

**Minutes of the Annual Congress of the European Veterans Fencing Committee
held on 1st June 2011 in Hénin-Beaumont, France**

Present:	Laki Dobridis	Member of Honour
	Rudi Coessens	Member of Honour
	Henry de Silva	Member of Honour
	David Sweeney	President
	Marja-Liisa Someroja	Vice-President
	Sue Church	Secretary/Treasurer
	Alexander Kapustin	Russia
	Paul Van Agtmael	Belgium
	Benoit Pincemaille	France
	Igor Skorynin	Belarus
	Tom Rafter	Ireland
	Frank Mills	Gt. Britain
	Volkhard Herbst	Germany
	Sirpa Lundgren	Finland
	Kerstin Warvsten	Sweden
	Oscar Kardolus	Netherlands
	Aleksandar Anastasov	Macedonia
	Hynek Koutny	Czech Republic
	Jorgen Kock	Denmark

1 Apologies for absence

Max Geuter	President EFC/CEE Veterans Commission
Slobodan Gacesa	Croatia
Jozsef Meszaros	Hungary
Jean-Pierre Mion	France
Vladimir Orovic	Serbia

2 Welcome to new members

Sirpa Lundgren is representing Finland for this meeting.
Benoit Pincemaille is representing France for this meeting.
Vladimir Orovic will represent Serbia, but is unable to attend this meeting.

3 Minutes of last meeting

True and accurate record. Proposed by Tom Rafter, seconded by Volkhard Herbst.

4 Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda

Rudi Coessens said that according to the EVFC Rules no country should organise 2 championships of the same type. It must be Individual followed by Team or vice versa, but France has organised 2 Individuals, in Moulins and Hénin-Beaumont. David Sweeney replied that if no other proposition is received we have to accept a volunteer. David will prepare a proposal for the next meeting.

5 President's Report (previously circulated)

2010 European Veterans Team Championships

Thanks are due to Aleksandar Anastasov and his team for a successful and enjoyable European Veterans Team Championships in Skopje, Macedonia.

2011 European Individual Championships - Henin-Beaumont, France

There have been a record number of registrations for the 2011 championships. All entrants have been entered onto the European Veterans Participation database.

This is the first year of using the rules for supply of referees as agreed at the congress in Balatonfüred. We should review how the rules are working at the congress in Henin-Beaumont.

Seeding for European Veterans Championships

It is the current practice that seeding for preliminary rounds at Veterans Team and Individual Championships is based on the rankings from the previous event. A suggestion has been made that this may lead to unbalanced poules and that the seeding process should be revised to include other criteria e.g. current world championship ranking and national rankings. This is an important change and should be considered and discussed at the European Veterans Congress before any change in process is made. I hope that we will have time to discuss this matter at the congress in Henin-Beaumont and would welcome input from each country.

2012 European Veterans Team Championships

The Croatian Veterans Association has submitted a detailed candidature document to host the championships in Porec. The same team who organised the 2010 World Veterans Championships in Porec will be running the European Veterans Team Championships and we can feel confident that the 2012 championships will be a success.

Future European Veterans Championships

EVFC member countries are invited to submit proposals to host the 2013 European Veterans Individual Championships and the 2014 European Veterans Team Championships.

EVFC Flag

For the second time the EVFC flag has been misplaced, this time irrevocably. It was discovered that there was no art work available for existing version of the EVFC flag. The officers of the EVFC considered if a new flag should be designed using the EVFC letter head logo. It was decided that we should remain with the existing version. The flag was redrawn from a photograph and artwork produced. A replacement flag will be available at the 2011 European Championships. The artwork has been placed on file.

Eligibility

Mr Laszlo Kovacs has applied to transfer his eligibility to participate in European Veterans Championships from Hungary to Germany. Mr Kovacs has submitted the required documents, including a letter of release from the Hungarian Federation, and has satisfied all of the criteria for competing under the German flag. A note has been placed on the EVFC Participation database and a copy of the documentation placed in an appendix to the database.

A question has been raised concerning the eligibility of non Europeans fencers, residing in Europe, to take part in European Veterans Championships. This is a matter which can only be decided at EFV Congress.

