



The Vets

National Veterans Association Volume XX Issue 12 December 2007



*We wish you a Happy and Healthy
Christmas and New Year*



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
From The NVA Committee 2007

See you in 2008

A gift for you on the web site only (sorry if you are not on the web).

Download and print the 2008 NVA Calendar.

Includes dates of all NVA competitions.

Shop on-line and donate to

TFCGold

To all friends of The TFCGold Foundation

The TFCGold Foundation is a registered charity which has been created to realise a dream. Our dream is to create a purpose built Fencing Centre of Excellence in Cornwall which will be the envy of the world.

TFCGold has a free fundraising web site at : <http://www.simplefundraising.co.uk/2384>

There are over 200 online retailers listed on the site including Tesco, eBay, Argos, Carphone Warehouse, Dell Computers, Expedia and many more. Each time you make a purchase using the web site TFCGold will earn commission. The commissions are paid by the retailer from their profit - **there is no additional cost to you**. In fact, shopping online is usually cheaper so you could well be saving yourself money as well. Every time you shop you contribute to building your Centre of Excellence.

Different retailers offer different rates of commission depending upon their own business models. However, below are just a few examples of how much you could donate from key retailers:

- A grocery order with Tesco made via our web page will earn £2.50
- For each order with W.H Smith, TFCGold will earn 4% of the sales value
- If you sign up with e-Bay and make a bid, your organisation will receive £3.50
- We will earn £40 from Direct Line for each home insurance policy sold via our web page
- We will earn £50 from Nationwide Building Society for each new mortgage
- A new contract with Carphone Warehouse will earn us £17.50

TFCGold fundraising web site <http://www.simplefundraising.co.uk/2384>

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Remember it costs you nothing and every time you shop on-line you donate to the cause.

Thank You
Richard Bonehill
President Truro Fencing Club
Trustee The TFCGold Foundation

Christmas Fencing and Fun in Wales: a fencer's view!!

Tinsel Tournament at Wrexham

We moved to the land of some of our fathers, to the Ramada Jarvis Hotel at Wrexham, North Wales, for our annual Christmas fencing and dinner, and ho, ho, ho did we have a good time!

Fencing was friendly but fierce, with mixed teams of 3 in the foil with the Reindeers (complete with antlers) the Sleighers and the Santas fighting it out and some arguing with the refs! The épéeists and sabreurs, some of whom had been fencing foil, combated without mercy into the afternoon. The fairy lights cascading from the ceiling were turned off to reduce the risk of electrocution. Fred was at maximum risk with his flamboyant, artistic style.....



A couple of hours well earned rest let everyone prepare for the festivities of the evening. An excellent meal was enjoyed to a raucous background of laughter, notably at Fred and Brian in competition to see whose the biggest (balloon) was.

Up to the executive lounge to be entertained with speeches from the ever eloquent and humorous Dave and Frank, and even a soliloquy from our Henry! Mince pies and coffee and then back down to the disco to dance the night away or there was always the bar!

If you weren't there you missed a great time and if you were you may well still be recovering!!

Gillian

Connie In the news: Well done Connie. More to come in the next issue!

Lord Mayor backs Connie to conquer world in 2008

The Lord Mayor of Norwich has backed veteran fencing star Connie Adam to become a world Champion next year and wants everyone in the city to help celebrate.

Connie, at 79, has had a phenomenal year in fencing tournaments around the globe.

Earlier in the year she won one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the Commonwealth Veteran Fencing Championships in Canada and she has also won one gold and one silver medal at the European Veteran Fencing Championships held in Switzerland.

More recently, Connie competed in the World Veteran Fencing Championships held in Sydney, Australia.

Competing in the 60+ age group, with most competitors in their early 60's, Connie narrowly missed out on bringing a medal home with her, after a close-fought 10-9 loss in the quarter-finals, finishing sixth in a field of 22.

And yesterday, Connie and a few friends were invited to tea and cakes, with Roy Blower, the Lord Mayor of

By DAVID FREEZER

Norwich to toast a fantastic 12 months.

"Everybody should acknowledge what a fantastic achievement it was by Connie to finish sixth in the world, in an age group where she's competing with people where she's giving away up to 19 years is just phenomenal and I hope that I see the day that we have a world champion fencer in Norwich," Mr Blower said.

"She's a fantastic lady and she deserves every bit of support that she can get.

"I look forward to celebrating with every citizen of Norwich, to welcome a world champion back to Norwich!"

Connie's season has unfortunately been brought to a premature end.

"I'm slowed right down because I broke my toe, so I can't fence at all for about a month," she said.

"Next year I hope to do the Commonwealth and also the European championships, which will be in France."

Another part of the story that makes Connie's success even more



exceptional is that she has had to sort out her own financing over the years.

"I've been funding myself all along and I'm only on a state pension so that was quite difficult but the trouble is the better you get at it, the cleverer you get, the more competitions you need to enter and

the more funding you need," she said.

"This year I was fortunate, I did get funding from Active Norfolk and the (Norwich City) Council and I also got a nice sponsorship from Town Close Charities, so I'm very happy."

