



ANNUAL CONGRESS OF EUROPEAN VETERANS FENCING

Wednesday 24th MAY 2017

Chiavari, Italy

Member Reports

Belgium

The number of veterans in our country is about 80, which is again a little more, fortunately !

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.

We had rather good results in 2015 amongst others in Limoges with a silver medal epee men team, in 2016 in Medway a bronze medal epee team grand veterans, and a bronze medal epee men at the world championships in Stralsund.

This year, we will attend these championships with in total 12 fencers, most on epee, men and women.

We wish Leonardo Patti and the organization team full success.

Hope having good results

Wish you good receipt and see you in Chiavari !

Best wishes

P Van Agtmael

DENMARK

Veteran training twice a week in HFK with lessons each time by Ferenc Toth / Viktor Gaardsted

Domestic competitions:

DM for veterans held by Gilleleje Fægteklub

Christmas contest for veterans held by Trekanten

International Events:

EM Team Gillingham, England We came with 3 teams fleuret men and for the first time fleuret women all teams in the Grand Veteran class

We were to defend the silver medal from the last, but it was far from being done

World Cup in Stralsund, Germany We came with 14 participants and 2 coaches and 2 referees

Reinhard got a bronze medal at the Grand Veteran Class.

In addition, Stig Christensen has a 7th place in 50+ and Annette Peterson with a 9th place in the Grand Veteran class fleuret.

We have now in the few years the danish veterans has existed achieved a total of 8 medals at the WM and EM.

We think it's great considering we are against the big countries and how few we are.

Training camps:

In co-operation with Gilleleje Fencing Club, two training camps in Gilleleje have been held for several days

There has been great support from Sweden, Norway and Denmark both times

Administrative:

There are veterans in various committees

Jørgen Kock

FINLAND

For the Finnish Veterans the year 2016 was not internationally as successful as 2015.

- In European team Championships in Gillingham, Kent Finland had bronze medal in women's grand veterans, epee.
- In Stralsund World Championships Finland had one gold in women's 70+ and bronze in women's epee team.

Due to several injuries Finland did not manage to get the younger age category teams for the 2016 European team Championships in England, only grand veterans.

In Stralsund World Championships Finland had 12 fencers in epee and foil.

The Veterans Finnish championships was arranged in October in Helsinki, altogether 59 participants plus 10 teams. Competition was arranged in epee and foil both for men and women plus sabre for men, for both men and female teams only in epee, but this is increasing, in women we had 6 teams.

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 also in Kittilä (Levi Open Arctic Challenge), in Oulu (Oulu Summer Games) and in Helsinki (YM Juhlakisat and Kerttula Memorial) and in Turku.

In Chiavari European Veteran Championships Finland will participate with 16 fencers, some of them fence two or three weapons.

Lena Tallroth-Kock

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. Due to the increasing participation of men Epee fencers, over a certain ranking of the participants circuits start on Saturday with mixed poules and direct elimination by categories for the qualification of 8 fencers by category (except V4 and foreign) on Sunday.

The participation of foreign fencers to our competitions is increasing. Italian, German and Swiss fencers participated to the Fareins (near Lyon) tournaments at foil, sabre and epee, while Saint Maur (near Paris) hosted 380 epee fencers (women and men, with many foreign fencers) in the individual competitions and 37 teams (including national and foreign club 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 was awarded at this Chiavari 2017 congress the organisation of the 2019 EVF Individual championship at Cognac. The fencing club of Cognac has already organised major competitions and has even confirmed its expertise in organising the French Epee championships in mid June 2017 with 450 fencers in the individual competitions and 87 teams (ladies and men). These 2 days of competition were much appreciated by the French fencers.

Jean-Pierre Mion

GERMANY

The 2016 FIE Veterans World Championships in Stralsund, Germany delighted its participants and stakeholders with excellent conditions and competitions. There was a record participation of 708 individual starts and 57 teams from 48 federations. Having the championships in the own country substantially increased

interest in veterans fencing in Germany quantified by 345 (+12%) starts in the 2017 German Individual Championships. Also in Chiavari we will see a big increase of German fencers compared to Porec 2015.

