



The Vets

National Veterans Association Volume XIX Issue 3 March 2006

National Championships 2006

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

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Leon Paul

This year's national championships were the largest yet, with a total of 186 entries across the six weapons – 26% more than last year. Held once again in the excellent Gloucester Leisure Centre, they were run smoothly by Hilary Arnold and John Mason, with only an occasional glitch in compiling pools.

First away was men's sabre. With a certain inevitability, Richard Cohen flew in from New York, cut a swathe through the opposition to claim a record 11th title, and flew out again. The final pool was clear-cut, although Mark Hall came within a hit of forcing a three-way barrage, just going down to Richard 4-5 to finish third. Runner-up was Jim Philbin, with Chris Prett fourth, Mike Compton fifth and Richard Bonehill in a respectable sixth place, having recently become more accustomed to brandishing something rather heavier than a fencing sabre in his role as swordmaster during the filming of a new Sharpe series in India.

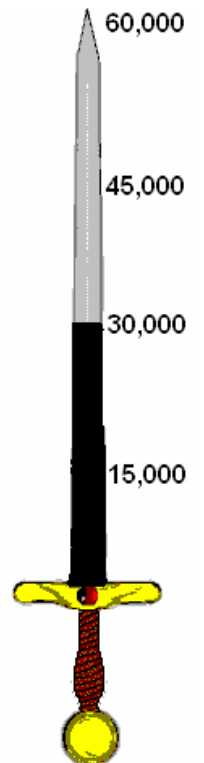
Fifteen women battled through a poule unique to decide the outcome of their sabre championship. But Lynne Bornemisza, last year's runner-up, had to sit out the proceedings with a broken foot inflicted on her by a clumsy pony. Jane Hutchison emerged undefeated, having carved her way through the field with ruthless efficiency, conceding only 15 hits in 14 fights, to claim her fourth consecutive title. Sue Benney dropped just two to come second, with Yvonne Walls third on 11 victories and Jenny Morris fourth with nine. Both Hilary Philbin and Sarah Kellett collected eight wins, but Hilary was eight hits ahead to finish fifth.

Action from the Women's Sabre



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Worlds Fund

In the absence of last year's winner, Mike Questier, and the champion for the previous 4 years, Graham Paul, this year's men's foil championship was wide open. Seven fencers were undefeated after two rounds of pools and all contested the title in the top group. So evenly matched were they that after everyone had won and lost two fights Hilary Arnold faced the nightmare prospect of a seven-way barrage. However, the last few fights dropped Nick Stokes, Graham Thornton, Simon Hartley and Jim Philbin into places four to seven respectively, leaving the top three from three different age categories to barrage for the title. In the event, newcomer Tony Bartlett, just 50, proved a popular winner, cleverly adjusting to the spectacular foil play of Rob Bruniges (runner-up) and the lightning remises of Brian Causton (third).

New veteran Jane Clayton swept through the women's foil pools undefeated, in the process beating reigning champion Clare Halsted twice and leaving her one of five seeking three places in the top pool. By the narrowest of margins – one hit scored – Clare was consigned, along with Lynda Norrie, to the second group of six, while Sarah Kellett, Moya McNamara and Sue Benney squeezed through to join Jane, Hilary Philbin and Gillian Worman. There was little to separate the top four in the final, Gillian edging out Jane, both on three victories, for the bronze, while Hilary and Sarah topped the pool with four wins each. In the barrage Hilary avenged her defeat in the pool by beating Sarah 5-3 to collect her ninth title.

Men's épée had the largest entry of any veterans' championship so far, 55, but was missing its reigning champion, as Ralph Johnson was injured. Only four emerged from the pools without loss – Bill Osbaldeston, Mike Bradbury, Gerry Simpson and newcomer Neal Mallett. Four others had just one defeat, but only two of them could be promoted to the top group of six. Robin Davenport was three hits clear and went up fifth, but Howard West and Jonathan Stanbury had an equal indicator, Howard going up with one more hit scored. Lawrence Burr was also unlucky to lose out on hits. After defeating Howard, Neal seemed on his way to his first veterans' title, but Mike

claimed his scalp with a sparkling performance, leaving Neal and Howard equal on four victories. On a count of hits, Gerry was third, ahead of Robin and Bill, with Mike in sixth place. In the barrage Neal's excellent distance and crisp parry-ripostes gave him a convincing 5-1 win over Howard.