At last month's EDP Norfolk Sports Awards, Connie was nominated for of 'Inspirational Sports Person of the Year' award, which went to carriage driver Lindsey Tyas.

"She was a very worthy winner the young lady that took our group because she was doing things to help people come on and teaching and I'm just looking after me at the moment and I feel too old to start teaching anybody else," Connie said.

"Kelly Holmes was very kind and I had a long chat with her and I had some photos taken with her as well."

But Connie has no plans to quit yet. "Every year I think this is it, I don't really think I'll do any more but then I win another medal and I get inspired," she said.

I think I'll just keep doing it until I don't win any more medals and then I'll think about giving it up."



**HOME NATIONS QUADRANGULAR MATCH
26-27 JANUARY 2008, MANCHESTER**

ENGLAND TEAM

<p>Women's Foil</p> <p>Sarah Kellett Hilary Philbin (c) Jane Clayton</p> <p><i>Non-travelling reserve: Linda Lawes</i></p>	<p>Men's Foil</p> <p>Graham Thornton (c) Tim Miles Geoff Silverman</p> <p><i>Non-travelling reserve: Richard Sage</i></p>
<p>Women's Epée</p> <p>Mavis Thornton (c) Mariette Mason Sue Hanney</p> <p><i>Non-travelling reserve: Moya McNamara</i></p>	<p>Men's Epée</p> <p>Malcolm Allton (c) Malcolm Fare Nick Stokes</p> <p><i>Non-travelling reserve: Max Telfer</i></p>
<p>Women's Sabre</p> <p>Jane Hutchison (c) Jenny Morris Lynn Keogh</p> <p><i>Non-travelling reserve: Silvia Earl</i></p>	<p>Men's Sabre</p> <p>Steve Potter Duncan Rowlands (c) Michael Compton</p> <p><i>Non-travelling reserve: Peter Baron</i></p>

NB:

(c) denotes **team captain**.

Non-travelling reserves are named in order to make clear that they are next in line should anyone drop out of the team due to unforeseen circumstances. Any non-travelling reserve choosing to travel/attend will be warmly welcomed, but would be unlikely to fence unless a team member had to withdraw through injury.

The **England team manager** is Dave Sweeney, who is contacting all team members with further information. If anyone is no longer able to participate please let Dave know immediately.



Welsh Veterans News

Welsh Team is Selected



Scottish Veterans News

Mike Rollinson is putting together a team
from Scotland

mike.rollinson@hotmail.com



URGENT PLEA

ALL IRELAND TEAM REQUIRED

**Fiona Haldane is trying to put an all Ireland team together for the 4 Nations
26-27 JANUARY 2008, MANCHESTER**

If you, your parents OR your grandparents were born in that Island

Please email Fiona if you would like to fence.

Give the other nations a fight of it!

Don't be shy, Ireland needs your support!

All 3 weapons teams of 3 men and 3 women.

Fiona can be contacted on

faldane@xsmail.com

or ring Linda Lawes

01235 530090 and I will put you in touch.

NOVEMBER CAPTION COMPETITION TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE



Linda and Henri



Hilary and Frank

Another mason attempts to progress to the next level

Referee Training; Part One - keeping your eye on the ball

It all looked so easy after a few drinks

If you say "you hold it and I will hit it one more time..."

Strictly Come Dancing: another celebrity couple prepare for the ballroom section

Editor's favourite

"Linda looks on awestruck as Henri demonstrates the technique of the classic hold in the new Olympic sport of limbo apple bobbing."

Chris Moorhouse

"Yes Frank I know Jim fixed it for you but that's no reason to show everyone"

Hilary: That's all the cash I have, now give me the blo**y medal....

Frank: But Gold clashes with your eyes....

Editor's Favourite

Hilary insists on seeing the results sheet as Frank attempts to award the medal to himself.

Paul Brenda

Thanks to all this year's contributors. Photos always welcome for this slot.

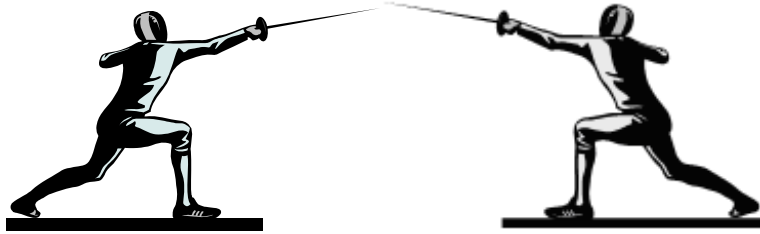


Plan a holiday and fence in Europe: Calendar 2008 so far.
 If you are interested in travelling to any of these let the editor know
 and I will put an advert in.
 We can then put interested fencers together.

