



The Vets

National Veterans Association Volume XIX Issue 5 May 2006

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Leon Paul

Age Group Qualifiers for Worlds Selection

Post your entry off now, don't miss your chance to be part of the 2006 World Championship squad.

World selection applies only to those fencers aged 50+.

Those under 50 need not feel left out. A full day's fencing is on offer in a poule unique at all three weapons.

The NVA lottery will be drawn at dinner in the evening and the day rounds off with a quiz. Accommodation is at the local Novotel. See application form for details (on the web if you missed the April Newsletter, or contact Hilary Arnold on 020 8373 7953).

Still time to enter this competition

Newsletter Editor Change: as you can see from the photo below, I took a little persuading to take on the job. From now on please send anything you want in the newsletter to me. Address on the left! Keep me busy, go on, and send something to me!

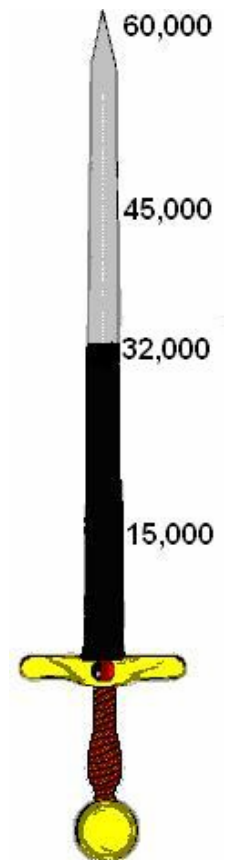
Linda Lawes

Dave thought the newsletter editor handover ceremony went rather well...



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World Fund



YES - THAT MEANS YOU !

We are still a long way off achieving our budget for the World Championships. Every lottery ticket sold will help.

For those of you who have not yet sold your tickets, please make a HUGE effort to do so ASAP, and send counterfoils and cheques to Hilary Arnold at 17 Acorn Close, Enfield, Middx EN2 8LX.

These must be received by Hilary **no later than 26 May** - which is very soon! There are fantastic prizes, and the draw is being held during the Age Group event on 3 June.

Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your counterfoils. Could this group please badger all their clubmates to do likewise!



Graham Thornton v Nick Stokes at the Nationals 2006

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS PROGRESS REPORT

Costs & Fundraising

When Dave Sweeney first drew up a budget for running the 2006 Veterans World Championships, the total cost was expected to be around £20,000, covering venue hire, transport for participants, gala dinner, opening and closing ceremonies, finals presentations, medals and gifts. Income would be provided by £5000 worth of sponsorship from Karcher, the pressure washer manufacturer, £5000 from British Fencing and the NVA at its AGM in March 2004 agreed by a majority of 16 to 6 to underwrite the remaining £10,000.

The bid was duly approved by the FIE, whereupon a few little extras became apparent. The FIE wanted 14 members to be invited to the event, including flights, cars, 4-star hotel for four nights and £35/day spending money each. It was soon realised that this was an ideal arrangement and, in practice, the number of FIE officials could be reduced to a minimum of six – still £7000 excluding flights.

Another stipulation was that a doctor and ambulance must be provided. When discussions with the local ambulance service failed to produce any guarantees, Dr Clare Halsted recommended taking the precaution of booking a private ambulance – £1200.

Refreshments and T-shirts would be needed for the 100 or so helpers, call it £10/helper/day for 4 days – £4000 + £1200 for T-shirts. Then there was the weapon control team and referees, all needing accommodation and meals – £5500. Richard Bonehill, appointed Head of Entertainment, promised impressive high-impact opening and closing ceremonies, but his crack Cornish team of event stagers would cost £3500. Further entertainment costs covering drinks at the reception and dinners for VIPs and guests accounted for another £3300.

Having realised that the original layout at Bath University would not give the best impression, Dave Sweeney eventually managed to negotiate the hire of half the indoor tennis facility as well, for another £2000. Finally, the estimate for providing a flag hoist, raised finals piste, podium, screens and projectors came in at £10,000, rather than the £3000 budgeted; a compromise of £7000 was agreed.

By April 2005 the projected cost of the event had jumped to £51,000. Frank Mills was appointed Head of Fundraising, charged with bridging the gap between what was reasonably expected to be guaranteed income (entry fees of £13,000 and dinner ticket sales of £6000) and expenditure. He prepared a presentation for prospective sponsors and this was sent to more than 40 organisations. Other fundraising ideas included a raffle, 100 Club, Summer Ball, video evenings, 'murder' dinner and local advertising in hotels, restaurants and estate agents.

