

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2012

Golden Girls in Kalmar - Women's sabre team Champions of Europe!



***GBR Women's sabre team defeat Germany to take Gold!
Vanessa Hendra, Beth Davidson, Michele Narey, Jane Hutchison***

Photo by Editor

**European Team Championships report, photos
and results**

Connie to carry the Olympic Torch

Vets Fencing in Hong Kong

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

Heartiest congratulations to our Women's Sabre Team for achieving a magnificent Gold Medal in the European Veterans Team Championships in Kalmar, Sweden earlier this month. As you will see in the report from Team Manager Gillian Aghajan in this Newsletter, competition was fierce but everyone fenced well despite some injuries sustained by team members which prevented, I am sure, better overall placings in other weapons.

The Veterans Winton Cup Competition was all set to run at RAF Cosford on 3rd and 4th November this year when last week I heard from our contact there that, due to staffing cut-backs, they would not be able to host us this year after all.

I have however managed to secure the event at the Lilleshall National Sports & Conference Centre and accommodation at the Telford Whitehouse Hotel for the new date of 10th and 11th November.

The date has changed by one week as the Leeds Veterans Open event, attached to the Leeds Open will be running on 3rd and 4th November as will the 5 Nations Championships in Dublin.

I will be writing to each of the Vets Winton team organisers over the next week or so with full details and I hope that many of you will join us again in Telford to take part in this enjoyable competition.

At our last committee meeting we continued our discussion on the results of the selection survey and it was decided that a further short survey is required in order to clarify some of the answers received from the first survey. This is in progress and will be issued shortly and we will then consult with you on the selection procedures and rules for the future.

Having worn the NVA/BVF tracksuit for more years than I care to remember, it was with some delight that I took delivery of my new BVF tracksuit last week. I must say that it is very stylish and comfortable, a great improvement on its predecessor and I recommend it to you wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

Frank Mills
BVF Chairman



European Veteran Team Championships 2012 Kalmar, Sweden

Being team manager for the Great Britain squad was both an honour and a new and exciting prospect for me and after weeks of planning and preparation the time had finally arrived to travel to Sweden.

Kalmar, in south eastern Sweden is not the easiest of places to get to, with no direct flights from the UK. There were a few options and most people flew to Copenhagen then took the train to Kalmar, with some driving from there and a few flying via Stockholm or Malmo. However, despite the chaos of the Ascension holiday period with works on part of the rail line and bus detours involved for some, all the team members got there on time.

I had a day in hand to check out the venue and attend the EVF meeting. The facilities were good and the Swedish organisers extremely helpful, opening weapon control early and doing everything they could to help. The team hotel provided good accommodation and one of the comfiest beds I have ever slept in! The manager and staff were exceptionally courteous and nothing was too much trouble.

Friday, day one, of the competition started with the men's épée and the women's sabre. Fifteen men's épée teams had entered and fenced in 5 poules of 3. The team of Ralph Johnson (captain), Robert Flatt, Anton Pollard and John Morris drew Ukraine and Hungary in the poule and fought hard in both matches. Flatt won 2 of his fights in the first against Ukraine and the others all scored 3 points in each of theirs to finish 2-7. In the second match Flatt fought extremely well again and won all of his fights but the final score was 4-5 with Hungary winning on the last fight.

After the poules, GB were in 12th place and then had to fight direct elimination format (first to 5) for 9th -16th position. The first match was against Poland and in a tense finish Poland won on the last fight 5-4. This then gave our team a bye to vie for 13-16 to fight the winners of Belgium versus Denmark. Belgium won 5-2 so Belgium it was. Flatt having fought extremely well all day subbed out and Morris took his place. The team dominated to win 5-2. This gave our team a final position of 13th.

In the meantime the women's sabre team were drawn in a poule against France and Russia. There were six teams in total. Beth Davidson, team captain, was suffering from an ongoing injury which she exacerbated during the warm up and with the help of a 'friendly sports therapist and a doctor' was able to manage her injury (a suspected soleus tear) with incredible determination and courage. The first match saw the team of Beth Davidson, Jane Hutchison and Vanessa Hendra (reserve Michele Narey) face France. At a score of 4 matches to 2 up Beth's injury got worse in her last fight at 4-4 all. She had to take some injury time but bravely went back on to take the last point! The final score was a 6-3 victory with Davidson and Hutchison winning all their fights.



