



Photo by Editor

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to all our readers!*

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Chairman's letter



Dear Members,

Where did 2018 go?

It has been an eventful and, at times, a very difficult year, but I am pleased to say that I have survived it so far!

The World Championships took place in Livorno, Italy, in October with Great Britain finishing 5th on the medal table. A haul of 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Bronze was a very good outcome. The Mens Sabre team was awarded a Fair Play certificate, which was presented at the closing ceremony to Team Captain, Richard Cohen. Congratulations to all. Medal results are on page 8 and there will be a full report in the January edition of the Sword. Congratulations to all medallists.

The Veterans Commonwealth Championships took place in Canberra, Australia last month. Please could Team Managers for Home Nations send in reports and photos so that these can be included in the next newsletter. Results can be found on the event website - <http://www.cfc18.net/>.

Rather than write a review of the year, which is basically a repeat of previous letters, I feel it is more useful to let you know where BVF is now. The AGM was held in October and was well attended. The amended constitution was rejected. The new committee met in early November and I am confident that we can work together amicably and productively for the benefit of BVF members. My grateful thanks go to the previous committee members who are not serving on the new committee for their support and hard work - Lawrence Burr, Duncan Rowlands, Jonathan Stanbury and Ev van Gemeren. Special thanks to John and Sonya Mason for all the work they have done over the years for BVF. I am delighted that John agreed to accept the role of IT Consultant as a co-opted member of the committee and Malcolm Fare continues as Publicity Officer. John also continues to work on the BVF Ranking Scheme.

Marcia Stretch returns as Secretary and Graham Paul has a new role of International Officer. A warm welcome to them and to our new committee members: Caroline Clancy, Beth Davidson, Carl Morris, Mike Swiffin, Lindsay Watkiss, and Lucy Wright. Roles are listed on BVF Contacts, page 16.

The committee reappointed Carl Morris as Chairman of Selectors and he has appointed the same team - Jane Hutchison, Sabre; Neal Mallett, Epee; and Gillian Worman, Foil. Thanks to all for agreeing to continue their roles.

The committee has agreed that for selection for the 2019 World Championships only, that 3 events will be used: the BVF Age Groups, BVF Championships and the European Individual Championships.

The 4 fencers (for each weapon and age category) with the best 2 results from the three competitions will be selected. A Ranking sub-committee - John Mason, Graham Paul and Lindsay Watkiss - has been appointed to work on the ranking scheme and rules for selection. Rules for selection will be published after the January committee meeting, which is being held on 27th.





The Age Groups will be held on 23/24 March at the Leon Paul Centre. Event Manager, Marcia Stretch and John Crouch, DT are currently determining the timetable. Details will be published as soon as possible.

The BVF Championships will be held May 10-12 at the Manchester Fencing Centre. Epee on Friday, Sabre on Saturday and Foil on Sunday.

Full details for entering the European Individual Championships, Cognac, will be sent out after Christmas. The website is <http://www.europeanveteranfencing-cognac2019.eu/en/home-2/>. There is no official accommodation and there will not be any transport provided, from airports nor hotels, to venue. Hotels in Cognac are not very large and are filling fast. Please make your own bookings.

Epeeists and foilists may be interested in a new international event - the 1st Temple Tournament which is planned to be held in Tomar, Portugal from 13th-16th June. This will be a celebration of 900 years of the Knights Templar and will include accommodation, dinners, a tour and a banquet. The organisers are asking for register of interest by 31st January. Details can be found on British Veterans Fencing Facebook page and there is also a link on the BVF website calendar.

From the committee, and me personally, I wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas, good health, happiness and great fencing in 2019!

Sincerely,

Gillian Aghajan
BVF Chairman



BVF CALENDAR 2019

Jan 2-5	Veterans Training Camp Rome	
Jan 5-6	Cambridge Winter Tournament This is a BVF Ranking Event	
Feb 9-10	Merseyside Open This is a BVF Ranking event	
Mar 23-24	Age Groups, Leon Paul Fencing Centre, London Event Manager - Lindsay Watkiss	
Apr 6	Veterans Home International, Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff	
May 10-12	BVF Championships 2019, Manchester Fencing Centre EPEE - Friday, SABRE - Saturday, FOIL - Sunday Event Manager - Mike Swiffin	
May 29- Jun 2	European Veterans Individual Championships, Cognac, France Event Manager - Gillian Aghajan	
Jun 13-16	First Temple Tournament, Tomar, Portugal (Epee and Foil) Celebrating 900 years of the Knights Templar	
Jul 27-28	Celtic Challenge, Truro, Cornwall	
Jul 29-31	Truro Summer Fencing Camp, Truro Mini-camp for Veterans	
Sep 28-19	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall National Sports Centre Event Manager - Marcia Stretch	
Sep 28	BVF AGM, Park Inn, Telford TF3 4NA 18:00 hrs	
Oct 5-10	Veterans World Championships, Cairo, Egypt Event Manager - Gillian Aghajan	
Nov 2-3	England Veterans Championships, Manchester Fencing Centre Saturday - FOIL and SABRE, Sunday - EPEE	