The German delegation really enjoyed the European Veterans Team Championships in Medway, GBR. Germany successfully presented 12 teams filling all available categories.

We were invited to Hungary and we had a delightful meeting of delegations and veterans' team competition HUN–GER in Győr/HUN in September 2016.

The qualification for the 2017 FIE Veterans World Championships (Maribor) will be completed on May 28th, 2017. Beside the European (Chiavari) and the German Championships (Bad Dürkheim) three tournaments (Kassel, Hamburg, Munich) are specified as qualification tournaments for Germany. There are now 459 fencers listed in the qualification process. German Team Championships (Duisburg) last year are attended by 42 teams (previous year: 25), which likely correlates to schedule it in November.

Dr. Harald Lüders

GREAT BRITAIN

British Veterans Fencing (BVF) was both honoured and delighted to hold the European Veterans Team Championships, the 25th anniversary European Veterans Championships in Medway, Kent in May 2016. Great team work produced a great championships enjoyed by all. GBR won 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal.

In September, the 9th Winton Cup took place. This annual inter county/region event at all weapons is always very popular and enjoyable.

The GBR squad returned from the Veterans World Championships, Stralsund, Germany with 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze individual medals and 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze team medals.

A contingent of fencers from the Home Nations (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) ventured to Christchurch, New Zealand in November for the Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championships. Some of them were there when the earthquake struck but fortunately nobody was injured. They returned home with an excellent medal haul.

Competitions in 2017 have been the BVF Championships, the West Midlands Open and the Veterans Home Nations, hosted by Ireland in Dún Laoghaire, Dublin with England once again retaining the Justin Smith Trophy. Welsh Veterans will be hosting the Celtic Challenge in Cardiff in July.

Current membership of BVF stands at 677.

Gillian Aghajan

ITALY

The Italian veterans activity is still growing continuously and steadily. Compared to the 2015-2016, in the current 2016-2017 season, a 8% increase in the veterans participating to competitions has been achieved (in total 2752 participants to the 6 National Circuit Competitions, 1851 men and 901 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 includes 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 2016-2017 was also attended by foreign fencers from different European countries. In one national events the participation has been over than 700 athletes.

Our National teams have been present at the European Veterans Team Championships in Medway with 6 medals and the 2nd place in the medal table for nations and at the World Veterans Championships in Stralsund with 10 medals and the 3rd 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.

Leonardo Patti

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese Fencing Federation has organized the National Veterans Championships on the 28-29th May 2016.

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 gender handicaps.

In general, Portuguese Veterans have participated in the Portuguese Federation official tournaments.

In 2016, a team of 3 fencers, of the Grand Veterans category, have been present in the European Veterans Team Championship, and our Federation has been represented in the Congress, in Medway.

The targets for 2017- 2018 are to be present in the 2017 Congress as well as in the European Veterans Individual Championships and to drive back to fencing more Veteran Fencers.

F. Fonseca Santos

RUSSIA

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.

From 4 to 8 May this year in the city Medway (UK) took the team 2016 European Championship year, which was attended by more than twenty European countries.

Presentation of our athletes to be successful. So, as a result of summing up the European Championship the results of our team took the third place in the team event (2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal), behind the teams of Germany and Italy, but leaving behind teams such as the UK, France and so on.

Of the eight teams represented us - five have returned with medals.

The most successful teams were "young" women's rapier and "young" men's sabre, won the gold medal champions of Europe.

Silver medals were won by the team of "young" men's rapiers and "young" women's sabre.

The bronze medals were won by the women's team rapier older.

Better results could be the male sword and sabre male older, but ... "Sport is sport."

In the period from 10 to 16 October 2016 in the German city of Stralsund the next personal-team Championship of the world on fencing among veterans was held, in which 34 athletes-veterans represented Russia.

