

Minutes of the Annual Congress of the European Veterans Fencing Committee held on 4th May 2016 in Gillingham, UK

Present: David Sweeney	President
Sue Church	Secretary/Treasurer
Benoit Pincemaille	Competition Supervisor
Leonardo Patti	EVFC Database Manager & representing Italy
Jørgen Kock	Medical Representative & representing Denmark
John Mason	Acting Communications Manager
Ferdinando Cappelli	Member of Honour
Henry de Silva	Member of Honour
Laki Dobridis	Member of Honour
Paul van Agtmael	Belgium
Hynek Koutny	Czech Republic
Marja-Liisa Someroja	Finland
Jean-Pierre Mion	France
Harald Lüders	Germany
Gillian Aghajan	Great Britain
Gyorgy Serra	Hungary
Michael Ryan	Ireland
Oscar Kardolus	Netherlands + calendar updates
Ove Mo	Norway
Frederico Fonseca-Santos	Portugal
Aleksandar Kapustin	Russia
Kerstin Warvsten	Sweden
Caryl Oliver	Invited (prospective candidate)
22 Voting members/representatives present	

1. Apologies for absence

Max Geuter	President, FIE Veterans Council
Jozsef Meszaros	Member of Honour
Anton Krieger	Switzerland
Jüri Salm	Estonia

2. Introduction of members

All present were introduced.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Benoit Pincemaille pointed out that Appendix II, restructure of the EVFC Board, should include the post of Medical Representative, together with a job description.

True and accurate record, plus amendment
Proposed by GBR Seconded by IRL
13 Agreed with 1 abstention

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

With reference to 19c) Jean-Pierre Mion asked for confirmation that there would be no non-combativity in team championships only.

AGREED

5. President's Report (previously circulated)

General

At the 2015 Congress in Porec, it was agreed that the European Veterans Committee be restructured to form a Board structure of six persons. Five Board Members were elected.

The persons elected were:

David Sweeney (GBR)	President
Sue Church (GBR)	Secretary/Treasurer
Benoit Pincemaille (FRA)	Competition Supervisor
Leonardo Patti (ITA)	Data Manager
Jorgen Kock (DEN)	Medical Representative

David Sweeney and Sue Church were elected for one year and Benoit Pincemaille, Leonardo Patti and Jorgen Kock were elected to serve two years.

The post of Communications Manager was unfilled due to there being no candidates.

The Board held their inaugural meeting during the Championships in Porec.

Unfortunately Jorgen Kock was unable to attend due to having to compete that day.

Board business has been conducted during the year by email.

A formal procedure for the election of Board members, involving a possible change in the constitution, is proposed and is circulated with this report.

2017 European Team Championships

Unfortunately the appointed organisers of the 2017 Championships, were forced to withdraw.

After some negotiations it was proposed, by the Italian Federation, that the Town of Chiavari, Italy, would take on the Championships.

Benoit Pincemaille, in his role of Competitions Supervisor, visited the proposed facility in Chiavari and met with the organisers and members of the Italian Federation. Benoit was satisfied that the organisers in Chiavari would be capable of producing a well organised Championships and that the venue and facilities met the requirements of European Veterans Fencing.

Seeding for European Veterans Fencing Team Championships

The Board discussed in some detail possible methods of seeding weapon teams for European Veterans Fencing Team Championships. The discussions covered the possibility of using the European Veterans Fencing Rankings of the individual team members, as published on the European Veterans Fencing Website, and the already existing method of using only the overall ranking of a country's weapon team in the immediately previous Team Championships.

Following discussions and a ballot of the Board members it was agreed, by a majority, that the method of seeding will be based on two Criteria. Details of the method are circulated with this report.

Review of the possibility of introducing an 80+ category into European Veterans Fencing.

The Board members have, as requested at the 2015 Congress, considered the possibility of introducing an over 80 category to European Veterans Fencing Championships.

A discussion document will be presented.

I believe that the Board Structure for European Veterans Fencing has started well and should improve in productivity and efficiency in the future.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the Board for their help and contribution to European Veterans Fencing. I would also like to thank John Mason for his work maintaining the European Veterans Fencing Website and the EVF Rankings Database.

David Sweeney, President EVF

6. Secretary/Treasurer's Report (previously circulated)

ACCOUNTS 2015

Bank balance at 01 January 2015	£2075.95	
Add: Income		
Interest	£2.08	
		£2078.03
Less: Expenditure		
Nil		
Bank balance at 31 December 2015		£2078.03
On 4/4/16		(€2602)

This Instant Access Account will remain static except for the small amount of interest added each year, minus any expenditure

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

I stated in my report last year that, after 25 years, I would like to retire from the post of Secretary/Treasurer. I could continue for a short time, but I hope that this will not be necessary.

