



## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2011

***Merry Christmas to all our readers!***



Ho! Ho! Ho! from a familiar looking Santa....!

*Photo courtesy of one of Santa's elves*

**Royal Navy match reports**

**Competition results**

**Vets at 2012 test event**

**Coffee time fun**



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## Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

As the year end approaches, it is worth remembering just how well our fellow members have performed internationally over the past 12 months.

It is a truly magnificent achievement for our Great Britain Veterans to have topped the medal tables in both the European Individual Championships and the Veterans World Championships.

The individual title holders have already received our congratulations in the earlier newsletters as have the silver and bronze medallists, and both competitions produced very worthy performances from the members who took part and were excellent ambassadors for Great Britain both on and off the piste.

As you know, we planned to introduce a new system for selection but as this received such a mixed reception, we decided at our last meeting to revert to the 2010 rules and issue a questionnaire about selection to all members.

We have been working on this for some weeks and this will be available on-line prior to Christmas for completion by you. For those without email, a copy is sent with this Newsletter for return by post.

Entries to the Age Group Qualifiers event in Bletchley are building, and I urge you to enter as soon as possible please if you have not yet done so. Details and entry form are on our website.

I finish by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Successful New Year on behalf of your Committee.

Sincerely

**Frank Mills**  
**Chairman BVF**



*How many  
sprigs of holly  
can you find in  
this issue?*

*Editor*



BVF CALENDAR 2012	
Jan 21-22	Age Group Qualifiers, Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes
Feb 11-12	Hampshire Open (Veterans Tournament)
Mar 2	BVF AGM Gloucester
Mar 2-4	British Veterans Championships, Oxtalls Indoor Tennis Centre, Gloucester Friday - Sabre; Saturday - Foil, Sunday - Epée
April 14-15	Veterans West Midlands Open
April 21-22	Home International (5 Nations) - Leeds
May 16-20	European Team Championships, Kalmar, Sweden - <a href="#">website</a>
June 23-24 (tbc)	Celtic Challenge, Galicia, Spain - venue tbc
Sep 27 - 30	Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Singapore
Oct 6-7 (tbc)	Veterans Winton Cup, RAF Cosford
Oct 13-14 (tbc)	Welsh Veterans Championships, Aberystwyth Contact Gillian Aghajan ( <a href="mailto:g.aghajan@virgin.net">g.aghajan@virgin.net</a> ) for details
Oct 17-20	World Championships, Krems, Austria

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



## Training in Rome

### VETERANS TRAINING

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th January 2012  
Roma, Italy - Sport Complex Acqua Acetosa  
Details available at:

<http://www.european-veterans-fencing.com/events/roma2012.pdf>

and on the BVF website



## BVF v Royal Navy

Some feedback on the recent match:

Dear Peter,

Thanks for your email and thanks to you and Brian Millo for organising the team match against the Royal Navy on Sunday.

I can definitely say I enjoyed myself. It was a fun day and, as a 'new boy' to the Vets - it is a pleasure to meet such a friendly and welcoming group of fencers.

It was 'interesting' to form the epee dark blue team with two others I had never met before - Julian Larocque & Edward Dudetsky - and therefore not know each others strengths & weaknesses. However after a warm up against the other vets light blue team (we lost!) it was good to win against the Navy team 45 - 40.

The Navy did us proud with a fine buffet lunch and we owe them thanks for a good day. I had a pleasant chat with Matt - the Navy's organiser - over lunch and thanked him personally.

Best wishes & kind regards

**David Exeter**

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The Men's sabre team had a very even start to the event, as the mid way 22 all score attested however from this point matters took a decided turn for the better for the vets as the navy boys never managed to get ahead again. With all 3 team members taking a string of victories the score finally ended at vets 45 Royal Navy 36.

The ladies faired far better than their male colleagues taking a commanding lead from the very start of proceedings. All four women's vets played well leaving a final rather impressive 45 to 25 victory.



