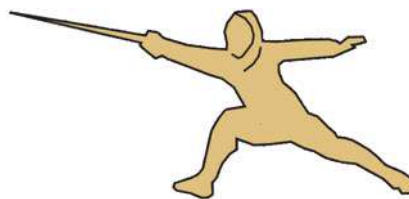


British Veterans Fencing



Newsletter - August 2010

Wales win the Celtic Challenge!



Photo by Mike Firth

Members of the winning Welsh team

Celtic Challenge Overall results

1st.....Wales
2nd.....Cornwall
3rd.....Scotland
4th.....Ireland

Report and further results in this issue

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

This is a quiet time for fencing in general, but there is much to look forward to in the coming season starting with the Veterans Winton Cup in September. This is the 3rd year we have run this event and it has been popular right from the start.

If you haven't yet booked your accommodation at the Park Inn, then please get in quickly as rooms are very limited in the whole of Telford due to another large event taking place locally. At the time of writing, rooms are still available by calling the hotel 01952 429988 and mentioning vets fencing when you book. Thanks go to John Mason for enabling everyone to book a menu choice for the Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening, and for the facility offered to Team Captains to post their team names on the website.

There will be a number of Christmas Events being organised around the UK for Vets. We took the decision to organise these in different parts of the country rather than just one event to enable members to cut down on travel and accommodation so we hope that you will be able to support an event nearest to you when details are published in the near future.

In last month's Newsletter, I stated that we would be announcing the winner of the new logo to match our new name, but that was somewhat optimistic as the committee is still considering a shortlist of designs. We have pulled forward our next meeting to 14th August and hopefully we will be able to reach a decision on this important item which will project our image for years to come.

Congratulations go to Mike Norfolk for his recent honour in receiving the MBE and for his British Fencing Bronze Medal. Well done Mike, and we all know just how hard you have worked for fencing and for Welsh Fencing in particular.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Mills
Chairman BVF

BVF CALENDAR 2010

Sep 11-12	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall National Sports Centre
Sep 29 - Oct 3	World Championships, Porec, Croatia
Sep 29 - Oct 5	Commonwealth Veterans - Melbourne, Australia
Oct 9-10	Welsh Veterans Championships, Swansea Contact Gillian Aghajan for details
Oct 31	Middlesex Epée - details to follow
Nov 27	Xmas dinner and fencing - details to follow

Invitation from the Selectors to Members of the 2010 European Squad

BVF members will be aware of the recent correspondence and articles in the newsletter about selection for representative events, and the discussions that took place in Skopje about selection rules and processes.

The selection rules are a matter for the committee and are currently under review. However, the selectors would like to invite any European squad members who expressed any particular concern about the implementation of the rules (including selection, ratification and appeals) to take part in a discussion. This discussion will take place during the weekend of the Vets Winton Cup, and will be chaired by Frank Mills.

Any interested member of the European squad should contact the European Team Manager, Linda Lawes (linda.lawes1@btinternet.com), or Hilary Philbin (hilaryphilbin@aol.com) so that suitable arrangements can be made.

Hilary Arnold
Hilary Philbin
Geoff Silverman
Cary Zitcer

Malta Open - a report by Jim Pilkington

Just to say I managed to pick up a bronze medal at the Malta Open in the individual epee. Much to my annoyance I went out in extra time having had priority and against the same young man (Pierre Bianchi) that five years ago, I managed to beat to take the gold, and that again was by just one hit. So Pierre had his revenge and went on to win against Eddie Crofton-Martin from London.

I was out there with my 19 year sparring partner Scott Willis from our local club, and when we both reached the quarter final, we had this exciting vision of fighting each other for the gold!. Unfortunately it was not to be; Scott was taken out by Eddie 15-13.

London 2012 Fencing Services Manager

LOCOG is recruiting a Fencing Services Manager, with a closing date of 1 September.

Full information can be found on the London 2012 website:

<https://locogrecruitment.london2012.com/jobs/main>

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London 2012

Volunteering as a Sports Specialist

The volunteering programme for sports specialists launched on 27 July. (Generalists will be able to apply from 15 September.) Applications for sports specialists and generalists will close on **27 October 2010**.