The Secretary's duties include the taking of minutes of meetings, distribution of all information, and dealing with general enquiries. All communications are in English.

The Bank Account is almost static, and these funds can easily be transferred by internet banking when a new account has been set up by the incoming Secretary/Treasurer.

I will always continue to follow the progress and development of the EVFC, having been involved since the very beginning in 1991.

Sue Church, EVF Secretary/Treasurer

7. Reports from country representatives See Appendix I

Reports have been received from Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland.

8. European Team Championships

2016: Gillingham, UK

GBR reported that there are 99 teams from 22 countries.

This championship will be a good celebration of the 25th anniversary.

There will be live results of the finals on line.

John Mason has prepared the website and automated the process, and the on line registration has been successful. Benoit is satisfied with the DT.

It was published in the rules for team championships that team colours are mandatory. However, teams without colours will not be rejected. The organizers asked if a yellow card should be awarded.

In favour of a yellow card 5

Against 5

The President has a casting vote, and it was decided that there would be no sanctions this time.

Fencer's passports only need to be checked once at accreditation, not on each weapon day, and the information entered into the database.

There is a ranking system in place for individual championships.

2018: Ascension date 10 May

The Netherlands will send an official bid document, which is available on the EVF website, to the Secretary and Benoit in the next few months.

2020: Ascension date 21 May

Portugal expressed an interest, but can only confirm this after the forthcoming election of the President of the Portugese Fencing Federation.

9. European Individual Championships

2017: Ascension date 25 May

Chiavari, Italy. Benoit made a detailed presentation of his visit and, after some necessary refinements, is confident that all arrangements will be satisfactory. Hotels between 1 and 4 km from the venue will be block booked, and have suitable capacity for 1400 persons.

The website will be available in November.

Entry fees per fencer were discussed.

€40 for registration only, up to 25th April (€80 after closing date).

Plus €35 for each weapon, for refereeing.

35 referees will be required, 20 Italian and 15 from other countries. The EFC will approve their designation. Referees over 60 years are allowed.

In favour of fees 16

Against 0

AGREED

Jørgen commented that a temporary structure in case of rain would be advisable while waiting for the shuttle buses.

Thanks were given to Benoit for continuing to improve the standard of competitions.

2019: Ascension date 30 May

Ljubljana, Slovenia, had expressed an interest, but no representative was present at the congress.

Jean-Pierre confirmed that Cognac, France, are willing to organize this championship, with the support of the French Federation. An official bid document will be required in 2017.

If two bid documents are received, Benoit will visit both countries and make a report, and a choice will be made by congress.

2021: Ascension date 13 May

Hamburg, Germany, had expressed an interest, but now decline. They would be willing to organize the team championship in 2022, in Hamburg.

2021 now open for bids – maybe Slovenia?

10. FIE Veterans World Championships

2016: 10-16 October, Stralsund, Germany.

The website is open, and hotels bookable.

2017: ? Slovenia

2018: ? Italy

Benoit suggested that for the World Championships only the FIE may consider the starting age could be 45 years instead of 40 years. It was decided that this would be too complicated at the moment.

11. Proposal to change the format for Team Championships to the relay system in 2018

Benoit made a presentation, and pointed out the advantages for both age categories.

After discussion, it was decided that the country representatives should ask their fencers.

Information will be collected and a decision will be made next year.

Benoit will prepare a questionnaire for circulation during the 2016 championship.

12. Clarification of rules for European Veterans Team Championships

For this year, teams consisting of older fencers only will be allowed.

The exact wording needs clarifying.

Benoit will prepare a document with precise rules for circulation.

13. Seeding of teams for the European Veterans Team Championships (previously circulated)

The seeding of weapon teams for European Veterans Team Championships (EVF) shall be based on two criteria:

1st criterion - the overall rankings of the weapon team at the immediately previous EVF Team Championships.

2nd criterion - for those weapon teams that did not participate in the immediately previous EVF Team Championships the seeding is determined by adding together the ranking points of the three best ranked fencers on the current EVF ranking list **without** taking into consideration age category. For this criterion, the weapon team with the highest cumulative ranking points will be the best seeded. The 1st criterion will always take precedence over the 2nd criterion.