The next match saw Russia and with Davidson managing her injury in between fights with ice, she Hutchison and Narey dominated to win 6-3. This gave our girls a bye to the semi final with them making it look easy against a strong Italian team winning 5-0. This took them into the final against Germany. The final was incredibly exciting with our team looking confident to win 5-3. A fantastic achievement with two of the team, Narey and Hendra in their first team international. A fantastic moment for me too as team manager and something I will never forget.

Next day, Saturday was the turn of the men's foil and women's epee teams. The men's foil team of John Troiano (captain), Brian Causton, Robert Kiss and Richard Sage drew Italy and France in the first poule and fought extremely well but were unlucky to lose both matches 4-5 and after the poules were ranked 8th out of 10. Kiss was suffering from a painful hamstring problem but continued to fence well. In the DEs they faced Russia for a place to stay in the last eight and in a tense match won 5-4. This gave them a place in the quarter finals against Sweden. They fought a match of mixed fortunes and were unlucky to lose 3-5. They then had to fight for 5th - 8th places and came up against France again. They dominated dropping only one fight and Kiss, although suffering from his injury won the 6th fight 5-0 to take the match 5-1. That then gave them the opportunity to fence off for 5th or 6th place against Hungary and again they dominated to win easily 5-1 pulling themselves from 8th place to 5th. They were disappointed to lose in the quarter final against Sweden which denied them a stab at the medals.



Brian Causton in action

With an entry of nine teams the women's epee team of Moya McNamara, Jane Clayton, Jane Hutchison and Nicola Hull drew a very strong Italy and Hungary in the first poule. Jane Clayton was unwell and therefore was not able to fence as many fights as she would have liked to. In the first match against Italy the team lost 1-8 and then lost 3-6 to Hungary. This unfortunately placed them in 9th position after the poules having to face Sweden for a place in the quarter finals. The match was very keenly fought and could have gone either way but Sweden won the last fight 5-4 to take the match 5-4 which meant our team finished in 9th place with no more matches.

Saturday night was a chance for most of our fencers and officials to relax and enjoy the Gala dinner in Kalmar castle. A beautiful venue with a tasty dinner, and entertainment including outdoor fire juggling in the courtyard, followed by dancing to a live jazz band in another part of the building. However it was a fairly early night for me and those who were fencing the next day.



Time to relax

Sunday, the last day of the competition saw the men's sabre and women's foil. With seven teams entered, the men's team of Richard Bonehill (captain), Peter Baron, Rob Penton, and Chris Prevett drew Italy and France in a poule of 3 with the other teams in a poule of 4. In a toughly fought first match against Italy they lost 3-6 and then 1-8 to France to be ranked 6th after the poules. This meant that they faced Germany in the DE for a place in the semi finals. Although the individual fights were close our team lost 1-5 putting them in the fight off for 5th - 8th place. First came Hungary and in a tough battle Hungary were the first to 5 with a final score of 3-5. This left the fight off for 6th and 7th place against the Czech Republic with Penton winning all his fights and Baron and Prevett one each to make a victory of 5-2 to finish in 6th place.



**Rob
Penton**
*'il
pescatore'!*

The women's foil team of Jane Clayton (captain), Caron Hale, Nicola Hull and Gillian Worman drew Russia and France in a poule of 3 and like the men's sabre, with seven teams entered that left 4 teams in the other poule. Jane Clayton was feeling worse than the day before and made the decision not to fence in the first few matches. In the first match against Russia each of the team members won one fight to make the match score 3-5. The next match against France was much closer with our team narrowly losing the last fight on time 3-4 hence just losing the match 4-5. This placed them 6th after the poules to meet Germany for a place in the semi-finals. This was a tough call with some close scores to give a final loss of 2-5. With a fight off for 5th -7th places the team fenced extremely well against Finland to win 5-3. Clayton decided to fence in the last match against the Netherlands with Worman as substitute and won two of her three fights with a score in the last one of 5-4 to take the match 5-2 giving the team a final position of 6th.

Our referee, Duncan Rowlands was a credit to the Great Britain contingent. He was totally professional at all times with a cool aura of command. He was chosen to referee more than one final including the men's sabre which was an exciting and contentious match between Italy, the winners and France. He stood his ground at all times and evidence showed that the decision he made to award the winning point to Italy was correct despite the protestations of the French. Thank you and well done Duncan!



