

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2017

Home Nations win medals in New Zealand!



Mens sabre medal winners at the Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Christchurch, New Zealand

England - Silver and Scotland - Bronze
Photo - CVFC 2016

Commonwealth Veterans Championships

Memories of the De Beaumont Centre

England Veterans Fencing

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Where have Christmas and January gone....?

A belated Happy New Year!

The BVF committee met on 15th January and during this meeting discussed further feedback that we had received on selection and competition format. We took a considerable time over this. We agreed on a change to the format of the poules as a result of concerns raised. The schemes are now finalised and published and will be implemented this season.

The committee has agreed on terms of reference for a Working Party to develop a British Veterans ranking scheme. I am pleased to inform you that the members of the working party are: Duncan Rowlands, Ev van Gemeren and Lindsay Watkiss.

There was a vacancy for Chairman of Selectors and the committee unanimously agreed to offer the position to Carl Morris, who I am happy to say, has accepted.

A very warm welcome on behalf of the committee to both Lindsay and Carl.

Online entry for the BVF Championships (new format) which are being held at the Manchester Fencing Centre on 4th and 5th March closes on 24th February. This is the first selection event for the 2017 Veterans World Championships. You will find full details on the website:

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

The BVF AGM will be held at 20:15 hrs on Friday 3rd March at the Victoria Hotel, Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton OL9 8DE. The AGM agenda and associated documents will be sent to all BVF members in February. The England Veterans AGM will follow the BVF AGM. The agenda, accounts and Chairman's report are in this newsletter, pages 7-9.

All BVF members have been emailed or snail mailed information about the European Veterans Individual Championships which are being held in Chiavari, Italy from 25th-28th May. The registration system is a new one. If you are intending to take part and have not yet sent me a completed intention to participate form, please do this by 24th April at the very latest. This is the cut-off date for Federations to register intentions. Once your intention has been processed then you will receive an email from the organisers with a log-in password and link to the reserved area for Fencers on the event website.

If you do not see the email in your inbox, check your junk folder as it could be there.

The website is easy to use. Fencers must register online and pay for entry fees and hotel costs. You will need to upload a passport style photo of yourself for your accreditation badge. This can be .jpg, .gif or .png - maximum size 512KB. You will also have access to the discounted prices at the official hotels. Hotels are filling fast, so don't leave it too late! I have registered intentions to participate from more than sixty GBR fencers so far.

I hope to see many of you at the Manchester Fencing Centre in March.

Sincerely,

Gillian Aghajan
Chairman

BVF Calendar 2017

BVF CALENDAR 2017	
Mar 3	BVF AGM, Victoria Hotel, Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton OL9 8DE 8.15pm
Mar 4-5	BVF Championships 2017, Manchester Fencing Centre Sat: MF MS WE Sun: ME WF WS Event Manager: David Taylor
Apr 1-2	West Midlands Open 2017, Dudley, West Midlands Event Manager: Pete Baron
May 25-28	European Individual Championships, Chiavari, Italy Event Manager: Gillian Aghajan
Jun 24-25	Summer Selection Event, Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes Event Manager: Marcia Stretch
Jul 15-16? (tbc)	BVF Open, Gloucester Event Manager: Marcia Stretch
Sep 23-24	Veterans Winton Cup 2017, Lilleshall National Sports Centre Event Manager: Marcia Stretch
Oct 16-21	Veterans World Championships, Maribor, Slovenia Event Manager: Gillian Aghajan

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

BVF Tracksuits

BVF Tracksuits – order yours now for Chiavari

Order now for the European Individual Championships in Italy in May 2017. Orders close 10 February 2017 to allow production and delivery time. Fencers new to International events as Veterans will be able to order tracksuits with their names but without the GBR Team Patch (if you subsequently get selected for a team then the patch will be added at that time). Please look very closely at the measurements in the size chart – the tracksuits are cut generously!



More details and order form: <http://topkit.co/product/british-veterans-fencing-tracksuit>

Commonwealth Veterans Championships Christchurch, New Zealand 17-20 November 2016

The 12th Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championships were held in New Zealand on 17-20 November. A team of 9 men and 10 women represented England in an 11 nation event with nearly 200 competitors. A successful event produced 8 gold, 10 silver and 3 bronze medals to leave us in second place behind Australia. For the first time the event was run as an Age Group event. There were two rounds of poules with everyone competing and then each age group was fenced as a direct elimination.

The first day was men's epee and women's sabre where we secured 7 medals. In the men's competition Anton Pollard won the over 60 gold with Graham Paul taking silver. Mick Meyer won silver in the over 70 age group with Derek Collier taking bronze. In the women's sabre Jane Hutchison dominated the over 50 category, with silvers going to Yvonne Walls in the over 60s and Jacqueline Esimaje-Heath in the over 40s.

