



## **BVF COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Via Zoom**

**24 April 2026**

### **MINUTES**

Present: Carl Morris (President) CM, Beth Cranston Selby (BCS) for part of the meeting, Jacqueline Esimaje-Heath (JEH), Paul Baillache (PB), Jane Hutchison (JH), Graham Paul (GP), Lucy Wright (LW), Gillian Aghajan (GA) and Naomi Donaldson (ND) for part of the meeting.

**26/06 Apologies**

ND for part of the meeting.

**26/07 Appointments.** CM made the following appointments:

26/07.1 EVF Representative: GA

26/07.2 Team Manager: GA

26/07.3 Membership secretary: JH

26/07.4 Chair of Selectors: GP There was a discussion about the timing for appointing the Chair of Selectors, given that the season starts after the World Championships and it was decided that the Chair of Selectors be appointed after the World Championships and s/he would recommend selectors shortly after this appointment.

26/07.5 Competition sub-committee: currently LW and ND. ND will be posted abroad for a few months in July. A decision on further membership was deferred.

**26/08 Selection**

**26/08.1 Issues arising from ET selection rules**

A number of fencers had declined places, giving more discretion to the selectors, but The Chair of Selectors reported that an issue had arisen in GV Mens Foil, due to the lack of discretion. However no complaints had been received from fencers about the new system.

There was a lot of discussion and the following points observed:

- Using the ranking system reduces complaints
- Whichever system is used GB results are not as good as some other countries'
- There are various different ways of selecting teams used by other countries e.g. Italy has national coaches to pick the teams.

JEH suggested putting on a team event as part of the BVF calendar, using the same format as used in Liege, but such a handicap system may not suit epee.

**26/08.2 ET Team Captains**

The Chair of Selectors is waiting for the Selectors to come back with him with their choices for Team Captains. These will be announced as soon as possible. **GP**

**26/08.3 World Championship Team Selection**

At the meeting on 26.10.25 the committee voted by majority that the World Championship Team would be the two top ranked fencers from each age category on the selection ranking lists who would qualify as of right with the fifth fencer chosen at the selectors' discretion. The teams are usually pre-selected and announced at the time the squad is selected.

GP explained that at last year's championships the team seeding was taken from the top fencer's seeding in the individual and this may again be the case this year. If this is the case, GP's opinion is that the team (or part of the team) should be chosen after the individuals

have taken place. The WC invitation is finalised four months before the event, so GP thought that there was still time to adjust the rules.

There was a discussion regarding the practicalities of asking all fencers to stay extra days in case they might be selected for the team. This would make a difference to people's travel arrangements and expectations. Some committee members were of the opinion that fencers should stay for the team event regardless of whether they will be fencing in it, and some members thought that fencers should know whether or not they are fencing in the team before they go.

There was a strong feeling from some members that it would be too late in the day to change the team selection rules, but GP pointed out that he had suggested before Christmas that these rules be changed and the committee had deferred its final decision subject to the release of this year's seeding rules, which was minuted and stated on the website.

It was suggested, as a compromise solution, that the fifth fencer's place could remain unselected until after the individual in case a freak result could affect the seeding.

CM asked GP to put a concrete proposal to the committee at the next meeting, so that the rules for this year can be made final. **GP**

## 26/09 **Competitions**

### 26/09.1 **Nationals**

#### 26/09.1.1 Arrangements

Date 19/21 June. Bedford International Athletics Stadium.

Venue booked.

Available from 8.30 Friday. Need to set up asap and get volunteers. **ND/LW**

Venue closes at 5.30 on Saturday, so epee must be moved on quickly. All pistes will be used and a lot of refs will be needed.

Sabre on Sunday. Kit being collected at 5.30pm.

Medics booked. Not SJA.

Accommodation booked for refs.

Max Reeve will run DT (post meeting note: Max has been deployed and cannot do DT)

GP asked to assist with seeding – slotting people in who did not compete last year. **GP**

PB has bought the medals.

GP suggested using 2 rounds of poules with only the second round counting for DE seeding which evens out the initial seeding somewhat.

Special medal for top 80+ competitor in each event to be arranged. **ND/PB**

#### 26/09.1.2 Risk Assessment

British Fencing Safety Committee asked for this event to be risk assessed, because of the risk of older fencers fencing younger fencers. BVF requested further information from BF, but this has not been forthcoming.

A RA on this particular aspect of the event will be carried out as part of the overall event RA. To mitigate the risk of injury by hard hitting the refs will be asked to watch for dangerous and uncontrolled actions and sanction where necessary.

The mismatch in age should be noted in the commentary of the RA, although this risk cannot be mitigated.

PB to circulate the Age Groups RA to CM and GP so that this new aspect can be included. **PB**

### 26/09.2 **German Match**

Date: 25 July. Cardiff Fencing Academy.

JH has visited the venue. It opens at 8.30am and there are cafes on site.

The list of hotels has been sent to the German organisers and will be sent to the GB team.

ME/WF start 9.30

MF/WS start 11.45

MS/WE start 14.00

The winning team will be determined on victories.

Refs organised by Phil Shepherd-Foster. Erin Corcoran will be on hand to help. No DT.  
German / UK flags provided.

GA has organised a dinner at 'the Botanist'. GA to organise menu orders which will need to be in 2 weeks beforehand.

JH to arrange certificates for the winning teams to be presented at the dinner.

Sunday morning there will be a walking tour of Cardiff for anyone who wants to go.

T shirts will be provided.

The budget is £2500. GB fencers will contribute to the meal and T shirts.

There was talk of buying a trophy, which most members thought was a good idea.

PB to look into insurance cover.

**PB**

### 26/09.3 **Bards Bash**

Due to lack of support in previous years, this event will probably not go ahead. It was suggested that a team sabre event could be organised nearer to London, which may incorporate a small social aspect, but fit within a day so that a hotel stay is not needed for the majority of fencers.

JEH offered to liaise with LW to look at venues etc.

**JEH, LW**

There was also a suggestion of a one-hit epee competition in Bath.

### 26/09.4 **Winton Cup**

#### 26/09.4.1 Arrangements

Date: 19/20 September, Lilleshall.

The venue is booked.

Kent kit needs to be got to the venue.

**PB**

The medics have quoted and will be accepted.

#### 26/09.4.2 2027

CM is investigating possible venues nearer Birmingham. Edgbaston University is available in the first week of September, but that is not ideal. Further investigations needed.

**CM**

### 26/09.5 **Guildford 2027**

Date: 9/10 January

Confirmed with EVF for the next three years.

PB booking future dates.

**PB**

LW to find people to man DT.

**LW**

### 26/09.6 **York**

No dates are available for this venue in 2026.

### 26/10 **EVF Congress**

The Committee voted to say that it continues to support banning Russia and Belarus from EVF events. Russian and Belarussian fencers will not be permitted to fence in Guildford.

**GA**

### 26/11 **AOB**

None.

### 26/12 **Date of Next Meeting**

21 May 2026 at 9.30.