After the women's épée pools, eight fencers were equal on victories chasing the last place in the top group. Kate Elvin was successful and Sue Hannay particularly unlucky, since she fell into group three and could have finished the day losing just one fight yet coming 13th. Such is the lottery of this system. The final pool hung in the balance until the very end. Janet Cooksey, champion for the past 2 years, was on course for a third consecutive title when she dropped her last fight against Jane Hutchison. Jenny Morris needed to win her last fight against Kate Smith to force a barrage with Janet and just did so, 5-4. Kate had two other 4-5 defeats, which dropped her into third place, ahead of Kate Elvin, Jane and Mavis Thornton. In the barrage Jenny reversed her pool score against Janet to win 5-3 and take her first veterans' title.

Malcolm Fare

National Championships 2006. Full results:



Jane Hutchison

WOMENS SABRE

1	Jane Hutchison	C1
2	Sue Benney	C2
3	Yvonne Walls	
4	Jenny Morris	

5	Hilary Philbin	
6	Sarah Kellett	
7	Kate Francis	
8	Silvia Earl	
9	Caron Hale	
10	Maggie Myers	
11	Connie Adam	C4
12	Gillian Aghajan	
13	Carol Wengraf	C3
14	Myra Whall	
15	Pat Shepherd-Foster	



Richard Cohen

MEN'S SABRE

1	Richard Cohen	C2
2	Jim Philbin	
3	Mark Hall	C1
4	Chris Prevet	
5	Michael Compton	
6	Richard Bonehill	
7	Mark Brightman	
8	Alexandre Akoulitchev	
9	Cary Zitcer	
10	Andy Bornemisza	C3
11	Brian Causton	
12	Harry Toland	
13	John Norrie	
14	Malcolm Cawton	
15	Geoff Silverman	
16	Jim Harris	
17	Dennis Ward	C4
18	Peter Townsend	
19	Peter Baron	
20	Tony Westacott	
21	Dennis Hunt	
22	Tony Bardell	
23	Jonathan Dawkins	
24	Alan Ault	
25	Wynford Seymour	
26	Richard Statton	
27	Gordon Coombs	
28	Bob Perry	



Hilary Philbin

WOMEN'S FOIL

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|
| 1 | Hilary Philbin | C2 |
| 2 | Sarah Kellett | C1 |
| 3 | Gillian Worman | |
| 4 | Jane Clayton | |
| 5 | Moya McNamara | |
| 6 | Sue Benney | |
| 7 | Jenny Morris | |
| 8 | Janet Cooksey | C3 |
| 9 | Clare Halsted | |
| 10 | Lynda Norrie | |
| 11 | Jane Hutchison | |
| 12 | Linda Lawes | |
| 13 | Caron Hale | |
| 14 | Astrid Merrick | |
| 15 | Kim de Large | |
| 16 | Silvia Earl | |
| 17 | Mavis Thornton | |
| 18 | Kate Francis | |
| 19 | Christine Hamilton | |
| 20 | Maggie Myers | |
| 21 | Janet Pearson | |
| 22 | Ann Cornwall | C4 |
| 23 | Diane Austin | |
| 24 | Gillian Aghajan | |
| 25 | Maureen Hillier | |



Tony Bartlett

MEN'S FOIL

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|
| 1 | Tony Bartlett | C2 |
| 2 | Robert Bruniges | C1 |

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|
| 3 | Brian Causton | C3 |
| 4 | Nick Stokes | |
| 5 | Graham Thornton | |
| 6 | Simon Hartley | |
| 7 | Jim Philbin | |
| 8 | Malcolm Fare | |
| 9 | Dave Sweeney | |
| 10 | Geoff Silverman | |
| 11 | Edward Ben-Nathan | |
| 12 | Steve Fox | |
| 13 | Anthony Conyard | |
| 14 | Tim Miles | |
| 15 | Jeffrey Kiy | |
| 16 | Mike Bradbury | |
| 17 | Malcolm Cawton | |
| 18 | Frank Mills | |
| 19 | Jim Harris | |
| 20 | Andy Bornemisza | |
| 21 | Jon Dawkins | |
| 22 | Andrew Gould | |
| 23 | Alan Ault | |
| 24 | John Norrie | |
| 25 | Richard Bonehill | |
| 26 | Mark Robertson | |
| 27 | Peter Townsend | |
| 28 | Dennis Ward | C4 |
| 29 | Roman Seniuk | |
| 30 | Tony Bardell | |
| 31 | Austen Moore | |
| 32 | Tony Westacott | |
| 33 | Wynford Seymour | |
| 34 | Brian Cramp | |
| 35 | Paul Gover | |
| 36 | Victor Saunders | |
| 37 | John King | |