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

Diane Austin 1933-2018

With sadness we report the unexpected death of Diane Austin. Diane was a member of NVA and BVF since 1991 and was a longstanding supporter of Veterans fencing.



If you have any tributes or memories of Diane please send them to John Mason and he will add them to her obituary page. John@jrmason.demon.co.uk

Her funeral will be held on Thursday 3rd January - 12:45, at Guildford Crematorium, New Pond Road, Goldaming GU7 3DB. If you will be attending, please let Marcia Stretch know. marcia_stretch@hotmail.com

England Veterans Fencing News

England Veterans Fencing are pleased to announce that the first England Veterans Championship will be held at the Manchester Fencing Centre on 2/3 November 2019. Foil and Sabre on Saturday and Epee on Sunday. Please make a note in your diaries. Details will follow in the Spring.

John Crouch
Chairman, England Veterans Fencing



ENGLAND FENCING

Who/where/when? (August newsletter)



The consensus of opinion is from left to right:

Lynn Taylor
Mark Slade
Brenda Hewitt
Paul Wedge
Liz Woods
Steve Lennox



Istanbul U20 - 1974

Thanks to all who responded.



Northern Ballet

It all started with an email from Northern Ballet which is based in Leeds. They were doing a new version of The 3 Musketeers and wanted their dancers trained in fencing. This seemed like an interesting challenge so I arranged to meet with the Director of the Company, David Nixon. I started by explaining that I was a fencing coach and taught people to fence competitively and that it might be better for him to approach The Royal Armouries as they demonstrated fighting. He explained that they had shown this ballet on two previous occasions and he was unhappy with the duelling as it looked staged and unrealistic. He wanted his dancers to look like fencers. As I had been trained from my school days as a classic fencer, this seemed right down my street.

We agreed that I could have the group of male dancers, 22 in total, for a week at the beginning of the rehearsal period (The women do not get the opportunity to fight with swords). We would split them into two groups and we would have each group twice during the day. Their working hours are 11:30 to 14:30 and 15:30 to 18:30 with the hour off for a late lunch. Therefore we had 2 one and a half hour sessions each day with each group for 6 days. At this point I should say that I have been retired for some years and have not put in this sort of time commitment since I completed my Diploma course. The time commitment and pressure of having to put on a professional course with no previous experience training ballet dancers was quite daunting. But there was no way I was going to turn down the chance to be involved in a project this different. Over the next few weeks I persuaded Tim Noble, an assistant coach at the fencing club, to help out. Mainly because he is younger and fitter than me and my ability to lunge or move quickly is much reduced. I thought he would make a good stooge and together we planned a programme that followed the traditional elements of a fencing course.

This looked like a sound plan, but with the flexibility to change things dependent on the ability of the dancers. We had agreed with the choreographer that the outcome would be 6 short fencing sequences that he could adapt into the dance routines.

There were two other issues that needed sorting out. The first was what weapons they were going to use. I met the stage manager and he showed me the swords they had used in the past. They were typical, heavy stage swords with Italian grips. We agreed that they would purchase a set of steam epees as being more realistic for musketeers. The other issue was safety! Obviously, the dancers were not going to be wearing masks on stage, but what about when they were being trained. We decided that the initial training would be in proper fencing kit and we would move to no kit once they were reasonably competent with the weapons.

The training

I had been quite apprehensive about how the week would go, but also excited by the challenge. Day one was footwork and being young, fit, motivated and well co-ordinated they were soon looking like fencers. At the start of day two we provided plastrons, jackets, masks and gloves and let them have a go at fighting each other. It was remarkable to see how their different characters came to the fore. Some were very aggressive and at the other extreme some shied away from their opponent. The next two days were spent going through the basics. By the end of Wednesday we were ready to develop the sequences that they would use in the show.