The second day was men's sabre, women's foil and team events from the previous day and another 7 medals. Medals of each colour were won in the men's sabre with gold for Chris Prevett at over 60s, silver for Mike Frith in the over 70s and bronze for Roger Nickless in the over 50s. In the women's foil Janet Cooksey won her first gold at over 70s with silver medals for Caron Hale at over 50s and Moya McNamara at over 60s. The day finished in spectacular fashion with the women's sabre team dominating Australia to take gold.

The third day was men's foil, women's epee and team events and another 7 medals. In the men's foil Graham Paul took gold in the over 60s and Derek Collier a silver in the over 70s. In the women's event golds went to Margaret Oniye at over 50 and Janet Cooksey at over 70 with a bronze for Moya McNamara at over 60s. In both team events, men's sabre and women's foil, we took silvers losing out in both finals to Australia.

The final day was just team events at men's foil and women's epee. In both events our teams lost out in the bronze medal matches.

Due to the distance and the resulting cost the England team was not as strong as that which fenced in Largs in 2014. However, I was pleased with the team spirit and the efforts of all the team members. I would also like to mention Viv Mills who acted as my deputy and supported all the fencers with advice and encouragement.

Detailed results can be seen at www.cvfc2016.co.nz

I would like to thank England Fencing for their support with the entries and for financing the teams.

John Crouch
England Team Manager

Photos from Christchurch

<http://www.cvfc2016.co.nz/competition-information/results>



Spotted on Facebook! Were you there?



*Stunning photo by Peter Barrett before the days of digital cameras
Rob Bruniges (left) v Stephen Paul (right)*

As the taker of this iconic moment in fencing I know exactly where it was taken. British Fencing wanted to make a promotional video and came up with idea of a 'Champions Challenge'. It was set up at the old De Beaumont centre. Fencers included Steven Paul, Rob Bruniges, Linda Martin and Linda Strachan (no sabre fencers, just foil and epee).

To make it fair (and the fact that the foil fencers could not hold up an epee) the fencers used 'Mini Epee's' which is a foil blade in an epee guard and shorting out the connections in the epee socket makes the foil behave as an epee (well spotted Bob Bales).

The setup had 3 video cameras one of which was on a tower and operated by Ziemowit Wojciechowski.

I remember we were late starting the event and the invited spectators had lots of time in which to completely empty the small bar at the De Beaumont. They were a little rowdy once we got going.

I've no idea what happened to the video or even if it made it to the cutting room.

Peter Barrett

I can't remember the year but I do remember we were all quite excited by the whole thing. The de Beaumont centre (the old AFA headquarters were full of all the great and good in British fencing at that time. The most exciting fencers had been chosen to perform. If I remember correctly we were on a raised piste. The lights took some time to set up properly (hence Peter's comment about the usage of the bar). And yes it was drunk dry. Well that's the great and the good for you.

I think the girls fenced first followed by Steve and myself. I seem to remember it was to 10 hits. Steve and I had a great fight, both of us probably at the top of our game. Personally I think this is one of the most iconic photos of fencing I have ever seen, and whenever I see it, it fills me with pride (and the memory that at one time I could actually move in that way.) After the event Steve and I retired to the bar only to find that yes the bar was dry. Why the film was made or if it was used I don't know. As long as that picture exists I'm a happy man.

And yes the hit was mine.

Rob Bruniges



ENGLAND FENCING

England Veterans Fencing Association Annual General Meeting

Venue: Victoria Hotel Manchester, Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton, O19 8DE

Date and Time: Friday 3rd March 2017, 21 00 hrs *

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 4th March 2016
3. Matters arising
4. Reports of Officers
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
5. Election of Officers and committee members
6. Any other business

* Please note that the meeting will follow the BVF AGM. The time given above is approximate and time may be limited.

Any items for AOB should be received by the Secretary no later than 7 days before the meeting (i.e. 24th February 2016)

England Veterans Fencing Association

Chairman's Report 2017

The year has been busy with England hosting the Home International in Durham and a Commonwealth Veterans Championship in Christchurch, New Zealand. The committee have met once and communicated by email to select teams and organise events.

The 10th Home International was organised by Beth Davidson in Durham in April. We again retained the Justin Smith trophy after an exciting weekend of fencing. This year's event will be in Dublin on 6th May.

The Commonwealth Championships were held in Christchurch, New Zealand on 17-20 November. Twenty England fencers travelled to an excellent event held only days after a major earthquake. One of our fencers, Caroline Clancy, experienced the earthquake first hand and only just managed to make it to Christchurch in time for her event. With Australia and Canada fielding strong teams we did well to bring home 8 gold, 10 silver and 3 bronze medals. Special mention goes to our women's sabre team who won 2 gold and 2 silver medals.

Again thanks go to England Fencing for their support as well as funding some of our expenses.

With the change in the BVF Championships the committee is struggling with deciding the best way to select England teams. Any thoughts would be most welcome.

