



# British Veterans. Fencing



## *Fencing Pirate Style!*



NEWS July 2008

**URGENT:URGENT:URGENT**  
**Veterans Winton Cup**

**We still need fencers for several of the  
teams.**

**PLEASE ring if you are not yet in a team and  
wish to be included.**

**Linda**  
**01235 530090**

# Dates for your Diary 2008

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## Veterans Celtic Challenge

July 26th

Wrexham

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

## Veterans WINTON CUP

September 13th and 14th

Lilleshall Telford

**See newsletter  
for contact  
details**

## Veterans Unisex Epée

September 28th

Middlesex

**Venue as usual**

## World Championships Limoges France

October 2nd to 5th

## CHRISTMAS FENCING and 21st

Celebrate the 21st Birthday of the NVA

Ramada Hotel Leicester

Put it in your Diary NOW!!

**29th November**

If you want to organise a trip of interest to Veterans let me know and I will put your details in the newsletter

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Henry's Army

If you wish to be informed of Henry's regular trips

Contact him directly

**6 Little Meadows Andreas ISLE OF MAN IM7 4HY**

Veteran Epee in  
St Petersburg Russia  
1st 2nd November 2008

Contact  
**Frank Mills**

Henry de Silva  
elected EVFC Member of Honour

At the 2008 congress of the EVFC in Ciudad Real, Spain, NVA's Henry de Silva was elected to the Roll of Honour of the European Veterans Fencing Congress.

The Honour was bestowed on Henry in recognition of his drive and determination in the foundation of the Veterans Fencing movement in Europe and for his continuous service to the cause as an officer of the EVFC for over 16 years.

I am sure that the members of the NVA will join me in offering congratulations to Henry on receiving this Honour from the EVFC.

Well done Henry!!

Dave Sweeney

# Celtic Challenge 2008

Clywedog Sports Centre, Wrexham, North Wales

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Veterans Individual and Team competition

Brittany, Channel Isle, Cornwall, Eire,  
Ireland, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland  
and Wales

**Mike Norfolk 01244 659 133**

mail@norf19.fsnet.co.uk

<http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/latest.shtml>

Mike may still accept entry by phone.

**Stop press: Spanish Fencers are attending as well  
(Galicia)**

## Fencing Competition Manager appointed for 2012 Olympics

Hilary Philbin has been appointed as the London Organising Committee Competition Manager for fencing.

Hilary will be responsible for the planning, organisation and management of the Olympic and Paralympic fencing events in 2012, which will take place at the ExCeL Centre, close to the Olympic Park in East London. She will also be responsible for running the fencing test event.

Commenting on her appointment Hilary said: "I'm delighted to have been appointed, and count myself lucky that the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are coming to my home town in my lifetime. My aim is to deliver the best possible experience for everyone involved with the fencing event - competitors, officials, supporters, spectators and volunteers - and to ensure that London and fencing both have a lasting legacy."

Keith Smith, President of the British Fencing Association, said: "British Fencing is delighted that Hilary has been appointed to organise the fencing in the London 2012 Games, where both fencing and London will be on show to the world. Hilary has fencing in her blood. She has competed in two Olympic Games, is a former British Champion and now competes at Veterans level where she has been European Champion. She has a lifelong background in all aspects of fencing administration and was a co-organiser of the highly successful World Veterans Championships in Bath in 2006. With her professional career in project management, we are certain that Hilary will make London a very special event."

Hilary's responsibilities include the overseeing of all aspects of the fencing events, ensuring they are organised in accordance with the International Fencing Federation (FIE) rules, the International Olympic Charter and the Host City Contract. She will be the focal point for liaison with the FIE, and will be working with all functional areas to ensure the coordinated delivery of a wide range of support services such as venue operations, accreditation, and transport. Hilary will be training a large number of volunteers to assist her in her task. She has a wealth of experience in both project management and operations management, and is currently working at the BBC.

This summer Hilary will be travelling to the Beijing Games to see what lessons can be learned from the fencing events there. She will initially start her role with the London Organising Committee on a part-time basis, becoming full time in mid-2010.

Well done Hilary, we wish you all the best in your appointment.

ED

## NOTABLE VETS OF THE PAST

### 1. Donald McBane

In 1726 the veteran swordsman and prize fighter Donald McBane fought a young man in Edinburgh. "I gave him seven wounds and broke his arm with the fauchion [*a slightly curved broadsword*]. This I did at the request of several noblemen and gentlemen. But now being 63 years of age, I resolve never to fight any more, but to repent of my former wickedness." So wrote McBane in his autobiography, *The Expert Swordsman's Companion*.

The son of a Scottish farmer and publican, McBane had joined the army in 1686 and was taught the rudiments of broadsword fighting. But it was to be another 5 years before he learnt how to handle a smallsword and that was because he needed to challenge a solider who was swindling him out of his pay. Thrashed in their first encounter, he returned to his fencing master for more lessons and had another go, this time avoiding the broadsword cut and piercing his opponent through the body and leg.

After a few more lessons, he set himself up as a regimental fencing master in the army led by the Duke of Marlborough. On learning that four other masters ran a brothel and gaming house, he fought all four one after another, the last being a left-hander who suddenly produced a pistol from his cocked hat and fired. The ball missed and McBane gave him a thrust in the buttocks. The masters then agreed to give him a share of the business. Over the course of the next 14 years, while developing into a formidable swordsman, he took part in 16 battles and 52 sieges.