I had planned 6 sequences that I felt were sufficiently different and with the flexibility to be used and adapted by the choreographer.

Each sequence was demonstrated and then broken down and practised a step at a time. Every pair had to learn the sequence from both sides. Each session we would revise the sequences that had been learned and then introduce a new one. The dancers found these a real challenge, but took great pride in being able to complete them to our satisfaction.

There continued to be an emphasis on style and position. As dancers

they were used to learning dance positions so by Friday afternoon they could all get through the 6 sequences. There was even some competition as to which pair could go through all 6 one after another with no mistakes.



Group 1

Saturday morning allowed further practice and refining of technique before the Director came down to see what we had achieved. Each pair demonstrated one of the sequences and then one pair did the whole lot. He thanked Tim and I for what we had achieved and said that it was the outcome he was looking for. We finished the morning session by putting some of the sequences into actual parts of the ballet and taking videos of the performances.

I have since been back to see a rehearsal of the main fight scene. It was brilliant! Seeing the fight sequences adapted into the ballet made me realise how much work the dancers had put in with the satisfaction of seeing Musketeers looking like fencers.

The show was put on in Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield and Canterbury.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kG4XaR85GM>

John Crouch



Group 2



Results Veterans Winton Cup 2018

- 1 South East
- 2 South West
- 3 South
- 4 Yorkshire
- 5 North West
- 6 Wales
- 7 North Britain
- 8 London
- 9 Midlands
- 10 East



Carol Winton presents the Winton Cup to Jane Clayton, SE Team Captain

Weapon Trophies

Frank Mills Trophy
John Mason Trophy
Cary Zitcer Trophy
Frank Mills Trophy
Gillian Aghajan Trophy
Les Jones Trophy

Mens Foil
Mens Epee
Mens Sabre
Womens Foil
Womens Epee
Womens Sabre

Tony Bartlett (NW)
Leslie MacDonald (SW)
Andrew Thornley (NW)
Kate O'Connell (SE)
Ingrid Heskett (SE)
Yvonne Walls (Y)



Veterans World Championships 2018, Livorno, Italy

Sheila Anderson
Janet Cooksey
Caron Hale
Clare Halsted
Jenny Morris
Gillian Worman

WF Team

Gold

Kola Abidogun
Tony Bartlett
Brian Causton
Mike McKay
Graham Paul
Paul Wedge

MF Team

Gold

Silvia Brown
Caroline Clancy
Viv Frith
Jane Hutchison
Michele Narey
Yvonne Walls

WS Team

Silver

Kola Abidogun
Silvia Brown
Graham Paul
Sheila Anderson
Jane Hutchison
Susan Uff

MF Cat A
WS Cat C
MF Cat C
WF Cat B
WS Cat B
WE Cat C

Silver
Silver
Silver
Bronze
Bronze
Bronze



WF Team





Winton Winners



Photos by Editor

Livorno Podium Pictures




Photos by Editor



Competition results (top half)

Hampshire Veterans Open - 29-30/09/2108

MF (10)	1	Graham Reid	
	2	Graham Paul	
	3T	Jonathan Dawkins	
	3T	John Hyde	
	5	Matthew Rodero	
ME (28)	1	Tim Buzwell	
	2	Alard von Westarp	
	3T	Yves Carnac	
	3T	Kola Ayanwale	
	5	Rob Brooks	
	6	John Hyde	
	7	Mark Richardson	
	8	Juan Batley	
	9	Simon Pink	
	10	Peter Eames	
	11	Adam Bonner	
	12	Matthew Chell	
	13	Robert Phelps	
	14	Paul Gregory	
MS (11)	1	Carl Morris	
	2	Rubin Nash	
	3T	Ceri Thomas	
	3T	Neil Bowd	
	5	Peter Baron	
	6	Adrian Griffin	
WF (11)	1	Gillian Worman	
	2	Caron Hale	
	3T	Jenny Morris	
	3T	Fiona Turnbull	
	5	Ann Dawkins	
	6	Marion Thomas	
WE (12)	1	Mariette Mason	
	2	Catherine Bowd	
	3T	Jane Hutchison	
	3T	Jane Clayton	
	5	Caryl Oliver	
	6	Janet Baron	
WS (6)	1	Jacqueline Esimaje-Heath	
	2	Vivien Frith	
	3T	Caroline Clancy	
	3T	Michele Narey	