Officers of the EVFC

At this year's congress the offices of Vice President and Chairman are due for election. Candidates should submit their names to the secretary as soon as possible before the congress

I would like to thank the Vice President, Marja-Liisa Someroja and the Chairman, Jean-Pierre Mion, for the contributions that they have made for the benefit of European Veterans Fencing. Thanks are also due to Sue Church, Secretary/Treasurer, for her work in making sure that correspondence is properly circulated and records kept.

David Sweeney, EVFC President 12 May 2011

David added that the EVFC flag had been lost and therefore replaced. Now the flag has been found, so we have 2 flags. He confirmed that all eligibilities have been recorded.

6 Chairman's Report

No report received.

7 Secretary/Treasurer's Report

ACCOUNTS 2010 (previously circulated)

Bank balance at 01 January 2010 £1909.25

Add:	Income	
	Subscriptions 17 x €15	£191.50
	Interest	£1.93

Less:	Expenditure	
	Nil	

Bank balance at 31 December 2010
On 16/4/11

£2102.68
(€2412)

It was agreed at our congress in 2010 that the annual subscriptions will be collected each year by the organisers of the European Championships, and that this money will be used by the organisers for that year's Championships.

This year the organisers of the championships collected the €20 subscription from:

ITA, FRA, GER, ESP, AUT, RUS, SWE, DEN, SUI, BEL, NED, GBR, IRL, FIN, NOR, UKR, CZE, ROM, POL, LAT, ISR, MON, BLR, LUX, MAC, HUN, GRE, SRB, LTU & EST

8 Reports from country representatives

BELARUS: This is only the 4th year of existence of veterans fencing in Belarus. Still only one club exists – in Minsk, the capital city, but the number of active veteran fencers has increased to approx. 25 people. During the last year our fencers participated in a number of tournaments abroad, including competitions in Russia, Poland, France and Italy, often finishing on podium. To participate in those events was really very interesting and useful for our veterans, because it is too early yet to organize a veterans competition in Belarus. Our association wants to express very sincere thanks to the organizers of the tournaments in Russia, Poland, France and Italy for the possibility for our fencers to take part in those wonderful events and for their hospitality.

Henin-Beaumont is the second time Belarussian fencers participate in European championships. This time there are 13 fencers in our delegation, fencing in men's saber V1, men's epee V1 and V2, men's foil V1 and ladies foil V1 and V2, compared to 7 fencers in Balatonfured, fencing in men's saber V1, men's foil V1 and men's epee V1. The progress is slow, but steady. We have won one gold medal in Balatonfured, this time we are aiming for more.

Igor Skorynin, EVFC representative for Belarus

BELGIUM: At last we have good news. We are now at about eighty members. The reason is still unknown to us. Fact is that, each time we organize our national championships, all people attending them are very satisfied about it. Indeed, people fence a maximum. We keep trying to fence in "poule unique". This year we had a lot of people in all weapons, being at the same time members of our association. This year, due probably also to the small distance from Belgium to Henin Beaumont, we managed to have 32 participations in 5 weapons.

Paul Van Agtmael, EVFC representative for Belgium

CROATIA: The number of Croatian veterans slowly increases due to aging of senior fencers. We have national Veteran Championship included as part of Senior tournament. The best achievement was organization of World Veteran championship in Poreč September 2010 by Croatian Fencers Association. The next World Veteran Championship will take place in Poreč too, due to Maroko withdraw. As well, next European Team Veteran Championship will be organized by Croatian Fencers Associations in 2012.

Slobodan Gacesa, EVFC representative for Croatia

CZECH REPUBLIC: The association of Czech active senior fencers has been established at year 2005. The association was founded via 5 constituent members and grows up. The main aim is still to integrate Czech senior fencers into active fencing. Just now we have close to 60 of active members. The Czech Republic is small country with approximately 10 million habitants and fencing is not sport No 1. Our Czech Fencing Federation joins 37 fencing clubs and about 1200 fencers. Most than half of our members are younger fencers till 20 years.

In January we organize traditional local veteran tournament "Memorial Hugo Graf" at Teplice. On this tournament we welcomed also our friends from Germany. Our colleagues fenced in all veteran categories. Another tournament was organized at May in Litomerice – "Moteli 2010" – epee, foil – again all categories together. Next tournament was placed at June in Karlovy Vary – "Karlsbad Epee 2010". And then in May at Zlin, again for foil and epee. For last season we added a new one at Brno in the April and another one at Prague, both for saber. All of those tournaments are part of our Czech veteran league which we started also this season and results are continuously maintained on our web site.

