

Annual General Meeting of the BVF
Friday 4 March 2011
Holiday Inn, Gloucester

MINUTES

Present:

List available on request

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Janet Baron, Sue Benney, Gerry Simpson, Nick Hawksworth, Steve Ellwood, and Mark Prior

2) Minutes of AGM 2010

The minutes were approved (proposed by Frank Mills, seconded by Peter Baron and passed nem con.

3) Matters arising, if not on the agenda

There were no matters arising

4) Chairman's Report

All members have been sent a copy of the Chairman's Report.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Peter Baron and seconded by Pat Shepherd-Foster and passed nem con.

5) Treasurer's Report

All members have been sent a copy of the Annual Accounts for 2010.

John Mason reported that the Accounts have been examined by Diane Austin and agreed.

He pointed to the increase in referees expenses because of changed circumstances. He had contacted members during the year to ask them to update their standing orders to reflect the increase of membership fee from £10.00 to £15.00. He reported that a large percentage had failed to do that, resulting in increase work chasing up the additional subscriptions.

In response to a question to the floor, he also clarified that the figure of £981.00 spent on T shirts which had been written off in this year so all sales would show as profit in future accounts.

John thanked Sonya Mason and Diane for their help.

The Annual Accounts were accepted (proposed by Bob Turner, seconded by Mike Norfolk and passed unanimously).

6) Secretary's Report

The Acting Secretary Apologised for forgetting that a report was required and could only verbally report that the Age Group Championships had occurred in his watch and appeared to have gone off well. He also said that his task had been greatly lightened by other members of the committee taking on tasks that would normally fall to the Secretary for which he thanked them. Acceptance of his report was proposed by Frank Mills and seconded by Gillian Aghajan and passed nem con.

7) Membership Secretary's Report

Statistics at 31/12/2010

Total members 531 (last year 511).
Of which 58 (last year 103) New

Of which	370 Men	161 Women
	34 Men	24 Women

Category	#	%
1 (40-49)	37	63
2 (50-59)	15	26
3 (60-69)	5	9
4 (70+)	1	2
Totals	58	100

This shows a distinct bias to the Cat 1 so we seem to be successful in attracting younger fencers.

29 Members from 2009 did not renew. 2 members resigned during the year.

Membership By Category

Category	2010		2009		2008		2007		2006		2005	
1 (40-49)	185	35%	185	36%	146	33%	104	29%	102	30%	90	28%
2 (50-59)	177	33%	174	34%	157	36%	143	39%	130	38%	129	40%
3 (60-69)	120	23%	106	21%	88	20%	79	22%	74	22%	68	21%
4 (70-79)	49	9%	46	9%	45	10%	36	10%	33	10%	32	10%
Totals	530		511		436		362		340		319	

There is an upward trend in Cat 1 members and a corresponding downward trend in Cat 2.

Membership by Home Country

ENG	WAL	SCO	NI	CI	IOM	None
408 (391)	44 (45)	26 (22)	13 (14)	7 (7)	1 (2)	32 (28)
76% (76%)	8% (8%)	4% (4%)	2% (2%)	1%	<1%	5% (5%)

Statistics at 3/3/2010

The membership today is 462. Of these there are 17 New members. These figures are almost exactly the same as this time last year.

90 Members from 2010 have not renewed. (Final Reminder has been despatched). This is significantly higher than last year when 59 members had not yet renewed. One member has died, John Gover. Others who have contacted me have stated injury, health and other interests as reasons for resigning their membership. We may not reach last years membership of 531.

93% of the membership claims an email address (last year 92%)

62% of the membership paid by Standing Order (the same as last year).

The membership fee went up last year and while we have 62% of the membership paying by standing order the majority did not amend their payment. This has resulted in a lot of extra work. If anyone has a better way of running membership would they please tell me about it.

National Championships

The entry for the National Championships has varied over the last 6 years as follows:

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Entry	175	167	132	177	156	142

John highlighted some of the statistics given below.

Acceptance of his report was proposed by John Norrie, seconded by Alan Ault and passed unanimously

8) Proposed amendments to the BVF Constitution

The committee proposed that the clause in the constitution relating to the composition of the committee (Clause 7) be amended.

Current wording

7. Committee members at the time of their election must be members of BVF. The Committee shall consist of:

- a) the Officers, being Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, Domestic Fencing Officer, International Fencing Officer and Membership Secretary;
- b) one elected member;
- c) the Life President of the Association who, once elected by a General Meeting, will serve as a voting member of the Committee for as long as he/she wishes without the requirement for re-election.”

Proposal before the meeting:

that sub-clause b) be replaced by
“b) up to three elected members”

Proposed: Frank Mills; Seconded: Peter Baron

Passed nem con. (44 in favour 8 abstentions)

9) Committee Elections

All current committee members were prepared to stand again and had been proposed and seconded, as in the following list:

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Frank Mills	Jon Stanbury	Gillian Aghajan
Treasurer	John Mason	David Sweeney	Gillian Aghajan
International Officer	David Sweeney	Jon Stanbury	Gillian Aghajan
Domestic Officer	Peter Baron	Frank Mills	David Sweeney

A proposal for the vacant Secretary’s position was received as follows:

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Secretary	Marcia Stretch	Frank Mills	Peter Baron

There were no other candidates. Three people had been proposed for the newly created committee positions, as below

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Committee member	Jon Stanbury	Frank Mills	Linda Lawes
Committee member	Lawrence Burr	Frank Mills	Linda Lawes
Committee member	Gillian Aghajan	Linda Lawes	David Sweeney

There were no other candidates.

As Linda Lawes was unable to attend, her nomination and seconding were invalid and Richard Bonehill replaced her by nominating Gillian Aghajan and seconding Jon Stanbury and Lawrence Burr.

It was pointed out that the post of Membership Secretary had been omitted from the list.

John Mason was proposed by Silvia Earl and seconded by Jane Hutchinson.

The new committee was therefore elected en bloc (proposed by Steve Fox, seconded by Kate Morwell-Neave and passed nem con).

Votes of thanks were proposed to

Hilary Arnold, proposed by Frank Mills seconded by Peter Baron and passed unanimously;

Linda Lawes, proposed by Frank Mills seconded by Gillian Aghajan and passed unanimously;

Gillian Aghajan for her work on the newsletter, by proposed by Jane Hutchinson and seconded by Lawrence Burr. All were approved with general applause.

10) AOB

Frank Mills drew the attention of the meeting to the recent elevation of Mike Norfolk to M.B.E. for his hard work in fencing and other fields. This drew prolonged applause. Mike thanked the meeting and recounted the H.R.H. the Prince of Wales had spoken to him at relative length and only wanted to talk about fencing.

The meeting closed at 21.10.