For me the whole experience was a myriad of emotions from sharing the elation of the women's sabre team to consoling the teams who were disappointed with their performances, plus all the other things.... To the squad: thank you for the respect that you showed me. It was a pleasure to be the manager of such a great group of people. I was hugely impressed at how all the team members supported not just their own teams but the other weapon teams too. Thank you to all the team captains - not an easy job by any means, but you were all effective and supportive. To David Sweeney: I was so pleased that you were able to make the trip to Kalmar and thanks for your company and support. Congratulations on being re-elected as President of the EVFC.

***His foot was
in!***

***Photos by
Editor***

***Gillian Aghajan
Team Manager***

European Team Championships Results

Men's Epée

- 1 Italy
- 2 Sweden
- 3 Ukraine
- 4 Switzerland
- 5 Hungary
- 6 Russia
- 7 Hungary
- 8 Finland
- 9 France
- 10 Norway
- 11 Poland
- 12 Ireland
- 13 Great Britain
- 14 Belgium
- 15 Denmark

Men's Foil

- 1 Italy
- 2 Switzerland
- 3 Germany
- 4 Sweden
- 5 Great Britain
- 6 Hungary
- 7 France
- 8 Poland
- 9 Russia
- 10 Denmark

Men's Sabre

- 1 Italy
- 2 France
- 3 Russia
- 4 Germany
- 5 Hungary
- 6 Great Britain
- 7 Czech Republic

Women's Epée

- 1 Germany
- 2 France
- 3 Finland
- 4 Russia
- 5 Italy
- 6 Hungary
- 7 Sweden
- 8 Austria
- 9 Great Britain

Women's Foil

- 1 Russia
- 2 Italy
- 3 Germany
- 4 France
- 5 Great Britain
- 6 Finland
- 7 Netherlands

Women's Sabre

- 1 Great Britain
- 2 Germany
- 3 Italy
- 4 France
- 5 Russia
- 6 Austria



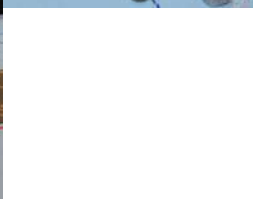
Congratulations to our Women's Sabre Team Champions! -

*Vanessa Hendra
Jane Hutchison
Beth Davidson
Michele Narey*

Photos by Editor



Scenes from Sweden



Photos by Editor



Connie to carry the Olympic Torch!

I recently received a note from a very delighted Connie Adam (the well known TV celebrity!):

"Dear Gillian,
I can't wait for the torch! Won't be long now. All I know is it's 5th July but they still haven't told me which bit is mine, only that it is 300 metres and I'm still waiting for the outfit!
Love,
Connie."

Connie - I hope you have now received your outfit and know your route - Editor

The following article and photo were published in the Norwich Evening News:

'Norwich's multiple fencing medal winner Connie Adam will swap her sword for the Olympic torch when she carries the historic flame for a 300m stretch of the city route.

The honour comes after the 84-year-old grandmother returned from the World Veteran Fencing Championships with a bronze medal last year and she successfully battled to become a freeman of the city the year before. Mrs Adam, who lives on The Avenues and first started fencing when she was 60, said: "I'm absolutely over the moon to be nominated as a torchbearer. I'm too excited to know what to say. I knew I had been nominated but to actually get to be a torchbearer is something else. Next to being made a freeman of the city and winning a medal at the Veteran World Championships, it's the best thing that's happened to me."

Mrs Adam, who was nominated as a Torchbearer by Norwich City Council, has travelled all over the world with fencing, competing in the USA, Canada, Russia, Australia and Europe. She has been a European Champion for six years, Commonwealth Champion for three years and at the World Championships she came ninth.

Connie has represented Great Britain many times and recently returned from Belfast where she represented England.

This year she hopes to compete in Austria in August and at the Commonwealths in Singapore in October.'

Connie Adam



**Article and photo courtesy
of Norwich Evening News**

Roger and Sharon Nickless in Hong Kong

Dear all,

I am pleased to be able to report that Veterans fencing seems to be taking off in Asia or maybe it's only now that we are hearing about the competitions after 18 months of being in Hong Kong. Shortly after arriving Sharon found a good club for us; The Hong Kong Sport Fencing Union, run by the head coach Andrew Wong who is qualified by the British Academy of Fencing. The club has some keen fencers with a great mix of banter and serious competition even with a dozen or so Vet members - look out for them at the Vets World Championships in the next year or two.