Applications can only be made online, with the use of a sports specialist identifier and code. Full information on how to apply is on the home page of the British Fencing website (<http://britishfencing.com/news/notices/?n=122>) in the 'How to apply' section at the bottom of the 'Volunteer for the London 2012 Olympics' information.

Please be aware that those who pre-registered as volunteers during the past few months must still go through the formal application process.

Sports specialist opportunities in fencing are likely to include:

- Access control and marshals
- Attendants in lounges (for athletes, FIE, referees & technical officials)
- Call room team (assisting athletes with final preparation, & escorting to piste)
- Commentators
- Data entry & TV graphics assistants
- Floor managers & assistants: competition hall, warm-up halls and training hall
- Liaison teams (for athletes, FIE & technical officials)
- Press operations assistants
- Public scoreboard operators
- Scoring operators
- Secretariat assistants
- Sport equipment assistants
- Sport Information Desk assistants
- Video-camera operators
- Weapon control armourers and receptionists



NB: Some fencers may hope to be at the Games in another capacity (eg – coach or referee). However, it will not be possible to recruit volunteers beyond the closing date, or from any source other than the official London 2012 volunteers database. My message to all is therefore: **"If in doubt – apply!"** (We will take into account that there will be some drop-off in numbers when officials are identified.)

Hilary Philbin
Fencing Manager
LOC OG

Celtic Challenge 2010 - the Scottish perspective

After issuing a call to arms, I was a bit surprised at the muted response from many of our usual stalwarts. I put it down to a combination of burn-out after the 4 Nations and some local events, plus the summer holiday season. However, I soon learned that the effort to travel may have had a bigger influence! For me, it was an 11 hour drive on Friday, commencing at the ungodly hour of 05:20 (and amazingly, there is traffic at that hour!). What made the journey more interesting was that the clouds were on a mission to deposit the maximum possible water in the shortest possible time. This seemed to get worse as I got further south, and I must admit that I was a bit surprised to find the border of Devon was marked by a vertical wall of water, forcing me to slow down to about 50 mph on the M5, with wipers at double speed (at least I assumed it was the M5 and that I hadn't entered a parallel universe - but I soon realised I was still in the Britain I love when I was overtaken by cars going at about 80!).

However, we made it, we had a brilliant reception in the hotel, then set about confirming teams. I enjoyed each moment of the rational discussions to figure out who would represent us in which team (especially our Ladies teams), until I realised that delegation to those who had no compunction about emotional blackmail would give a quicker result - within minutes, teams were confirmed.

The next day, after a great night's sleep (and I don't know what all the fuss about seagulls was about), we got into the fencing - and that was the start of the best feelings I've had since returning to competitive fencing 5 years ago! The sabre got me loosened up, the epee got me focused, and then on Sunday the foil - which is my weapon - was where it all came together for the first time since my younger years. I started making moves that my brain has been telling my body to do these past 5 years, and the body just never got round to it in time! I was doing indirect ripostes, compound ripostes, 2nd intention, timing my attacks - I felt fantastic! Along the way, I kept the sensible part of the mind working - like the bit that says don't ever take Henry de Silva for granted - focus on winning from the outset, otherwise the wily old fox will get you (as a couple of others discovered to their cost!). This all came together in the final, where I did a lot of the right things, but one or two of the wrong things - and in particular, not keeping an eye on the clock. Apparently, Henry was yelling at me about how much time was left - but I was so focused on the fight, I didn't hear a thing! As those of you who were there saw, near the end I looked at the clock when we were coming on guard, I was 9-8 down and there were 2 seconds left. In some ways that was the best moment of the weekend - brain said to body "fleche", and there was no gap between thought and deed - I did the first proper fleche attack since I've come back into fencing, and hit - just not quite quick enough....



Jon and Simon

Overall, a great weekend for me, some brilliant fencing from the rest of the squad, and a good result for Scotland - so I'm looking for even better in 2 years in Galicia.