**Carl Moffat**

**Julian  
Larocque  
Edward  
Dudetsky &  
David Exeter**

**Photo  
courtesy of  
David Exeter**

## 2012 London Prepares: Pre-Pre-Olympic Test Event

A request by email asking for 16 volunteer vets to take part in an informal competition to assist with the volunteers training day in preparation for the pre-Olympic test International at the Excel Centre resulted in the assembly on a Friday morning in late-November of (in order of initial seeding): Bartlett, Causton, Miles, Abrahams, King, Fihosy, Conyard, Dawkins, Sheppard, Exeter, McEwan, Millo, Menegas, Bex, Jones (Kenny) and Bird.



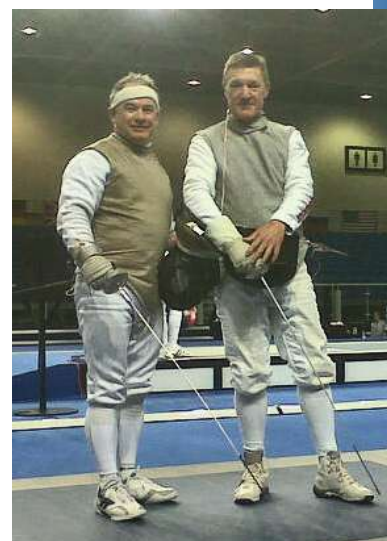
The vets comp was designed to provide realistic training for the large number of volunteers who have to familiarise themselves with a precise set of Olympic procedures so that all would work smoothly 'on the day'. The 'day' in question being Saturday and Sunday, for an individual and team invitation International between GB-1, GB-2, Italy, France, Russia, Germany, China and USA. Our part of the exercise included warm-up, weapons check, allocation of escorts to the Call Room, and first round of 8 DEs on the warm-up pistes. The 8 winners then went through the same sort of process on the finals pistes together with all the additional organisation that was involved.

On this occasion we do not need to report the successive progression through the DEs, as each contest went with the original seedings, finishing with Tony Bartlett beating Brian Causton 15-8. Is such a progression from original seedings as this perhaps a first?

It seemed at first that half of the vet volunteers would have only one fight during the day since the 16 were organised as a L16-DE. However, once the winners of Round-1 were decided, the warm-up pistes were then available for us to organise an impromptu "Plate Competition" for the losers – which we did!

***A devastating dozen!  
(Where are the others...?)***

***Photo courtesy of David Exeter***



***Jon Dawkins and Tony Bartlett pose for photographer Beth Speedy!***



The order of fights for a poule unique of 7 did not come immediately to mind for any of us, but as we got going a working order was organised and we progressed fairly efficiently through our "private" contest. We refereed ourselves without any substantial disagreement, and it seemed appropriate to be able to announce at the finish that "Mike McEwan and David Exeter were clear winners with 6 and 5 victories respectively, while the remainder shared the other fights equally: two each." (The detailed calculations have been added later, but not without visible mistakes along the way!) It was just after we had finished that someone had the foresight to suggest that we should all sign the poule-sheet, as "it would become an object of value in decades to come"! We think it might be worth at least a tenner on eBay after about a century.



And with this it might all have been over, except that Graham Paul had been patrolling to find volunteers to do a bit more testing afterwards. So it was that some of the 'losers' got to fence on the Olympic finals pistes after all, and even to try out the 'wireless' that is, the un-spoiled signalling method. since we were no longer fencing to any time limit or with any proper refereeing, we found ourselves spontaneously deciding between us how the hits were landing!

The Olympic Test Event Nov 2011

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	V	L	W	W	W	W	W
1 KERRY JONES		X	0	V	2	4	V						2	4	21	10	-	3	
2 BRIAN MILLO			X	0	3	4	V						2	4	16	17	-	5	
3 DAVID EXETER				X	V	1	4	V					5	1	15	26	18	2	
4 DAVID EXETER						X	3	V	3				3	4	25	20	-	4	
5 DAVID EXETER								X	V	V			3	0	11	23	-	1	
6 MICHAEL BOX										X	2	1	2	4	22	15	-	5	
7 DAVID EXETER											X	2	1	4	24	13	-	4	

Handwritten signatures: Kerry Jones, David Exeter, Brian Millo, Michael Box, and others.

