



European Veterans Fencing



Minutes of the Annual Congress of the European Veterans Fencing Committee held on 13th May 2015 in Poreč, Croatia

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|--|---|
| Present: David Sweeney | President |
| Marja-Liisa Someroja | Vice-President |
| Tom Rafter | Chairman |
| Sue Church | Secretary/Treasurer |
| Laki Dobridis | Member of Honour |
| Ferdinando Cappelli | Member of Honour |
| Max Geuter | President, FIE Veterans Council |
| Paul van Agtmael | Belgium |
| Slobodan Gacesa | Croatia |
| Hynek Koutny | Czech Republic |
| Jørgen Kock | Denmark |
| Jan Bade | Finland |
| Jean-Pierre Mion | France |
| Harald Lüders | Germany |
| Gillian Aghajan | Great Britain |
| Györgyi Ferdinandy | Hungary |
| Michael Ryan | Ireland |
| Leonardo Patti | Italy |
| Aleksandar Anastasov | Macedonia |
| Oscar Kardolus | Netherlands |
| Tomasz Konczyklo | Poland |
| Frederico Fonseca-Santos | Portugal |
| Alexander Kapustin | Russia |
| Vladimir Orovic | Serbia |
| Nika Pušenjak | Slovenia |
| Kerstin Warvsten | Sweden |
| Boykov Vlagyslav | Ukraine |
| Giuseppe Cafiero | FIE Rules Commission (Invited by President) |
| Benoit Pincemaille | Handbook & Seeding (Invited by President) |
| 25 Voting members/representatives were present | |

1. Apologies for absence

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Henry de Silva | Member of Honour |
| Jozsef Meszaros | Member of Honour |
| Anton Krieger | Switzerland |

One minute's silence was observed in remembrance of Rudy Coessens, Member of Honour.

2. Introduction of members

All present were introduced.

3. Minutes of last meeting

True and accurate record

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

None

5. President's Report (previously circulated)

2014 EVFC Team Championships – Porec

Last year saw for the first time Grand Veterans Team Championships running alongside the Veterans Championships. There were a total 100 team entries, somewhat higher than expected. This high entry put a strain on the organisation, even so, the Grand Veteran Team Championships appeared to be a great success and was enjoyed by all taking part.

A temporary set of rules were put in place and the 2015 Congress has to decide if these rules should apply for the 2016 EVFC Team Championships.

EVFC Forum

A forum has been devised and uploaded to the website. The Forum, open only to EVFC Member Country Representatives is for discussions of subjects of interest to the EVFC. It is hoped that the Forum will generate ideas for the future development of European Veterans Fencing. An invitation to join the Forum has been sent to all of the Country representatives.

European Veterans Fencing Ranking System

A database driven ranking system has been developed. The ranking system takes into account the results of the past two years EVFC Individual Championships and is published on the EVFC website. It is available to any person interested in his/her or other peoples European Ranking by weapon and category. A more detailed description has been circulated with this report.

EVFC Seeding procedure for European Veterans Fencing Individual Championships

A working group of Leonardo Patti, Benoit Pincemaille and David Sweeney was set up at the 2014 Congress to devise a system for seeding for the EVFC Individual Championships to allow for a fairer seeding of new or returning "good" fencers.

A system has been devised and details have been circulated with this report.

The seeding of Fencers, as far as 2011 and 2013 EVF Championships and the 2014 World Championship results are involved, has been incorporated into the EVFC Ranking programme database and is available for any interested party to examine.

The Working Group intend to test the system at the 2015 EVFC Individual Championships in Porec and it is hoped that a preliminary report will be available for the Congress.

I would like to thank Benoit and Leonardo for their work on developing this system and John Mason for his work on developing the database used for both the ranking and seeding programmes.

EVFC Championships Handbook of Specifications

At the 2014 Congress a working group of Pippo Caffiero, Jean-Piere Mion, Benoit Pincemaille and David Sweeney was set up to produce a Handbook of Specifications for European Veterans Fencing Championships. The Handbook is published on the on the EVFC Website.

I would like to thank the members of the working group for their detailed work on this project. I would also like to thank Jorgen Kock for his valuable input on the Medical section of the Handbook.

EVFC Board Restructure

The Officers of the EVFC have been considering the current structure of the Board and it's suitability for the continued development of European Veterans Fencing. A paper from the current Officers, recommending a restructure of the EVFC Board, has been circulated with this report for discussion at the 2015 Congress.

