brilliant results and some disappointments - the sport of fencing.

Congratulations not just to the medallists but to all of the GBR squad who were as always, gracious in both victory and defeat. To the squad - I am incredibly proud of all of you.



**Photos by
Editor**



Thanks to our GB FIE referees Mike Thornton and Adrian Speakman both of whom did a tireless and superb job. Thanks also to Mike's wife Mavis who was our 'chief supporter' and IT guru, supplying results as they happened and cheering everyone on!

**Huges
Le Merre
presents
Connie with a
bouquet of
flowers**

Referees Adrian and Mike

Connie Adam was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Huges Le Merre, President of the 2015 Veterans World Championships Organisation Committee and President of Cercle d'Escrime de Limoges on behalf of the FIE and CEL in recognition of her being the oldest competitor at the event, aged 87, and her remarkable achievements in fencing, proving that age is no barrier in competing at such a high level.





With 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze medal, this placed Great Britain a very respectable 5th in the medal table.



1	USA	7	5	6	18
2	Italy	5	3	2	10
3	France	4	2	10	16
4	Germany	2	6	5	13
5	Great Britain	2	3	1	6
6	Hungary	2	0	0	2
7	Russia	1	2	6	9
8	Australia	1	0	0	1
9	Finland	0	1	3	4
10	Belgium	0	1	1	2
11	Japan	0	1	1	2
11	Netherlands	0	1	1	2
13	Austria	0	0	2	2
14	Canada	0	0	1	1
14	Macedonia	0	0	1	1
14	Spain	0	0	1	1
14	Sweden	0	0	1	1

There were several last 8 places:

MF B Graham Paul 5th
 Steve Fox 8th

MF C Brian Causton 6th
 Malcolm Fare 8th

WE B Jane Clayton 7th
WE C Janet Cooksey 5th

WS A Jane Hutchison 5th
WS B Yvonne Walls 5th
WS C Connie Adam 8th

MS B Chris Prevett 8th
MS C Bill Osbaldeston 5th
 Andy Bornemisza 6th

WF A Gillian Worman 8th
WF B Clare Halsted 6th

WF C Janet Cooksey 6th

Team results

MF - Gold WF - 8th
ME - 7th WE - 5th
MS- 6th WS - 4th

Full results can be found on the competition website:

Gillian Aghajan
GBR Team Manager

<http://www.engarde-service.com/files/limoges2015/vwch2015/>

New BVF Tracksuit



Designed by Anne Mills
Supplied by Ingrid Heskett

*Please note: colours are an indication
(variance on computer monitors)*

HOW TO PURCHASE:

Please click on the following link and place your order online:

<http://www.madebyi.com/bvf-gb-tracksuit/>

Orders must be placed by **December 1st 2015** and will be delivered towards the end of January 2016. All tracksuits will be made up to the size ordered and paid for. Don't miss your chance to order for 2016!

Full details and a measurement chart can be found in the September newsletter:

<http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/news-archive.shtml>



Royal Navy Match 2015

There are 2 women's foil places left. Please contact Peter Baron if you would like to take part but be quick!

- Date:** Sunday 6th December 2015 (*Note change of date from that originally published*)
- Time:** Fencing to commence at 10:00
- Format:** It will be across all 6 weapons (MF, WF, ME, WE, MS, WS). We are able to take up to two teams for each weapon.
- Venue:** **HMS President**
72 St Katharine's Way,
London,
E1W 1UQ



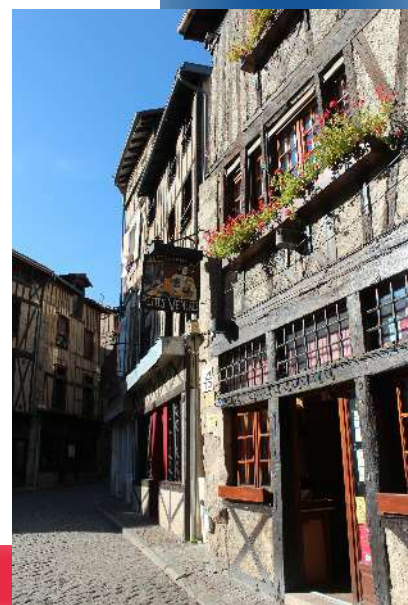
ET16 commemorative badges

Show your support for ET16 by purchasing an exclusive design ET16 boxed commemorative badge! The badge features the silver ET16 logo and comes in a special 25th anniversary box. The cost is £20 plus £3.75 P&P including insurance. Size 40mm diameter. All profits to ET16 funds. Contact Editor for further details.

Design by Anne Mills



Postcards from Limoges



Competition results (top half)

Miller-Hallett - 03/10/2015

ME (127)	8	Pete Eames
	19	Stephen Domek
	21	Hugh Kernohan
	30	Neal Mallett
	44	Will Miller
	45	Chris Taylor
	56	Tom Chrisp
	60	Adam Steiner

Milner Barry- 04/10/2015

WE (85)	35	Nicola Hull
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Sussex Open - 10/10/2015

MF (96)	15	Anthony Bartlett
	21	Paul Lowen
	23	Tony Williams

ME (31)	3T	Keith Barnett
	7	Paul Townsend
	15	Paul Baillache
	18	Will Miller
	21	Simon White

WF (11)	3T	Helen Thouless
	5	Amanda Gray

WE (13)	2	Helen Thouless
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Bedford Open Epee - 11/10/2015

ME (58)	2	Anton Pollard
	5	Howard West
	11	Pete Eames
	13	Adam Steiner
	15	Mark Richardson
	23	Stephen Domek
	23	Paul Townsend
	26	Max Telfer
	28	Tom Chrisp

WE (31)	3	Nicola Hull
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North West Open - 21/10/2015

ME (20)	3	Duncan Salter
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Reminder

Please remember to enter competitions using the name on your BVF membership card. If you use another name your results will not be found by the software that compiles the report as above.

**Competition results compiled
using Trawler software
© John Mason - Eureka Data**



**Caption
Competition
October**

2 this time! Send your entry to
Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net

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

*Photos by
Editor*



Photo A



Photo B

**Caption
Competition
September
Editor's choice -**

'Who's been a naughty boy!'

Geoff Silverman



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

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by 25th November 2015

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