It was quite an experience for us to have our own personal escorts, who also took care of our kit for us. As we were led to our individual positions in the Fencing hall we were individually introduced to "the crowd" – all of about 20 people – with our newly assigned nationalities: mostly French, Chinese and Italian, if I recall correctly. (By chance I was introduced as an Italian, which gave me the opportunity to play up to the spectators as if I were some lesser version of Arturo de Bartolomeis.) And finally there was rehearsals for the volunteers involved in the the medal presentations followed by the anthem, for which they apparently had available only *La Marseillaise*.

**The poule sheet - courtesy of Brian Millo**

On the Saturday and Sunday, some of us were able to take advantage of the offer to watch the Internationals that were the real pre-Olympic Test Event. Not much success for the Brits in the individuals, but a win for GB in the team event. (Find the full report at <http://www.britishfencing.com/news/latest-news/?n=443>)

Altogether it was great fun, and we owe our thanks to our own representatives on the *2012 London Prepares* committees for arranging this unique opportunity for us.



*Brian Millo*

**Tony Bartlett  
Photo by Beth Speedy**



## Competition results (top half)

### Hereford & Worcester - 3/12/2011

MF (49)	1	Brian Causton
	9	Richard Sage
	13	Lindsay Watkiss
	14	Paul Kennea
	20	Jonathan Dawkins

ME (66)	3	Nick Lee
	13	Andrew Brown
	17	John Leahey
	18	Anton Pollard
	20	Robert Flatt
	26	Joanthan Stanbury
	28	Alan Knowles
	33	Granville Ward

MS (30)	8	Julian Ghosh
	9	Peter Baron
	10	Michael Compton
	14	Carl Morris

WF (33)	8	Caron Hale
	16	Jane Clayton

WE (26)	11	Jane Clayton
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WS (12)	6	Vivien Frith
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### British Championships - 10/12/2011

ME (85)	14	George Liston
	22	Nick Lee
	26	John Morris

WS (33)	15	Jane Hutchison
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*Some great results and  
a special well done to  
Brian - Gold MF at  
H&W!*

*Editor*



### Millner Barry - 26/11/2011

WE (79)	33	Sara Spence
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### Miller-Hallett - 26/11/2011

ME (117)	14	Howard West
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### Omissions from November's newsletter

### Leeds Open - 5/11/2011

WF (33)	14	Silvia Earl
WS (15)	6	Silvia Earl

### Welsh Open - 12/11/2011

MS (91)	33	Bill Osbaldeston
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*Please remember that your  
results will only be picked up  
with our results trawl program  
if you enter a competition using  
your name as on your BVF  
membership card.*

*Thanks.*

*Editor*



# Can Am Veterans Cup - June 2 - 3 2012

## Schedule

### INDIVIDUALS

Depending on the number of registrations, this event may be held over three days.

### TEAM EVENT

Team events will start shortly after the end of individuals.

Teams could be formed at the venue.

The 135 & 150 year rule applies for women and men respectively. At least four teams per event will be required to run this event.

### MASTER AT ARMS

There can only be one!  
Trophy and prizes awarded to the winner (male & female) of all three weapons.

### Cash prizes

Complete fencing uniform is required at a minimum of 350 NW, although 800 NW uniform and 1600 NW mask is recommended. All participants are subject to Section t.15 of the FIE rules. Waivers signed.

This event is endorsed by the Veterans Division of the Canadian Fencing Federation and the Veterans Committee of the United States Fencing Association.

### VENUE

50 Prince Andrew Place, Toronto, Ontario  
8 permanent metal pistes (somewhat smaller than FIE regulation), change rooms, showers, etc.

### Toronto Fencing Club



### Request registration forms:

Gaby Weisz

[veteranfencer@bellnet.ca](mailto:veteranfencer@bellnet.ca)

## Veterans Division



# CAN/AM Veterans Cup

# 2012

June 2-3  
Toronto, Canada

# Happy Faces 2011



## A blast from the past!



*Photo  
courtesy of  
Alan Ault and  
Jane Clayton*

Some of these very debonair gentleman are veteran fencers. Can you identify any of them?