Jenny Morris

WOMEN'S EPEE

- | | | |
|---|----------------|----|
| 1 | Jenny Morris | C2 |
| 2 | Janet Cooksey | C3 |
| 3 | Kate Smith | |
| 4 | Kate Elvin | |
| 5 | Jane Hutchison | C1 |

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|----|
| 6 | Mavis Thornton | |
| 7 | Caron Hale | |
| 8 | Janet Baron | |
| 9 | Carol Wengraf | |
| 10 | Jane Clayton | |
| 11 | Moya McNamara | |
| 12 | Fiona Haldane | |
| 13 | Kate Francis | |
| 14 | Gillian Aghajan | |
| 15 | Sue Hanney | |
| 16 | Clare Halsted | |
| 17 | Vanessa Wilen | |
| 18 | Connie Adam | C4 |
| 19 | Linda Kent | |
| 20 | Silvia Earl | |
| 21 | Sue Benney | |
| 22 | Barbara Wanzenreid | |
| 23 | Irene Howard | |
| 24 | Ann Cornwall | |
| 25= | Julie Schofield | |
| 25= | Diane Austin | |



Neal Mallett

MEN'S EPEE

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|
| 1 | Neal Mallett | C1 |
| 2 | Howard West | C2 |
| 3 | Gerry Simpson | |
| 4 | Robin Davenport | |
| 5 | Bill Osbaldeston | C3 |
| 6 | Mike Bradbury | |
| 7 | Simon Hartley | |
| 8 | Niall Campbell | |
| 9 | Jonathan Stanbury | |
| 10 | Bob Brooks | |
| 11 | Lawrence Burr | |
| 12 | Chris Green | |
| 13 | Malcolm Allton | |
| 14 | Bob Turner | |
| 15 | Steve Tatner | |
| 16 | Iain Rugheimer | |
| 17 | Jim Pilkington | C4 |
| 18 | Anthony Klenczcar | |
| 19 | Rick Kent | |

20	Mick Meyer
21	Nick Stokes
22	Andy Bornemisza
23	Nigel Hinchliff
24	Richard Bonehill
25	Malcolm Fare
26	Stephen Higginson
27	Brian Causton
28	Andrew Brown
29	Harry Toland
30	Mike South
31	Tony Westacott
32	Tim Schofield
33	Evert Van Gemeren
34	Tony Louis
35	Edmund Gray
36	Mark Robertson
37	Michael Compton
38	Ken Roberts
39	Jim Harris
40	Peter Harvey
41	Massoud Aref
42	Chris Farrell
43	Brian Speight
44	Colin Holburn
45	Dennis Ward

46	John Mason
47	Bob Perry
48	Jonathan Dawkins
49	Peter Townsend
50	David Parkes
51	Tony Bardell
52	Simon White
53	Austen Moore
54	Wynford Seymour

CHAMPION AT ARMS

Here low is good, it is the total of the final positions in all 3 weapons.

Men	TOTAL
1. Brain Causton	41
2. Andy Bornemisza	52
3. Richard Bonehill	55
4. Jim Harris	74
5. Tony Westacott	83
6. Dennis Ward	90
7. Jon Dawkins	92
8. Peter Townsend	94
9. Tony Bardell	103
10. Wynford Seymour	112

Women	TOTAL
1. Jenny Morris	12
2. Jane Hutchinson	17
=3. Caron Hale	29
=3. Sue Benny	29
5. Kate Francis	38
6. Silvia Earl	44
7. Gillian Aghajan	50

LOST AND LOST

Lost at the National Championships 2006

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BAGS

1. Pair of Breeches
2. Foil Blue handle pistol grip very faint JC on socket
3. Diary. Dave Sweeney (Very large reward for this item...)

Caption Competition

Linda Lawes



Editor's Favourite

"With his makeshift skirt and his pretty blue glove, Richard hoped to get away with entering the women's sabre" Jim Philbin

Below are the contributions received, and I really do know what Richard was thinking, read on to find out! In no particular order

"I appear to be the only one to fully understand the new 600 newton towel rule."

"Drat - when I said I could beat him with 1 hand tied behind my back, I didn't mean my sword arm!"

"Richard had to explain to the referee that his M&S sponsorship deal meant he had to wear 1 of their towels on the piste. "

I should have read the instructions: wash light colours separately'.

"You could try Scissors, Dennis, but I recommend you try Rock this time."

"...Montreal was never like this!"

"I hope no-one notices I've cut my hand".

