



BVF Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 25th April 2022

Time: 10-12.30

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Carl Morris (CM), Nicola Hull (NH), Paul Baillache (PB), Luce Wright (LW), Lyn Robinson (LR), Gillian Aghajan (GA), Graham Paul (GP).

1) Welcome CM

CM welcomed us all. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted, and it was confirmed that donations had been made to the Sabre Club and Mike Swiffin as agreed in our last meeting.

2) AGE Group Feedback and update following the competition committee's meeting LR

- LR advised that the feedback survey was on the whole positive, however on reflection giving competitors a choice of event format on the day had not been successful and led to some complaints. Moving forward the competition committee would always look to ensure fencers have a lot of fencing which may mean looking at mixed age groups with a handicap system. They will also communicate the competition format to fencers in advance so fencers can train accordingly.
- The competition committee noted that in the last meeting it had been agreed that we would have a National Championships this year.
- A general debate was had about the mix of competitions we should provide, event order, selection, and a possible rolling ranking.

Action:

- LR to share the minutes of the last competition committee's meeting
- The competition committee of LR, GP and KA to hold a separate meeting and propose a 2 year program of competitions defining which competitions will be used for selection. They will then report back to the committee for approval. (It was suggested a full day's face to face committee meeting may be help to discuss and finalise).

3) Winton Cup CM

- There was a discussion about the correspondence to go out to team captains and BVF members; who fencers should contact if they wanted to fence but didn't have a team to fence in; the entry cost; hotel rates; cost of buffet; first aider; food at competition venue; and competition format.

Action:

- Correspondence: GA has updated the correspondence that will be sent out to Team captains and BVF members. It was decided LW would be a named contact point should fencers want to fence but not have a team, or if captains were struggling to fill teams. The aim is to have full teams. GA to finalise
- A zoom call would be organised for Team Captains in order to discuss entry fee payments and to help fill teams where needed. LW to organise.
- The entry fee will be a team fee not an individual fee. £800 per team. Agreed by committee and to be put in the correspondence.
- Concern was raised about the costs of this event, in terms of the hotel used and the price of the buffet which has been quoted at a similar price to a 3 course sit down meal. CM to discuss further with Marcia Stretch.
- Lucinda's Tea Rooms. Whilst the committee appreciated the work Lucinda undertakes for this event there were some complaints last year about the cost of tea and coffee and quality of the sandwiches on Sunday. The committee thought limiting the provisions to tea and cake would be preferable. A question was raised about a food hygiene certificate. CM to contact Marcia.
- Still need to decide on event order; number of rounds on each day; possible handicap system for grand veteran fencers.

4) Selection for the Worlds GP

- The selection committee are finalising selection for the worlds and will make announce the squad in May.

Action: GP to advise the committee when the selection has been made and how he wants this communicated to members.

5) Guildford response to Leonardo Patti

- The committee would like to request that we hold a 6W EVF circuit event and discussion was had as to how this could be hosted. Would the smaller room be required in addition to the main hall and could the event be held over 2 or 3 days?
- If the event is used for selection purposes fencers need to be able to enter each event.
- Due to the increasing costs of venues, there was concern that the European entry fee may mean that costs could not be covered.

Action:

- GA to write to Leonardo Patti and request that BVF host all 6W. When the outcome is known, the competition format can be organised.
- GA to ask the EVF committee if the entry fee can be increased to £40.

6) Supporting sustainability in BVF NH

- Due to the environmental issues facing the world, NH felt the BVF committee should look at ways to increase awareness amongst its members as to what they can do as individuals to reduce their carbon footprint, and what BVF can do when organising our competitions. The

committee were happy to listen to proposals whilst being mindful that they didn't wish to 'dictate' to members, or 'incur extra cost'.

Action: NH suggested she would speak to Ben Paul, who has already looked at making changes within the Leon Paul organisation and club and report back to the committee with proposals.

7) Development BD GA

- BD whilst unable to attend the meeting had shared the minutes of the development committee's first meeting (members of this committee BD, GA and Ev van Gemeren)
- A general discussion was had over the article to include: its purpose should be to increase BVF membership; looking into a different membership costing for a more 'social' fencer; promotion of the development program; practicalities of training club members; competitions BVF could provide; budget implications.

Action: GA suggested that promotion of the proposal to members was to be the next step, and the development committee were working on some material. Budget would also be discussed in the development committee's subsequent meetings and presented to the BVF committee. GA/BD to keep committee updated.

AOB

- Development for existing members was raised by LR. The Welsh organise their own training - should BVF organise National Camps? Ad hoc training exists with Ladies Epee and the Sabre club. This will be on the next agenda.
- European Teams: closing date for European teams was on the 25 April. GA will publish entries on FB.
- Hardship fund – TBD at next meeting

Meeting ended 12.45

Nicola Hull
BVF Secretary