At this championship the Russian national team took the THIRD team place after the teams of Italy and Germany.

We won at this World Championship 4 gold and 2 bronze medals.

November 9-10, 2016 in Moscow the competitions for the Cup of Russia took place. In this tournament, 146 athletes from 27 regions of the country took part.

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

Already in 2017, we held several competitions in accordance with the main plan. And this our work in 2017 actively continues.

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.

A.Kapustin

SLOVENIA

We began to develop veteran fencing in Slovenia in the year 2013 with attendance of our 4 fencers at the Slovenian National Championship in epee. Since then, Veteran fencing develops very steadily in Slovenia.

This year for the first time we had organised National Veteran Championship as an independent event. 42 fencers attended in all 3 weapons.

In cooperation with Slovenian Fencing Federation we had organized in April 2017 the first international tournament for fencing veterans in all 3 weapons.

We will add the event in competition calendar of our federation as annual event. This year tournament hosted 58 fencers from 9 countries. Slovenian veterans attended also at the competitions organized in Italy, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

Slovenian Veterans are competing at the big events as EVC and WVC from the year 2015, when 2 fencers attended the EVC in Porec. Last year one of our fencers fenced at World Veteran Championship in Stralsund in Germany.

Slovenian Veteran fencing is developing and growing. The proof of our efforts is 9 Slovenian Veteran fencers who will compete this year at the European Veteran Championship in Italy (Chiavari).

In October 2017 Slovenia will host the World Veteran Championship and will also for the first time compete in team event.

We are honored that FIE Congress entrusted us the organization of so important fencing event. This will definitely encourage development and growth of Slovenian veteran Fencing in Slovenia. Slovenian Fencing Federation is dedicated to continue to develop veteran fencing with new events and activities in the future. Our goal is to encourage our veteran fencers to regularly compete at European and world championships at individual and team events.

Contact person for veteran fencing in Slovenian Fencing Federation is from the year 2016 Mr. Karol Grabner.

Sincerely,

Tomaz Pors

SPAIN

The Spanish Association of Veterans of Fencing has about 200 members and 25% more sympathizers. The activity of the season offers 5 national tournaments for each weapon and a Championship of Spain. There are fencers in categories 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4. Most of them are in categories 1 and 2. We have foreign visitors in our competitions.

SWEDEN

The amount of Swedish fencers in the age of above 40 with a licence is now 124, a quiet but increase compared to last year (120). A reason for that increase could be that the competition organizers are making a bigger effort to make it possible to fence in both seniors' and veterans' classes in the same tournament. We are very happy about that. However, due to that raise it is not longer possible for everyone that wants to participate in the team-event in the European Championships or the World Championships as it almost has been for Swedish fencers for a lot of years. Everyone need to perform to take her or his place in the team. That is nice in one way, but it also shows how much it means for the fencers that everyone can go to the individual European Championships. It really encourages all veterans to practice more and regularly on their own club – important as well for the individual's health as for the rest of the club-members for the assault-fencing. Another reason can be the work on our own Facebook-group where we inform about coming events, invitations to tournaments, training-camps and so on. It makes it so much easier to reach out to everyone that way.

Besides the national championships there are two other veterans' tournaments in Sweden: Bernadotte Pokal (Stockholm) in April and Malmö Open in May/June. Foreign fencers are welcome to these competitions. There is obviously a lack of competitions in the fall in our country.

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.

At the European Championships 2017 in Chiavari will be about 45 Swiss-Veterans in all categories.

With best wishes from Switzerland

Anton Krieger

UKRAINE

Veterans-Fencers of Ukraine have perfectly proven themselves in the sports international arena. It is worth noting the victory of the men's epee team at the European Championships in England, in 2016.

For 2016 in Ukraine there were 6 tournaments for men's epee, 3 tournaments for women's epee and 5 tournaments for men's floret. Every year in our country the number of participating athletes increases. The geography of Ukrainian cities is expanding, where fencing tournaments among veterans are held. The number of participants in the competition is approximately 120-140 athletes.

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