For this championship there will be strict application of the seeding system, as circulated. The Board members made a majority decision, and there was no feedback on the seeding document. All decisions should be made by congress except in an emergency, when the Board can make a decision without the ratification of congress.

14. Report from the Board regarding the implications of introducing a new category 80+ years
(Proposed by Hungary in 2015)
See Appendix II (previously circulated)

By a majority decision, the Board members recommend a compromise of 75+ years.

GER suggested that an 80+ year category could possibly be introduced in epee only, for both men and women.

Proposal to introduce a new category of 75+ years

In favour 12

Against 3

AGREED

Hopefully this new category can be held as an experiment in Chiavari next year.

The 75+ years could combine with the 70 years, and split after the poules for a separate event. There should be a minimum number for the 75+ category to go ahead.

POR proposed that the minimum number should be 6 entries.

In favour 12

Against 2

AGREED

15. Proposal for a formal procedure for election of Members of the Board

A discussion document has previously been circulated, see below:

Background

At the Annual Congress of European Veterans Fencing held in Porec in May 2015 a new Board Structure was approved, and members of the Board elected.

Currently there is not a formal process of calling for candidates for election in the constitution. The following proposal addresses this issue, and if agreed at congress should replace, with any amendments, Items 3a. to 3d. inclusive and insert item 3.e in the constitution.

Proposal

3. Election and appointment of Board Members and Election to the European Veterans Roll of Honour

- No more than one Board Member to be drawn from one country except in the case of the Secretary/Treasurer (see below).
- The members of the Board to be elected at the Annual Congress to serve two years. The two years' service begins ~~as soon as the election has taken place~~ **immediately following the full process of election of the Board members at that Congress** and ends with the conclusion of the last agenda item before the next election **for that post. Board members may stand for re-election after the expiry of their service.**

- The election of the President, the Secretary/Treasurer and Communications Manager will take place in “even” years and the other ~~two~~ **three** board members will be elected in “odd” years, i.e. in alternate years. Any person who has been proposed and /or wishes to be elected as a Board member of Europeans Veterans Fencing must be present at the time of election.
- The Secretary/Treasurer may be, if approved by the congress for the purposes of ease of communication, from the same country as the President. Duties include the collection and circulation of agenda items, collection and use of administration fees, circulation of minutes, membership lists and other papers received from European Veterans members
- **The following procedure shall be used to attract candidates for election to the Board:**
- **The Secretary shall, at least (to be decided at congress) calendar month/s before the upcoming Annual Congress, notify the member country representatives and the Members of Honour, of those Board members standing down on rotation and call for candidates for election to the Board for the vacant positions with a closing date of (to be decided at Congress) days before the up-coming Congress.**
- **Candidates should submit their C.V. together with the name of their proposer to the Secretary on or before the closing date.**
- **Each candidate may present their C.V. and address the Congress before the election. If there is more than one candidate for a position the order of presentation will be decided by the drawing of lots. Each candidate may address the Congress without the presence of any other candidate for the post.**
- **The Board member will be elected by ballot of all those present and eligible to vote at the Congress. A simple majority will decide if a candidate is elected.**

POR queried if it is possible to propose oneself, or is it necessary to be nominated.

Proposal that a person may propose themselves

In favour 12

Against 2

AGREED

Proposal to adopt the formal procedure for election of Members of the Board, plus above amendment

In favour 18

Against 0

AGREED

Proposal to call for candidates for election to the Board 6 months before the annual congress

In favour 15

Abstain 1

AGREED

Proposal for a closing date for candidates of 1 month before the annual congress

In favour 17

Against 0

AGREED

Constitution to be updated.

The Constitution states that no more than one Board member to be drawn from one country except in the case of the Secretary/Treasurer. However, the most important criteria for filling a post is competence.

FRA proposed that in the event of no candidates from a different country for a Board position, the post may be filled by a candidate from a country already represented on the Board for one year only.

Seconded by IRL

In favour 7

Against 1

AGREED

16. Election of Members of the Board

There are two nominations for the post of President:

FRA nominated Caryl Oliver, GBR

IRL nominated David Sweeney, GBR

David Sweeney is not willing to stand against another candidate.

No other nominations.

Caryl Oliver gave a short CV.

In favour 18

Against 0

AGREED

David Sweeney was thanked for his many years of contribution and hard work as the President. GBR and Laki Dobridis proposed that David Sweeney should be made a Member of Honour.

In favour 18

Against 0

AGREED

There is one nomination for the post of Secretary/Treasurer:

IRL nominated Sue Church, GBR

No other nominations.

