



The Vets

National Veterans Association - Volume XVIV No 4 – June/July 2005

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AGE GROUP QUALIFIERS 2005

The number of weapon entries to this year's Age Group Qualifiers, held at Stantonbury Campus Milton Keynes, was slightly up on last year. The event was combined with a Refereeing course which took place the Friday. More of that later.

The event started on the Saturday with the Category III Men's Epée in which Chris Green won the gold medal with 9 victories from 11, Jim Pilkington won silver on indicators with 8 victories. Bob Turner and Mick Meyer had 8 victories each and the same second indicator, but Bob was awarded the bronze on third indicator.

The Women's Category III Epée was combined with the Category II event, Carole Seheult being the only Category III entrant went on to win all of her fights but, according to the rules, could only collect the Category III gold. Moya McNamara won the Category II gold, Lynne Bornemisza the silver and Silvia Earl the bronze.

The Men's Epée Category II was fiercely fought with 9 entrants in a poule unique. Hugo Veryzer and Jonathan Stanbury were level at the end with 7 victories each. In the barrage for the gold medal Jonathan beat Hugo for the gold. Jes Smith with 6 victories won the bronze.

Next on was the Category III Men's Sabre in a Poule unique. Tony Bardell won gold, with 3 out of 4 victories, Gordon Coombs won silver with 3 victories on indicators and Rodney Greenhalgh the bronze also with 3 victories.

In the Men's Category II Sabre, Geoff Silverman and Chris Prevett were equal on 4 out of 5 victories at the end of the poule unique. In the barrage Chris took the gold and Geoff the silver. Richard Bonehill won the bronze.

The Women's Category II Sabre was also a poule unique. Yvonne Walls defeated all to win gold, Lynne Bornemisza won silver and Silvia Earl won bronze.

The 3 Category IV Men's Epée entries fenced off for their rankings. Gordon Coombs won the gold, Jim Pilkington the silver and Bob Perry the bronze.

Bob Perry and Gordon Coombs fenced off for positions in the Category IV Sabre. Gordon won his second gold of the day and Bob took the silver.

After the fencing most there was a dinner at the Novotel where most people stayed overnight. During the dinner a quiz was run mainly for the honour of winning but also because there were prizes involved. When all the answer sheets had been collected for marking Richard Bonehill announced to the throng that his table were so confident of winning that if they did not he would buy wine for all of the tables finishing above them. Needless to say Richard left the party considerably poorer but undaunted.

Next day all of the Category I were fenced unisex. In the Epée Neale Thomas emerged undefeated to win the Men's gold medal. Steve Potter came second with 11 victories and Gerry Simpson third with 8 wins. Jane Hutchison won the Women's gold medal with 4 victories, Sue Hanney came second and Gillian Aghajan, in her first ever Epée competition came third.



In the unisex Category I Foil, Philip Allen won the Men's gold medal undefeated, Tony Conyard came second with 6 wins and Jonathan Dawkins came third with 5 wins. Caron Hale who finished 3rd overall won the Women's gold medal with 6 victories, Jane Hutchison came second and Lisa McKercher came third.

Left, triple medal winner Gordon Coombs with Hilary Arnold

AGE GROUPS 2005 RESULTS

Category I Epée combined

- 1 Neale Thomas
- 2 Steve Potter
- 3 Gerry Simpson
- 4 Colin Holburn
- 5 Tony Conyard
- 6 Nigel Middleton
- 7 Jonathan Dawkins
- 8 Philip Allen
- 9 Jane Hutchison
- 10 Paul Drake
- 11 Sue Hanney
- 12 Gillian Aghajan

Category I Foil combined

- 1 Philip Allen
- 2 Tony Conyard
- 3 Caron Hale
- 4 Jonathan Dawkins
- 5 Steve Potter
- 6 Terry Salinger
- 7 Jane Hutchison
- 8 Colin Holburn
- 9 Lisa McKerchar

Category I Sabre combined

- 1 Neale Thomas
- 2 Jane Hutchison
- 3 Steve Potter
- 4 Alexandre Akoulitchev
- 5 Jonathan Dawkins
- 6 Philip Allen
- 7 Barry Coulter
- 8 Colin Holburn
- 9 Grace Roberts
- 10 Gerry Simpson
- 11 Gillian Aghajan