The EVFC officers will propose a change in the Constitution to enable restructuring the Board as decided by Congress.

I would like to thank the other Officers, Marja-Liisa Someroja and Tom Rafter for their help and support over their last two years in office. Thanks are also due to Sue Church for her work dealing with general enquires from European Veteran Fencers and for making sure that all administration duties are carried out on time.

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

As you aware, David Sweeney will stand down as President of the EVFC in 2016.

Therefore I think 2016 will be an opportune time for me to resign, and retire.

I have had the pleasure of being the Secretary/Treasurer from the very beginning of the EVFC in 1991, except for a couple of years in the middle when Sylvia Brown took over for a short time.

Duties include the taking of minutes of meetings, and distribution of information. The Secretary has no vote, and no influence on any decisions. 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

It has been very interesting to see the EVFC flourish and grow into an amazing success, and we now have FIE World Veterans Fencing Championships. I will always continue to follow the development of the EVFC because I have been involved for nearly 25 years.

The EVFC was established on the very strong foundations laid down by Henry de Silva and Laki Dobridis, together with the enthusiasm of Rudi Coessens, Nando Cappelli and Jozsef Meszaros. The number of participants in the annual Championships continues to grow every year. Many long term European friendships have been made, together with friendly rivalry on the piste.

It is very important that we retain our special rules and regulations that are suitable for veteran fencers, and it is imperative that we always maintain our motto:

"We are fencers, we are veterans, we are Europeans, we are friends"

ACCOUNTS 2014

| | | |
|---|----------|-----------------|
| Bank balance at 01 January 2014 | £2073.88 | |
| Add: Income | | |
| Interest | £2.07 | £2075.95 |
| Less: Expenditure | | |
| Nil | | |
| Bank balance at 31 December 2014 | | £2075.95 |
| On 1/4/15 | | (€2869) |

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

7. Reports from country representatives See Appendix I

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

8. European Individual Championships

2015: Poreč, Croatia

There are approximately 1200 entries from 34 countries.

2017: Ascension date 25 May

Italy will bid to hold the Championships in La Spezia, which is approximately halfway between Genoa and Pisa.

France may also put in a bid.

Bids to be received by the end of the year.

2019: Ascension date 30 May

Slovenia would like to hold the Championships in Ljubljana, the capital city.

France may also be interested.

2021: Ascension date 13 May

Hamburg, Germany, has expressed an interest.

9. European Team Championships

2016: 5-8 May, Medway Park, Gillingham, Kent, Great Britain

Plans are progressing well. The website will be launched by the end of May.

2018: Ascension date 10 May

The Netherlands has expressed an interest.

2020: Ascension date 21 May

Portugal will discuss with their Federation, and may be interested

David Sweeney will circulate a letter to all the countries who have expressed an interest.

10. FIE Veterans World Championships

2015: 20-25 October, Limoges, France

Benoit Pincemaille commented that they are very confident of the organisation.

There will be no elimination after the poules. They are expecting 650-700 participants.

Pippo Cafiero commented that there will be a revision of the rules.

Max Geuter said the programme and details will be published as soon as possible.

2016: Stralsund, Germany, in October.

2017: Maribor, Slovenia. Maribor is the second largest city in Slovenia in a beautiful area with a wine culture and thermal spas. There are 3 nearby airports and transport will be provided.

11. Deceased Members of Honour

Deceased Members of Honour will remain on the Roll of Honour with their birth to death dates.

A space will be provided to add a short history. John Mason to organise the website accordingly.

12. Handbook of Specifications for EVFC Championships

David Sweeney thanked the Working Group of Pippo Cafiero, Jean-Pierre Mion and Benoit Pincemaille for helping to produce the Handbook. This is now published on the EVFC website, and comments are invited. It may need to be modified.

Frederico Fonseca-Santos, Portugal, commented that the medical requirements are not mandatory in the Handbook. It should be clearly defined that the ambulance should be at the venue.

Jean-Pierre Mion said that the exact requirements should be specified in the Handbook if there are 2 venues.

Jørgen Kock, Denmark, has made a proposal to include a medical person on the EVFC Board to control the precise details of ambulances etc.

Gillian Aghajan, Great Britain, thanked the producers of the Handbook.