Sue stated that she had given one year's notice that she would like to retire from the post, and therefore is not willing to stand.

Caryl Oliver proposed that Sue Church should remain as Secretary/Treasurer for 3 months.

If after 3 months there is a vacancy, the post should be co-opted until the next election.

In favour 18

Against 0

AGREED

Henry de Silva thanked Sue for her long service. David Sweeney also thanked Sue and proposed that she should be made a Member of Honour. Henry de Silva seconded the proposal.

All in favour

AGREED

There are two nominations for the post of Communications Manager:

Caryl Oliver, GBR

John Mason, GBR

Caryl Oliver withdrew.

IRL nominated John Mason, seconded by GBR.

No other nominations.

John Mason proposed for the post of Communications Manager for one year, in accordance with item 15 above.

In favour 18

Against 0

AGREED

17. Any other business

None

Meeting closed at 20.05

Date of next congress: Wednesday 24th May 2017 at 17.00

GBR presented a 25th anniversary badge to all the Members of Honour: Henry de Silva, Laki Dobridis, Nando Cappelli, David Sweeney, Sue Church and Jozsef Meszaros via Gyorgy Serra of Hungary.

The two founder members of the EVFC, Henry de Silva and Laki Dobridis, cut a celebratory cake to commemorate the 25th anniversary.

APPENDIX I

BELGIUM:

The number of veterans in our country has decreased, we are now 55.
As usual, cannot give an explanation to it.

We had again successful national championships, and already again all people attending them were very satisfied about it. Indeed, people fence a maximum. We still keep trying to fence in “poule unique”. Again this year we had a lot of people on all weapons, being at the same time member of our association. We are doing our utmost to reach a maximum of people. And fact is that we must contact again and again fencing clubs, but a problem is that often the information about our organisation does not reach the veterans themselves. In the future, we will also get in touch systematically with all veterans personally as soon as they are aged 40, hoping that this will have positive results.

This year, we will attend these championships with 3 teams on epee and sabre.
Unfortunately, we have been compelled to cancel the participation of a team women epee veterans.
We wish Gillian Aghajan and her friendly team full success. Hope having good results
Wish you good receipt and see you in Medway !

P Van Agtmael, President of the EVBVS, Belgian representative to the EVFC

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 integrated Czech senior fencers into active fencing. Just now we have about 80 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.

Our activities at year 2015.

The following tournaments were organized during year 2015:

- Memorial Hugo Graf at Teplice – all weapons
- Moteli at Litomerice - all weapons
- Karlsbad Epee at Kalrovy Vary – epee
- Veteranska Vrs at Prague – all weapons
- Klokani kapsa at Prague - all weapons
- Czech Master Cup at Prague – epee, foil
- The Old Guard at Hradec Kralove - all weapons
- Major Zlin District Cup - all weapons
- 4nd Czech Veteran Championship – all weapons, individual & teams– Most

All of those tournaments are part of our Czech veteran league and results are continuously maintained on our web side.

We brought to Porec 2015 13 fencers.

We want to appreciate invitation of our friends from nearby countries for their local tournament either from Poland, Germany, Austria, Italy, etc. Thank you.

Our connection with national federation.

We are still moral 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 side (www.fencing.cz). There is also information about tournaments. However our main mission is create relationship between our Czech senior fencers with their friends from Europe.

Hynek Koutny, President Czech Veteran Fencing Association

DENMARK:

We are growing slowly. We have 2 training camps and 2 veteran competitions every year. For the first time we now have a woman grand veteran foil team

Jørgen P. Kock MD

FINLAND:

Finnish veteran fencers had great success during 2015 Championships.

In World Championships in Limoges Finland fenced several medals;

- Marja-Liisa Someroja (category +60) silver in ladies foil
- Irma Lindeman (category +70) bronze in ladies epee
- Lena Tallroth-Kock (category +50) bronze in ladies epee.
- Finnish women's team bronze in epee

In individual European Championships in Porec Finland had two medals and many other good results:

- Marja-Liisa Someroja (category 60+) gold ladies epee
- Marja-Liisa Someroja (category 60+) silver ladies foil
- Finland received three (3) other top 8 placements
- Finland received two (2) other top 16 placements

The Veterans Finnish championships were arranged in October in Lappeenranta. The tournaments was also the 60th Jubilee Competition of Saimaan Säilät Fencing Club. The club has been a very active fencing society for 60 years. Lappeenranta is a historical garrison town in Eastern Finland. There were many participants from all over the country. Competition was arranged in epee, foil and sabre for both men and female and team competitions only in epee.