We were at the Hong Kong Team Challenge recently, an event which had 90 teams entered with all weapons represented and entries from as far afield as China, Russia and even Scotland! I counted at least 20 Vets across the teams, so there is hope for us yet! The competition was run flawlessly by Les Escrimeurs fencing club and Wally Yeung. To process poules of three and then DEs for both the cup and the shield for each weapon in one day was quite a feat.

Wally and Les Escrimeurs are organising the first Veterans Fencing Tournament in Hong Kong on 23 September, the weekend before 2012 Vets Commonwealths in Singapore. You will have seen the invitation in the April Newsletter. Singapore is only a short hop from Hong Kong and would help the jet lag! Sharon and I are more than willing to answer any questions, provide advice and/or co-ordination if needed by any British Vets. England Vets won't get preferential treatment, honest! The Hong Kong Fencing Association holds a number of competitions through the year, and attracts a wide range of fencers from keen amateurs to the six Hong Kong fencers who have qualified for the 2012 Olympics. If anyone is interested in taking part check out the Hong Kong Fencing Association website or get in touch.

We heard recently that there is a series of 6 Vets competitions in different cities in China through the year, the next being North of Macau in June - we will forward details when we find out more. Lastly, there is a Vets competition in Japan in the first week of November; our friends in Hong Kong have invited us to tag along. I'm just hoping they bring along the correct swords, not sure how Epee versus Samurai would work. I had heard that there will be Australian and US fencers there too, so the event will not be conducted solely in Japanese. For those with access to Youtube, you can find some footage of some previous fights from Japanese Vets competitions to whet your appetite.

Thanks to the editorial team for all the hard work they put into the newsletter, it's great for us to be able to keep up to speed with what's happening at home. PS! Hi to our friends at City Fencing club."

Best regards,

Roger and Sharon Nickless

rogernickless@hotmail.co.uk

Andrew Wong takes a beginners' class (with Sharon pretending to be a beginner!)

London Marathon Report from Henry de Silva

On a sunny day I made my way to Blackheath with many others. Having got my number from Excel and won myself a tracksuit top in a competition. I lined up on the Blue Line. I decided to race-walk. It takes time to go past the start time, but you have a chip on your shoe that tells you when you actually start. The first mile therefore was 30 minutes but 3 miles in the first hour. It was very warm but there were many places giving out water.

After 3 miles all the various groups met. Crowds were stupendous offering fruit, jelly babies, biscuits etc. The Cutty Sark now restored was a glorious sight but a long way to go.

Many people were dressed up and it must have been very warm for them. I saw Blackpool Tower, St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster all trotting along and two people on stilts. I had a chicken with me for several miles.

I kept a steady pace of over 4 miles an hour. At 23 miles it started to rain and get very cold. I beat my target of less than 6 and a half hours by doing 6hrs 26min 22secs, finishing 35259 with another 2000 behind me.

I would like to thank the 3 Cat 4 ladies who sent a donation towards Blind Veterans UK (formerly St Dunstons). I was disappointed at the response because through me you have been able to carry on competing and many of you have won medals at Nationals, Commonwealth, European and World Championships.

Henry de Silva
Life President

<http://www.st-dunstons.org.uk/>

BVF Calendar 2012

BVF CALENDAR 2012	
June 23-24	Celtic Challenge, Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Sep 27-30	Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Singapore
Oct 13-14 (tbc)	Welsh Veterans Championships, Aberystwyth Contact Gillian Aghajan (g.aghajan@virgin.net) for details
Oct 17-21	World Championships, Krems, Austria
Nov 10-11	Veterans Winton Cup, Lilleshall, Telford
Nov 25	BVF v Royal Navy, HMS President, 72 St Katharines Way, London E1W 1UQ

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

Competition results (top half)

Uhlmann Trophy - 21/4/2012

MF (35)	11	Nick Stokes
ME (37)	12	Ellis Charlesworth
	15	Tom Chrisp
	16	Paul Willmott
WF (17)	6	Kate Harris
	8	Kim De Large