As the hopes of finding significant sponsorship faded, it was calculated that the event would break even if the entry fee was set at £38/weapon and the dinner at £25/head. Treasurer John Mason then estimated that in a worst-case scenario, with minimal attendance and no time to cancel the dinner, the shortfall would be £14,000. Members of the Steering Group nobly announced that they personally would guarantee this amount. But further investigation revealed that in fact the NVA as a whole rather than its officers would be liable for any debt. This was perhaps the project's low point.

Chief mover and shaker Dave Sweeney and Frank Mills redoubled their efforts and in the New Year prospects improved. By April donations had risen to £5000, a further £2500 was pledged by Bath Sword Club and South West Region, Karcher delivered its first slice of £2000, the draw for the 100 Club raised £1000, British Fencing increased its contribution to £7500 and early returns from the NVA raffle and local advertising pulled in £2000.

Volunteers from outside the Bath area will have additional expenses and an Awards For All grant application has been made to cover this. As we go to press, the latest problem is that the cost of the gala dinner has gone up to £35 a head, increasing both income and expenditure. But the raffle should contribute another £6000, if all tickets are sold. This could make a vital difference, so all members are urged to sell their batch.

Malcolm Fare

“The Veterans Team Challenge”

Announcing a NEW team Competition: SUNDAY OCTOBER 15th

By Popular Demand: a team competition for Veterans! To be held in Loughborough.

Mixed teams at all weapons: three fencers per team.

“The Veterans Team Challenge Cup” will be kept by the winning team for a year.

Teams are to be invited by our Match Secretary, Frank Mills.

Contact him to register your interest on 01908 310516 or millsfba@aol.com

Teams to be for a real cross section of our fencers.

Dinner on Saturday night: to be arranged.

Hotel: to be arranged

Date: Sunday 15th October 2006: 8.30am last check in: 9am start fencing!

Venue: Loughborough Charnwood Leisure Centre

Organisers: Frank Mills, Linda Lawes

CAPTION



COMPETITION

"Lucky I only got hit on the leg!"

"The new vision mask from the Swedish supplier was going to take some getting used to"

"John was sure Richard Bonehill said the auditions for the next film were next week"

"He may think he is smart, but I have just seen the matador for his fight"

The men just had not got the idea of a sauna.

"Blue, whilst not his colour, set off the jaunty hat just as Sven had wanted"

"Trust me to sit next to the nutter, thought Benny"

Sitting Bull not speaking to General Custer.

Better the devil you know....

Pillage? Is that the size of your prescription?

John The Bold meets Eric The Hatstand

I think pillage THEN burn would be more profitable.

Contestants at the Pamplona Open.

And editor's favourite:

"Unknown animal places hands protectively, as world cook John Mason discusses nut cutlets"
Mr F Mills

Excalibur Team Event report:

The Excalibur, a fiercely competitive county team event, took place on the 29th/30th April. Vet Lynne Bornemisza had everyone under marching orders within seconds of the word go, and the event ran with its usual smooth efficiency despite sabotage attempts from the leisure centre's rogue tannoy!

As always, it was a pleasure to see how many Vets had been selected to represent their counties. Although the event is primarily a team competition, individual results are also calculated over the 33 bouts of the weekend. Particularly striking performances came from Ralph Johnson, 5th/42 with 24 victories at Men's Epée, and Dawn Townsend, 5th/44 with 24 victories at Women's Foil.

Hilary Arnold

CAPTION COMPETITION



Entries to Linda please! Address on the front cover.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Members may be interested to know that they are covered for personal accident and certain travel risks as long as they are members of British Fencing, the Scottish Fencing Union or the Welsh Amateur Fencing Union and taking part in any fencing activity that is officially recognised by British Fencing. Manx members are not specifically excluded but, as with all insurance policies, there are numerous other exclusions.

Fixed sums are recoverable for loss of limbs, eyes, speech and hearing, permanent and temporary disablement, total or partial: so for loss of hearing in one ear (particularly useful for referees) one may recover 25% of £100,000 (which would be recoverable for loss of hearing in both ears). It would be considerably cheaper for the Insurance Company if you died as they pay out the princely sum of £5000!