In 1704 he marched with Marlborough to the Danube and set up his gaming tents. "We had not above 60 campaign ladies in the quarters and 16 professors of the sword", he wrote. Not content with this arrangement, McBane and his friends went to the Dutch quarters and took another 14 women. The next day 24 Dutch swordsmen arrived to retrieve them. After drinking together, they fought, 11 Dutch and seven of his men being killed. In a second encounter McBane beat eight men before they agreed to pay a tribute.

In 1707 he fought a duel with a French mercenary who had already killed five men. "I bound his sword and made a half thrust at his breast, he timed me and wounded me in the mouth; we took another turn, I took a little better care and gave him a thrust in the body, which made him very angry; some of the spectators cryed 'stand your ground', I wished them in my place, then I gave him a thrust in the belly, he darted his sword at me, I parried it, he went and lay down on his coat and spoke none."

When the Flanders wars ended in 1712, Donald McBane married and kept an alehouse and fencing school in London, fighting 37 prizes in the Bear Garden before returning to Scotland for his last encounter.

Malcolm Fare

My thanks to Malcolm for the start of this occasional series on interesting historical Veteran Fencers.

Linda

## Rene Paul

It was sad to hear of the passing away of Rene Paul in June, and he will be missed and well remembered by the many fencers who competed alongside him and who, like me, received sound advice from him when visiting the Leon Paul shop in Covent Garden during the early years of their fencing careers.

I remember that he always had time for technical advice for a young fencer on a limited budget and I had no idea then, that this would still be the case many years later in my fencing career, with the next generation providing such support to myself and colleagues within the NVA through the much appreciated sponsorship they give to our organisation.

I know that all members of the NVA join with me in sending our condolences to the Paul family.

Frank Mills Chairman NVA



**Rene Paul**

Dear Linda

Writing to you that one of our past members Brian Haines, one of the first members, has died from cancer. Photo below for those that knew him.

Henry de Silva June 2008

**Brain Haines**



## Veterans from the past! A different twist

Another occasional series suggested by one of our members.

Please send in photos of NVA members from past years.

Ideally I would like photos of them in fencing mode!

This first member is easy to spot: This person will be named next month.

Member: Argentum mannus Or (and this is tenuous) Arbitro Vereor

Yes I know Streatham Latin....well I am just a comprehensive school lass  
wot didn't take Latin.....But I try.

ED



## VETERANS WINTON 2008

**The teams are nearly complete, but we still need some fencers.**

**If you would like to be considered please ring your local representative, numbers in the last newsletter.**

**or contact Linda Lawes 01235 530090, Frank Mills 01908 310516**

### Henrys Army; Trip to Corsica.

The flight by Easy Jet went well to BASTIA. Corsica. Two large Passat cars supplied were not large enough for our cases, so those at the back suffered cases on their laps for 2 hours.

Arriving at our destination only 7 places had been prepared quick phone call and all get settled in.

The swimming pool at the hotel remained dark and mosquito ridden whilst we were there.

With numerous phone calls we fenced our first club in Bastia where we fenced various members at all weapons .Refreshments and gifts were exchanged.

As it was a 2 hour journey we declined another offer on the Saturday.

There was a bit of sightseeing, although even supermarkets close for lunch.

A visit to a mountaintop village. Then on Friday at AJACCIO, where Napoleon was born, for another match.

The Coach in Bastia was supposed to have informed the club, but they were surprised when we arrived.

Soon 3 boxes were out and all got stuck in fencing. One veteran left handed Frenchman had a very good quarte riposte. Each veteran received a T Shirt and refreshments laid were on.

It rained much the time and TV style quizzes were arranged by Henry.

The weakest link caused much merriment. Cases were returned safely and all arrived back in England safely.

Henry de Silva



# Notables

Top half



## Oxfam Open 2008

Several veterans supported this worthy cause. A well run competition that deserves support and deserves to grow. Some £3000 was donated to Oxfam from quite a small, but friendly competition. Well done for the first year. E

## Results Oxfam Open

NVA members did particularly well in Women's Sabre  
( you are all in Winton teams aren't you?) If not ring me ASAP! ED

Women's Sabre (17): Vivien Frith 6th, Wendy Thomas 7th, Michele Narey 8th

Women's Foil (18) Linda Lawes 6th

Men's Foil (27) John Fruen 10th, Frank Mills 11th

Men's Epee (28) Gareth Law 3rd Frank Mills 12th Ian Rugheimer 13th

## Bill Hoskyns Open

ME (115) 7th John Chalmers

WE(31) 14th Mavis Thornton



# Notables

Top half

WREXHAM OPEN 2008



<b>WF (21)</b>		<b>ME(79)</b>	
9	Kate Harris	31	Max Telfer
10	Kati Scholtz	33	Nick Stokes
<b>MF (71)</b>		<b>MS(25)</b>	
16	Paul Sibert		
19	Graham Thornton		
24	Jim Harris	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>STEVE POTTER</b>
25	Jeffrey Kiy		
34	Nick Stokes	10	Peter Baron

## RESULTS FROM THE BRITISH NATIONALS 2008

WF (70) 29 Gillian Worman

35 Clare Halsted

WS (58) 12 Jane Hutchison

MF(112) 19 Graham Paul

ME (112)41 Keith Barnett, 49 Anton Pollard

50 Jeremy Raj, 51 Niall Campbell

MS (93) 45 Richard Cohen

# NVA Contacts

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## NVA WEBSITE

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[www.veterans-fencing.co.uk](http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk)

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