They were extras in the film *The Mountains of the Moon* which was filmed in 1990. It depicts the journey of Richard Francis Burton and John Hanning Speke in their expedition to central Africa, which was the project that culminated in Speke's discovery of the source of the Nile River. The expedition led to a bitter rivalry between the two men. The film stars Patrick Bergin as Burton and Iain Glen as Speke. Directed by Bob Rafelson, the film was based on the novel *Burton and Speke* by William Harrison and concentrates on the relationship between two very different men. (Information from Wikipedia.)

Unfortunately for ourrepid adventurers, all of their scenes ended up on the cutting room floor as the start and finish of their film careers, except for one who is world famous in the world of music.....



**Editor**



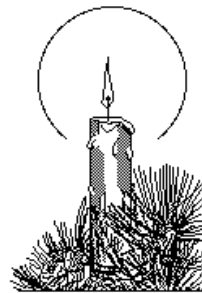
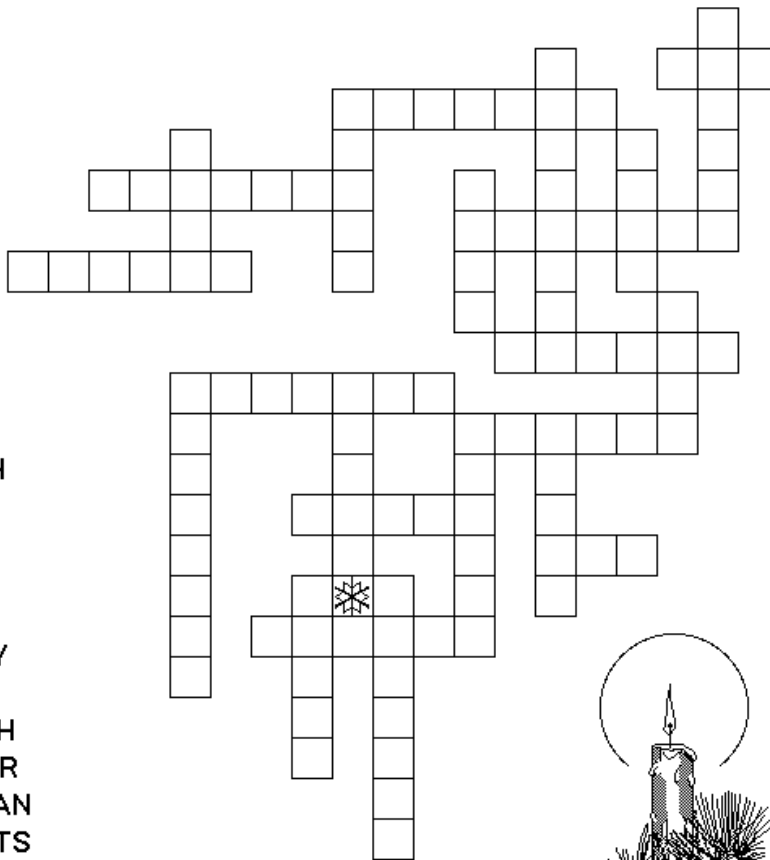
**ENLIGHTEN**   
ESCRIME EQUIPMENT  
[www.enlightenfencing.com](http://www.enlightenfencing.com)

Coffee time!

# Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.

- ELF
- TOY
- GIFT
- BELL
- TREE
- STAR
- SANTA
- COMET
- CUPID
- VIXEN
- CANDY
- FROSTY
- WREATH
- DASHER
- DONNER
- SLEIGH
- DANCER
- CHIMNEY
- BLITZEN
- RUDOLPH
- PRANCER
- SNOWMAN
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER



