



The Vets

National Veterans Association Volume XIX Issue 12 December 2006

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AND

A HAPPY (and healthy)

2007

From your Committee



TIME FOR CHANGE!

Our name, National Veterans Association (NVA) has been with the organisation since its founding, and it is only recognised by those within the fencing fraternity through many years of use. Interestingly, it is not the full "National Veterans Association", nor the abbreviated version of "NVA" that has the recognition; it is the nickname "Vets" by which we are best known by the fencing community in the UK.

We are the only UK fencing organisation not to have "fencing" within the title, and outside the fencing fraternity the name "National Veterans Association" is usually seen to have an affinity to an elderly military, or a similar body. This was highlighted in the run up to the World Championships when members of the committee approached over 200 companies seeking sponsorship. Many did not reply and others, when followed up, were discouraged by the word veterans stating that they did not support veteran sports.

The name we currently have has been adequate up to 2006, but the organisation has moved on and grown enormously in the last 3-4 years. What was fine for a relatively small group of over 40 fencers, is now very *inadequate* for an organisation now boasting more than 330 fencers, international recognition with several European and World Championship titles achieved in the last 5 years, a phenomenally successful World Championships hosted in the UK in 2006 and the intent to host, and obtain sponsorship for, further international events in the near future.

Our association really needs a title that truly reflects exactly what we are; a fencing body of Great Britain, peopled by fencers of ability and influence within the sport, This influence is not confined to international achievement, but applies equally to many of the members who are coaching other fencers or taking administrative responsibilities within their local communities and/or regions.

In other words we need a title that we can use to promote and market our association and what we do.

With the enhanced image achieved following the enormous success of the World Championships in Bath and considering the developments being achieved by other Europeans now is the time to re-brand our Association.

It is therefore suggested that the NVA changes its name to, for example

British Masters Fencing (BMF)

A new logo and letterhead would be designed as part of the re-branding.

It is recognised that some longer-term members will have some sentiment for our original name and will not wish to change, others from the membership will be indifferent, and others who have already voiced their desire to change will welcome such a move. Whatever happens the nickname the "Vets" will almost certainly stick at least for some time in the UK.

A motion will be tabled on the Agenda of the AGM in March 2007 proposing a change of name.

Frank Mills

Editor's Note

It is hoped that members will consider the proposal and feel free to air their views on the subject in the Newsletter in the months leading up to the AGM. All letters will be published. This way we can have prior discussion of the pros and cons and be in a better position to cast our individual votes at the AGM. You can either email your letters or send them by post to Dave Sweeney or Linda Lawes. Linda's contact details are on the front of the Newsletter as is Dave's email address. Dave's postal address is Hop Mill Cottage, Painswick Road, Salmon Springs, Stroud, GL6 6LE

RESULT OF THE FINAL 100 CLUB DRAW

DRAWN AT THE Christmas dinner Coventry November 18th



£250 Richard Statton
£150 Kristin Payne
£100 Steve Higginson

The 100 club is now closed
Thanks to all who took part in this fund raising venture

John's thoughts on membership

It is that time of the year when membership renewals are due.

60% of the membership pays their sub by standing order. This makes the administration so much easier. The money appears around January 4th and I send out the membership card and a sheet of the information about you that I hold on the database.

Please check this information and let me have any corrections. Email addresses in particular change.

The other 40% are sent a renewal form in the first week of January along with a standing order form. Please, please switch to standing order! It does make my job a lot easier if I don't have to chase and harass people for their sub.

The membership in 2006 reached 340. We usually have a number of resignations, usually through ill-health or injury. This year I noticed that two people have resigned as they have emigrated.

The resignations are more than matched by the newcomers and I am hoping that the membership will pass the 400 mark in the next 2 years.

John M
Membership Secretary

A fencer's prayer:

Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change (such as the blind referee's bad call and the error prone score box) the courage to change the things I can (the precision of my blade), and the wisdom to hide the bodies of the people I had to kill because they p....d me off. Anon



World Veterans Fencing Championships Bath 2006 DVD

It's here! The one you have all been waiting for.

Monday 11th December 2006 was the release date of the 'all singing, all dancing' DVD of the World Veterans Fencing Championships, Bath 2006. Consisting of 9 tracks the DVD includes extensive unseen footage of the event in addition to a 95-page results file, which shows every competitor's performance at the championships. This is a unique DVD record of the championships which is a must for every fencer. If you were there, re-live the event. If you were not there, see what you missed. 50% of the profits of the DVD will be donated to the National Veterans Association.

Order now!

Price £15 (plus £1 UK postage)

It is really easy for you to purchase the DVD

Payment can be made in the following ways:

- Cash and cheques
- Credit Card
- Paypal
- Direct electronic transfer to our bank

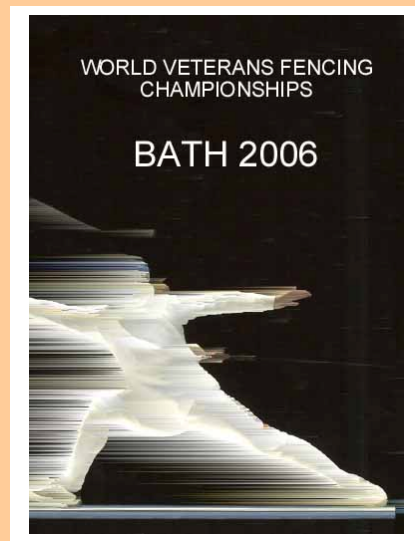
To order your copy and for full details visit the web site at:

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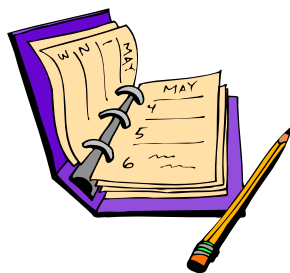
If you do not have a computer you can order your copy by contacting Richard by mail or telephone: 01736 793213

Cheques (£16) should be made out to Richard Bonehill and sent to:

Richard Bonehill
The Bosun's Nest, Carthew Way, St. Ives, Cornwall
TR26 1RJ



Order now while stocks last!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2007

JANUARY 27- 28
Quadrangular In Wrexham
Teams selected by Home Country selectors

MARCH 9-11
AGM and
National Veterans Championships
GLI Leisure Centre Gloucester

Friday: Sabre *Saturday: Foil* *Sunday: Epée*

Entry form with January newsletter

APRIL 28-29
National Veterans Age Group Qualifiers
Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes
Note date change!

MAY 17-20
European Veterans Individual Championships, St Gallen, Switzerland
NO SELECTION REQUIRED, OPEN. ALL FENCERS WELCOME
AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND...
Details in a later newsletter

JUNE 2-3
BATH Unisex Sabre (2nd) and BATH Unisex Foil (3rd)
Note date change!

JUNE 15-17
GBR vs Germany, Berlin, Germany
Selection based on NVA Selection Rules

JUNE 24
Dunstan Epée and Foil, Glastonbury **OPEN**

JULY 13 - 15
Commonwealth Veterans Championships, Toronto, Canada
Individual **OPEN**. Team selected by Home Countries.

Note date change!

Details in a later newsletter

SEPTEMBER 7-9
World Championships, Sydney, Australia
Selection based on NVA Selection Rules
Details in a later newsletter

SEPTEMBER 30 SUNDAY
Middlesex Veterans Unisex Epée
Individual **OPEN**

OCTOBER 7 SUNDAY
Veterans Team Challenge, Loughborough
NO selection required, **OPEN**. Teams put together on the day.



CAPTION COMPETITION

Entries to Linda at
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Copy date for next issue 10th January 2007

Notables in January Newsletter