13. Seeding of good fencers who are unranked in European Veterans Individual Championships

John Mason has produced a database that can calculate the seedings for European Veterans Individual Championships. There have been some initial problems, but the effects of the system will be analysed after the 2015 Championships, and improvements made.

It is important that national rankings must be verifiable.

Thanks are due to Leonardo Patti, Benoit Pincemaille and John Mason for their work on this project.

14. Rules for Grand Veterans Team Championships

Rules have been amended and published on the EVFC website.

15. EVFC Forum

This has been launched, and is an effective way of communicating
<http://www.european-veterans-fencing.com/forum>

Jean-Pierre Mion said that the Forum should be used to make comments on the Handbook and rankings etc. He suggested that the Forum should have 3 levels: the first for everyone, the second for national representatives, and the third for the Board.

16. Feedback from the Federations on proposal for Veterans Individual World Cup

Italy has made a proposal to organise a Veterans Individual World Cup. This would only be held in the same year as the EVFC team championships, and would be open to all continents. It could be held in Italy, preferably in June. David Sweeney commented that this could be a way of inviting non-Europeans, and therefore spreading veteran fencing throughout the world.

Proposal to introduce a World Cup/Challenge

In favour 4

Against 9

NOT AGREED at the present time

17. Structure of the EVFC Board

David Sweeney has previously circulated a document. See Appendix II.

More people are needed to carry out specific jobs.

Jørgen Kock, Denmark, has proposed that a professional medical representative should be on the Board who is specifically responsible for medical requirements, and the rules should be fit for veterans and these must be enforced at championships.

Proposal to re-structure the Board

In favour 16

Against 0

AGREED UNOPPOSED

The Constitution must be changed to allow for a different structure.

Max Geuter and Pippo Cafiero commented that the EFC had the expertise to help with specific jobs, and eventually there will be a merger in the future. The EVFC Board control the regulations and they must control championship organisers.

Proposal to elect a management Board consisting of 6 members:

President, Secretary/Treasurer, Medical Representative, plus 3 other members with responsibility for Communications, EVFC Database and Competition Supervision.

In favour 17

Against 2

AGREED

Volunteers required for the new posts.

President:

Gillian Aghajan, Great Britain, proposed to keep David Sweeney as President for 1 more year.
AGREED

Secretary/Treasurer:

Gillian Aghajan, Great Britain, proposed to keep Sue Church as Secretary/Treasurer for 1 more year.
AGREED

Medical Representative:

Jørgen Kock volunteered.
AGREED

Communications, to include the Forum and website.

John Mason would advise and help in the background.

No volunteers. John Mason will be asked to continue for 1 more year.

EVFC Database:

Leonardo Patti volunteered.
AGREED

Competition Supervisor:

2 candidates volunteered, Benoit Pincemaille and Frederico Fonseca-Santos.

After a secret vote, Benoit Pincemaille was appointed.

Frederico Fonseca-Santos was thanked for his offer.

The term of service for the Board will be 2 years. The President and Secretary/Treasurer and the 4 other Board members in rotation every 2 years. There will be no limit for the number of re-elections.

18. Election of Officers

Not applicable, due to the restructure of the Board.

The President gave a vote of thanks to Marja-Liisa Someroja for her many years of service as Vice-President. He also thanked Tom Rafter for his service as Chairman.

19. Any other business**a) Proposal from Hungary. See below:**

I suggest to the EVFC annual Congress in Porec on 13th May a new item on the agenda to discuss and vote about a new category, the category 80+.

My reasons are the following.

First some numbers of competitors of 70+.

In the Word Championships 70+ was a new category in 2009 in Moscow, there were 53 participants in it. The numbers are growing permanently, in Porec in 2010 there were 110, in Krems in 2012 150, and in Varna in 2014 161.

In the European Championships the numbers have been growing, too. In Fűred in 2009 there were 84, in Henin in 2011 95, in Terni in 2013 107, and now in Porec we expect 138 fencers in cat. 70+.

And we who are looking the 70+ fencers for years, we know, that there are a lot of fencers active for years after their 70-75's, too. But lots of them stop fencing because they are slower and weaker, than the new 70's. I am sure if they had an aim, a hope that some years later they would fence more in the next category, in 80+, it would give them a hope and aim for fencing more, not stopping.

Some years ago the cat. 70+ maybe sometimes was a little ridiculous for the younger fencers. But now the best 70+ fencers (and not only the finalists) present real fencing, although they are really a little slower than 60+ (as the 60+ are a little slower than 50+, etc....).