The peak of our domestic season is tournament "The Old Guard" at Hradec Kralove. This year we invited 55 fencers in all 3 weapons. The fencers were split per categories. Last season we did not participate at Skopia EVFC Teams Championships, only one referee was present. We want to appreciate invitation of our friends from nearby countries for their local tournament either from Poland, Germany, Austria, Italy, etc. Thank you. We are still morally supported only. It means that all expenses are covered privately by us including this tournament. Such situation is for some group of our fencers difficult. We try to find a sponsor which will help us to solve this problem in future.

Our activities and messages for active senior fencers are presented on our web site (www.fencing.cz). There is also information about tournaments. I believe that we already connect our Czech senior fencers with their friends from Europe. It's our main aim.

Hynek Koutny, EVFC representative for Czech Republic, President CZ

DENMARK: We are growing slowly with now more than 100 registered veteran fencers. Our best results are 27 places to EM in 2009 and 1 silver in WM in Porec 2010. We are now a standing group in the Danish Federation. Jorgen Kock, EVFC representative for Denmark

FINLAND: Veteran fencing in Finland has been gradually growing in past five years. Especially there are more fencers, who have started fencing after they have reached the age of 40. New fencing clubs have these late starters, who also do much of the voluntary work needed to run the club. This growth does not yet have a major effect on our participation in international competitions. Still the forecast for two to three years ahead seems positive also on international level.

In 2010 the main international competition for Finnish veteran fencing was European Veterans Team Fencing Championship in Skopje. We had women's and men's teams both in foil and in epee. In Oulu we organized veteran Nordic Championships in foil for men and women. National Finnish championships were organized in women's and men's epee and foil individual and men's teams.

Marja-Liisa Someroja, EVFC Vice-President

FRANCE: After the world Senior Championship in Paris in November 2010, the French Veterans and its Commission, Henin Beaumont organisers and the French Fencing Federation are happy to host 2011 Individual European Championship here in Henin Beaumont. With 1340 participations, some fencers participate in more than one weapon, it is a new record in the EVFC tables, there were 830 participations in 2009 in Balatonfured (Hungary) and 850 in 2007 in Saint-Gallen (Switzerland). 33 nations and 375 French fencers will participate, Now it's time for this great event which will cover these next 4 days during which we hope you will enjoy the French hospitality and involvement, as a reflect of the overall European fencing community keen passion.

This passion is reflected in the increasing participation to the French national veterans competitions. Beside the French championship among which participated 55 men Epee club teams, the average participation (women & men) was 170 for the 7 epee circuits and 120 to the 6 sabre & fleuret common circuits. 700 men and 200 women are ranked with a 8 % increase over the past year. The participation of foreign fencers to our competitions is increasing slightly. We invite them to more participation.

We are happy with the increasing number of veteran fencers, and the level is improving, especially in 40+. We are pleased to receive strong support from the French Fencing Federation for referees.

Jean-Pierre Mion, EVFC representative for France

GT. BRITAIN: Membership of British Veterans Fencing continues to be strong with currently 483 members across all age categories. Participation in our British Veterans Championships and our Age Group Competition, both qualifying events, was excellent and our Open Championship in July was run most successfully. In the European Team Championships in 2010, our Women's Sabre Team achieved a Gold Medal and in the Veterans World Championships in Porec, Great Britain fencers won 4 Gold Medals and 5 Bronze Medals. More of our fencers travelled to Veteran events in Europe during 2010 and 2011 and we see this as a growing trend which we are encouraging by widely publicising international veteran events to all of our members. Further news and information about British Veteran Fencing can be seen on our website www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

Frank Mills, EVFC representative for Gt. Britain, BVF Chairman

GERMANY: At the individual national championships in 2010 the number of weapon entries was again about 330, the number of teams at the team championships was again 42. Veterans Fencing is still going strong, but the number of veterans' competitions did not increase anymore, the number of participants and entries differ within a wide range. We noticed a rising number of foreign entries, as most of our tournaments are open and international entries are gratefully accepted.

German veterans reached very good results at the European Team Championships in Skopje, Macedonia, each German team received a medal. We again failed in winning a gold medal at the World Championship in Porec, Croatia, but one third of the German delegation reached the final eight. In September 2010 the Italian Masters hosted a team match Italia vs Germany in Padova, Italia did win the match and by their kind hospitality a lot of sympathy.

