



BVF COMMITTEE MEETING

The Copthorne Hotel, Slough, Windsor

26 October 2025

MINUTES

Present: Carl Morris (President) CM, Naomi Donaldson (ND), Paul Baillache (PB), Jane Hutchison (JH), Graham Paul (GP), Lucy Wright (LW), Gillian Aghajan (GA) (part)

25/27 Apologies

Beth Davidson, Theo Ayanwale.

25/28 Actions from previous meeting: complete

25/29 AGM 2026

It was agreed to hold the AGM at the Age Groups on Saturday 21 March 2026 after the fencing.

Members up for re-election are LW (secretary), BD and TA.

It was also agreed to add to the nomination form that there is an expectation that members must attend a minimum of 1 physical meeting and 2 zoom meetings per calendar year, unless it has been agreed with the President that there is a good reason for absence. **LW**

TA has been appointed to the Board of England Fencing and had enquired whether this was a conflict of interest with being on the BVF Committee. The Committee was of the opinion that this was not the case, but was concerned that the time commitment to fulfil both roles would be onerous.

25/30 Selection

25/30.1 Issues arising from World Selection

GP explained that there had been a complaint arising from the selection of the World Mens Foil Team this year. The selector was conflicted, due to him being one of the fencers under consideration, so his original selection was flawed. The shortlist he had drawn up, however, was published, due to a tight time frame which rushed the process. Once this issue was identified, the selection was then reviewed by the fellow selectors and Chairman of Selectors and a different set of fencers selected for the team. This was a cause of complaint to one of the fencers in the shortlist for the original selection. Delaying the selection of the team was seen to be a contributor to the problem and it was suggested that this could have been done much earlier.

The Committee discussed this matter and identified ways to improve the selection process.

25/30.2 Selection Rules and Regulations

The Committee redrafted the following Rules and Regulations concerning Selection for publication: **LW**

Selection

- To select fencers to represent BVF in international and domestic fencing events, in accordance with the published selection rules in force at the time of the selection for any given event.
- The Selection Panel shall consist of a Chair and up to six ordinary members.
- The Chair of Selectors is appointed by the President.
- The Chair of Selectors may, but need not, be a member of the BVF Committee.
- The Chair of Selectors shall serve until the first BVF Committee meeting following the next AGM, at which they will be eligible for re-appointment.
- The Chair of Selectors shall organise and oversee the selection process, and report to the BVF Committee on all matters relating to selection.
- Selection for representing BVF will be based on selection rules as promulgated on the BVF website. However, the committee reserves the right to prevent the selection of fencers who have by their behaviour, brought BVF into disrepute and/or have been detrimental to other members of the team.
- If the Chair of Selectors is not a member of the BVF Committee they have the right to attend, at BVF expense, any BVF Committee meeting when any matter relating to selection is discussed.
- Six BVF members proposed annually by the Chair of Selectors shall be discussed and ratified by the Committee every year after the World Championships. They shall be responsible for each gender in foil, epee and sabre.
- In the event that a Selector is conflicted in any discretionary decision, that Selector will recuse themselves from the process and the opposite gender weapon selector will make and justify the decision in conjunction with the Chair of Selectors who may consult other selectors for advice if needed.
- If the Chair of Selectors is conflicted, they ask another member of the Committee or another selector who is not conflicted in the weapon or age group to replace them.
- Any appeal against a decision made by the Selectors can only be made on the grounds of incorrect procedure or that decision being made on incorrect factual information relied upon by the selectors.
- Any complaint against a selection decision must be made to, and considered by, the President and the Chair of Selectors who will decide upon the validity of that claim and respond accordingly. Their decision on the matter will be final. If either of the two above are personally conflicted they will recuse them from the procedure and be substituted by another member of the committee.
- For the FIE World Championships if a fencer selected for the Team is unable to take up their place due to injury or similar, and the relevant Selector is not present then a replacement fencer already selected for the Individual will be substituted by the Chair of Selectors, or, if not available, their nominee.

Chair of Selectors

- To ensure all selections are made in a timely fashion
- To advise all selectors of their responsibilities of fairness, objectivity and reviewing all results
- To review all decisions
- To ensure where discretionary decisions have been made that they were objectively made and supported by written rationale by the relevant selector.
- To collate all written rationales for every discretionary selection decision and to keep these on record for reference.
- To be aware of any possible conflict and advise accordingly.

- To be responsible for the selection for team events other than the European Teams or the Worlds

Selectors

- To make timely selection decisions for either teams or other events as directed by the Chair of Selectors.
- A selector is conflicted if they are in contention for selection (unless qualified as of right) or they are directly related to a fencer. When conflicted, a selector must recuse themselves and the selection will then be made by the other weapon selector in consultation with the Chair of Selectors.
- Whenever a discretionary decision is made the rationale must be submitted in writing to the Chair of Selectors.

25/30.3 CM proposed that for the European Team and the World Championships the top two fencers from each age group ranking list should qualify as of right. The fifth member of the team is selected at the discretion of the selector. If one or more of these fencers drop out, then the selection of a replacement is at the selector's discretion.