Many Finnish veterans took part in senior national competitions and in some of them a special prize was awarded for best veteran fencers. This kind of competitions were in Kittilä (Levi Open Arctic Challenge), in Oulu (Oulu Summer Games) and in Helsinki (Nils Sjöblom Memorial, YM juhlakisat and Kerttula Memorial).

Due to several injuries Finland did not manage to get all new age category teams for the 2016 European Team Championships in England. But we hope to have even more veteran fencers participating at the 2016 World Championships in Stralsund.

Lena Tallroth-Kock, Secretary General

FRANCE:

French fencing veteran's activity is still healthy and attracts more fencers each year. There are more than 950 Veterans in the national ranking. The average participation is 215 in Epee (8 circuits), 70 in Sabre and 65 in Fleuret (5 circuits). All categories are mixed in poules, with handicap, followed by direct elimination by categories with no handicap.

The participation of foreign fencers to our competitions is increasing. Italian, German and Swiss fencers participated to the Fareins (near Lyon) tournaments at fleuret, sabre and epee, while Saint Maur (near Paris) hosted more than 350 epee fencers (women and men, with many foreign fencers) in the individual competitions and 36 teams (including foreign teams among which Dynamo Moscow teams).

The organisation of our Veterans practice is well supported by the French Fencing Federation. France hosted the World Championship in October 2015 in Limoges, and ranked 2nd behind USA in the number of medals.

Jean-Pierre Mion, French Veterans Commission

GERMANY:

The qualification of the German veterans' fencers for the 2016 FIE Veterans World Championships (Stralsund) will be completed on May 1st, 2016. Stralsund prepares very well for the upcoming event.

Beside the German Championships (Bad Dürkheim) three tournaments (Kassel, Hamburg, Munich) are specified as qualification tournaments for Germany. 317 fencers participated in the 2016 German Individual Championships, which was a good participation. German Team Championships (Dresden) last year are attended by 25 teams only (previous year: 41), which likely was caused by shifting the event from spring into late summer.

German veterans won 13 medals (2 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze) in the 2015 Veterans World Championships (Limoges). In June 2015 the 25th anniversary of the veterans team competitions GER – GBR was held and celebrated in Darmstadt, GER, which GER won 4:2.

Dr. Harald Lüders, DFB-Seniorensprecher.

GREAT BRITAIN:

British Veterans Fencing (BVF) membership has now increased to 630. GBR has had another successful season. Our GBR squad returned from the European Veterans Individual Championships, Poreč with a haul of medals and finishing 5th in the medal table: 3 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze, with the 3 gold medals all won on the same evening. A proud and unforgettable experience for all of us who were there.

Darmstädter Fecht Club, Germany, in its 125th anniversary year, hosted the 25th anniversary Germany v Great Britain match, won by Germany 32-22 bouts. This was a very enjoyable event and we were made very welcome by our German hosts.

BVF members were fully consulted about the proposal to change of the name FIE Veterans to FIE Senior Plus and the results of the members votes were: against 59%, for 38% and abstained or no opinion 3%. BVF requested the GBR FIE Council representative to vote NO to the proposal if it took place at the FIE Congress in China.

Our 8th Winton Cup, an inter county region at all weapons, took place in September. At the Veterans World Championships in Limoges our GBR squad won 2 gold medals, 3 silver and 1 bronze. Another successful Championships finishing 5th place in the medal table.

Competitions in 2016 have been the BVF Championships, the West Midlands Open and the Veterans Home Nations, hosted by England in Durham with England retaining the Justin Smith Trophy. The Age Groups, a qualifying competition for the Veterans World Championships, will take place in June.

BVF is delighted to be hosting the European Veterans Team Championships in Medway and hope that all participants, officials and friends enjoy this 25th Anniversary event.

Gillian Aghajan, GBR

HUNGARY:

First we have to start with the sad news, Györgyi Ferdinandy President of the Hungarian Veteran Fencing family stopped her activity on health occasion. We all wish her the very best. Our new president is our friend Peter Boros, who has been taking part in the Veteran fencing events for decades. Hopefully he will participate in the first 80+ World event in Stralsund.

The number of the Hungarian veteran fencers still continues to increase. We registered last year 193 fencers, who participated in one or more competitions.

We successfully organized for the second time an international veteran contest, the Budapest Veteran Fencing Championship in September 2015. with 125 participants, and a Veteran National championship in December 2015. with 98 participants. Both in all weapons. We plan to make a tradition of the Budapest Cup.