Category 4 members should specifically note that once they get to 75 they cease to be covered – so joy of joys on your 75th birthday consider obtaining your own personal cover. Moreover, there is no point in deliberately injuring yourself before your 75th birthday (or for that matter flying as a pilot) as the Insurer will not pay you out either. It should also be noted that naturally occurring conditions or degenerative processes are excluded too- so it's true folks - ageing does not have its compensations (at least under this policy).

The British Fencing policy also provides cover for medical and emergency travel expenses (not for 75 year olds) - but don't bother claiming if you fall pregnant within one month of travel – particularly if you are travelling to a Men's Foil Competition or are in Category 4- or you are travelling against your doctor's advice.

There is a 24hr/365 days a year multi-lingual Assistance Service (it doesn't specify what happens in a Leap Year) – the number to ring is +442087628326 according to the latest information available viz as at renewal on 6th October 2004! I am assured British Fencing has renewed its policy but the schedule has not yet been issued.

As a final comforting thought you can expect to receive £300 per day up to a maximum of £15,000 if you are kidnapped, but don't enter the Iraq Open 'cos you won't get paid if taken hostage there.

Anyone still in the dark or wanting to know more can obtain a copy of the policy from British Fencing (but don't hold your breath or expect a warm reception on a mass take-up!).

GS

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

Team selected: based on the NVA 2006 National Championships

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.
ENTRY FORM WITH APRIL NEWSLETTER

DUNSTAN FOIL AND EPEE June 18th 2006. St Dunstons School, Glastonbury.

Open competition with a Veterans foil and épée competition.
Entry form from Sue Benney
sue@bennev.fsnet.co.uk
Tel: 01458 831836

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.

NEW COMPETITION Veterans Team Challenge Sunday 15th October Loughborough

Invited teams of 3 mixed, plus one reserve. All weapons. See Page 4.

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

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

Bath Sabre and Foil match report

Well the Veterans know how to pick a venue. And we congregated in the beautiful City of Bath, at the University, for this year's unisex sabre and foil event.

This gave us a preview of what we can expect in September at the Worlds. A really nice venue, lots of lovely people to fence and then eat, drink and be merry with.

As usual the organisation was floorless (or is that flawless, I never know...) (John is that what you wanted me to say!) The meal was nice the company good and the wine flowed. Below read the full results; next year take a day off, come down to Bath and join in the fun, sabre, foil and an evening out.

There was an entry of 21 for the Sabre this year. On the day Peter Baron checked in by phone from traffic choked M5 and arrived just as he was due on the piste. The experience clearly fired him up and he went on to take the Men's Prize undefeated. Jane Hutchison took the Women's Prize for the third year in a row.

17 entered the foil and 16 finished. Jim Philbin started his first fight of the second round, started an attack and just sank to his knees holding his back. He withdrew from the fencing but managed to preside the final four.

Tim Miles, at his first appearance in the Bath Foil, took the Men's Prize. Hilary Philbin fought this year in the second division and took the Women's Prize.

Sabre Results

- 1 Peter Baron Men's Prize
- 2 Chris Prevett
- 3 Jane Hutchison Women's Prize
- 4 Richard Bonehill
- 5 Andy Bornemisza
- 6 Douglas Smith
- 7 Michael Compton
- 8 Geoff Silverman
- 9 Mike Garrity
- 10 John Norrie
- 11 Cary Zitcer
- 12 Rodney Greenhalgh
- 13 Sue Benney
- 14 Jonathan Dawkins
- 15 Hilary Philbin
- 16 Gillian Aghajan
- 17 Silvia Earl
- 18 Pat Rees
- 19 Caron Hale
- 20 Pat Shepherd-Foster

Foil Results

- 1 Tim Miles Men's Prize
- 2 Dave Sweeney
- 3 Mike Bradbury
- 4 Frank Mills
- 5 Malcolm Fare
- 6 Hilary Philbin Women's Prize
- 7 Jonathan Dawkins
- 8 Richard Sweatman
- 9 Jane Hutchison
- 10 Silvia Earl
- 11 Caron Hale
- 12 John Mason
- 13 Sue Benney
- 14 Paul Winter
- 15 Austen Moore
- 16 Linda Lawes
- 17 Jim Philbin (retired)

Notable Results: Last 32 or top half

Gillian Aghajan came 12/25 in the Martin Ridley Women's Sabre on May 7th.