Mike McEwan

*Photo by
Gillian Aghajan*

Editor's note: A huge thank you to Richard Bonehill, Jon Salfield and the members of Truro Fencing Club for a superbly organised weekend and special thanks to their younger members who refereed superbly and provided copious supplies of refreshments, and to Jon and Simon for their superb music at the Gala Dinner.

Congratulations to Mike Norfolk!

Mike Norfolk, Chairman of WVFA and Wrexham Fencing Club was recently informed by the Cabinet Office:

"The Prime Minister has asked me to inform you .. that Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to approve that you be appointed a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the Birthday 2010 Honours List."

The Citation is for "Services to Healthcare and Fencing in Chester and Wrexham". The following is a letter from Mike's wife Bunny detailing how this event occurred.

"Dear Members,

In November 2008, I was approached by a Mr X who said he would like to put Mike forward for an Award. I arranged a secret meeting, gave him as much information as possible, and names of those who might write a testimonial in strict confidence. Just before Christmas '08 Mike had a phone call from the Deputy Lord Lt. of Cheshire asking for an interview, to which Mike turned to me and said, "What have you been up to?" "Me? Little old me, ...why?" On Christmas morning I confessed....Mike had his interview at home and we were able to pass as much information, photos and the publicity of his activities at The Countess of Chester Hospital, Chester Heart Support Group and his sport in Chester and Wrexham over the years. All this had to be kept extremely secret and it could take up to three years, or nothing at all. You can imagine his surprise when a letter from the Cabinet Office came a few weeks ago and stated, "The Prime Minister has asked me to inform you in the strict confidence that Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to approve that you be appointed a Member of The British Empire (MBE) in the Birthday 2010 Honours List." The letter went on to say whether or not this would be agreeable and if you accept your name would be published in The London Gazette and some National Newspapers on 12th June 2010. The Citation is for "Services to Healthcare and Fencing in Chester and Wrexham" and all during his own serious illnesses. There will be an Investiture within the next six months. Obviously we have to respect the confidentiality, but we wanted to share this amazing honour with our family and friends. We expect this will be quite a surprise but you can imagine we are very excited, although Mike has not grasped why he has been so honoured! Wrexham Fencing Club hosted a big competition on the weekend of the 12th and 13th and of course his fencing takes priority without question!

With our love and best wishes, Bunny and Mike.

Mike will receive his honour from HM Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace in December.

This is not his only award! He has also received a Bronze Medal for his services to fencing from the British Fencing. A truly amazing man!



Mike proudly receives the Celtic Challenge Trophy on behalf of the Welsh team

Photo by Mike Firth

Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championships England Squad

Melbourne 29 Sep – 5 Oct 2010 -Manager and referee - John Crouch

Men

Foil	1 Anthony Conyard 2 Michael Thomas 3 Roger Nickless 4 Peter Howes 5 Paul Abrahams	Epee	1 Peter Howes 2 Roger Nickless 3 Carl Moffat 4 Michael Thomas 5 Robert Streeter 6 Mick Meyer 7 Paul Abrahams 8 Niall Campbell	Sabre	1 Keith Rogerson 2 Carl Moffat 3 Peter Howes 4 Paul Abrahams
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Women

Foil	1 Moya McNamara 2 Sharon Mullan 3 Angela Findlay 4 Dee German 5 Vanessa Hendra	Epee	1 Moya McNamara 2 Angela Findlay 3 Sharon Mullan 4 Sandra Bottle	Sabre	1 Vanessa Hendra 2 Dee German
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Coupe Curaçao 2011

Dear Friends,

We hereby gladly invite you to the 3rd. International Friendship Veterans Fencing Tournament, Coupe Curaçao 2011. Which will be held from April 23-25th, 2011, here in Willemstad, Curaçao.

We are working towards a vacation combining it with a most relaxed and friendly tournament on our beautiful island. A chance to meet other veterans fencers, which you might not meet regularly.

We are rounding up all activities so we can inform you about the tournament activities and costs. You will find all the information on our website www.coupecuracao.com, which is under reconstruction right now.