I think, we, who vote about the rules, must help them. I think, fencing in ages 50-60's is easy, but the real veteran fencing begins at the age of 65-70, when health deteriorates, moving is harder, and all parts of body aches. The real veterans, who really like fencing are those, who do it in spite of difficulties, too.

Arguments against it can be the cat. 80+ maybe is too dangerous to have 80+ fencers compete. But I think, if an 80+ will fence with an 70+, it is just as dangerous. And accidents will always happen in all categories, and anywhere in life....

About the bigger problems for organizers: in the first 2-3 years I think there will not be a lot of 80+ fencers, so they can fence with the 70+ in the pools, and after separately direct eliminations on 1-2 pistes. The bigger expense is the medals.

So I am asking you to support my suggestion and vote for the introduction of category 80+ at the next European Individual Championships in 2017.

Gyorgyi Ferdinandy, Head of Hungarian Veterans Committee

Jørgen Kock, Denmark, proposed a 75+ category.

Max Geuter suggested that the EVFC should consult the FIE medical committee, but personally he was not in favour.

After discussion, there was a majority vote for the EVF Board to study the implications of the introduction of an 80+ category and to report back to the membership.

b) Proposals from AMIS. See below:

1. Modification to the rules of the Team Championships

AMIS propose to replace the requirement of minimum aggregate age of 150 years for Veterans category and of 195 years of Grand Veterans with the following requirements:

Veterans: teams of three composed of fencers belonging either to category 1 or to category 2, with at least one fencer belonging to category 2, plus up to two reserves.

Substitution of reserves (only one per match) must maintain compliance with category representation requirement.

Grand Veterans: teams of three composed of fencers belonging either to category 3 or to category 4, with at least one fencer belonging to category 4, plus up to two reserves (one for each category). Substitution of reserves (only one per match) must maintain compliance with category representation requirement.

Advantages of this proposal:

- Easier for small countries to build up a team
- Teams more balanced for Veterans category (this solution eliminates the possibility of a team composed of 2 40 years old plus one 70 years old fencers)
- Easier management of the matches for the referee (no need to verify the aggregate age)
- Better organization of the competition programs: the program can be easily arranged in order to avoid the overlapping of the competitions of the same gender and age category

2. Veterans World Championships

AMIS propose to request FIE to include also the Age Category 1 (40-49 years) in the Veterans World Championships

Roberto Di Matteo, AMIS President

1. Proposal to accept the AMIS modifications to the rules of the team championships

In favour 11

Against 9

AGREED

Leonardo Patti will re-issue the rules with the correct wording.

2. AMIS proposal to FIE to include the age category 1 in the Veterans World Championships. Must await the decision of the FIE.

c) Jean-Pierre Mion to examine the rules for non-combativity.

NOTES:

Henry de Silva suggests that Members of Honour should receive a medal for services to veteran fencing.

Henry de Silva would like to organise a competition in the Isle of Man, 24-29th August, for 75+, 80+ and 85+. Please contact: schoolsfencing@manx.net

Henry de Silva would like to invite any EVFC club to visit the Isle of Man with Schools teams and adults, men's foil, epee and sabre, and women's foil.

APPENDIX I

BELGIUM:

This time I'll have to start with the sad news of the pass away of our President Rudy Coessens, who was one of the founders of the EVFC. But he was also a friend and one of the persons I met in the beginning of my fencer's career. Personally, I have taken over the chairmanship of our association.

The number of veterans in our country has now raised, now up to 74.

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 12 fencers, on all weapons, except foil ladies, and on all ages' categories. We wish Reno Marolt and his colleagues full success. Hope having good results

P Van Agtmael, Belgian representative to the EVFC

CROATIA:

Last year Croatian Fencing Federation successfully organized European Team Championship in Poreč.

Unfortunately it was not possible to persuade younger for the team event. They are busy with coaching and organizing tournaments. I hope for next team event will manage to complete the team.

Slobodan Gacesa 70+ veteran, 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 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 2014.

The following tournaments were organized during year 2014:

- 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
- 3rd Czech Veteran Championship – all weapons, individual – 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 2014 4 teams.

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:

Veteran training 2 to 3 times per week with lessons every time.

Held national championships and a Christmas Championship. At the European Championships for teams 2014 (Grand veterans) Epee although we were only three managed to get the silver medal

We now have in the few years Veteran Committee has been achieved in all five medals at the official World and European Championships. We think it's great, considering we're up against big fencing nations, and how few we are.

