

NVA News

November 21st Christmas Dinner and Fencing

2010

January 23-24 Age Group Qualifiers

March 5-7 National Championships and AGM



"BFA Development Programme:
Appointment of Official Snaketaster".

Suggested by Paul Brenda !!

Dear NVA Members,

As Christmas approaches, your committee is already planning the activities in the calendar for the New Year, and particularly the Age Group Qualifiers and National Championships.

These are two of the most important events in our calendar as they produce the selections for the European Team Championships and the World Championships, and between them they receive the highest entry from across the membership.

Our budgets are in preparation as I write, but it is already apparent that the entry fees for these competitions will need to rise in order to meet the greater part of the costs.

Because these events are so important, we believe that the standards that have been raised in recent years in terms of equipment, safety, referees and venues should not be compromised.

We are mindful, however, that these are difficult times financially and naturally, these increases will be kept to the most reasonable level that we can, and it is certain that the NVA will, in its continued support of our members, be contributing a significant sum towards the increased costs of organising both events.

We look forward to seeing you at the Age Group Qualifiers and the National Championships and I can assure you that your committee will continue to provide the best events and service to you, our members as economically as we can.

Sincerely

Frank Mills, Chairman

NVA SELECTION RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (eg - World Championships)

Feedback on the selection rules used in 2009

As many of you will be aware, there was a review of the NVA selection rules in 2008 and a number of changes were made for the 2009 season. That review took account of practical issues such as the changing format, size and dates of the two NVA qualifying events. It also took into account a number of requests from fencers to increase the size of the results 'pool', thus enabling a more detailed comparison and accurate assessment. This included:

- Consideration of results over a longer period (2 years)
- The inclusion of international results (such as World Championships & individual European Championships)

However, following the selection of the 2009 World Championship squad, it was concluded that the 2008/2009 rule changes were not fit for purpose in that:

- The number of appeals was much higher than usual - 2 formal and 2 informal (and 2 of the appeals were for the same place in the same category!)
- There were a number of comments that the rules were so complex that fencers were unable to forecast what they needed to do in order to have a good chance of being selected.
- There was an unprecedented degree of feedback, queries and misunderstandings regarding the interpretation of the rules.

In addition, from a selector's point of view, it was extremely difficult to separate fencers for 3rd, 4th and reserve places in each category. Specific problems included:

- A comparison couldn't easily be made across 2 years, due to the number of people changing age groups in that 2 year period. (It's not possible to rank a fencer's place in the 50-59 event against another fencer's place in the 60+ event.)
- Problems were encountered when comparing sets of 4 NVA qualifying results where 'Smith' competed in competitions A & C, and 'Jones' fenced in competitions B & D – and where both fencers had inconsistent performances.

There has therefore been a further review, aimed at producing a clear simple system.

New rules for 2010

The committee has approved changes to the selection rules for individual events (age categorised), which will apply for the 2009-2010 season onwards. (NB: There is no change to the selection rules for team events.)

In summary, for the World Championships:

1. For each age/weapon category, the highest-placed eligible fencer in the most recent National Championships will be selected in 1st place.
2. All other places will be selected by going straight down the rankings of the Age Group Qualifiers (with the exception of any discretionary selection in 4th place, if appropriate).

The full rules are available on the NVA website, or by SAE to Hilary Arnold.

We hope that this clear simple system will be welcomed overall by the membership.

Hilary Philbin
Chair of Selectors

Age Groups 2010

23/24 January

Entry forms and full details will be circulated with the December newsletter.

The hotel and venue are as last year:

Venue: Luton Regional Sports Centre

Hotel: Days Hotel, Regent Street, Luton

There are some changes to the timetable:

1) Category 1 entries are now too high for all three weapons to be fenced on the same day. Epée will be on Saturday; Foil and Sabre on Sunday.

2) Until 2009, fencers aged 60+ were all in the same age category at the World Championships. In 2009, men aged 60+ were given two categories for the first time: 60-69 and 70+. It is believed that this will remain the status quo, and it is probable that from 2010 it will apply to women as well.

The Age Groups will cater for this, as follows:

All Men's Category 4 (70+) weapons will be fenced separately to Category 3 (60-69).

For women, provision will be made for either scenario. At each weapon, the 70+ event will follow directly after the 60-69/60+ event, with one exception: If WE 70+ is a separate category at the Worlds, it will be fenced on Sunday.

It is hoped that the Worlds organisers will have made a firm decision by the time of the Age Groups! We will keep you posted.