I would like to thank Gillian Aghajan for putting information in the BVF newsletter and John Mason for sending out numerous emails. Also thanks to the members of the committee for the time and enthusiasm they have put into another successful year.

John Crouch **Chairman** **England Veterans Fencing**

John Crouch is presented with the Justin Smith Trophy for Team England by The Mayor of Durham Jan Blakely



England Veterans Fencing Association Profit and Loss Account 2016

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
BVF Contribution	520.00	Badges	85.50
Total	<u>520.00</u>	Total	<u>85.50</u>
 Excess for the year	 <u>434.50</u>		

Please note:

- The Home International, Durham 09/10 April 2016 was self funded.
- The Commonwealth Games, New Zealand 17-20 November 2016 team entries were paid by England Fencing and England Veterans Fencing paid for the badges.

Balance Sheet

Assets as at 1.1.2016

Assets as at 31.12.2016

Bank Current Account £2534.02

Bank Current Account £2968.52

Diane Austin
Hon Treasurer EVFA

31st December 2016

Team Competition - Ghent, Belgium



Koninklijke en Ridderlijke Hoofdgilde van Sint-Michiel v.z.w.
GILDE DER GENTSE SCHERMERS

Chef-Confrérie Royale et Chevalière de Saint-Michel a.s.b.l.
GILDE DES ESCRIMEURS DE GAND

5th VETERANS TOURNAMENT FOR TEAMS *EPEE* – *SABRE*

The Guild of Saint Michael has the honour to invite you to their Veterans Tournament on Sunday 11th June 2017

Attention: the number of entries is limited at:

- *Epee*: max 12 teams
- *Sabre*: max 8 teams

Programme

Reception:	9h30
Appeal:	10h00
Start of the competition (for all weapons)	10h20
Pauze:	13h30-13h50
Medals	after the competition, around 16h30

Venue

Historical fencing hall of the Guild of Saint Michael, Lakenhalle, Botermarkt 18A, 9000 Gent. Telephone number on the day of the competition : (+32) (0) 494/918.917

Entry fee

28 euros per team, the entry fee must be paid on arrival.



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Birmingham International Fencing Tournament 2017



Easter - 15th and 16th April

New Venue for 2017!

360 Sports and Fitness centre. A brand new sports centre at the University of Birmingham.

saturday 15th April	Men's Foil	Check-in closed by 9:00
	Women's Foil	Check-in closed by 11:00
	Men's Sabre	Check-in closed by 13:30

Sunday 16th April	Men's Epee	Check-in closed by 9:00
	Women's Epee	Check-in closed by 11.30
	Women's Sabre	Check-in closed by 13.30

Current BF, NGB or equivalent licences must be shown at Check-in.

Entry Fee : £26.00 per weapon. Cheques payable to **BIFTOC**

Closing date : 9th April Late entries charged at **£36.00.**

Free entry to non-UK residents visiting specifically for this event.

(Excludes students studying in the UK.)

Prizes for last 8 at each weapon.

***Veterans prizes awarded if status declared on entry form or at check-in
(UK BVF members only)***

Trade stand, equipment and prizes provided by Leon Paul Equipment Co.

The organisers retain the right to change the format of the Tournament at any time.

Entry details here: <http://www.birminghaminternationalfencing.org.uk/bift.pl?page=home>

Competition results (top half)

Leon Paul Sabre - 26/11/2016

MS (29) 9 Julian Ghosh

Leon Paul Epee - 03/12/2016

ME (72) 10 John Leahey
20 Anton Pollard

Saints Sabre - 03/12/2016

ME (59) 5 Paul Vaughan
6 Stephen Ferguson

Oxfam Open - 10/12/2016

MF (24) 9 Andrew Courtney

MS (19) 3T Carl Moffat
7 Dave Atkins
9 Michael Compton

WF (13) 3T Jane Clayton
3T Caron Hale
5 Susan Uff

WE (19) 2 Jane Clayton

Aldershot Open - 14/01/2017

MF (36) 14 Graham Paul

ME (43) 7 Philip Jordan
11 Paul Donnelly
13 John Hyde
14 John Leahey
15 Adam Steiner
16 Philip Westley
20 Jonathan Stanbury

WF (12) 3 Gillian Worman

WE (16) 5 Nicola Hull
6 Ingrid Heskett
8 Helen Thouless

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

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.



**Caption
Competition
January**

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 - Editor










**Caption
Competition
October - November
Editor's choice**

"So if I press with this finger I can send text messages on my phone?"

Anon



BVF contacts

Life President		Henry de Silva  6 Little Meadow Andreas Isle Of Man IM7 4HY Tel: 01624 880863
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		Jonathan Stanbury  Tel: 01823 331909 alfq8@aol.com
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Co-opted Member	Publicity Officer	Malcolm Fare  malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk



PLEASE NOTE

Any articles or letters for the February/March BVF Newsletter should be sent to:-

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 by 14th March 2017
 Tel: 07747 792712
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g.aghajan@virgin.net