Men's Epée Category II

- 1 Jonathan Stanbury
- 2 Hugo Veryzer
- 3 Jes Smith
- 4 Robin Davenport
- 5 Lawrence Burr
- 6 Andrew Brown
- 7 Tim Schofield
- 8 Rob Brooks
- 9 Chris Farrell

Men's Epée Category III

- 1 Chris Green
- 2 Jim Pilkington
- 3 Bob Turner
- 4 Mick Meyer
- 5 Edmund Gray
- 6 Mike Bradbury
- 7 Gordon Coombs
- 8 Colin Lutman
- 9 Nigel Hinchliff
- 10 Bob Perry
- 11 Tony Bardell
- 12 John Mason

Men's Epée Category IV

- 1 Gordon Coombs
- 2 Jim Pilkington
- 3 Bob Perry

Women's Epée Category II

- 1 Moya McNamara
- 2 Lynne Bornemisza
- 3 Silvia Earl
- 4 Julie Schofield

Women's Epée Category III

- 1 Carole Seheult

Men's Sabre Category II

- 1 Chris Prevett
- 2 Geoff Silverman
- 3 Richard Bonehill
- 4 Andy Bornemisza
- 5 John Norrie
- 6 Jim Harris

Men's Sabre Category III

- 1 Tony Bardell
- 2 Gordon Coombs
- 3 Rodney Greenhalgh
- 4 Bob Perry
- 5 William Cousin
- 6 George Sweetnam

Men's Sabre Category IV

- 1 Gordon Coombs
- 2 Bob Perry

Women's Sabre Category II

- 1 Yvonne Walls
- 2 Lynne Bornemisza
- 3 Silvia Earl
- 4 Hilary Philbin
- 5 Kate Francis
- 6 Myra Whall

Men's Foil Category II

- 1 Jim Harris
- 2 Geoff Silverman
- 3 Fred Sheppard
- 4 Roman Seniuk
- 5 Peter Roberts
- 6 John Blenkinsopp
- 7 Russ Leith

Men's Foil Category III

- 1 Frank Mills
- 2 Mike Bradbury
- 3 Dave Sweeney
- 4 Tony Bardell
- 5 William Cousin

Women's Foil Category II

- 1 Moya McNamara
- 2 Silvia Earl
- 3 Kate Francis

Women's Foil Category III

- 1 Lynda Norrie



Left, Quizmaster Frank Mills in action on the Saturday evening

Neale Thomas picked up his second gold medal of the day in the combined Category I Sabre with 10 wins; Jane Hutchison placed 2nd overall and won the Women's gold with 8 wins. Steve Potter won his second second place of the day with 8 wins and Alexandre Akoulitchev came third with 5 wins. Grace Roberts won the Women's second place and Gillian Aghajan came third.

At the end of the Category II Men's Foil gold, Jim Harris, Geoff Silverman and Fred Sheppard were equal on victories. In the barrage that followed the three were again equal on victories. This meant that indicators had to be calculated, and on second indicators Jim took gold from Geoff by one hit, with Fred taking the bronze. Moya McNamara won the gold in the Women's event, Silvia Earl the silver and Kate Francis the bronze. Lynda Norrie, who came second in the combined Women's Foil event, won the Category III Foil gold.

The Men's Foil Category III, not to be outdone, also had a three way barrage for first place. Frank Mills won the gold for the second year in succession, Mike Bradbury won the silver and Dave Sweeney the bronze.

The full results are given on page 2.

NVA Refereeing Course

22 NVA members signed up for the Refereeing Course at the beginning of June. This was subsidised by the NVA in response to the Questionnaire, and by a grant from the Referees Association. We are also indebted to the generosity of Peter Huggins, Pat Casey, Jim Philbin and John Crouch in offering their services as examiners free of charge.

The first day was a fascinating classroom session led by Peter Huggins, concentrating on recent changes to the rules and on tricky points of interpretation. The day ended with the opportunity to sit the theory test for Grades 3 and 4 at one, two or three weapons. A pass entitled the candidate to present for practical examination over the next two days, although some felt that they needed to practise first and deferred their examination for a later date. Others were happy simply to have increased their expertise, and did not wish for a formal qualification.