	Cat 1 (40-49)
F	Sunday
E	Saturday
S	Sunday

	Cat 2 (50-59)	Cat 3 (60-69)	Cat 4 (70+)
MF	Saturday	Sunday	Saturday
ME	Sunday	Saturday	Saturday
MS	Saturday	Sunday	Saturday

	Cat 2 (50-59)	Cat 3 (60-69/60+)	Cat 4 (70+)
WF	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday
WE	Sunday	Saturday	Saturday/ Sunday
WS	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday

Follow on information :

Just so you know - I'm extremely pleased that Bruce Dickinson did keep his word and attended the open day - see <http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/news-and-events/press/detail.asp?dsid=2663> (I had been worried because he couldn't make it up here on Monday for fencing, and we needed to reschedule). One of my team of volunteers was there as well and showed Bruce in. She said he was true to the rocker image and looking extremely casual, which may explain why no photos on the website.....!

Mike Mcewan

Hi Maggie,

I would like to apologies for the error in the October Newsletter in which I incorrectly stated, in the results table, that you were 9th instead of 8th in the Category B Women's sabre.

You will note that in the text I correctly credited you with a L8 placing and so I feel foolish for not spotting my mistake in the results table.

The online version of the Newsletter has been amended and the selectors made aware of the mistake for future reference. Please accept my apology for accidentally denigrating your result at the World Championships.

I hope to see you at the Veterans Mixed Team event in Bristol on 21st November when I will buy you a drink to make up for my error.

Best regards,

David.

I thought the following might be of interest to Fencing Vets.

Last weekend I took myself off to an Italian veterans fencing competition near Milan (Busto Arsizio) for this seasons first 'Prova' it seems that the Italian vets have a series of competitions (Prova) ending with their national championships some time in the spring. I did not know what to expect but whatever my expectations may have been they were exceed by the reception from the Italians who did seem a little surprised by the arrival of someone from the UK for one of their events. Although I had missed the check in by 30 minutes and the poules were already drawn I was allowed to enter and the poules were redrawn to accommodate me! This general kindness extended to sending to the café to get me some water as my late arrival meant I was also ill-equipped!

The event itself was superb. Each weapon was well represented, for example in male sabre in my age group there were 27 entrants (I came 3rd and now have an Italian vets ranking, 58 out of 105!). There were referees for all fights. The referees seemed extremely competent and I noticed no pro-italian bias! The venue was large (10 metal pistes) and had a kit stand, an armourer and a licensed café!

I would recommend any British Vet to enter one or more of these competitions as they are friendly but offer an opportunity to fence with a wider circle than is available in the UK. I should add that UK vets have a high reputation in Italy due to the consistent success in the worlds.

More specifically I received an invitation from the Padova fencing club for a UK Vets team to go to Padova and fence with the local club. Padova (Padua) is very close to Venice (also Verona) and would make a very nice base for a trip to Northern Italy. The Italian vets website is to be found at www.amismasterscherma.it and the Padova fencing club at www.petrarcascherma.it (I recommend a view of only to see the venue on the home page of the website!)

Yours etc

Barry Coulter

NOTABLE VETS OF THE PRESENT

Looking at the medallists from all ten individual veterans European championships since 1991 and all 12 world championships since 1998, it is interesting to see who the most successful vets have been. There are some who seem to have been around for ever: Jenő Kamuti of Hungary – not content with twice being individual Olympic and senior world championship silver medallist and once bronze medallist between 1961 and 1973 – was also Cat B silver medallist at the first vets men's foil world championship in 1999 and was still there in Moscow 2009 as a bronze medallist in Cat C, yet he has never won a world gold medal. Marie-Chantal Demaille of France – senior world champion in 1971 – was the first vets women's foil world champion in 1998 and has gone on to win a further seven world and six European titles at foil and epee. But it is the three-weapon fencer Brigitte Greunke of Germany who has been around the longest and has won the most medals – 28, winning the first vets European women's foil title in 1991 and collecting another silver medal in Cat B sabre this year in Balatonfüred, in between picking up five world and three European gold medals.

Sylvia Brown was Britain's first veteran world champion when she won the Cat B women's foil title in 1998 and at this year's European championships she was again a medallist, collecting bronze in Cat C sabre. Graham Paul has also been around since the first vets world championship, when he was silver medallist in epee. The following year he won the foil championship and has gone on to collect a further seven gold medals at world and European events. Janet Cooksey also has eight gold medals at foil and epee, starting in 2000 and still winning bronze this year in Moscow. But the most dominant figure on the European scene has been Richard Cohen, who has the extraordinary record of winning every sabre championship he has entered – eight since 1993. A further four world championship gold medals and a mere silver when just warming up in his first championship make him the most successful single-weapon fencer in veteran history.