This year, we will attend the team championships in Medway with 6 teams, 26 fencers on all weapons, (except sabre ladies), and on all ages' categories. We wish full success for all fencers!

Attila Csak, Hungarian Team Lead

IRELAND:

To encourage further growth and help co-ordinate veteran activities in Ireland, in March 2008 the Irish Fencing Federation (now Fencing Ireland) set up a sub-committee, the Irish Veterans Fencing Committee (IVFC). Two veteran members of the IFF Committee, Tom Rafter (then Chairman of the IFF) and Michael Ryan, were appointed to the IVFC and were joined by a number of other veteran fencers. Tom also acted as Chairman of the EVFC up to 2015, and Michael is the current Irish representative.

Irish veteran fencers compete in the Veterans' Four Nations Competition (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales), in the biennial Celtic Challenge, and in European and World championships. The Celtic Challenge for 2016 will be held in Dublin on July 23rd / 24th.

Plans are being made to improve the training regime for veterans, to improve participation in veteran competitions, and to attract new fencers directly into veteran ranks. It is hoped both to increase numbers and to improve standards.

Further information can be found at <https://irishfencing.net/veterans/>

Michael Ryan

ITALY:

The Italian veterans activity is still growing continuously and steadily. Compared to the 2014-2015, in the current 2015-2016 season, a 6% increase in the veterans participating to competitions has been achieved (in total 2687 participants to the 6 National Circuit Competitions, 1899 men and 788 women).

Competitions

The National Veterans Circuit is made up of 6 events and 1 team competition for Regions organized by a local committee with the support of AMIS; in addition to the 6 competitions, the Italian Veterans Championships are directly organized by the Italian Fencing Federation. In each competition all weapons and age category, men and women, are present. The National Veterans Circuit as well as the Veterans Italian Championships include also the 0 Age Category (24-39 years old) that gives the possibility to the fencers older than 24 years and with no ambition in the Senior competitions, to compete with fencers of the same ability level. The Italian Championships include also a club team competition for each weapon and gender and 2 team competitions for different aggregate ages. An additional trophy, the Coppa Italia, is awarded each year for every weapon, gender and Age Category, to the fencers associated to AMIS that have obtained the maximum amount of points after the 6 competitions of the National Circuit.

The season 2015-2016 was also attended by foreign fencers from different European countries. In one national events the participation has been over than 600 athletes.

Our fencers have been present at the European Veterans Individual Championships in Porec with 21 medals and the 1st place in the medal table for nations and at the World Veterans Championships in Limoges with 9 medals and the 2nd place in the medal table .

International Relationships

The relationships between AMIS and international fencers are continuously improving.

Since many years AMIS organize training camps in different parts of Italy and in different period of the year; we would like to mention the significant foreign presence at the summer camp in Valles (BZ) at the end of August and the training event held in early January, that takes place in Rome since five years with many foreign fencers).

Furthermore the participation of foreign fencers to the National Circuit Competitions is increasingly frequent, fencers from French, German, Spanish, Russian, Swiss, Ukrainian, Norwegian, Argentinian, Croatian and Slovenian clubs participate to the competitions. Similarly increasing is the number of Italian fencers that pass the border to participate to competitions of the Veterans Circuits in France, Hungary, Germany (Hamburg and Munich in particular), some of them own also a foreign license.

AMIS President

PORTUGAL:

The Portuguese Fencing Federation has organized the National Veterans Championships on the 30th May 2015. During this period, two epee tournaments for Veterans have been organized by the AAACM Club and by the CDUL Club. These competitions were opened to all Veterans categories and genders. The last one was held with handicaps for fencers 40-60 years. In general, Portuguese Veterans have participated in the Portuguese Federation official tournaments.

Two main TV Stations have made small programs about the goodness and the pleasure of fencing at all ages. In 2015, a team of 3 fencers, one in Category 3 and two in Category 4 have been present in the 2 European Veterans Individual Championship, and our Federation has been represented in the Congress, in Porec.

The targets for 2016- 2017 are to be present in the 2016 Congress as well as in the European Veterans Team Championships and to bring back to fencing more Veteran Fencers .

F. Fonseca Santos (EVFC representative for Portugal)

**Report
on the work of veteran Russian Fencing Federation (VFF)
in 2015-2016**

In January and February 2015, our athletes veterans took part in competitions in fencing in foil and epee in France. In the same period, we were organized open tournaments in saber fencing in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod.