The practical sessions were scheduled to run alongside the Age Groups, with the double aim of providing fencers for the candidate referees, and referees for the fencers. A part of the examination procedure required candidates to use weights and gauges, and to apply penalties strictly and formally. As this has not been done before at NVA events, all fencers were warned as their event was about to begin that this would be the case. I am sorry to say that this resulted in a number of panicked flurries of activity, as those who had previously been perfectly happy to fence with a non-regulation weapon rushed about begging for armourers or borrowing weapons.

As the Age Groups is a qualification event for fencers, candidate referees were pre-screened by the examiners in order to ensure that their standard was adequate. All candidates passed the pre-screen and subsequently gained their Grade 3 or 4 (see list below). Many then stayed on and refereed later rounds, justifying our hopes that this is a way forward in addressing the shortfall of referees at NVA events.

Hilary Arnold

<u>Name</u>	<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Grade</u>
David Sweeney	Foil	3 and 4
Frank Mills	Foil	4
	Epée	4
Geoffrey Silverman	Epée	3 and 4
Grace Roberts	Sabre	4
Hilary Philbin	Epée	3 and 4
Jim Philbin	Epée	3 and 4
John Mason	Epée	3 and 4
	Sabre	4
John Norrie	Foil	4
	Sabre	4
Mark Brightman	Epée	3 and 4
	Sabre	3 and 4



Participants of the NVA Refereeing Course

GREAT BRITAIN vs GERMANY 2005

TRURO, CORNWALL

Truro Fencing Club, under the guidance of Richard Bonehill, provided the venue for the 11th international match between Great Britain and Germany. The teams met on the Friday evening in Falmouth where most of the team's members were staying. After breakfast the teams travelled to Truro School where members of Truro Fencing Club had already set up the pistes.



As usual the Germans had brought a strong team which included ex Olympians and a former World Champion. The match proved to be an exciting one with the lead passing from one side to the other. The fencing salle was packed with cheering spectators and BBC Radio Cornwall was broadcasting the event live on local radio. The weapon results were;

Men's Sabre	GBR 11 – GER 5	Woman's Sabre	GBR 10 – GER 6
Men's Epée	GBR 6 – GER 10	Women's Epée	GBR 8 – GER 8
Men's Foil	GBR 9 – GER 7	Women's Foil	GBR 2 – GER 14
Overall result GBR 46 – GER 50			

Following the international match both teams attended a convivial dinner at the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth. Our German guests were very impressed by the setting, with sail boats of all sizes and ages suspended from the roof. Competition continued in the form of a model sailing boat match between representatives of both nations. Honour was restored when the Brits won the match.



Above, Hugo Veryzer delivers a flèche attack on Manfred Rentel.
Right, Assistant skipper Richard Bonehill directs operations.

On the Sunday morning a boat trip up the river Fal was followed by a traditional Cornish lunch of pasties and pies. Our German friends were even more impressed when Richard persuaded our boat skipper to dock at the jetty of the hotel when we returned.





WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006 FIRST SPONSOR ON BOARD

As you know, we are hosting the World Championships next year and your committee is working hard on the organisation of the event.

Hot off the press is the news that we have attracted our first sponsor, the international cleaning equipment company Karcher who see the event as an ideal vehicle for the promotion of their products.

We are actively approaching many more companies and are confident that we will achieve our aim to cover the costs of the event.

Are you able to help?

We have prepared a sponsorship package document and presentation for potential sponsors, and have a list of companies who will receive this, but we are also asking if you have any personal contacts in the commercial world who could be approached either directly or jointly with you?

If so, please contact Frank Mills 01908 310516 (work 01908 561515) or millsbfa@aol.com and he will be pleased to hear from you.

Competition Diary

2005 Commonwealth Championships. Edinburgh. 5 th – 7 th August 2005.	Entry now closed.
NVA Personal Performance Course. Northampton. 21 st August 2005.	One place available due to cancellation. Contact Hilary Arnold on 020 8373 7953.
Duel on the Beach 2005 Perranporth, Cornwall 27 th / 28 th August 2005.	Teams now filled.
World Veterans Individual Championships. Tampa, USA. September 2005.	The squad has been selected and all NVA members have been notified.
Veterans Challenge V Boston, USA. September 2005	Open to all NVA members. To be held after the World Championships.
Middlesex Unisex Epée 2 nd October 2005.	Open to all NVA members. Note date change.
Xmas fun fence and dinner. Coventry. 26 th November 2005.	Entry forms will be circulated with a later newsletter.