Please inform and forward this information to your friends and family and of course the federation of which you are a member of, or you can send us the mail address of any persons that you want for us to inform about this tournament.

In the meantime, feel free to contact our event-manager in charge of athletes and reservations, Miss Marivia Tuast at keymarif@yahoo.com, tel. (5999)434-1292 or (5999)564-7566.

Looking forward to have a bigger and better tournament, to welcome back our friends and meeting new ones.

Kind Regards,
Committee Coupe Curaçao 2011



Competition Results

Bill Hoskyns Open - 4/7/2010

ME (81)	16	John Chalmers
	41	John Morris
	51	Keith Barnett
	59	Nick Hawksworth
	63	Paul Drake
	72	Peter James

Norfolk Open - 18/7/2010

MF (65)	26	John Hyde
	32	Brian Causton
WF (18)	5	Kate Harris
	9	Lynda Norrie
WE (20)	15	Connie Adam
	16	Sylvia Brown
	17	Kate Harris
	18	Katherine Warner
WS (9)	7	Sylvia Brown
	8	Lynn Williams

National Championships 2010 - 24/7/2010 (Top Half)

MF (103)	54	Nick Stokes
MS (89)	32	Anthony Silver
WE (89)	31	Kate Smith
	41	Sara Spence
	44	Susan Hanney
WS (57)	15	Beth Davidson
	25	Jane Hutchison
	33	Lynn Keogh

Celtic Challenge

Individual results

ME	1	Keith Barnett COR
	2	Andrew Brown SCO
	3	Gareth Law WAL
	3	Manuel Siejas GAL
WE	1	Rosa Cano Diosa GAL
	2	Joanne Reynolds WAL
	3	Silvia Earl SCO
	3	Jane Hutchison COR
MF	1	Paul Caine COR
	2	Mike McEwan SCO
	3	Peter Lloyd WAL
	3	Mark Robertson WAL
WF	1	Rosa Cano Diosa GAL
	2	Margaret Myers WAL
	3	Jane Hutchison COR
	3	Joanne Reynolds WAL
MS	1	Keith Barnett COR
	2	Chris Prevett IRE
	3	Julian Ghosh SCO
	3	Carl Morris WAL
WS	1	Jane Hutchison COR
	2	Wednesday Jones WAL
	3	Gillian Aghajan WAL
	3	Michele Narey SCO

Celtic Challenge Overall Results

(1st place in each category 1 pt; 2nd place 2 pts; 3rd place 3 pts; 4th place 4 pts; Incomplete team 5 penalty pts. Barbarian team not included in overall points.)

		WE	ME	WS	MS	WF	MF	TOTAL
1st place	Wales	1	3	1	3	1	1	10
2nd place	Cornwall	3	1	2	1	3	2	12
3rd place	Scotland	2	2	3	2	2	3	14
4th place	Ireland	5	5	5	5	5	5	30

The National Three Peaks Challenge

Toe nails cut and lots of spare clothing and boots packed we left Leeds for Fort William at 07.20 hrs on 23rd July 2010. The walking team was Moya McNamara, Elizabeth Myers and Steve Middup (a last minute and welcome addition) with John Crouch as driver. The task was to complete the National 3 Peaks (Ben Nevis, Scarfell Pike and Snowdon) in 24 hours and we aimed to raise money for Leeds Samaritans. Armed with chocolate, bananas, jelly babies and plenty of water we began the ascent of Ben Nevis at 15.45 hrs. The question "who's silly idea was this" was asked as we set off. The ascent of Ben Nevis was wonderful. It was sunny and clear so it was a pity we were in such a rush and couldn't stop to enjoy the views. Back in the car park by 20.30 hrs hot drinks courtesy of John awaited us along with the inevitable Scottish midges.

A quick drink and off to Scarfell Pike. The borrowed Sat Nav proved indispensable despite the curses from the passengers attempting to sleep. John did a terrific job of navigating round the sheep asleep on the minor roads on the way to Wasdale Head. The ascent of Scarfell Pike began at 02.30 hrs in the dark and proved much easier than expected. Unfortunately the cloud came down and it was very misty on top so we had a quick photo stop and back down to more hot drinks.