"You borrow some-one's jacket for the day and all you get is silly people trying to turn you into a joke."

And from Richard.....

"Must remember to return the cup. Must remember to return the cup. Must remember...."

Not only can I not remember the signal I've forgotten my blasted racket"

"If today's Friday it must be Austria..."

" If I win the 100 club I could get the handbag that goes with this skirt"

NVA

European Team Championships – Turku, Finland 26-28 May 2006

The following selections have been made based on the rankings from the 2006 NVA Championships and the Selection Rules (revised August 2003).

Please note that selection is subject to the NVA appeals process and ratification. Any appeal should be sent to Dave Sweeney, in writing, to arrive no later than 30 March 2006.

Where we are awaiting confirmation of availability, names are shown in *italic*.

(C) denotes Team Captain.

Teams of 3 + 1 substitute:

Women's Foil	Women's Epée	Women's Sabre	Men's Foil	Men's Epée	Men's Sabre
H Philbin (C) S Kellett C Halsted	J Morris J Cooksey K Smith	J Hutchison (C) S Benney Y Walls	T Bartlett B Causton (C) N Stokes	N Mallett H West R Johnson (C)	<i>R Cohen</i> J Philbin (C) <i>M Hall</i>
M McNamara	K Elvin (C)	L Bornemisza	S Hartley	G Simpson	C Prevett

NB: Substitutes should note that there is no guarantee of fencing. Composition of the teams starting each match, plus any subsequent substitution, will be decided by the weapon captain, generally based on fielding the strongest team, and ensuring that the total age of any team is at least 150.

Referee(s)

26 May: Women's Foil - Dave Sweeney, Men's Epée - Geoff Silverman

27 May: Women's Sabre - Jim Philbin, Men's Foil - Dave Sweeney

28 May: Women's Epée - Geoff Silverman, Men's Sabre - TBA

Team Manager

Dave Sweeney

**Bath Unisex Sabre & Foil,
22nd & 23rd April 2006.
University of Bath.**

Open to all NVA members. Enjoy fencing and dinner on Saturday night.
ENTRY FORM WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

**2006 European Team
Championships, 25th-28th May
2006. Turku, Finland.**

Selection was based on the NVA 2006 National Championships and is published in this newsletter

**NVA Age Group Qualifiers,
3rd-4th June 2006.
Milton Keynes.**

Open to all NVA members. Results will be used for selection for the 2006 World Championships.

**World Veterans Fencing
Championships, 1st-3rd
September 2006.
University of Bath.**

Selection will be based on the results of the NVA National Championships 2006 and the NVA Age Group Qualifiers 2006. Details will be circulated to those selected.

**Middlesex Unisex Epée,
1st October 2006.
Middlesex University.**

Open to all NVA members. Entry forms and details will be circulated with a later newsletter.

**Xmas Fun Fence, Dinner and
Dance, 18th November 2006.
Coventry.**

Note date change!

Open to all NVA members. Entry forms and details will be circulated with a later newsletter.

World Championship Fundraising

You will have seen from the front cover that our fundraising activity has taken the total raised over £30,000.

The **NVA 100 Club** is now fully subscribed thanks to the salesmanship of Marcia Stretch and John Mason over the weekend of the National Championships. The first draw took place during the National Championship Dinner on the 11th March at the Holiday Inn Gloucester. The winners were Myra Whall £250, Clare Halsted £150 and Janet & Peter Baron £100. All three winners were at the dinner. The second half of the draw will take place during the Xmas Dinner on 18th November in Coventry.

The **NVA Lottery**, which is an important feature in our fundraising activity, is now launched and you will all have received an allocation of 5 books of tickets to be sold. Several people have already sold their allocation and returned the counterfoils and cash. Chasers will be contacting members soon to check on the progress of ticket sales and to urge you to sell at least your allocation. Don't forget that the NVA is awarding a prize of £250 to the member selling the most tickets. The Draw will take place during the Age Group Qualifiers Dinner on 3rd June at the Novotel, Milton Keynes.

Other fund raising activities are ongoing. Further commercial sponsorship is being sought. Bath Sword Club held a very enjoyable Social/Video evening and another is planned, with the proceeds being donated to the World Championship fund.

Dave Sweeney

Note: please return counterfoils to Hilary Arnold, 17 Acorn Close, Enfield, Middx, EN2 8LX.

Please make cheques payable to NVA.

More books of tickets available on request!

