



## Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Location:** Zoom

**Present:** Carl Morris (CM), Nicola Hull (NH), Paul Baillache (PB), Kola Ayanwale (KA), Lindsay Watkiss (LEW), Lucy Wright (LCW), Beth Davidson (BD), Nick Fihosy (NF), Graham Paul (GP).

### Discussed Items

**1) Apologies** – none everyone present

**2) Meeting Timetable** – CM suggested that due to zoom we could have more regular committee meetings and suggested every six weeks. Months agreed January, February, April, June, September, and November.

He also suggested that for items that required more time in discussing the detail we could arrange ad hoc meetings to ensure we keep moving forward on projects. These do not necessarily have to be minuted, as discussions and decisions will be minuted at the next committee meetings.

Summary: The committee confirmed CM's proposal. NH to ensure dates of committee meetings are made available to the committee and BVF members, with an Agenda distributed a week before the meeting.

**3) Chair of Selectors** – CM has had to stand down as 'Chair of Selectors' and had the responsibility to select a successor. He advised that selection is now mainly automatic based on clearly defined competition results. However, he stated that with the uncertainty of Covid it is possible that more discretion may be needed for next season. With this in mind he has consulted with the existing Selectors – Sabre Jane Hutchinson, Epee Neal Mallett, Foil Gillian Worman and agreed that the appropriate appointment for the coming season will be Graham Paul who was largely responsible for developing our existing selection system.

Summary: The committee confirmed this decision. GP accepted the position and will liaise with his selectors.

**4) Appoint GB Team Manager** – CM has asked Gillian Aghajan to be GB Veteran Team Manager. She is experienced in this role and has accepted the position. A job spec is in



place for this position and can be found on the BVF website. It was mentioned that we should consider someone shadowing Gillian so we have a contingency plan if needed for emergencies and a manual should also be produced to outline the responsibilities of this BD mentioned that it would be good governance to ensure any BVF team manager has attended the BF Team Manager course.

Summary: The committee confirmed Carl's decision. CM to speak to Gillian about producing a manual and helping to train someone up.

**5) Appoint FIE rep/EVF rep/BF rep** – It was confirmed that Caryl Oliver is our FIE representative. Gillian Aghajan our EVF representative and, as Chair, CM will take on the role of BF representative.

KA expressed an interest in becoming the EVF representative as fencing in Europe will fall within his remit as IFO. He has a good working relationship with Caryl Oliver and keen to work with the EVF.

It was suggested that each representative should report back to the BVF committee after they have attended meetings and that prior to meetings we should look to give voice to messages we would like our representatives to relay.

In respect to BF relationship BD provided some background as to previous conversations and gave some valuable insight as to how we should approach BF. We are in a strong position to promote ourselves and work together with BF to increase participation. GP made mention to Claire Halstead being involved with BF and could be a useful contact. It was felt the committee wanted to achieve a more productive relationship with BF going forward

Summary: The committee confirmed Carl's appointments. NH to ascertain when FIE and EVF meetings will take place so we can engage before and after with our representatives. CM will update us as to BF conversations.

## **6) BVF member's complaint & how members communicate on social media.**

CM gave a summary of a recent complaint by a BVF member (A) relating to a recent comment on Facebook by another BVF member (B) which they felt gave a misleading impression of their intentions relating to their offer of setting up a working party as a consultation group to look at the framework of the ranking system. They said that it gave the impression that they were suggesting European events for this which they said was incorrect.

B subsequently apologised if their posting gave the impression that A was subsequently instrumental in changing the balance on the Committee after it had not taken them up on their offer as this was not what they wrote but understood that it could be interpreted this



way and therefore agreed to modify it accordingly and, as it had obviously caused offence apologised to A on FB and directly. A was satisfied with the outcome.

CM reminded the Committee to be mindful of the BVF communication policy in relation to all social media posting.

The point was made that Veteran Fencers Chat on FB is not a group administered by the committee and, as such we cannot control what its members say but committee members must be mindful as to how they communicate in this group.

With the rise of social media use in general, and claims arising against organisations and individuals it was felt that we should review our policies, and GP felt we should look at sanctions we can impose if any BVF members cause harm to others in how they communicate.

PB also mentioned our confidentiality agreement in that new members needed to receive and sign it.

Summary: In part an ongoing item. Whilst the complaint has been dealt with NH, LCW, CM to review policies and send out confidentiality agreement to new members.

**7) New website update** – LCW. It was felt whilst we are in lockdown focus should be given to a new website. A proposal has been submitted by LCW which will be adapted to all platforms and have a 'shop front' to appeal to new members and a section for members. Membership management is an important function as too is collecting monies for example in respect to competition entries. Sports 80, All Entries and Stripe were discussed. A detailed quote has been provided by Mike Swiffin, which the committee felt reasonable in line with personal experience of similar costs and agreed to spend the BVF Funds on this basis.