March 21-22, 2015, we held an open championship of Moscow (89 members)

March 28-29, held the open championship of Russia held in St. Petersburg. In the championship was attended by 169 people from 27 regions of Russia.

In May 2015, we participated in the European Individual Championship, which won 8 medals: 3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze.

In October, our athletes took part in the European Games veterans which were very successful.

From 19 to 26 October, we participated in the World Cup 2015, held in the French city of Limoges.

In this competition from Russia was attended by 32 sportsmen and 4 teams from the six possible: men's epee, men's foil, men's saber and women's foil. no teams in women's epee and saber due to a deficiency of necessary for their party in the 70+ category.

In general, the performance of veteran athletes can be considered successful. We have won 9 medals: 1 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze

Without any competition was Gary Aftandilov, who became world champion for the twelfth time.

In January-February 2016 were held open saber tournaments in St. Petersburg and Moscow, as well as the Open Championship in Moscow.

In March 2016 it held an open tournament for all kinds of weapons in the city of Saratov.

March 26-27, in St. Petersburg hosted the open championship of Russia, which was attended by more than 150 veterans from 28 regions and determine the final composition of the team to participate in the 2016 European Cup.

Every year, we plan to carry out at least 15 open fencing tournament in our country and invite everyone to participate in all of our public events. Competition Calendar is posted on our website on the Internet: www.veterans.fencing.ru

Wishes to take part in our competitions can contact via e-mail: rusvetfenc@gmail.com or aap49@mail.ru

We continue to work and improve their organization. We have good support from the National Fencing Federation and we try to show high sports results.

President of the Federation of veterans fencing Russia

March 30, 2016




A. Kapustin

SWEDEN:

The amount of Swedish fencers in the age of above 40 is the same as last year, just above 100. We work on increasing the participants in veterans' tournaments, that is by mouth to mouth-talk but also by starting our own Facebook-group where we inform about coming events and make invitations to tournaments, training-camps and so on. We welcome more invitations to put up in that group.

National championships could in April 2015 -be held even on women's epee for the first time ever. The decision to arrange the veterans' championships the same weekend as the seniors' was lucky. Most fencers do fence in both the senior and the veteran-class.

European Championships in Porec, Croatia assembled a pretty big team with some newcomers. Staying together in a place like that makes it a lot easier to get together both in the group and with old and new foreign friends. In the World Championships in Limoges, France Sweden was represented by several fencers.

Finally, it is noticeable that our veteran fencers are involved as leaders in many ways in the clubs and also in the federation, nationally and internationally. Experience is important as well as keeping up to date.

There is quite a lot of talk and wishes among the Swedish fencers to start going on a few European competitions beside the championships but it has to be prepared ahead of time to make all the arrangements for the journey together. Therefore a schedule would be good so that all of us can plan a tour for the coming season. Even training camps for veterans are welcome. The key is to have the date in time to be able to book holiday from work, flights and so on.

Kerstin Warvsten

SWITZERLAND:

As small country we don't have a lot of veterans and above all the Category I (40+)-Fencers not look as veterans (they will still fence with the seniors).

About 100 veterans in the 4 categories take part of the "Circuit national veterans" and this essentially in epee (the principal weapon in Switzerland). A very few part of veterans will fight with the foil and the sabre.

An unknown number of veterans are practising fencing in the Swiss-clubs, but they won't participate at the tournaments ("fencing for pleasure" and "just take it easy").

Swiss-Fencing is organizing about 10 tournaments for the veterans each season and have also tournaments in France, Germany and Italy in the calendar (also as qualifying tournaments for the World Championships and for take more experience). Each season Swiss-Fencing is also organizing the Swiss-Championship for veterans.

Outside of the "Circuit National Veterans" several clubs are organizing "Friendship"-tournaments.