You can help in other ways

If you would like to help in any way before or during the World Championships in Bath next year please contact Hilary Arnold: NVASecretary@veterans-fencing.co.uk or 02083737953.

The National Veterans Armoury Course

June 11th saw the newly built Heron's Lodge Guide Centre in Milton Keynes as the venue for a very instructive and entertaining Armoury course day, run by Master Armourers Peter and Janet Huggins. Twelve veterans attended and everyone learned a great deal about fencing that they didn't know before, as the Huggins covered every aspect of the equipment, weaponry and clothing during the full day's training.

The recording equipment was first to be covered, with spools taken apart and repaired, ground wires dissected and then on to the body wires. Peter made the observation that whenever anything goes wrong it is almost certain that the fencer will say "it's the box." He went on to point out that 99 times out of a 100, it isn't, and then took everyone through the tracing of a fault from the box connections to the fencer to the weapon.

Re-wiring weapons came next with many handy tips on making sure that the job was done to last and to the required regulations laid down by the FIE.

Janet demonstrated how to re-bib a mask, and then assisted those who decided to tackle a weapon re-wire for the first time.

This is a course to be highly recommended for everyone taking part in competitions, as it is so easy, with the right knowledge and a few tools, to ensure that weapons, body wires and equipment will pass weapons control first time, and avoid the embarrassment of losing hits when weapons fail at the test just before a fight.

In summary, a very worthwhile day and ten more enrolled members into The Armourers Guild.

Frank Mills

NVA fencers' notable results (L32 or top half) May/June/July 2005

London Intermediate 8th May 2005

Women's Foil (15) 6th Nike Ajibode

Isle of Wight Open 14/15th May 2005

Men's Foil (77) 20th Jonathan Dawkins
23rd Terence Salinger
29th Ian Briggs

Women's Foil (40) 2nd Dawn Townsend
17th Jenny Morris

Men's Epée (89) =6th Steve Tatner
19th Ian Briggs
22nd Andrew Brown
23rd Tim Schofield

Excalibur 21st/22nd May 2005

Men's Foil (44) =11th Rob Bruniges

Women's Foil (41) 5th Dawn Townsend
6th Jenny Morris

Men's Epée (45) =9th Ralph Johnson
=9th Malcolm Allton
=19th Richard Bonehill

Women's Epée (43) =14th Caron Hale
=17th Helen Cormack
=17th Hilary Arnold

Men's Sabre (43) =14th Chris Prett

Women's Sabre (35) =11th Jane Hutchison

Inverclyde Open 28/29th May 2005

Men's Epée (52) 16th Brian McMiken

Women's Epée (26) 13th Fiona Haldane

York Open 28/29th May 2005

Men's Foil (21) 1st Nick Stokes
9th Jim Harris

Women's Foil (8) 2nd Silvia Earl

Men's Sabre (14) 5th Jim Harris

Glasgow Open

Women's Sabre (14) =3rd Grace Roberts

Wrexham Open 11/12th June 2005

Men's Foil (47) 1st Nick Stokes
8th Jonathan Dawkins

Women's Foil (21) 10th Jo Bowyer

Men's Epée (64) 19th Nick Stokes

Women's Epée (29) =3rd Kate Elvin

Bill Hoskyns Open Epée 25th June 2005

Men's Epée (82) =3rd Neale Thomas
11th Howard West
22nd Ian Briggs

Cambridge Open Air 2nd July 2005

Men's Epée (45) 9th Andrew Brown
10th Chris Green
19th Nigel Middleton

British Championships 9th July 2005

Women's Foil (76) 20th Clare Halsted
21st Jo Bowyer

Men's Epée (159) 32nd Anton Pollard

Women's Sabre (81) 5th Jane Hutchison

Norfolk Open 16/17th July 2005

Men's Foil (61) =3rd Nick Stokes
12th Tony Conyard
14th Michael Questier
30th Ian Briggs

Women's Foil (24) =3rd Jo Bowyer
7th Kate Francis
10th Linda Lawes

Men's Epée (64) 6th Malcolm Allton
14th Chris Green
16th Andrew Brown
30th Ian Briggs

Women's Epée (30) 12th Sylvia Brown

If you have any notable results from open or other competitions that you would like to be included in the Newsletter please telephone or email Dave Sweeney before the end of each month.