We have held two training camps with private accommodation for several days in Gilleleje, Denmark

There has been great participation from Sweden and Denmark.

There are veterans in various committees in the Danish fencing

Jørgen Kock, EVFC representative for Denmark

FINLAND:

This season the Veterans Finnish championships were arranged in September in Savonlinna which is in Eastern Finland, on lakeside and very beautiful city. There were many participants from all over the country. Competition was arranged only in epee and foil for both men and female and team competitions only in men's epee.

In October other veteran tournaments were arranged in Joensuu and in Turku (as a part of International FIE Satellite epee tournament Kupittaa Tournament). Many Finnish veterans took part in senior national competitions and some of them award special prize for best veteran fencers. This kind of competitions were in Kittilä (Levi Open Arctic Challenge) and Oulu (Oulu Summer Games).

Finnish women's team took silver in foil and bronze in epee in 2014 Debrecen World championships, Hungary. Finnish fencers took also silver in women's epee (category 60+), bronze in women's epee (category 50+) and bronze in men's epee (category 70+).

In the 2014 European Veterans Fencing Team Championships Porec, Croatia Finns got silver in women's epee (category 195) and bronze in foil (category 195).

We hope to have even more veteran fencers next year participating in European and World Championships in 2015.

Lena Tallroth-Kock, General Secretary, Finnish Fencing and Pentathlon Association

FRANCE:

French fencing veteran's activity is still healthy and attracts more fencers each year. There are around 900 Veterans in the national ranking, with an increase of 20% of participations, again confirmed this current season. 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.

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 330 epee fencers (women and men, Swiss, Germany, Ireland, UK, US, Russia) in the individual competitions. Dynamo Moscow won the team competition in which 33 teams participated.

The organisation of our Veterans practice is well supported by the French Fencing Federation.

In May 2014 in Porec, France ranked 1st nation with 6 gold medals out of the 12 team competitions. We obtained 9 medals, with 2 gold, at the World Championship in Debrecen.

We are proud to host the next World Championship from 20 to 25 October 2015 in Limoges.

Jean-Pierre Mion, French Veterans Commission

GERMANY:

Dr. Harald Lüders has been elected to represent the German Veterans Fencing as the successor of Prof. Henry Reetmeyer on April 11, 2015.

German veterans' fencers qualify for Limoges World Championships by scoring in European Championships (Porec), German Championships (Bad Dürkheim), and three specified tournaments (Kassel, Hamburg, Munich). The 2014 German Individual Championships had to be shifted to April 2015 due to a scheduling conflict with the 2014 World Championships. The participation (305) was slightly lower compared to 2013. German Team Championships (Dresden) which require teams of 3 having a cumulative age of at least 150 are attended by 41 teams in five weapons, Ladies Sabre could not be established. German veterans won 19 medals (4 Gold, 8 Silver, and 7 Bronze) in the 2014 World Championships (Debrecen). A first team competition GER –HUN was performed in March 2014 (Ditzingen) which GER won 6:0.

Stralsund prepares for the 2016 FIE Veterans Fencing World Championships.

Dr. Harald Lüders, Seniorensprecher

GREAT BRITAIN:

British Veterans Fencing (BVF) membership still continues to increase and now stands at 605. 2013 was both a busy and successful year. GBR sent full teams to the European Veterans Team Championships, Poreč, Croatia for the 150+ and 195+ categories and the squad returned with one silver and two bronze medal places. October saw the Individual and inaugural World Team Championship in Debrecen, Hungary. The squad won one gold, two silver and three bronze medals, finishing seventh in the individual medal table and three team medals. Our 7th Winton Cup, an inter county region at all weapons, was fiercely contested and we were pleased to welcome new members. Scotland hosted the Celtic Challenge in Queensferry, a competition between Celtic regions in July, won by Scotland, and also hosted the Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Competition in Largs, in November with England topping the medal table. This had followed the Senior Commonwealth Championships at which four BVF members were selected to fence.

During 2014, Frank Mills, then Chairman, was diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer and sadly, despite a tough battle, died on 11th November.

Competitions in 2015 have been the BVF Championships, the West Midlands Open and the Veterans Home Nations, hosted by Cardiff, Wales with England winning. The Age Groups will take place in June.