Some have been particularly successful in world championships rather than European: Marja-Liisa Someroja of Finland has won eight world gold medals, but only two European; Janet Cooksey has six world titles and also two European; having swept up all the new Cat C titles in Moscow, Russia's Gari Aftandilov now has four world gold medals to go with his one European; Ralph Johnson and Jane Hutchison have each won three world titles and one European; Kirstin Palm of Sweden has won three gold and three silver medals at world level, but has never entered the European championships; Maurizio Galvan of Italy has never won a European championship, yet has three world titles.

For others it has been the other way round: Ute Wessels of Germany has won six European titles, but only two world championships; Sylvia Brown has four European titles and one world; Germany's Annemarie Grundlehner has won 12 European medals, but nothing at the world championships; fellow countrywoman Astrid Kircheis has nine European medals and just one world title; Connie Adam also has nine European medals in a remarkable career starting when she was 60, but has come away empty-handed at the world championships.

So far, the medal tables look like this:

WORLD	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Demaille	8	3	-
Someroja	8	1	3
Cooksey	6	1	6
Greunke	5	-	8
Paul	4	3	-
Cohen	4	1	-
Aftandilov	4	1	-
Palm	3	3	-
Galvan	3	2	-
Korfanty	3	2	-
Johnson	3	1	4
Hutchison	3	-	-

EUROPEAN	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Cohen	8	-	-
Demaille	6	2	3
Wessels	6	-	1
Grundlehner	4	5	3
Paul	4	3	-
Brown	4	1	2
Schiel	4	-	1
Greunke	3	8	4
Blaschka	3	-	1
Someroja	2	3	2
Cooksey	2	2	1
Haertter	2	2	1
Nettingsmeyer	2	2	1

COMBINED	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Demaille	14	3	3
Cohen	12	1	-
Someroja	10	4	5
Greunke	8	8	12
Paul	8	6	-
Cooksey	8	3	7
Wessels	8	-	2
Aftandilov	5	1	2
Brown	5	1	2
Blaschka	5	-	1
Grundlehner	4	5	3
Nettingsmeyer	4	4	4

Caption

Richard Cohen, the world's most successful single-weapon veteran



Malcolm Fare



NOTABLES: WELL DONE !!!!! - TOP HALF ONLY

Ashton Open - 19/10/2009

ME (32)	7 Paul Cooper 8 Nick Stokes 10 Anthony Klenczar 13 Granville Ward 15 Max Telfer
MS (15)	2 Carl Morris 3 Michael Compton
WF (10)	1 Kati Archer 2 Cathy Heyes 3 Kim De Large
WS (20)	2 Monica Gilmore 3 Wednesday Jones 3 Sheila Williams 9 Lynn Keogh 10 Vivien Frith

Sussex Open - 3/10/2009

MF (42)	13 Brian CAUSTON 18 Jim WHELAN 21 Paul ABRAHAMS
ME (96)	18 Howard WEST 20 Niall CAMPBELL 26 Jeremy RAJ
WF (13)	3T Jenny MORRIS 5 Dawn TOWNSEND 6 Angela FINDLAY
WE (34)	3T Jenny MORRIS 15 Sara SPENCE 17 Mariette MASON

Allstar Open

MF (42)	18 Austen Rose
ME (105)	39 John Chalmers
MS (53)	3 Richard Cohen 18 Duncan Rowlands 24 Julian Ghosh
WF (23)	7 Gillian Worman 10 Dawn Townsend
WE (39)	14 Jenny Morris
WS(27)	9 Michelle Narey 10 Viv Frith



Middlesex Epee 1st November

A record number of 22 fencers braved some torrential rain and arrived at a rain-soaked Middlesex University for the 9th Middlesex Mixed Epee competition. The day began with a vote on the format to follow for the day, the fencers bravely choosing to have a pool unique, and a marathon 21 fights, rather than 3 rounds of pools, ensuring that everyone would have a very full day of fencing.

After a couple of rounds of fencing it was clear that the winner would come from a couple of fencers, the result being very close and only

determined towards the very end of the day's fencing.

The eventual winner was Peter Beveridge, from City FC, in his first Vets event, only just denied a clean sweep, with 20 victories out of a possible maximum of 21, closely followed by Jon Rawlinson with 19 victories, and Andrew Brown with 17 victories. Amanda Webster was the leading lady with 15 victories, finishing in 6th place overall.

It was great to see that a considerable number of the fencers were new to either Veterans Fencing or this event – welcome to everyone who took part for the first time. Also good to see fencers from novice to experienced all taking part. Congratulations especially to 3

of the 4 medallists, Amanda, Peter, and Jon, all of whom are new to veterans fencing this year.

