



BVF Committee Meeting

Date: 1st October 2022

Time: 9.30-12.30

Location: Zoom

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

Previous Minutes - accepted

1) Welcome CM

- CM Welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained he would be reading for Lyn who had pneumonia. Due to health reasons Lyn warned she may have to stand down from the committee - however confirmed the Welsh equipment would still be available for BVF events.
- CM recapped on the last committee minutes and mentioned that the committee would ensure the BVF Nationals would be held in the future as an annual event.
- CM also suggested that Sustainability ideas should be promoted. Mention was made to car sharing for competitions, kit recycling, reusable plastic bottles.

Action: LW to promote car sharing via Facebook

2) Winton Cup CM

- In summary CM felt the Winton Cup ran well in respect of hotel, food, raffle, and competition organisation. However, it was slightly marred by confusion with the Ladies Team Epee Results.
- A proposal was discussed to book a new venue Nottingham University where the senior Winton Cup is held apparently costing much less in venue hire, if this was the case it might be possible to pass some of this saving on to competitors by reducing team entry.
- The merits of Nottingham were discussed: venue which allowed ample room for pistes and rooms for DT; cheaper accommodation for participants in Halls of Residence; and hotel for gala dinner. This venue is used by BF for large events. LW offered to liaise with Evie Miller to find out more about the hotel used by BF where dinners are held.
- The following areas were highlighted for improvement: Ensuring each region had a full team; running a team captain meeting on zoom before the event; putting in place 'job descriptions' for those helping to organise the event.
- KA to liaise with Evie Miller at BF to ensure nothing clashes.
- Proposed date 9/10th September

- Discussion of Women Epee Team results. Problems arose as despite winning all their matches, the Welsh team found they hadn't won the cup. This was because the existing rules state the winner was calculated on number of individual fights the team won rather than match wins. Great disappointment followed. A compromise was found after the event in announcing joint cup winner for 2022 for the SE & Welsh Ladies Epee Teams. It was noted that the rules would be amended to be based on match wins and count back, if needed, on individual bouts.
- LW raised the question as to whether we needed team trophies and 'winners' as the event is to encourage inclusivity of all. However, the majority felt it was a good thing as more people got recognition not just the overall county winners.

Action: New Rules to be written up. Job descriptions to be worded and agreed. A Team Captains' Zoom Meeting to take place next year. Competition committee CM, LW, MS to action.

3) Logo

- It had been brought to CM attention that a newly formed club was using a similar logo to BVF. The history of our logo was discussed including our legal position as the logo isn't registered.
- The committee decided that CM would write to the coach to make him aware of the situation and ask him to consider changing his logo.
- BD mentioned Alex Savin (AS) was a specialist in copyright law and it may be worth getting his opinion.
- The committee were happy for CM to write to the coach and see what the outcome is. Then decide if they want to go down a legal route.

Action: CM to make contact with AS and action accordingly.

GA left to fly to Croatia.

4) Silver Swords BD

- BD explained how the 'silver swords group' worked and how the first event has been organised to be held in Manchester and communicated to members for 20 November 2022
- Content for the training day has been agreed and some of the committee promoted it at the Winton Cup. 4 people have booked. 12 participants is the target.
- Discussion as to if training could be given on Zoom however BD felt this wasn't the best medium as physical coaching is involved.
- Need to look to attract people in 2-hour radius
- Numbers discussed as four not deemed viable
- New Flyer to be sent out
- Could local Clubs be approached
- Attendees do need to be BVF members
- Other areas may have more success due to numbers of BVF in those areas ie SW

Action: BD and the team to look at generating more attendees.

5) Guildford GP KA LR

- Welsh fencing will supply equipment which will help with costs. BVF to need to arrange insurance to cover it.

- Request made that DT are in the main hall so they can see when pistes are available and no disconnect
- As this is an EVF competition we must follow their rules in respect to competition format.
- PB mentioned payment of competition Licence and that we would pay foreign fencers levy ourselves to BF
- John Mason is setting up the entry system. LW speaking to JM so she understands how to set up competition entry.
- Discussion on entry fee it was agreed that one weapon £45 second weapon would be reduced to £30 and third £15.
- Look at timetable to allow participation in 3 events
- PB/ LW to speak to JM about setting up PayPal button for foreign entries.
- PB /GP Withdrawal refunds will follow EVF rules. Refunds to be given at organisers discretion subject to admin fee
- PB Medals – 96 medals engraving discussed – ie generic Guildford 22 EVF – decided Generic medal and stickers to denote event will be cheaper than engraving.
- KA contacting Leonardo with our plans for the event to gain his agreement before we go live on website re entry

Action: PB to organise medals and insurance of Welsh kit. KA to get the green light from EVF as to event format. LW to publish event details

6) Summer Event CM

- CM would like to plan a summer event to be held at the Sport Wales Centre June/ July
- Looking at a venue cost of £1500
- Competition format TBC
- Team event maybe mixed sex and age. Teams probably being self-selecting.
- Discussions on format still ongoing.

Action CM to keep us updated

AOB

- **Hardship fund:** Availability for Guildford. People wanting to apply for free competition place should write to NH or PB. Names will go into a hat with first three pulled being offered free places.
- **Nationals** as a selection competition. CM mentioned he had canvassed some Cat 4 members at the vets Commonwealths to gather their thoughts. He reported the majority 11 out of 14 were happy with the event being used as a ranking competition. A discussion took place on whether should survey all members about this but it was pointed out that this had already been done not too long ago so with this and the result of the 'straw poll' this was not agreed upon.
NH felt that feedback forms after competitions should go ahead and could include a question as to whether people felt that particular competition should be used as selection. A post competition feedback form will go out after Guildford.
- **Lindsey Bottoms** volunteered to work with us in respect of attracting seniors coming through to veterans. LW to investigate further.
- **CM** to officially congratulate Ev Van Gemeren on his appointment as chair of England Veteran Fencing.

Meeting closed