Good progress is being made on the plans for the 2016 European Team Championships which are being held in Medway, Kent.

Gillian Aghajan, GBR

IRELAND:

As was stated in previous years, the Irish Veteran Fencing Committee (IVFC) is a sub committee of the Irish Fencing Federation (IFF), and represents it in all matters of Veteran Fencing. The IFF has responsibility for all fencing in Ireland.

In the Celtic Challenge in July 2014, Ireland won two Gold medals. Philip Lee won the Men's Foil and Shane Whelan won the Men's epee.

This year, as in previous years, the Irish team competing in the Quads Match was a combined North South Irish team. Teams from England, Scotland and Wales also competed.

There will be six Irish fencers taking part in the European Veteran Championships in Porec this week. Veteran fencing is still increasing in Ireland.

Tom Rafter, EVFC representative for Ireland

ITALY:

The Italian veterans activity is still growing continuously and steadily. Compared to the 2013-2014, in the current 2014-2015 season a 6% increase in the veterans participating to competitions (in total 2531 participants to the 6 National Circuit Competitions, 2052 men and 835 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 competition, to compete with fencers of the same ability level. The Italian Championships include also a club team competition for each weapon and gender and, starting from the current year, 2 team competitions for different aggregate ages will take place. 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 2014-2015 was also attended by foreign fencers from different European countries. In three national events the participation has been over than 490 athletes. Our National teams have been present at the European Veterans Team Championships in Porec with 6 medals and the 5th place in the medal table for nations and at the World Veterans Championships in Debrecen with 7 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, complete groups of fencers from German, Hungarian, Spanish, Russian, British, Swiss clubs participate to the competitions not only in Northern Italy (Chiavari, Zevio, Busto Arsizio) but also in Southern Italy (Caserta and even Bari). 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, and this year some Italian fencers will go to Malta.

Roberto Di Matteo, AMIS President

POLAND:

Polish Veterans Fencing Association was founded 25 years ago. We are an Association which combines together former and amateur fighters. Periodically we take part in Polish Cup Competition. All contests are opened to athletes from other countries. In season 2013-2014 over 150 athletes took part in the competition in all age groups. They came from countries such as: Czech Republic, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, Norway, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Italy. COMPETITION Each year Polish Veterans Fencing Association organizes 5 fencing competitions Polish Cup in age categories: 0, 1,2,3,4. Since 25 years on 5-6 December we have been organizing International Polish Fencing Championships. Due to low activity of athletes we have reduced the age of competitions in category 0 to 30 years. In the 2013-2014 season all competitions have played in the open category. When both players come from different age category (more than 10 years difference) we use handicap system where the older player gets one hit more. This season we changed the system of playing tournaments in Saber. Currently we have two separate age categories: 0-1 and 2-4. Probably next season division will also concern the Sword and Foil back. In this seasons ATF has a 7% decrease of competition in Polish Cup. The greater part of competitions are former members of National Team and coaches. Our goal is to increase the number of participants and interest to encourage amateur fencers. As an organization we are proud that we could join the EVEC and we are deeply grateful for that. We will do our best to actively participate in the activities of whole federation.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS The relationships between Polish Veterans Fencing Association and international fencers are continuously improving. This year we plan to organize the 25 jubilee of Individual Polish Championships in Gdansk and probably the Team International Polish Championships. This season we want to take part in competitions in Germany, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

TOMASZ KONCZYLO, SPWS PRESIDENT

PORTUGAL:

PERIOD : FROM MAY 2014 TO MAY 2015

The Portuguese Fencing Federation has organized the National Veterans Championships on the 31st May 2014.

During this period, two epee tournaments for Veterans have been organized by the AAACM Club and the CDUL Club. These competitions were opened to all veterans categories and genders. The last one was held with handicaps for fencers 40-55 years.

Unfortunately, in 2014 it has not been possible to organize a team to play in the European Veterans Championship, and so our Federation have not been represented in the Congress.

The targets for 2015- 2016 are to be present in the 2015 Congress as well as in the European Veterans Championships and to bring back to fencing more Veteran Fencers .

F. Fonseca Santos, EVFC representative for Portugal

Report of the Russian Veteran Fencing Federation in 2014-2015

From October 2014 to April 2015 Russian Veteran Fencing Federation (VFF) has done the following:

In October 2014 the Russian team took part in the World Championships in Debrecen (Hungary). Our team is represented by more than 30 participants. Unfortunately, in the team competition, we presented only men's teams.

