



BVF Committee Meeting

Date: 7th March 2022

Time: 10-12

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Carl Morris (CM), Nicola Hull (NH), Paul Ballaiche (PB), Luce Wright (LW), Kola Ayanwale (KA), Lyn Robinson (LR), Gillian Aghajan (GA), Beth Davidson (BD)

1) Welcome CM

CM welcomed LR and GA to the committee and thanked those who helped organise and run the Epee Age Groups. He commented that numbers looked good for the Age Groups and there had been positive comments on fencing to ten hits. It was felt based on feedback that to avoid long delays a poule unique up to ten hits should be split onto 2 pistes and CM acknowledged that there had been some negative comments about the delays between the mens' poules.

2) Winton Cup CM

- The agenda order was changed so this event could be discussed first. It was agreed that CM should check that the vendor of food and drinks at the venue had a food hygiene certificate. As a committee we have a duty of care towards the fencing community.
- A large part of the discussion was focused on the Winton meal and whether it should be a buffet rather than a sit down meal and how tables should be arranged.
- GA thought that a sit-down meal had to be formally organised and was a good way to allow new members to integrate with their teams.
- The committee agreed that GA and Marcia Stretch (event manager) should obtain costings for a buffet option as it was felt that based on feedback from members at the last Winton and some committee members that this might be a good way forward. It was also felt that a less formal seating arrangement would be preferred with team tables as opposed to allocated seating as people would be able to move around more freely.
- BD mentioned that if tickets were still available at the last minute, they would be easier to sell as the buyer wouldn't have an already chosen menu.
- CM mentioned re introducing a disco - the committee voted 5 x no and 2 x yes
- GP suggested a handicap system for the competition as the ages were mixed; the committee felt this would be a good idea. He also felt the second hall would not be needed and this would help reduce costs.

Action: CM to discuss points raised with Marcia, and GA report back on costings and logistics of buffet option.

2) Committee roles CM

CM discussed allocation of roles to committee members. President / Treasurer / Secretary have specific duties. However other necessary duties were: promotion; membership administration; development for existing and new members; and competition organisation.

- Promotion to be overseen by GA who will also take responsibility for Team Management duties at the European and World events this year as well as being EVF representative. GA suggested the continued use of Malcolm Fare as press officer. This was agreed – GA to contact MF.
- Development of Veteran Fencers will be overseen by BD
- Competition Sub-Committee will consist of LR, KA and GP.
- The three-year tenure of committee members was discussed. Should a member of the committee resigns before their 3-year tenure is up, if a person is co-opted into that vacant position they will have to stand for that position at the next AGM and they, or whoever is elected, will serve for the remaining period of time left on that tenure. When that time expires, they will then be able to stand for re-election should they choose.

Action: LW to update the three year tenure rules on to the Rules& Regs.

Action: GA to start organising the European teams and looking into hotels. The competition committee to start to meet and discuss events for 2022/2023

3) Development of Veteran fencers BD

BD outlined her initial thoughts in respect to the development of fencing for over 40s. She reported on:

- How veteran fencers are motivated: their Club environment; the journey from picking up a sword to competing
- New people to target: turning parents of fencers into fencers has advantages as they have a good starting knowledge as to the sport, costs involved, and many receive emails from BF on behalf of their children.
- Marketing: The over forties are a relatively untapped market. FB and twitter campaigns may work. Blank targeting at a national level has not worked in the past. More success has been found targeting people via existing club members and looking at those who are 10 miles away from the club.
- Club environment: from experience gained dealing with female fencers BD realised that fencers like to start from a level playing field and she feels over forties would also like to participate on an equal playing field.
- Coach: the nature of the coach will be important and areas such as warm up will need to be tailored. Coaching qualifications need to be more bespoke.
- A project called Silver Swords would aim to establish a group activator in participating clubs and put together an activator course to operate under a club structure.
- Competitions for new fencers: thought needs to be given to competition type, the group managing themselves, refereeing themselves, taking away the emphasis on winning, perhaps more of a sparring day. Another idea included a BVF GB League.
- Conversations taking place: Lyndsey Bottoms regarding health markers for veteran fencers and academic studies. Steve Kemp at BF regarding tailored coaching for the 40+ age group.

- GP mentioned fitness and how fencing combines both cardio and strength making it excellent exercise for veterans. He also has been researching diet and protein amounts that may be needed to help muscle growth.

Action: Working Group – Beth, Gillian, Ev Van Gemeren. LW volunteered to help with communications.

4) Denis Hunt Sabre donation:

- Marcia Stretch has requested some of the fund goes to the Sabre Club and Mike Swiffin. The committee agreed with this.

Action PB to donate £100 to each fund

5) Welsh donation.

- It had previously been agreed to give Welsh Veteran Fencing £200 for the use of the hall for the Age Groups.

Action: This decision was ratified and PB to make payment

6) The Nationals for 2022

CM discussed if we needed a Nationals for this year and if it would it be used for selection.

- The committee felt Nationals should be held annually.
- November was discussed as competition month for the Nationals. NH requested using a large enough venue so the epeeists could have two rounds of poules as per the other weapons.
- PB mentioned off-setting weapons so numbers could be more evenly spread ie men's epee could run on the same day as women's sabre.
- CM suggested another team competition in the Summer, similar to the Winton, to involve more of the membership including an evening social event. Probably too late to organise for this Summer but we should look at it for 2023. Format to be discussed.

Action: The competition committee to look into the organisation of the Nationals and if it should be used for selection yet to be finalised. CM to discuss further his ideas for a new team event.

7) AOB

- Paul Wedge requested the committee to contact Russian fencers to advise them as to the reality of the situation in Ukraine. The committee do not have access to Russian fencers email addresses and also felt this may endanger the recipient.
- European Teams – Members need to be advised of the changes in rules re kit etc
- The hardship fund will be discussed at the next committee meeting

Meeting ended 12.45

Nicola Hull
BVF Secretary