Summary: An ongoing item. No objections were made to LCW's proposals and for her to engage with Mike Swiffin. A team consisting of LCW BD and GP will look to confirm a timetable with the aim of website launch for March. A webmaster will be appointed.

**8) Name Change** – as the website was discussed GP mentioned it would be a good time to look at a name change to 'British Masters Fencing'. This was as a result from a FB query asking why we cannot attract younger fencers. It was felt that although this topic has been aired before the name Veterans might be a turnoff for some.

Summary: Action CM to arrange for a possible EGM early in 2021 with an announcement of intentions to be made in the Dec newsletter LCW to look at reminding members of her original proposal



**9) Guildford International update** – GP/KA. The date has been announced to membership and a provisional booking has been made for two halls and equipment via Leon Paul and Peter Huggins. Discussion was made as to who was running the event and engaging with referees. It was confirmed that bookings for the halls and hotels could be cancelled a month before the event

Summary: Action/ongoing. GP & KA to work together and keep the committee updated monthly. LEW to become involved and PB requested costings submitted.

**10) Lifetime Membership** – CM. In the AGM Marcia Stretch mentioned that Henry De Silva has suggested that lifetime membership be awarded to Marcia and Gillian Aghajan and John Mason. CM also received other requests.

Summary: The committee agreed that Marcia Stretch, Gillian Aghajan, John Mason, Sue Church and Dave Sweeney would receive these awards

**Constitution update** – CM is working on the constitution along with his existing project members LCW and GP. He mentioned the need to have rolling committee elections and terms in place, in respect to length of service

Summary: Action/ongoing CM to update the committee in the next committee meeting.

**11) Competition Calendar 2021** – LEW. Competitions mentioned were Veteran Individual European Championships 12-16th May (subsequently cancelled), Guildford International July 31<sup>st</sup>, Nationals 4/5<sup>th</sup> September (provisional), Winton 24/25<sup>th</sup> September, Manchester 13/14<sup>th</sup> November (provisional). World Championships 4-10<sup>th</sup> October.

The Hampshire and West Midlands Veteran competitions were also mentioned. All COVID19 dependent.

Summary: LEW going to liaise further with Peter Baron re dates for the West Midlands but no further action needed.

**12) Selection Principles / How we select for 2021** – CM an important subject if the Worlds go ahead in October. Due to the disruption of the fencing calendar, it is envisaged that the selection criteria might be different to 2020. As such CM suggested a working party to investigate possibilities for selection criteria dependent upon the events that COVID-19 will allow us to hold.

GP as the new Chair of Selectors suggested we should have 2 selectors for each weapon, one male one female for each weapon. The committee thought this a good idea.

Summary: Action/Ongoing a project team of GP, KA, and LEW to be put together to brief the committee in February on options we can consider for different scenarios. The



committee will decide on selection for 2021. GP to appoint 3 extra selectors for 2021 season.

### **13) Any Other Matters**

- CM began a discussion about the different legislation surrounding fencer's affiliation and eligibility when competing in the Europeans and worlds. KA explained that a non-British national can still fence for GB at the Europeans if they are a member of a GB club. For the worlds they must have a British passport and if necessary, change their affiliation with the FIE. It was decided that when BVF members enter the Guildford International that there should be a tick box questions if they wish to be considered for the World Championships and if they are eligible. CM asked for GPs project team to investigate this.
- PB mentioned that Caroline Clancy was producing a treasurer report on the BVF accounts up to November. A change of signatures is required with John Mason and CC removed and LCW and CM added.
- CM mentioned that he had spoken to John Mason about the new website.
- CM mentioned that Sue Brooks had emailed to say how well she thought the 2020 AGM went and has put together a feedback survey which we are looking to send out to the BVF members. It was suggested Survey Monkey should be used but questions would need to be reduced to 10. CM to action.
- CM mentioned that Gillian Aghajan had suggested he reached out to Malcolm Fare who has been involved in BVF publicity. CM to action
- BD – Participation / ladders. BD sent out her documentation on a new ladders system with the aim to increase participation at all levels of fencing. A meeting was put in the diary for Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Dec suggested timing 10-11.30. BD invited people to call or email her with their thoughts prior to this meeting.
- PB would like us to encourage BVF to follow the British Veteran Fencing page on FB and publicise it in Dec newsletter.
- LCW mentioned her recent posting of a member's paintings, not something that has been done in the past. No one had any objections.
- LCW the committee approved purchase of a fencing painting for Gillian in recognition of her work as Chairman.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 10 -1 o'clock.**