Anton Krieger, Representative of Swiss-Fencing Veterans

APPENDIX II

80+ Category – Draft Discussion Document

Background

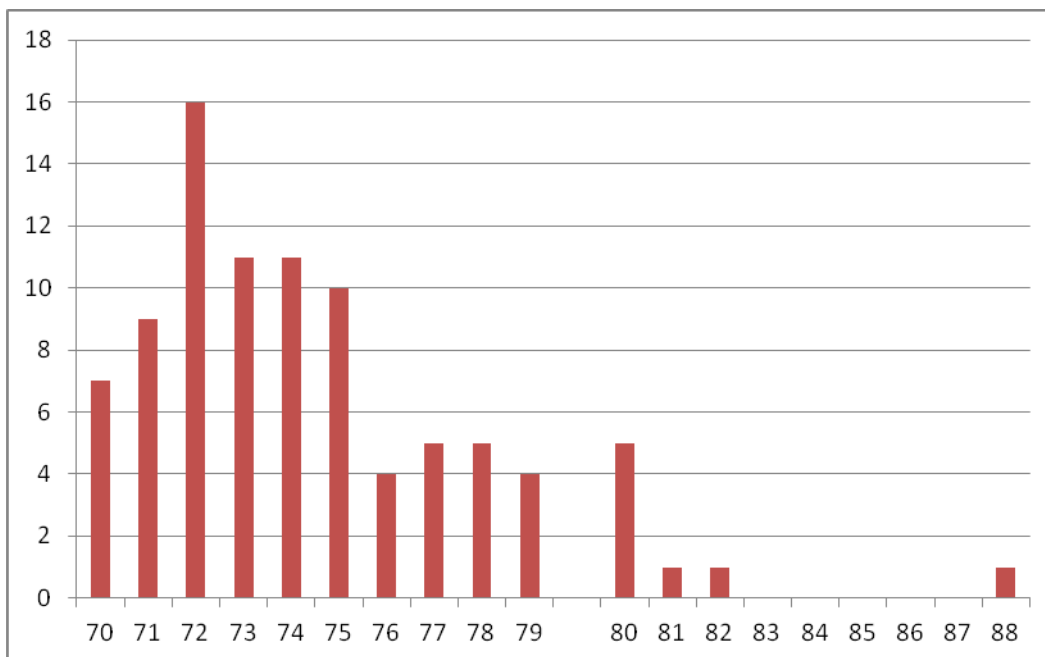
At the 2015 EVF Congress in Porec, the Hungarian representative raised a request that a new category of 80+ be introduced. The idea seemed to be supported in principle by several other country representatives.

It was agreed that the EVF Board should consider the implications of introducing this new category and present their findings to the next congress.

Discussion

Following discussions by the members of the FIE Veterans Council, a proposal for the introduction of an 80+category was submitted to the FIE. This proposal was rejected.

During the discussions at the FIE Veterans Council meeting Benoit Pincemaille presented data which showed the participation of 70+ fencers, in European Championships, Porec 2015 in relation to age, see below.



Data courtesy of B.Pincemaille

As we might expect it seems that as fencers grow older they are less likely to participate and that there seems to be, at least from the European Championships data presented, that there is a significant drop off point around 75/76 years of age. Perhaps this demonstrates that it is considerably harder for fencers over 75, because of natural decrease in physical ability, to compete against fencers in the age range 70 to 75. It would be even more difficult for fencers aged 80 or over and it can be seen in the above that there is another drop off point around 80/81 years of age.

The EVF Constitution states among its main purposes:

“To encourage and facilitate the development and organisation of competitive Veterans Fencing in Europe.

To encourage and support enjoyment of and participation in the sport of fencing by a wide range of people in the veterans age groups in Europe”.

We should therefore be working towards inclusion of older people in our sport and providing them with opportunities to compete and enjoy participation.

It is widely recognised that physical activity in all ages is beneficial for health, physical fitness and general wellbeing. We all know from personal experience that it is not only competition, as important as that is, that provides benefit. There is also a considerable social contribution to wellbeing that is more and more important as we grow older.

There is some concern that the introduction of a new category would increase the time required for the running of championships placing a strain on suitable venues and a financial burden on championship organisers. Being realistic it is unlikely that the number of participants would increase too dramatically. It could even be that there would be insufficient 80+ competitors to hold significant championships.

There was an agreement among the Board Members that we should test the likelihood of introducing an older age category being worthwhile. The board members make the following recommendations

Recommendation

The Members of the Board by a majority vote recommend the following compromise for consideration by the Country Representatives at the 2016 Congress in Kent, UK.

- Hold a pilot event in the European Veterans Fencing Individual Championships for an age category 75 and over. (Is it possible for the organisers in Chiavari to agree to this?)
- Combine the 75+ age category with the category 70+ category for the preliminary round of poules. After the poules the 75+ fencers compete only among themselves for overall ranking in the D.T. stages.
- If there is only one competitor at category 75+ then that championships will be cancelled. (If we adopt the option below then this option is not necessary).
- If there are less than (say 3?/6? To be decided) competitors in the 75+ age group they will be offered the opportunity to compete in the 70+ age group instead, without separation at the DT stages, and no medal will be awarded for the 75+ category.
- Following the first 75+ championships, review the level of participation, as well as medical and financial implications.