Meanwhile, three qualification tournaments have been established. The number of entries in these competitions is more than 200, foreign entries are rising. For the national ranking list the best three results from these qualification tournaments, the German individuals and the better result of one international individual championship (European or World C.) are taken. All information can be found on the official website: www.fechten.org/fechten/senioren.html
Volkhard Herbst, EVFC representative for Germany

HUNGARY: There is not any change in Hungary. We have about 100 veteran fencers in the country. They receive no support from the Federation. The training possibilities are very limited. In Budapest it is once a week. We participate with 21 fencers at the European Championship this year. All costs are paid by the fencers themselves. We organize yearly the Hungarian Veteran Championships with 60-70 fencers. We hope to participate at the World Championship, too.
Jozsef Meszaros, EVFC representative for Hungary

IRELAND: As was stated last year, the Irish Veteran Fencing Committee (VFC) is a sub committee of the Irish Fencing Federation (IFF). It has responsibility for all Veteran Fencing in Ireland, and must report to the IFF. The committee is made up of Eric Kemp, Chairperson, and Yvonne Murphy, Secretary, and two representatives appointed by the IFF, namely Michael Ryan and Tom Rafter.

Philip Lee took part in the World Championships in 50-59 age group, in foil. He did not do as well as the previous year. In April, a number of our fencers took part in the Quadrangular match with England, Scotland and Wales, in Wales. The men's foil team did very well and the ladies' epee team did extremely well, winning all their matches. In the present European Championships we are represented by Michelle Murray, women's epee, 40+; L. Laschetti, women's epee, 50 +; Denis Callanan, men's Epee, 40 +; Larry Gough, and Tom Rafter, Men's epee, 60 +.

During the past few years some of our fencers had family illnesses and injuries which prevented them taking part in training and competition. However, I am glad to say that this is all behind us now, and we are looking forward to a good year ahead.
Tom Rafter, EVFC representative for Ireland

ITALY: The Italian active Veterans are steadily growing like in the past years, in particular in the younger categories that increase more quickly than the exits for... age limits. In view of this development the over 70 category has been introduced.

The National Circuit includes six events plus the Italian Championships, they are spread all over the National territory. In each competition all weapons and age category are present. The number of foreign fencers attending Italian competitions is also growing, particularly from countries where there are less veterans, both from Europe and sometime from overseas. Our national teams have been present with a wide number of fencers to European Championships and World Championships, conquering as usual several medals.

There is a steady cooperation with the National Board, that has appointed AMIS for the exploitation of the whole veteran compartment, supplying also economic and logistic support. Our competition rules and ranking system are a reference also for open categories. Since this year, the Italian Veterans championships become a fully official national competition.

Moscow FIE Congress has approved several Statutes and rules amendments prepared by the Rules Commission in which Giuseppe Cafiero is a member, thus widening the acknowledgement of the category at world level. Most of the rules are consistent with European competition rules. The next request is to include in world championships also team competitions.

Proposals to EVFC Congress 2011

1) GB proposal

AMIS is not favourable to increase the minimum total age to 190 years; the present average (60) is sufficient and with a single match system, not relay, it would not be a good tactic to have one in his nineties to allow the presence of 45ers.

We could examine two alternatives:

- limit the maximum age to 75 years, thus reducing the opportunity to include younger elements;
- limit the minimum age to 50 years, in order to reduce the unbalance among team members.

As an alternative, we could have two team competitions, one for cat. 1 and 2, another for cat. 3 and 4. the total age could be respectively 140/170 year for men and 130/160 years for women.

Finally, we do not agree on teams of two, whilst we agree on two reserves and on the proposed competition format.

2) Belgium proposal

AMIS is not favourable, not to protect more numerous countries, but because of the peculiar characteristic of the category, based on people that are fencing as individuals, at their own expenses, and only at a second stage as representatives of a

country. They would not be pleased to be excluded just to give more space to fencers of minor countries. We don't agree on the point that the present system is limiting the ambitions of fencers from minor countries: in any individual competition the best ones prevail, regardless of their provenience. To claim to have a ranking 35th instead of 70th just because there are less competitors is not significant. Also the excess of total number of fencers in our opinion is not a valid argument, since the attention of media, local authorities and logistic system are proportioned to the size of the event.

Also for the profit (or lower loss) of the organizers, more attendance means more money and costs do not increase evenly.