The motion was carried by a majority 4-3.

LW

25/30.4 It was decided to use the results of the Nationals 2025 for the ranking list for the European Teams 2026. The Committee decided it was important to inform members that, going forward, the preceding Nationals will usually be used to select the European Teams. The Nationals can then stay in June which makes it more relevant to selecting for the World Championships.

LW

GA left the meeting.

25/31 **Competitions**

25/31.1 **Guildford 2026**

Date: 10/11 January.

The Committee noted the good progress made by Lyn Robinson towards organising this competition and noted the following:

Set up is from 7pm, but only for half the hall. The other half available from 8.

GP will bring the box stands.

GP

Email to be sent asking for setting up volunteers nearer the time.

LW

JH and GA Welfare Officers.

LW Check-in.

GA runner for both days.

Brian Speight briefed for ceremonies.

Should there be 3 people on DT?

LR

No epee competition on Sunday.

No late entries accepted.

Closing date 1 January – GP commented that it could be earlier.

New EVF rule concerning clubs will probably only apply to GB fencers.

LR

ND to liaise with Peter H regarding piste layout – GP has the plan.

ND

Finals piste needs a barrier.

PB to bring clipboards etc.

Advise that the armoury closes at 2pm to allow the armoury to pack up.

LW

Ask Jen at the Spectrum for podium.

25/31.2 **Age Groups 2026**

- Date: 21/22 March.
 Harvey Hadden Sports Village.
 ND to book accommodation, do risk assessment, arrange refreshments. **ND**
 LR booking referees. **LR**
 Peter H will be providing armoury and boxes.
 ND querying no discount from LP. **ND**
 PB – medals.
 Saint John’s Ambulance booked.
 Volunteers to be sought nearer the time. **LW**
- 25/31.3 Nationals 2026**
 Date: 19/20/21 June
 Bedford International Athletics Stadium.
 Venue booked and deposit paid.
 Peter H will be providing armoury and boxes.
 Camping power adapters may be needed to improve power distribution. **ND**
 Parking – maybe not enough at the venue, but there is paid parking across the road or the rugby field can be opened for £5 a car if there is no rugby match on. **ND**
 Café can be opened on request. **ND**
 Venue opens at 8am and shuts at 6pm – epee will have to get a move on.
 Saint John’s Ambulance to be booked.
- 25/31.4 Navy Match 2025**
 Date: 6 December
 HMS President
 Needs to be advertised for fencers to participate. **LW**
 Chair of Selectors to arrange BVF team **GP**
- 25/31.5 German Match 2026**
 The Committee thought that Cardiff would be a good venue. CM to contact Silke or Harald to ask their opinion on when the competition should take place (traditionally summer). **CM**
- 25/31.6 Winton 2025/26**
 The competition went very well. It was noted that a complaint was upheld that a fight was taken out of order. The Committee thought this was the wrong decision and that DT will be instructed next year that in the case of a simple mistake the result of the initial fight should stand. **LW**
 It was decided to book Lilleshall again next year on 19-20 September, although the same halls are not both free on that date. **LW**
 GA happy to continue to organise the dinner.
- 25/31.7 West Midlands Open 2025/26**
 The results of the survey seemed to indicate that there was interest in this competition, but not at Christmas and not with an associated dinner.
 The Committee agreed to underwrite the competition in 2026, but thought that it probably should be self-refereed.
 It was debated whether it should be Epee and Foil only and that the Bard’s Bash should be Sabre only. CM to liaise with Peter B and Chris B about this. **CM**
- 25/31.8 Bard’s Bash**
 JH to discuss with Chris B regarding a potential date and viability. Possibly Sabre only and marketed at regional fencers. **JH**

25/32 **Treasurer's Report**

The accounts for the year are looking fairly strong, having made an overall profit of £1000, despite also paying for the website.

Members might be lost in the transition to the new website.

The cost of venues, kit and referees mean that it is difficult for the Age Groups and Nationals to break even. Entry fees may need to be raised.

25/33 **PA equipment**

A large PA system which belongs to BVF has been found. The system is too large to transport around to competitions and a smaller one has been purchased. The equipment is currently in GP's garage and he was asked to look after it until it can be disposed of appropriately. **GP**

25/34 **Website**

The website is almost ready to launch, but LW has to upload a lot of missing information onto it and rewrite some of the content. **LW**

John M had kindly offered that his son, if needed, could maintain the current database and entry system, which is bespoke. This offer was appreciated, but the Committee felt it prudent to use available software which can be maintained and used by anyone, rather than a bespoke solution relying on limited resources.

John M's system is being used to take Guildford entries while the new website and membership is in transition.

25/35 **AOB**

PB to compose an Asset Register of BVF property. **PB**

The Committee thought it would be a good idea to invest in weapon specific training days before the European Teams.

25/36 **Date of the next meeting**

LW to carry out a Doodle poll for 2/3/4 and 9/10/11 February in the evening. **LW**