Brighton Open - 6/5/2012

MF (41)	3	Gerry Gajadharsingh
	5	Paul Lowen
	14	Paul Harden
	16	Jim Whelan
ME (48)	2	Howard West
	7	Will Miller
	10	Simon Pink
MS (21)	10	Tony Bardell
WF (13)	1	Dawn Townsend
WE (12)	1	Mariette Mason
	3	Helen Easter
	5	Nadya Yordanova

Tracksuits

Order the new BVF tracksuits and a range of matching items online from Kitlocker at www.britishfencingstore.com. Select British Team, then Veterans Team 2012 to see the whole range and make your selection. You are entitled to have GREAT BRITAIN on the back of your tracksuit jacket and any other item with this option available only if you have been selected for team internationals or individual World championships this year or in the past.

White Horse Team Trophy - 24th June

This is another friendly team event, similar to the Crystal Open, which is held at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Abingdon.

The WHTT competition is for teams of 3 fencers of either sex consisting of: 1 foilist, 1 epeeist and 1 sabreur.

There will be a round of poules fought per weapon. All teams will progress to the DE which will be by relay.

If you would like to take part please contact Peter Baron.
bvf@baronfencing.plus.com

Details are on the website:
<http://www.abingdonfencing.org.uk/whtt.htm>

Peter Baron

Anton wears his new tracksuit

Photo by Editor

**Gillian Aghajan
Editor**



England Veterans Fencing

Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championships Singapore 27 – 30 September 2012

Details can be found on www.cvfc2012.sg

Entries

Individual entries have to go through National Bodies. For England fencers I will co-ordinate these once entry forms are available and we know the actual costs. I assume that the other Home Countries will co-ordinate their entries.

Teams will be selected on the results of the individual events.

Several people have already indicated an interest in entering. If you are intending to go would you please drop me an email (johncrouch@fsmail.net) and I will ensure that you get any relevant forms and information. Fencers will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation and may be required to make a contribution towards the cost of a referee.

John Crouch
Chairman England Veterans Fencing Association

Accommodation in Singapore for the Commonwealth Championships

As the fencing venue is about 25 minutes away from the city centre, the project team have negotiated a special room (only) rate of SGD330 per room per night (maximum 2 per occupancy) with the Pan Pacific Singapore at Marina Square. The hotel is near to the East Coast Parkway which gives quick access to the venue. The rate is for a fixed number of rooms on a first come first serve basis. Once the first block is filled, a second block of rooms will be released by the Hotel but at a slightly higher rate.

There will be FREE transportation for participants staying in the official hotel to competition venue.

See the website for details <http://cvfc2012.sg/accommodation.html>



Individual and +190 Team Competition in Macedonia

Third Ohrid Lake Cup in Fencing for Veterans and 30+
Struga
Macedonia

01/02 September 2012
Congress Hall in Hotel Drim - Struga, Ohrid Lake

An individual weapon competition over 2 days with team events 190+.
Minimum aggregate age for each team with three fencers: 190 years. The
teams can be internationally and gender combined.

1st September:
ME, WF, WS, Team Sabre, Team Epée
2nd September:
WE, ME, MF, MS, Team Foil

Hotel accommodation

Hotel Drim****Struga
Double room €30 HB €25 BB per person
Single €39 HB €34 BB per person

How to arrive

Airport Ohrid - <http://ohd.airports.com.mk>
Airport Skopje - <http://skp.airports.com.mk>

Airport Thessalaniki, Greece
Airport Pristina, Kosovo and Airport Tirana, Albania

The MMF will organise transport from Skopje Airport to Struga and back for the price
of €35, other airports price on request

For more information email:

vardar@macedonianfencing.com
or contact Editor g.aghajan@virgin.net

Veterans Dinner 1st September

Training Camp

27th August - 31st August

Vatrostalnaa@yahoo.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@virgin.net

Caption Competition May

send your entry to Editor

g.aghajan@virgin.net



Caption Competition April *Editor's choice*

"Jane Hutchison takes over as Welsh team singing coach"
Chris Prevett

"Jane desperately tries to remember the 60s and the signs for love and peace."
Paul Brenda

"Quiet everybody I'm trying to hear what's being said in the March caption."
Ivan Ward

*Photos by
Editor*



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

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 by 17th June 2012

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