From the European Veterans Website. Competitions 2008
<http://www.european-veterans-fencing.com/calendar.html>

January-13	ESP	E		Madrid DetailsH	rfee-secgeneral@esgrima.es H
January 19-20	ITA	F	E S	Foggia	
January-20	ESP	E		Gran Canaria DetailsH	rfee-secgeneral@esgrima.es H
January 26-27	ESP	F	F	Logroño DetailsH	rfee-secgeneral@esgrima.es H
January 26-27	ESP	E		Mallorca DetailsH	rfee-secgeneral@esgrima.es H
February 9-10	ESP	F	E S	Granada DetailsH	rfee-secgeneral@esgrima.es H
February 16-17	ITA	F	E S	Firenze	
February-17	ESP	E		Logroño DetailsH	rfee-secgeneral@esgrima.es H
February-24	ESP	E		Burgos DetailsH	rfee-secgeneral@esgrima.es H
March-08	ESP		S	Madrid DetailsH	rfee-secgeneral@esgrima.es H
March 8-9	ITA	F	E S	Torino	
April 12-13	ITA	F	E S	Roma	
May 8-11	EVFC	F	E S	European Team Championships, Ciudad Real, Spain	

<http://www.esgrimaveteranos.es/>



Well Done Well Done Well Done

Top Half or Last 32

Welsh Open	Foil	Epée	Sabre
Women's	(60)	(119)	(42)
	12 Gillian Worman	24 Georgina Cox	8 Jane Hutchison
	30 Dawn Townsend		
Men's	(152)	(184)	(91)
	32 Jeffery Kiy	8 Anton Pollard	21 Richard Cohen
		21 Howard West	24 Duncan Rowlands
			25 Steve Potter

Derry Open	Foil	Epée	Sabre
Women's		(10)	
		J3 Fiona Haldane	

Miller-Hallett Men's Epée		Epée	
		(122)	
		9 Neal Mallett	
		26 Howard West	

Hereford and Worcester	Foil	Epée	Sabre
Women's	(57)	(72)	(26)
	15 Kate Harris		11 Vicky Garrity
	26 Margaret Bell		
Men's	(122)	(145)	(62)
	10 Lindsey Watkiss	10 Anton Pollard	15 Chris Prevett
	27 Jeffrey Kiy	24 John Chalmers	23 Barry Coulter
	29 Nick Stokes	30 Anthony Klenczar	27 Julian Ghosh
	32 John Fruen		

SORRY SORRY SORRY SORRY

Last month we included two results for James Harris BUT it was not our Jim. The results were from the Bedford open epée and Shropshire open epée. Jim requested we retract the results as the club James Harris fencers for is Redditch youth.....should have realised really...

We also gave Duncan Rowlands and Evert Van Gemeren a sex change, even worse.

We didn't include a result for Duncan from the pro sabre for coming 30th or Paul Abrahams for coming 21st In the Sussex open men's foil.

Really sorry to everyone.

But we have a fixPlease read article on next page!!!! Hurrah!!

Notable Results

As our membership grows, so the task of manually tracking everyone's competition results has become more daunting.

Now we have a solution, thanks to that techno-wizard John Mason.

John has created a tool that reads competition results when they are published by British Fencing, and cross-refers with the Membership Database to produce a full list of NVA results.

The days of wistful/angry emails pointing out errors and omissions are over!

One gotcha: this works PROVIDED you fence under the same name that you registered with the NVA. If you registered as Robert but fence as Bob, it will not pick you up. Nor will it spot the spelling mistakes of competition organisers. So if this is you, let Linda Lawes know your result and she will add it to the list.

Oh, by the way, Linda, I actually won the women's épée at the Welsh Open, but for some reason they spelt my name "Jo Maynard".....

Hilary Arnold

LEVI OPEN ARCTIC CHALLENGE

Several members have expressed interest in participating in this event. This is a really friendly and enjoyable fencing holiday with the added bonus of possibly seeing the Northern Lights. You can also ski or snowboard, or learn to, take a reindeer safari or try an exciting self drive Skidoo trip around the area. Alternatively you can take in the friendly atmosphere in Lapland or relax in a sauna.

We are putting together a package and budget costs are given below. Flights and accommodation will be limited therefore, if you are interested, please contact Dave Sweeney on 01453 758372 or mrdsweeney@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

Budget costs

There are two options available.

7 nights Fencing Holiday

Flying from Gatwick on Sunday 20th January 2007 direct to Kittila then by bus to Levi.
Return on Sunday 27th January after the Tournament.

Approximate costs of accommodation and flights

Single room £548/person
Double/twin room £401/person
Triple room £376/person

or

3 nights Tournament trip

Flying from Heathrow on Friday 25th January 2008 via Helsinki airport then by bus to Levi.

Return on Monday 28th January

Approximate costs of accommodation and flights

Single room £579/person
Double/twin room £480/person
Triple room £470/person

All based on accommodation in the Hotel Levitunturi in the centre of Levi.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

LOOKING FORWARD: 2008

JANUARY 26TH 27TH
4 Nations Championships
Teams selected by home countries

March 7th NVA AGM Gloucester

March 7th 8th 9th
National Veterans Championships

April 26th 27th
Age Group Qualifiers
Milton Keynes

May 8th to 10th
European Team Championships
Spain
Team selected by NVA selection
criteria

May 13th to May 20th
Henry's Army: fencing and relaxation in
Corsica
Contact Henry de Silva
01624 880 863

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Association (BFA)