

Accessible European Competitions

As I did last season, I've researched a few European competitions that are easily accessible from most of the UK that members may like to consider as preparation for the European Championships, or simply as an opportunity to fence against new opposition. My contacts suggest that these competitions attract the top veteran fencers in their respective countries as well as a few overseas fencers. Full details of these competitions are not yet available, but members may wish to make a calendar note to keep the weekends free for when more information becomes available.

French Veterans Circuit – Maisons Alfort – 09/10 December 2017

This is a two-weapon event (sabre only) held in a suburb of Paris, easily accessible via line D of the RER. There are flights from many airports in the UK to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, and the Eurostar runs direct to Paris Gare du Nord from St. Pancras. Both CdG airport and Paris GdN are on the RER network, making the event easily accessible.

French Veterans Circuit – Val d'Europe – 09/10 December 2017

This is a four-weapon event (foil and epee) held in Marne-la-Vallée next to Disneyland Paris, easily accessible via line A of the RER. There are flights from many airports in the UK to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, and the Eurostar runs direct to Paris Gare du Nord from St. Pancras. Both CdG airport and Paris GdN are on the RER network, making the event easily accessible.

French Veterans Circuit – Faches Thumenil – 27/28 January 2018

This is a four-weapon event (foil and sabre) held in a suburb of Lille. There are no flights from the UK to Lille airport, but the Eurostar runs direct to Lille from St. Pancras. It is only about a 90-minute drive from Calais ferry / Eurostar terminals.

My personal experience is that if you tell the organisers which trains you are on they will pick you up at Lille Eurostar terminal and take you to the arranged hotel (need to book the hotel yourself), then pick you up at the hotel and take you to the venue, then take you from the venue to Lille Eurostar. The cost for this door to door is nothing – it's all included in your entry fee!

French Veterans Circuit – St. Maur – 24/25 February 2018

This is a two-weapon event (epee only) held in the Saint-Maur-des-Fossés suburb of Paris, easily accessible via line A of the RER. There are flights from many airports in the UK to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, and the Eurostar runs direct to Paris Gare du Nord from St. Pancras. Both CdG airport and Paris GdN are on the RER network, making the event easily accessible.

Italian Masters Circuit – Busto Arsizio – 17/18 March 2018

This is a six-weapon event held in a suburb of Milan. The local train station is about a 20-minute walk from the venue and is a 20-minute train ride direct from Milan Malpensa airport. Direct flights to Milan Malpensa airport from the UK are available as follows:

BMI Regional: Bristol

British Airways: Heathrow

Easyjet: Edinburgh, Gatwick, Luton, Manchester

Flybe: Birmingham, Cardiff, Manchester

German Veterans Circuit – Hamburg – 28/29 April 2018

This is a six-weapon event held near the centre of Hamburg. The venue is about 10km from Hamburg airport, making a taxi affordable, and has good local transport links. Direct flights to Hamburg airport from the UK are available as follows:

BMI Regional: Bristol

British Airways: City, Heathrow

Easyjet: Edinburgh, Gatwick, Luton, Manchester

Eurowings: Birmingham, Heathrow, Manchester

Germanwings: Birmingham, Heathrow, Manchester

Ryanair: Manchester, Stansted

Other Events

If any member knows of other similar events that they feel would be of interest to the BVF membership please send me the details.

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