Proposal for referees recruiting

The present system related to the number of fencers per weapon and per day would require a variable number of referees; i.e. for the Italian team from 6 to 10 per day with an average of 7. Obviously this is not possible, since we cannot have referees there for single days and not continuously working. So Italy shall pay a big penalty. In addition, if all countries should accomplish to the rule, we would have probably something like 180 referees/days for 1200 fencers in four days, or 45 per day.

Now a realistic number resulting from many statistics, indicates that - for a regular development of competitions - a reasonable ratio is to have one piste every 12 fencers and consequently about the same number of referees, with a little excess for reserves. If the expected number of fencers in Henin-Beaumont is up to 1200 (more than the previous editions) in four days, it means an average of 300 per day. The need of pistes shall be around 25 or even less (note that we fence at 10 touches) and we do not need more than 27/28 referees. We acknowledge that these are average figures, but even with some rounding up they are far less than the requirements indicated in the rules.

A possible solution that we should like to propose is to charge 20 € per fencer, representing a total of 240 € per referee per day, respecting the above average, and to charge EFC with the selection of a proper number of referees and of the daily planning for weapons. Clearly, the cost of referees would be charged to the organizers as the increased registration fee.

The extra cost for the fencers could be reimbursed by their federations or associations that in turn would not pay directly to send referees and the cost could be really proportioned to the number of fencers, independently from the concentration or the spread in more or less weapons and categories, that represents another reason of uneven charges.

Nando Cappelli, EVFC representative for Italy, President AMIS

MACEDONIA: Our Veteran Association took part in many international tournaments in Italy, Germany, Finland, France, Bulgaria, USA and Croatia. Beside these activities, we organized the European team veteran championship with 17 nations taking part. We have organized also two international veteran tournaments in all weapons and categories, Ohrid Cup and Vladimir Sumanov memorial, with competitors from Macedonia, Finland, Serbia, Croatia and Italy.

For the first time, during the Ohrid Cup, we organized team competition in a new, experimental category, team over 190 years. The teams from Italy, Finland and Macedonia took part in this event.

Aleksandar Anastasov, EVFC representative for Macedonia

NETHERLANDS: Dutch Veterans Fencing is still steadily growing every year. In numbers and also each year we have 6 international veterans tournaments and a national championship. In the international tournaments we have about 50 to 60 participants every time. In the last year they came from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Macedonia and the United States. In our National Championship this year we had 66 participants. A record for this Championship. Also the amount of participants at the European and World Championships are growing each year. We now have 24 participants in this year's European Championships.

Oscar Kardolus, EVFC representative for the Netherlands, Dutch Veterans Coordinator

POLAND: The association of Polish Veterans fencers was established in 2008 by 5 founders, and now there are almost 45 active members. The Polish Veterans movement has been steadily growing in the past three years, but still there is few female participants and categories. We still try to integrate ex-active fencers into active veterans. A large number of participants in competitions are persons who have never been training fencing in the past.

The National Circuit includes six competitions plus the Individual and Team Championships, venues of which are spread all over Poland. In each competition all male weapons and 0-III age category are present.

In January 2011 we organized the veteran tournament – Silesia Cup at Katowice and at this tournament we welcomed friends from Ukraine and Belarus. In April in Zakopane we organized „Zakopane Chacet” and we welcomed friends from Slovakia, Latvia and Ukraine. In May – Warta Cup in Poznan – welcomed colleagues from Lithuania. last year Warta Cup was organized in parallel with European Fencing Festival. Our calendar to the end of the year is as follows:

June – Baltic Master Cup in Gdansk – all weapons and categories.

October – Warsaw Championship and Polish Team Championship – all weapons and categories

December – Individual Championship in Krakow. Last year National Championship was the peak of our domestic season we invited 62 fencers in all 3 weapons.

The number of foreign fencers attending Polish competitions is also growing. In competitions participate average 5-6 fencers from abroad in each weapon – mostly in male epee, and in the Polish Championship average 15 foreign fencers and 2-3 teams. Our national teams with a limited number of fencers have been present at European Championships and World Championships.

We hope to start regular cooperation with the National Federation as an associate partner this year. Competitions organization is run entirely by our members and association's supporters, and all expenses are covered by Association's members. Thinking of Association development we look forward to support from National Federation.