Well done to all fencers for fencing at a brisk pace and ensuring that the pool ran quickly – in fact only a handful of fights went to the time limit – something of a rarity for epee fights !

A big thank you to Hilary Arnold for organising the event once again, and ensuring it all ran very smoothly on the day – completing a pool unique of 22 fencers, and 231 fights, on 4 pistes in under 6 hours is no small achievement !

Paul Baillache

The final results were

2009 Middlesex Epée

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 1 | Peter Beveridge |
| 2 | Jon Rawlinson |
| 3 | Andrew Brown |
| 4 | David Karlin |
| 5 | Richard Pelham |
| 6 | Amanda Webster |
| 7 | Nigel Hinchliff |
| 8 | Anthony Rossiter |
| 9 | Iain Rugheimer |
| 10 | Simon White |
| 11 | Robert Jeffries |
| 12 | Paul Baillache |
| 13 | Roger Nickless |
| 14 | Alex Jablonowski |
| 15 | Paul Winter |
| 16 | Tony Bardell |
| 17 | Peter James |
| 18 | Bob Perry |
| 19 | Colin Lutman |
| 20 | Hilary Arnold |
| 21 | Jacqueline Hibbert |
| 22 | Peter Hamilton-Scott |

Men's Prize

Women's Prize

WELLESBOURNE TEAM TROPHY

Vets team

Weapon	Names		
MF	Dave Sweeney		Fred Sheppard
WF	Caron Hale		Marilyn Wheelband
ME	Rob Brooks		Bernard Enders
WE	Janet Baron		Joanne Reynolds
MS	Peter Baron		Steve Potter
WS	Silvia Earl		Gabrielle Trinczek

The event had a low turn out this year with only seven teams in total and two or three of those were missing team members. Our women's sabre team had only around three matches.

Once again we finished in 2nd place behind the Civil Service. In addition to the vets in our own team, there were several in opposition camps. The Civil Service included Duncan Rowlands in their sabre team and Malcolm Cawton doing foil. Jenny and Carl Morris were representing their own club, Seacourt, whilst Sylvia Brown was fencing for Wellesbourne. Malcolm Allton wasn't fencing but instead was organising the day's event. Apologies to anyone missed out of that list!

Gaby Trinczek was initially announced as the winner of the individual Women's sabre prize but a recount showed that it should have been Jenny Morris. Likewise Peter Baron was announced as equal highest victories for the Men's sabre prize and then, after the suspense was held for a few moments, it was the Civil Service's Mike Berry who was announced winner on indicators. In fact, it was Steve Potter who should have been second, having like Mike only dropped one fight, with Peter in joint third place with 2 losses. However, Caron Hale was the undisputed champion of the Women's Foil with Marilyn Wheelband second on indicators

The Civil Service had 98 victories to our 92. Third place was some way behind. Obviously to come second each weapon team contributed to the overall result but the Men's foilists were disappointed with their moderate results and lost 4-0 to the Civil Service where a couple of victories could have turned the whole match. Women's sabre did well, with an inexperienced and not-very-confident Gaby contributing a good number of victories. The Women foilists were undefeated (?). The women's epeeists were not far behind. Also undefeated were the Men's sabre team. Mike Berry, who is currently ranked 15 in the country, and Duncan probably rated as the strongest paring in the event. Despite that we beat them 3-1 and drew with Carl's Seacourt team.

Most importantly everyone enjoyed their day's fencing, even Silvia Earl whose long slog through the downpour and traffic delays from Lincolnshire was for a total of 6 fights.

Peter Baron

**Team representing the Veterans against the Royal Navy
good luck team !!**

MF	ME	MS
Edward Ben-Nathan	Peter Hamilton-Scott	Jim Philbin
Jon Dawkins	Roger Nickless	Cary Zitcer
John Fruen	Brian Cramp	Mike Garrity
WF	WE	WS
Hilary Philbin	Niké Ajibode	Viv Frith
Sharon Nickless	Mariette Mason	Gabrielle Trinczek
Caron Hale (tbc)	vacant	Gillian Aghajan

Fencing in Art or the Art of Fencing !!

Please take the time to peruse the website for new and exciting pages that John Mason has been slaving over!!

John has scanned in a selection of Henry de Silva's fencing postcards and fencing stamps from around the world and they are well worth a look. Posters are also part of the page.

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

Finally - some help needed

John Mason carries out a great job running our web site.

But he is bored with the look of it.

So we are asking for help - just to design a new look web site - no need to run it - John will continue that part.

As usual you do this for the love of fencing...fancy giving it a go??

ring John Mason, or Linda Lawes for more information.

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