



BVF COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Zoom

16 February and 25 February 2026

MINUTES

These minutes are from two meetings which discussed one agenda

Present: Carl Morris (President) CM, Beth Cranston Selby (BCS), Naomi Donaldson (ND), Paul Baillache (PB), Jane Hutchison (JH), Graham Paul (GP), Lucy Wright (LW), Gillian Aghajan (GA), Theo Ayanwale (TA)

26/01 Apologies

Beth Cranston-Selby for the meeting on 16 February. Theo Ayanwale resigned after the meeting on 16 February and did not attend the meeting on 25 February. ND was also unable to attend the meeting on 25 February.

26/02 Selection

26/02.1 Wording of the selection rules

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the words: 'As this is a team event, overriding all qualification results will be the Selectors' judgement of team suitability'. This was felt by some members to be too loose and to allow deselection of fencers who have qualified for unclear reasons. This clause was originally intended to prevent fencers with a poor conduct record partaking in team events, it was agreed to remove the aforementioned phrase and replace it with 'A qualified individual can be deselected if their previous conduct may prove detrimental to the team'. Rules to be adjusted. **LW**

26/02.2 World Championship selection rules

The FIE is still undecided about how to seed the World Championship teams and will make the final decision at Comex, date yet to be determined.

There is already a note on the website to say that the rules for team selection may need to be changed depending on the final seeding rules, so the Committee decided to defer its decision until the FIE has issued the final rules.

26/02.3 Appointment of Selectors

It was decided that the Committee annually appoint the Selectors for the coming season from a list of suitable candidates put forward by the Chair of Selectors after the World Championships has taken place. Rules and Regs to be adjusted. **LW**

26/03 Competitions

26/03.1 Guildford

Date 9/10 January. Venue booked.

Lessons learned from 2026:

- No shows are scratched immediately when check-in closes unless they have contacted DT
- Events must start on time
- If fencers in the foil and sabre are still fencing when the other weapon is due to start, they get scratched from the second competition

- 3 people needed for DT
- Floor person must flag up with DT if fencing isn't taking place

LW asked to contact Mavis Thornton, Alex Savin, Phil Palmer, Max Reeve and Marcus Messer to ask whether they are interested in running DT. **LW**

26/03.2 **Age Groups**

Date: 21/22 March.

Harvey Hadden Sports Village.

PB has paid the venue, but has yet to pay Leon Paul for the equipment. **PB**

The referees have been sourced and are mostly local, but another foil or sabre ref is still required. **ND**

ND has booked the hotel rooms.

The Café will be open 10-3 on both days.

St. John's Ambulance is booked.

PB and JH are welfare officers.

Volunteers needed for Friday night. **LW**

LW on check-in.

Peter and Janet Huggins are booked.

ND and Don on DT.

ND to double check Leon Paul! **ND**

26/03.3 **Bards Bash**

This competition has not been as successful as the committee had hoped, largely because July is a full time in the calendar with the Criterium and German match and Stratford-upon-Avon is an expensive location. Various alternatives to the current competition were suggested, such as a training day for the World Championship squad. It was decided to investigate this possibility with Warwick as a location, possibly to be held at the end of August. JH to discuss with Chris Buxton. **JH**

26/03.4 **German Match**

The date of this competition will be 25 July at the Cardiff Fencing Academy.

The Cardiff Academy is booked, referees can be provided and DT is not required.

JH and GA volunteered to make the arrangements for: accommodation; the evening meal; and possible entertainment (walking tour?) for the Germans. **GA/JH**

Harald Luders has suggested a combined age of 180. There was a discussion as to whether 180 was too high to afford younger fencers the opportunity to fence, but it was decided to see which fencers come forward and then to renegotiate if necessary. LW to advertise for fencers to participate. **LW**

26/03.5 **Nationals**

The BF Safety Committee had queried whether introducing Cat1s into our National Championships posed any extra safety concerns due to it being one of our qualifying events. Despite Cat 1s having always competed in this tournament, it was decided to discuss this matter further and pay special attention to the age aspect when completing the normal Risk Assessment submitted before each event.

A full discussion took place on all the possible scenarios that could cause injury and whether the risk is significantly, or even at all, increased by fencing across a wide span of ages and it was agreed that this this could be included in the Risk Assessment.

BF had also made the separate point of fairness in that either older fencers and/or younger fencers may feel uneasy competing against each other.

If it either of the above issues were found to be significant, various remedies were discussed including reviewing our qualifying events or splitting the event into Vets and Grand Vets which was already on the agenda for discussion, but only for the purposes of aligning the format to that of the international team events. If the competition were to be split, it could probably be run over just two days with only one round of pools.

CM, GP and PB to ensure that Risk Assessment is completed thoroughly. **CM/PB/GP**

Unless the Risk Assessment dictates otherwise, it was felt that changing the format of the Nationals in 2026 would be problematic as the venue has already been booked and many fencers will already have booked a hotel for the Friday event. It was then decided to continue discussions on possibly changing the format for 2027 but seek opinion from some of the competitive members in the meantime.

26/03.6 West Midlands Open

Members have been surveyed and there was no great appetite for this competition, particularly in December.

The discussion led on to a new venue at the Railway Institute in York, which is very inexpensive to hire and may become a regional fencing hub. There is room for 16 pistes and an area for DT. This may be a natural successor to Manchester.

CM to contact Peter Baron and let him know that the West Midlands Open would not be on the calendar for this year. **CM**

26/03.7 Winton Cup

GA has booked the hotel rooms at the same rate as last year and has booked the same venue for dinner for 80-100 people.

The venue is booked although the Jubilee Hall is unavailable, so the sabre hall will be further away.

LW to book equipment and First Aid. **LW**

It was suggested Andy Williams might help Phil on DT. LW to contact. **LW**

LW to confirm with GA who needs hotel rooms. **GA**

26/04 AGM 2026

TA has resigned so there is a vacancy on the Committee. LW and BCS are both up for re-election and agreed to stand again. LW said that it will be her final term.

LW seconded by CM proposed that the membership fee be raised from £15 to £20 to cover rising administration costs.

The agenda to be published by 28 February. **LW**

26/05 AOB

The Accounts are with the auditor and should be signed off by the time of the AGM.