For more information about Polish Veterans Fencing Association we invite on our website: www.Fencing-oldboy.pl
Ireneusz Kostrzewa, Vice-President Polish Veterans Fencing Association

RUSSIA: We did our best to develop and improve the veterans movement in our country and involve in it as many people as possible. In April 2010 we held all-Russia veterans championships with participants from more than 27 Russian regions. In May we participated in European Veterans Team Fencing Championships in Macedonia and got 2 medals: 1 gold (women's foil) and 1 silver (men's sabre). In November 140 sportsmen from 26 regions took part in Veterans Fencing Cup in Moscow. In September-October our veterans succeeded in World Fencing Championships in Croatia where they won 4 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals. In our team we have the best sportsmen in Russia – Gari Aftandilov and Ludmila Chernova, repeated World and European champions.

We are glad to see new sportsmen joining our ranks. They constantly keep their shape and want to show themselves to good advantage. Today there are about 100 people in our team and we hope to do well here in France.
Alexander Kapustin, EVFC representative for Russia, President of Russian Veterans Fencing Federation

SPAIN: As regards our activity during the last year, he have held at least four competitions for each weapon (6), plus the national championship, and we continue to grow steadily in number of associates. We now have participants in all 18 main age categories (plus some cat. 4 fencers sometimes). We have also succeeded in bringing back to the practice some former members of the Spanish national teams who until recently were reluctant to get involved in what they considered to be 'below their level'. Hopefully this tendency will continue.

Finally, this fall we will have elections in the A EVE, and I will not be running again for President, so this probably is my last official communication to you all as A EVE President. Nevertheless, you all have my email address, should you ever need any assistance, in either fencing or personals matters in Spain, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to help as much as I can. I myself will take part in the foil and epee Cat I competition.
Santiago Bescansa. EVFC representative for Spain, President A EVE

SWEDEN: The number of veteran fencers that have reached an age that entitle them to participate in veteran's classes are now 119. That is to be compared to last year's amount of about 100 fencers. It can be noticed that more and more fencers do participate in tournaments even though there are not veteran's classes. There are fencers coming back to the sport after a break for family and career. There are also fencers coming back after having been away from the sport for a long time, fencers that were successful in younger years and now want to take up fencing again as a way to keep fit and – of course – have fun. We think that the possibility to do that is very unique for our sport and also worth pointing out when it comes to the nations' health-questions.

This year the Swedish Championships took place in Gothenburg and the organizer set up foil-classes too for the first time ever beside epee-classes. Unfortunately there weren't enough foil-fencers in those classes and they had to be cancelled. However we are happy to have seen an interest among more foil-fencers to come back too and hope that we will have such classes filled next year.

The biggest veteran tournament in Sweden is Ystad International that takes part in the middle of June every year. In 2010 there were 41 starts from 9 different countries in the veterans' classes where men and women fenced together. That was an increase in the amount of participants compared to last year. Fencers come from all over northern Europe. That tournament is an all epee tournament.

Our goal from last year to state criteria for representation in international championships has not been fulfilled yet. Discussions have been made but there are a lot of different opinions of that and as it has not so far been absolute need for it, we have not pushed the question. We do think it would be interesting to hear how it works in other countries, especially in countries where there are not so many active fencers. Meeting you all in Henin-Beaumont will give us an opportunity to talk and learn from each other – I do look forward to that. The interest for participating in Henin-Beaumont has been huge and we will this year have the biggest troupe ever. We do hope that will encourage even more veterans to start competing the

next season.

Kerstin Warvsten, EVFC representative for Sweden, Swedish Fencing Federation

UKRAINE: For the last year Ukrainian Veteran Fencing Association together with National Ukrainian Fencing Federation organized 7 competitions (but only epee men) among veterans in Ukraine including 1 international tournament - Memorial L.V. Averbakh Kharkov (November 2010) in which took part sportsmen from Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Russia. In December 2011, we plan to hold Ukrainian Championship not only epee, but also floret. During the year we took part in different competitions in Russia, Poland, Germany, and Italy. Thanks to sponsorship of NFFU we made success in Skop'e (Macedonia) - 1 place and in Porec (Croatia) – 1, 2 place in epee (men). At European Championship in Henin-Beaumont will take part 20 sportsmen from Ukraine.

Roman Semykoz, EVFC representative for Ukraine, President UVFA

9 Progress reports on European Individual Championships

2011: Hénin-Beaumont, France

There are over 1300 entries from 30 nations.

