



British Veterans. Fencing



Fencing RADA Style

NEWS February 2008



ENGLAND WIN THE FOUR NATIONS 2008!

A win for England in the four nations held in Manchester: More inside.

Don't forget to enter the National Championships: See last month's issue or the web for entry form.

Selection explained: Why YOU should enter the Nationals.

Lots of competitions to enter. Help needed at the Oxfam Open and Public Schools.

Linda

Dates for your Diary 2008

March 7th 8th and 9th NVA National
Championships and AGM Gloucester

**NOTE
NEW VENUE**

April 26th and 27th Age Group Qualifiers
Milton Keynes

Venue as usual

May 8th to May 10th European Team
Championships Ciudad Spain

Selected teams

July 26th Veterans Celtic Challenge
Wrexham

**If you are a Celt,
you can fence!**

September 14th Veterans Team Challenge
Loughborough

**NOTE DATE
CHANGE**

September 28th Veterans Unisex Epée
Middlesex

Venue as usual

HOME NATIONS QUADRANGULAR MATCH

26-27 JANUARY 2008, MANCHESTER

The 2008 Veteran's Home International was held at the George Carnell Sports Centre in Sale, Manchester over the weekend of 26/27 January 2008. Despite no team from Scotland a full programme of fencing saw England achieve a clean sweep at all weapons except women's épée where a determined Ireland snatched victory by the deciding hit in the final minute. A full Welsh team was missing some of its more experienced fencers but provided strong competition across all weapons; giving England a particularly close run at men's épée. A full women's Irish team won 7 matches to ensure that they took second place to England. The Irish men's épée team flew over on Saturday night after competing in the Duffy épée. To make up for the lack of Scots, Barbarian teams were formed at most weapons and managed to accumulate 2 team victories.

Forty-eight people attended a dinner at the hotel on Saturday evening where Professor Phil Bruce, President of the British Academy of Fencing, was the guest of honour. He congratulated the veterans on their competitive spirit and obvious enjoyment of the sport – they are an excellent advert for fencing.

Next year's event will be held in Belfast in late January.

John Crouch

England



Women's Foil

Wales 27 – 45 Ireland
 England 38 – 24 Barbarians
 England 40 – 16 Wales
 Ireland 45 – 34 Barbarians
 England 45 – 28 Ireland
 Wales 41 – 39 Barbarians

Women's Sabre

Wales 37 – 45 Ireland
 England 45 – 38 Barbarians
 England 45 – 20 Wales
 Ireland 45 – 43 Barbarians
 England 45 – 27 Ireland
 Wales 41 – 45 Barbarians

Women's Épée

England 45 – 33 Wales
 Ireland 45 – 18 Barbarians
 England 45 – 20 Barbarians
 Ireland 45 – 28 Wales
 England 43 – 44 Ireland
 Wales 45 – 18 Barbarians



Men's Foil

Wales 38 – 45 Barbarians
 England 40 – 14 Barbarians
 England 45 – 30 Wales

Men's Sabre

Wales 45 – 26 Barbarians
 England 45 – 37 Barbarians
 England 45 – 38 Wales

Men's Épée

England 45 – 39 Wales
 Ireland 45 – 36 Barbarians
 England 45 – 33 Barbarians
 Ireland 39 – 43 Wales
 England 45 – 29 Ireland
 Wales 41 – 45 Barbarians



Match Result

1. England	15 match victories
2. Ireland	8
3. Wales	4
4. Barbarians	2

SELECTION FOR WORLD & EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

With the NVA Championships coming up in March and the Age Group competition in April, this is a reminder to 'old hands' – and an overview to new joiners – of the relevance of the two main NVA events to selection for World and European Championships. The full selection rules, including the appeals process, are always displayed at the two NVA events, and are also on the NVA website.

World Championships (individual only)

The NVA Championships and the Age Group competition are the two events on which selection is based for the World Championships – held annually in September/October. The World Championships include events at all weapons in two age categories: 50-59 and 60+. Four fencers are selected in each weapon/age category, making a total NVA squad of 48 fencers. Fencers can be selected at more than one weapon.

The highest-placed available fencer in each weapon/age category in each of the two NVA events is automatically selected. Other places are selected based primarily on a comparison of results in the two NVA events. One discretionary place per weapon/age category can be allocated in some circumstances (eg – injury).

European Championships (team)

The European Team Championships are held every two years in the 'even' years – therefore including 2008! They are usually held in May, with events at all weapons. Teams are generally 3+1, with a minimum individual age of 40 but a minimum team aggregate of 150 for men and 140 for women. Fencers can be selected at more than one weapon.

The highest-placed available fencer in each weapon (but not each age category) in the NVA Championships is automatically selected. Other places are selected based largely on the rankings from the NVA Championships, but taking the aggregate age restriction into account. The final place in each team is at the discretion of the selectors.

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SELECTION FOR WORLD & EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cont.

European Championships (individual)

The European Individual Championships is held every two years in the 'odd' years – usually in May. There are events at all weapons in the following age categories: 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+. There is no requirement to qualify, so any NVA member may enter. (The more the merrier!)