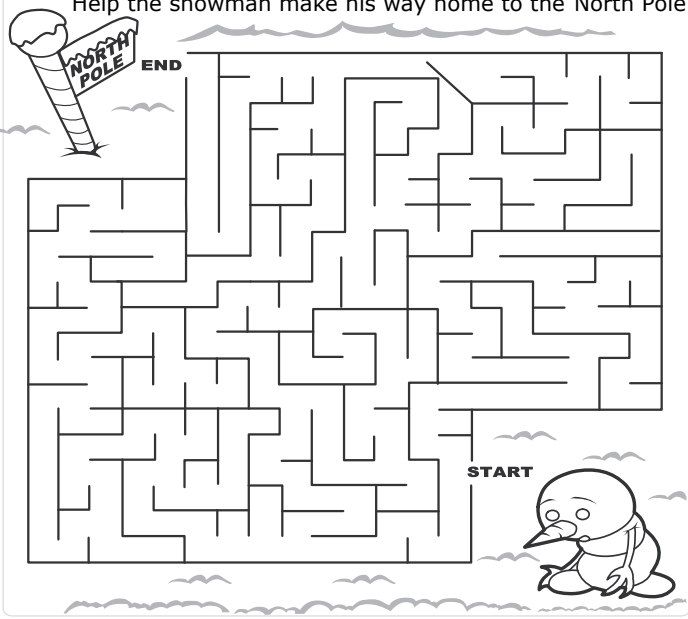
*How does Santa like his pizza?*

*Deep and crisp and even!*

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## FROSTY IS COLD OUTSIDE!

Help the snowman make his way home to the North Pole



www.funschool.com

© 2006 Kaboose Inc www.kaboose.com



# Fencing Word Search

H K H G P F S O W W O R L D A I L P  
 F R A S E Z P L E U R O P E A N S N  
 H U L N F E I Y N K Z T M C E W O C  
 T E O A V R H M T V Q F C F Z I X R  
 J R R R O O S P S K B I M E T M H Y  
 E B E E P P N I I X H I T A R D Q F  
 X A R T L A O C L X A S N F N I N X  
 L S U E S G I S I Y I I M D I I D A  
 K I O V N N P W O J M K X N B Q K G  
 S O M L C I M E F I Y C F D Y E H L  
 I C R Y O S A O L J Y Z R E R P S O  
 O W A A K I H E K S M C L D V E I U  
 F Q G A L I C I A D M H V C V E T C  
 V W N O D N O L C X C E K Q G I I E  
 B W J W M P E U U T M M R W J S R S  
 Y I H O D E E R E F E R E K R T B T  
 N P Y F O I O L H F F E N C I N G E  
 F C N R U I B T Q K S U W H S B T R

ARMOURER  
 BLETCHLEY  
 BRITISH  
 CHAMPIONSHIPS  
 DIRECT  
 ELIMINATION  
 EPEEIST

EUROPEANS  
 FENCING  
 FOILIST  
 GALICIA  
 GLOUCESTER  
 KREMS  
 LONDON

OLYMPICS  
 REFEREE  
 SABREUR  
 SINGAPORE  
 VETERANS  
 WORLD



**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)



MOROCCO

TRAVEL FOR REAL



**Caption Competition December**

send your entry to Editor

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



**Caption Competition November**

Editor's choice

*"I don't want to know what Brenda says!"*

**Geoff Silverman**

and from the man himself:

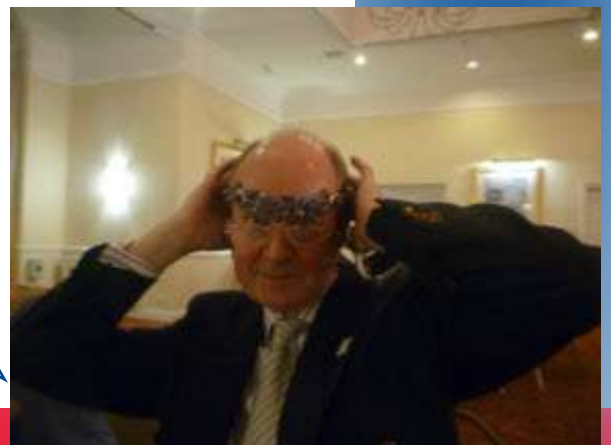
*"Why pay £7.99 for an Adidas headband when you can knit your own? Full pattern in next month's Newsletter."*

**Paul Brenda**

*Photos by Editor*



P.S. To Mr Brenda - that's an exclusive designer necklace on loan ;-)



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

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by 17th January 2012

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