David Sweeney commented that it is an impressive venue, with a high standard of organisation, and wished them good luck.

2013: (Ascension date 9 May)

Croatia has volunteered, but they are already organising the European championships in 2012, and also hosted the World championships in 2010 and have saved the World championships in 2011. Therefore a different country is preferred.

No representative from Croatia was present.

Volunteers required.

10 Progress reports on European Team Championships

2012: (Ascension date 17 May)

Croatia was agreed in 2010. There is no representative from Croatia present, but the bid document has been received and confirmed and is in order.

Proposal required to formally accept the bid from Croatia.

Proposed by Frank Mills, Gt. Britain

Secoded by Oscar Kardolus, Netherlands

David Sweeney to write to Croatia.

In future a bid document should include a representative to be present at our congress to put the bid on the table.

2014: (Ascension date 29 May)

Volunteers required.

Holland and Sweden may be possible.

11 A review of the effectiveness of the formula for the supply of referees at Individual Championships

Some countries have found it difficult to supply the required number of referees. Benoit Pincemaille reported that the penalty has been effective, but this is not enough. France can supply extra referees this year, but in other countries it could be difficult.

All countries must understand the rules, and train referees for the future.

It was agreed to keep the current formula for the next European Veterans Individual Championships.

There will be an analysis of referees at the end of these championships, and David Sweeney will present a paper for the next Individual championships.

12 Proposal from the Belgian Delegation (previously circulated)

Limitation of participation in Individual Championships

The Belgian proposal is to limit participation to a maximum of 240 fencers per country.

This has been discussed many times before, and there are mixed views. The suggested limitation would still not let some countries organise the championships. France suggested limiting the total number of participants per country only, not by category or weapon.

The Members of Honour, who have no vote, were asked for their opinions:

Rudi - restrict entries

Laki - no restriction

Henry - no restriction

A written proxy vote from Serbia, via Macedonia, has been received. Can this vote be included.

In favour 8

Against 5

Abstention 1

ALLOWED For this meeting Macedonia can cast a vote for Serbia.

Proposal to limit participation in Individual Championships

In favour 4

Against 8

Abstention 2

NOT AGREED There will be no limitation of participation.

Veteran fencing should be inclusive, not exclusive.

13 Proposal from the British Delegation (previously circulated)

European Team Championship aimed at older age groups

This would supply extra opportunities for older fencers, men and women, to participate in Team Championships.

It may include only fencers over 60 years.

Proposal to add another Team Championship for older age groups

In favour 9

Against 3

Abstention 1

AGREED in principle. Details to be worked out quickly.

14 FIE Veterans World Championships

2011: Bulgaria and Morocco have withdrawn, so Croatia has stepped in, and this has been approved by the FIE.

2012: Krems, Austria. This has not been ratified at present.

15 Election of Officers

The Members of Honour were asked if in the past officers had been elected when not present. All three replied that nominees were always present at the congress for elections. It was agreed that this precedent should be maintained.

The post of Vice-President for the next 2 years is open for election in 2011 (odd years)

The Finnish Fencing Federation has nominated Marja-Liisa Someroja

Seconded by Oscar Kardolus

Marja-Liisa Someroja is willing to stand

ELECTED UNOPPOSED

The post of Chairperson for the next 2 years is open for election in 2011 (odd years)

The present Chairperson, Jean-Pierre Mion, is not present and therefore cannot stand for election.

Belarus proposed Tom Rafter, Ireland

Seconded by Gt. Britain

Tom Rafter is willing to stand

In favour 12

Abstention 1

ELECTED UNOPPOSED

16 Any other business

Henry de Silva, Member of Honour, suggested an 80+ age group. This must be proposed by a country representative.

Henry de Silva suggested that a payment of £200 should be paid to the Secretary for services to the EVFC for 18 out of 20 years. This was proposed by Gt. Britain and seconded by Ireland.

In favour 10

Sue Church declined to accept, but appreciates the very kind offer, and said it has been a privilege to be part of the growth and success of the EVFC from the beginning in 1991.

Rankings should be included in the Rules properly. David Sweeney will put forward ideas and get feed back, and present a document in order to have a balanced discussion.

David Sweeney to ensure the correct spellings of names.

The next EVFC annual congress will be held on 16th May 2012