We arrived to start Snowdon with 5 hrs to complete what should have been a 3 ½ hr trek. The car park at Pen-y-pass was full so we were dropped off in a bit of a rush, the GPS had not functioned throughout the trip, it was pouring with rain and the visibility was poor. We set off up the Pyg track but a wrong turning took us on to the hardest route up Snowdon. This meant we did the Crib Goch ridge (look it up on the Internet). Fortunately other experienced Crib Goch walkers offered useful advise in the high wind and rain. We were grateful for the mist which meant we couldn't see the 900+ ft drop! We lost lots of time but got to the top of Snowdon with about 1 ½ hrs to finish. No time for drinks, eating or photos now. We agreed we would each do our best to finish in time. Steve finished with 15 minutes to spare, me with 10 minutes and Elizabeth 5 minutes.

We estimate we drove a total of 985 miles, walked 26 miles, completing 10,712 ft of ascent and descent. Was it worth it? Yes it was! To date we have raised over £1600 to present to Leeds Samaritans. Whist serving the residents of Leeds, of 202 branches nationwide, this branch of the Samaritans is one of only handful that operates 24 hrs, 7 days a week so takes calls from all over the country. It was therefore good to finish the challenge on the 24th of the 7th month.

A huge thank you to all members of British Veterans Fencing who sponsored me and John for making it possible. If you haven't already done so there is still time to make a contribution.

Moya McNamara



3rd Veterans Winton Cup (inaugurated by Sir Nicholas and Bobby Winton)

Lilleshall National Sports Centre
11th and 12th September 2010



A 2 day competition
between 9 teams
at all 6 weapons

Open to BVF members
(with BFA membership)

If you wish to enter please
contact:

lindalawes1@btinternet.com or
millsba@aol.com

who will put you in touch
with a Team Captain



The only fencers exempt from some weapons are the Winners of the Age Groups (excluding cat 4) and the Winners of the Nationals - and this rule only applies to the weapon at which they were successful: they can fence ANY other weapon, so most fencers can fence their chosen weapon whilst we still keep the spirit of Bobby alive with his request that the 'elite' fencers are not eligible.

If you are not yet in a team and would still like to fence there are some 'spare' places in some teams.

Accommodation has been arranged at The Park Inn, Telford at special rates of £67 double or twin, £54 single B&B - phone 01952 429988 (quote Vets Fencing). Gala Dinner on Saturday night - please order your menu choice on the BVF website.

If you are fencing book your hotel now to avoid disappointment as rooms in Telford that weekend are in short supply.

Food is not available at the sports centre but the hotel can supply packed lunches if an order is placed the night before.

Caption Competition July

Editor's choice:

"Peter gives another impromptu demonstration of the personal and social benefits of hypnotism."

Paul Brenda

"I'll show you what I mean by a short back and sides."

Frances Woodward

Caption Competition August

Send your caption to:

g.aghajan@virgin.net



*Photo courtesy of
Andrew Brown*



*Photo courtesy of
Editor*

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Officers	Chairman	Frank Mills 	Tel: 01908 310 516 millsfba@aol.com
	Treasurer Membership Secretary Webmaster	John Mason 	18 Sandringham Road Trowbridge BA14 0JU Tel: 01225 761 788 BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk
	Secretary	Hilary Arnold 	17 Acorn Close Enfield EN2 8LX Tel: 020 8373 7953 BVFSecretary@veterans-fencing.co.uk
	Elected Members	International Fencing Officer	Dave Sweeney 
	Domestic Fencing Officer	Pete Baron 	Tel: 01384 400 242 bvf@baronfencing.plus.com
		Linda Lawes 	Tel: 01235 530 090 linda.lawes1@btinternet.com
Co-opted Members	Publicity Officer	Malcolm Fare 	malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk
	Newsletter Editor	Gillian Aghajan 	Tel: 07747 792712 g.aghajan@virgin.net



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

Gillian Aghajan
by 4th September 2010

Tel: 07747 792712
email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net