Hampshire Open - 29-30/09/2108

MF (22)	3T	Graham Paul
	9	Graham Reid
ME (51)	3T	Simon Pink
	8	Paul Donnelly
	11	Jonathan Stanbury
	16	Robin Davenport
	22	Ben Dishman
	24	Adam Bonner
MS (17)	3T	Carl Morris
	7	Neil Bowd
WF (12)	3T	Caron Hale
WE (13)	3T	Catherine Bowd
	7	Mariette Mason
WS (9)	1	Jane Hutchison
	3T	Lucy Wright
	3T	Michele Narey
	5	Caroline Clancy



WS Veterans winners - Michele, Caroline, Jacqueline and Vivien

Photo courtesy of Vivien Frith

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

Competition results (top half)

Elite Epee - 16/09/2108

ME (77)	13	Chris Howser
	31T	Paul Donnelly
	34	John Leahey



Leon Paul ME - 06/10/2108

ME (26)	5	Stephen Domek
	6	Kola Ayanwale
	10	Howard West
	13	Tom Chrisp

Miller Hallet - 06/10/2108

ME (102)	14	Neal Mallett
	35	Hugh Kernohan
	49	Paul Donnelly



**Congratulations
to Denise Silk
Gold WE -
Bedford Epee!**



**Congratulations
to Jane Hutchison
Gold WS -
Hampshire Open!**

Bedford Epee - 07/10/2018

ME (59)	3	Kamal Yasin
	7	Darryl Hazlewood
	8	Anton Pollard
	11	Andrew Luckman
	12	Howard West
	14	Stephen Domek
	19	Rob Brooks
	21	Adam Stenner
	24	Paul Willmott

WE (16)	1	Denise Silk
	3	Susan Brooks
	8	Carol Ashman



**Bedford Epee - Susan Brooks and Denise Silk
with fellow medallists**

Photo courtesy of Susan Brooks

Reminder

Please remember to enter competitions using the name you have registered for BVF membership. If you use another name your results will not be found by the software that compiles the results reports.

Christmas crackers!

1



What do you call Santa who is living at the South Pole?

2

What do you call buying a piano for the holidays?




3

What do you call an elf who sings?

4

What do you call a snowman that has a six pack?



5

What would you call an elf who has just won the lottery?



6

What do you call an elf who is wearing ear muffs?



- Answers**
1. A lost clause
 2. Christmas Chopin
 3. Elfis
 4. An abdominal snowman
 5. Welfy
 6. Anything you like. He can't hear you!



**Caption
Competition
December**

Send your entry to Editor
g.aghajan@btinternet.com



**Caption
Competition
August**

Editor's choice:

"I never said you were two faced!"
Geoff Silverman

*"Yes, you are right, your referee doesn't know the rules.
But please don't be difficult."*
Richard Cohen

PLEASE NOTE

Any articles or letters
for the Spring
newsletter should be
sent to:

Gillian Aghajan
by 20th February 2018

email:
g.aghajan@btinternet.com

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@btinternet.com



Photos - Editor











Christmas Quiz



1. The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, London is an annual gift from which nation?
2. According to the Christmas carol, "Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen". On what date does the Feast of Stephen fall?
3. From which country did Saint Nicholas originate?
4. If a person was given all the gifts in the song "The Twelve days of Christmas", how many gifts in total would they receive?
5. What Christmas item was invented by London baker Tom Smith in 1847?
6. In which ocean does the Australian territory of Christmas Island lie?
7. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents" is the opening line from which classic novel?
8. If you were born on Christmas day under what zodiac sign would you be?
9. From which country were turkeys introduced into the UK in the 16th Century?
10. What is the name of the German/Austrian yeast cake often served at Christmas?
11. Which Disney animation, based on a T.H.White book was first released on Christmas Day in 1963?
12. In "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" why was The Grinch so mean?
13. Who is said to have introduced the Christmas tree into the UK?
14. What were the names of the three wise man?
15. Which plant associated with Christmas has the Latin name "Viscum Album" ?
16. In which Bond film does the character Dr. Christmas Jones appear?
17. What Christmas item was first commercially designed by John Calcott Horsley in 1843?
18. What is the name of The Simpson's pet greyhound?
19. Who were "Walking Backwards to Christmas", in song in 1956?
20. Which is the only book in The Bible to mention the arrival of The Magi at the birth of Christ?



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Jane Hutchison
Neal Mallett
Gillian Worman

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Graham Paul
Lindsay Watkiss