Announcement of selection and appeal process

Selection of fencers (and referees) usually takes place during the week after the relevant NVA event(s), and is ratified by the NVA committee as quickly as possible. The selected squad, pending appeals, is then announced in the NVA newsletter, along with details of the appeals procedure and closing date. Contact details are also given for the Team Manager. Following the processing of any appeals, the Team Manager writes formally to each member of the selected squad.

If you have any queries please speak to one of the selectors (usually present at the two main NVA events): Hilary Philbin, Hilary Arnold and Cary Zitcer.

Hilary Philbin

(Chair of Selectors)

Contact details:

Email: hilaryphilbin@aol.com

Phone: 020 8991 5262 / 07715 377912

Address: 16 Egerton Gardens, London W13 8HQ

2008 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER

7th – 9th March 2008

Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre Plock Court Gloucester GL2 9DW

See the web site or last months posted newsletter for entry forms.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW VENUE

We are contracted to ensure no damage occurs to the new venue tennis playing surface.

You will be asked NOT to bring in any of your own seating as the chairs may cause damage.

Seating WILL be available in the hall, provided by the venue.

Celtic Challenge 2008

Clywedog Sports Centre, Wrexham, North Wales

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th July 2008

Veterans Individual and Team competition

Brittany, Channel Isle, Cornwall, Eire,

Ireland, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

(sorry if you are English!)



LETTER TO THE EDITOR Consistency in committee decisions

Whilst I have great respect for all the hard work the committee puts into the running of Veteran's fencing, I feel I must point out inconsistencies in its decision making this year.

I admit that I am one of those who pushed for a vote on the format of the National Championships and was disappointed when the change to a standard format was not carried. I was pleased that the committee then carried out a survey of members which I believe showed a considerable majority in favour of two rounds of pools followed by DE. Then to my dismay a letter comes from the committee to say that they are bound by the decision of the AGM and this year's format will be the same as last year.

In the latest newsletter and on my new membership card I find that we are now referred to as British Veterans Fencing. I am reasonably happy to adapt this new name, but I am surprised that it happened since the AGM clearly voted for no change.

These were both contentious issues at last year's AGM, but the committee seems to have ignored the meeting's views on one and used the AGM decision not to change the other when a survey suggested that it would be welcomed. I may not agree with all that the committee decides, but feel that we are entitled to some consistency from our elected members.

John Crouch
Chairman England Veterans

Response to John Crouch's letter

Dear NVA Members,

John Crouch's open letter published in this Newsletter has raised some points of interest to the members of the NVA and is deserving of a response from your committee.

In a letter to the membership, dated 10th December 2007, the committee explained that it had been canvassing the members attending the 2007 National Veterans Championships on preferences for the format of that event using a questionnaire. This exercise was scuppered when at the 2007 AGM, which was held while canvassing was still in progress, a motion to adopt a Direct Elimination format for the national championships was defeated. The results of the 2007 questionnaire indicated that the participants were generally in favour of a change away from a system using poules to a Direct Elimination based system. The committee found itself in a dilemma but took the view that, although the subject of the format for NVA competitions should not be the normal business of the AGM, the decision taken by the membership at the 2007 AGM was binding and should be upheld until after the 2008 AGM when, it is hoped, the responsibility for competition formats will be formally delegated to the NVA Committee and the event organisers.

Continued on next page 8

Response to John Crouch's letter from page 7

Your committee has taken on board the views on the national championships format collected by the 2007 questionnaire and, in an attempt to settle the matter, will circulate a new questionnaire with this newsletter. The results of the questionnaire will be published and your committee will use them to determine the format of our national championships for future years in line with the wishes of the membership and participants.

With regard to John's comments that "...we are now referred to as British Veterans Fencing", I can assure you that the name of our Association has not changed. We are the National Veterans Association (NVA) as agreed at the 2007 AGM.

As part of your committee's drive to continuously develop and improve the NVA communications a sub committee was established with the aim of enhancing the image of the NVA in order to attract new members, improve the potential for sponsorship and to generally improve the standard of our communications to the benefit of the members.

We are now seeing the initial results of the communication group's work. On all of the publications mentioned in John's letter, as well as the NVA website and other promotional material currently in development, the NVA logo, in a new stylised format, and reference to the NVA, are presented with the "British Veterans Fencing" banner. This banner is meant to replace "The Vets" banner of the old style Newsletter and the "Organising British Veterans Fencing" banner of the old Website. It is important that we achieve a consistent corporate image and for this reason the banner has been incorporated with the stylised NVA logo on the new and, I hope that you agree, much improved membership card.

The new NVA image is not set in stone but is under continuous review and development. Your committee understands that it is not possible to make all of the membership ecstatic all of the time but it is trying to do the best it can for the NVA. The committee welcome comments, constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement, aired in the Newsletter or made directly to Frank Mills, the communications sub committee chairman.

Finally I hope that after reading this response John and the rest of the membership are able to agree that the NVA committee has acted in a consistent manner and more importantly in line with the wishes of the membership of the NVA.