Items For Sale Men's Size 48

Sabre

Qty 1 Duellist electric sabre mask - Large size

Qty 2 Leon Paul head wires

Qty 1 Leon Paul sabreur's silver lamé jacket,

Qty 1 Leon Paul sabreur's electric glove (right hand), with integral lamé cuff, size 10

Foil

Qty 2 Allstar electric foils pistol grips and maraging steel blades

Qty 2 Leon Paul body wires, bayonet fitting

Qty 1 Leon Paul foil lamé jacket

Qty 1 Allstar mask – Large size

Note: All the above items are hardly used and in excellent condition.

Contact details:

Tel: 01787 278690 (Evenings). Ask for Peter.
Mobile: 07810 573020 (Daytime)

New Range of Equipment for the More Senior Vets

It would seem that, at last, a company is about to introduce a range of equipment purpose designed for the more senior veteran fencers who are perhaps not quite so nimble as they were or are beset by some of the problems facing us all as we get older.

Len Paolo Equipment of Oldham start by introducing the Senna Leg lift; an indispensable aid to footwork, with an overdrive facility for the odd lunge or balestra.

Said to have been inspired by the Wallace & Gromit film “The Wrong Trousers”, it even has a feature on the luxury model to allow the veteran to mount a raised piste should the need ever arise.

The surface to air, heat seeking point of the Len Paolo foil, when combined with the heads-up interior mask display incorporating opponent detecting satellite navigation system, guarantees, they say, that never again will an elderly vet suffer the humiliation of a whitewash against a younger fencer.

It is often difficult to visit the washroom with sufficient speed between poule bouts, so the company’s selection of Incontinence Breeches are just the job.

Not only 1600N, thus reducing the all-round embarrassment of an on-the-piste puncture, but also guaranteed to 10 atmospheres.

The elderly male vet doesn’t need to rely on a crowd for support, he can wear his own from a fetching range of lamé finishes, and for the ladies a selection of inflatable chest protectors purpose designed by the company’s hot air ballooning division to allow you to float over the piste with consummate grace.

Naturally, the discreet support hose is indistinguishable from the normal fencing sock, although the varicose vein patterning (choice of colours) is a little of a giveaway to the casual observer.

The company’s pièce de resistance is the all new, OAP Electric Box. They have excelled themselves with a discreet “fencer activated” reverse current that delivers a short 240 volt stimulus to provide a guaranteed straight arm coupled with a surprising 12 foot lunge. Len Paolo say they are also working on a resuscitation unit as an extra accessory for this box, but have encountered FIE difficulties over the use of oxygen.

Finally, the combined hearing aid with “Halt” recognition and speaker amplifier containing a selection of responses from “*I am en garde*” to “But it was *my* parry & riposte – I think” completes the selection of items.

Never again will there be the need for claims of passivity from an opponent!

Frank Mills



Veterans' Notable Results February 2006 (Last 32 or top half)

Plymouth Open

(omitted from last newsletter)

MF (38)

9th Alan Bowden

ME (34)

12th Peter Harvey

Northern Ireland Open

WE (16)

1st Fiona Haldane

2nd Kate Elvin

ME (26)

8th Chris Green

MS (17)

=3rd Richard Cohen

Slough Open

WF (59)

15th Jo Bowyer

23rd Dawn Townsend

MS (63)

= 3rd Richard Cohen

Hampshire Open

WF (27)

=3rd Dawn Townsend

6th Jo Bowyer

8th Caron Hale

9th Astrid Merrick

WS (16)

2nd Jane Hutchison

Merseyside Open

MF (91)

5th Graham Thornton

7th Nick Stokes

30th Frank Mills

WF (31)

2nd Dawn Townsend

8th Jo Bowyer

14th Linda Lawes

ME (88)

18th Paul Cooper

WE (48)

11th Fiona Haldane

12th Mavis Thornton

MS (56)

24th Peter Baron

27th Mark Brightman

WS(24)

9th Mavis Thornton

Coupe du Nord

MS (49)

9th Richard Cohen

Nottingham Open

MF (78)

5th Nick Stokes

23rd Tony Conyard

WF (39)

=3rd Dawn Townsend

=3rd Jo Bowyer

14th Moya McNamara

26th Linda Lawes

ME (72)

10th Andrew Brown

11th Robin Davenport

17th Bob Brooks

21st Tim Schofield

22nd Anthony Klenczar

24th Rick Kent

30th Malcolm Allton

WE (45)

11th Moya McNamara

13th Janet Baron

21st Carol Wengraf

MS (41)

9th Richard Cohen

10th Steve Potter

18th Andy Bornemisza

WS (13)

6th Vicky Garrity



Men's Foil Finalists National Championships 2006