David Sweeney NVA Chairman February 2008

Hi Linda

Idling here waiting for a meeting my eye caught sight of a fencing comp in Rome over April 12-13. It includes epee. So I was wondering if anyone else might fancy it? I have to confess my birthday is on 14th so it would be a little present to myself. Foil and Sabre are also included.

Are you interested in a little Italian sunshine?

Mariette Mason

ANYONE INTERESTED IN A TRIP TO ITALY IN APRIL
EMAIL THE EDITOR AND I WILL PASS YOUR DETAILS TO MARIETTE

<http://www.starswordclub.co.uk/ditp.html>



The OXFAM OPEN is a domestic fencing competition. The competition is run on behalf of Oxfam and **all** proceeds will be donated to support the charity.

Please use the links above to locate the information you require. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Date Confirmed: 21st & 22nd June 2008

Volunteers Wanted: Feel you could help contribute to this extremely worthwhile cause? Contact the organisers now and volunteer your time and experience. See web site

<http://www.starswordclub.co.uk/ditp.html>

PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALL FOR REFEREES

The 2008 Public Schools' Fencing Championships will be held at the University of Nottingham Sports Centre, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD on Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th March, 2008.

The PSFC Committee would like to extend an invitation to experienced referees and those students in higher education who have some refereeing experience to help us run this year's Championships in Nottingham. As in previous years the PSFC are prepared to pay up to £50.00 per day plus reasonable travel expenses. Tuesday and Wednesday will be a mix of epee and foil and Thursday will be our traditional sabre day. We will arrange full-board accommodation for those referees who are prepared to spend more than one day with us or who would need to travel the day before. However, this will only apply to those who register with us beforehand and receive confirmation that they are expected. Please use the contact page on the PSFC web site:

www.publicschools fencingchampionships.com

Please give your name, refereeing experience, the days you can referee, whether you require accommodation and an approximate value of your travel costs.

Caption Competition January 2008



Editor's Favourite

"Richard Bonehill's State of the Art fencing centre was considered to have the most advanced ventilation system in the world"

Howard (West) ?

Truro Fencing Club needs World Class Facilities, an Olympic Stadium, a National Centre of Excellence, a Regional Sports Centre, a Sports Hall, a School Gym, a Village Hall, or just a roof.

To: Tesco. From: Truro Fencing Club. The enclosed photograph shows what happened when the owners of the (formerly) most popular beach in Cornwall refused to contribute to our funds. Our next appearance will be at a supermarket car park near you...unless, of course,....

"Star Trek's USS Enterprise transports Truro Fencing Club to an unknown planet"

"OK" said Dave "which one of you owns up to being Jack Sparrow?"

An old timer shows Truro youngsters the ancient art of standing around aimlessly.

"After the Annual Curry Dinner, the club found themselves without a roof or walls"

"Richard's Gold Centre is coming along and already he has laid the foundations and has cold running water"

Thank you to all the contributors to make this such a good spot.

PLEASE send any likely photo to the editor.

Linda.lawes1@btinternet.com



NOTABLES

Top half



Cambridge Winter Tournament - 5/1/2008

ME (74)	3 Howard WEST 17 Darryl HAZLEWOOD 32 Iain RUGHEIMER
WE(25)	7 Mariette MASON

Plymouth Open - 26/1/2008

WF (28)	5 Caron HALE 11 Dawn TOWNSEND
MF (47)	9 Austen ROSE
WE (26)	5 Lynne BORNEMISZA 8 Katrina SMITH 9 Carole SEHEULT
ME (35)	3 Gerry SIMPSON 7 Bill OSBALDESTON 11 Keith BARNETT 14 Ian BRIGGS 15 Peter HARVEY 18 Peter SMITH
WS (11)	5 Lynne BORNEMISZA
MS (16)	2 Andy BORNEMISZA 3 Chris PREVETT 6 Barry COULTER

Aldershot Open Epee - 12/1/2008

ME (80)	8 Howard WEST 10 Anton POLLARD 13 Niall CAMPBELL 21 John CHALMERS 23 Steve LAVINGTON 31 Peter JACOBS 36 Bill OSBALDESTON
WE (38)	19 Mariette MASON

Action from the 4 Nations 2008 Graham V Gareth

Photo: Frank Mills



NVA Contacts

Life President	Henry de Silva	01624 880863	
Chairman	Dave Sweeney	01453 758372	NVAChairman@veterans-fencing.co.uk
Secretary	Hilary Arnold	020 83737953	NVASecretary@veterans-fencing.co.uk
Membership Secretary	John Mason	01225 761788	john@jrmason.demon.co.uk
Match Secretary	Frank Mills	01908 310516	frank.mills@kvautomation.co.uk
Newsletter Editor	Linda Lawes	01235 530090	linda.lawes1@btinternet.com

30 Inkerman Close Abingdon OXON OX14 1NH

NVA WEBSITE

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www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

The National Veterans Association is an Associated Body of the British Fencing Association (BFA)

The NVA is sponsored by