As always stable high results shown by our leaders: the gold medal in the individual competition at the Gary Aftandilov (eleventh gold medal of the world championships in his collection); gold medal in the individual competition at Lyudmila Chernova (fifth gold medal in the world championships); bronze medal Konstantin Volkov (sabre).

High command results showed sabre and foil. Respectively - silver and bronze. In November 2014, we held an open cup of Moscow (86 members), in the same month in 2014, we conducted a competition for the Cup of Russia. This competition was attended by 156 athletes from 26 regions of Russia.

December 14 in Voronezh was first held epee tournament in memory of Victor Modzolevskiy, which is held constant.

In January and February 2015, our athletes veterans took part in competitions in foil and epee in France. In the same period were organized open tournaments on a saber 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. This championship was attended by 169 people from 27 regions of Russia.

We invite everyone to participate in all our competitions. They are open to all. Calendar of our competitions placed on our web site: www.veterans.fencing.ru

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

Interest to our veterans fencing is growing. In the veteran sports comes many new, talented people. The practice of holding competitions in different regions of the country makes it possible to attract new athletes who still did not dare to enter the fencing podium.

At the European Championships 2015 in Porec from Russia will take part in more than 90 athletes.

Our work continues. We get support from the public, from the National Fencing Federation and are optimistic about the future.

President of the Russian Veteran Fencing Federation

Alexander Kapustin
March 31, 2015



SWEDEN:

The amount of Swedish fencers in the age of above 40 is just above 100, that is a slight increase since last year. It's enjoyable to hear that more and more fencers saying that they look forward to turning 40 so that they can be able to participate in the veterans' tournaments. We work strongly on informing them on the joy of belonging to our group.

National championships could in April 2014 -be held on men's épée and on men's foil only and due too few participants. We are now trying to arrange the veterans' championships the same weekend as the seniors' to make it easier for everyone to cooperate but we have realized that it also has not to be held on the same date as a youth- or a juniorcompetition as some of the veterans also are parents to young fencers and choose to accompany them instead of competing themselves.

European Championships for teams in Porec, Croatia assembled only a men's épée team as Sweden does not have enough female fencers at an older age after the rules were changed from 140 to 150 years for a team.

In the World Championships in Debrecen, Hungary, Sweden was represented in several classes.

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.

Kerstin Warvsten

SWITZERLAND:

As small country we don't have a lot of veterans. About 90 veterans in the 4 categories take part of the « Circuit national veterans » and this essentially in epee. A few part of veterans will fight with the foil and sabre has all but disappeared.

An unknown number of veterans are practising fencing in the swiss-clubs, but they won't participate at the tournaments („fencing for pleasure“).

Swiss Fencing is organizing about 10 tournaments for the veterans each season and also an Swiss-Championship. Outside of the „Circuit national veterans“ several clubs are organizing „friendship-tournaments“. With best wishes from Switzerland

A. Krieger, Representative of Swiss Fencing-Veterans

APPENDIX II

RESTRUCTURE OF THE EVFC BOARD

Discussion Document

As has been mentioned in the past, the development of the EVFC has resulted in more and different tasks to be undertaken by the members of the EVFC Board.

These include,

- Policy making
- Development
- Communication
- Data management
- Competition management
- Secretarial
- Liaison with other fencing bodies

The current Structure of the EVFC Board of 3 officers; - President, Vice President, Chairman and a co-opted Secretary/Treasurer is no longer suitable.

The structure of the EVFC Board needs to be changed in order that the relevant skills are available. Appointments should be made against a job description.

All Board members should be capable of undertaking the general work load including policy making and development of processes, membership etc. and be familiar with the use of email, word processing and spreadsheets.

Some Board members should be responsible for specific areas of activity.

Data Manager - responsible for the following,

- Maintenance of the Participation database
- Maintenance of the Ranking system
- Maintenance of the Seeding system

The post holder should;

1. be proficient in the use and development of databases (not just spreadsheets)
2. understand and ensure Privacy Law and standards
3. provide data for presentation at meetings where needed
4. be familiar with fencing competition software

Communications Manager - responsible for the following,

- Maintenance of the EVFC Website
- Administrating and moderating the EVFC Forum

The post holder should;

1. be proficient in maintenance and development of websites, discussion boards etc.
2. have good written and verbal communication and presentation skills
3. have good interpersonal and networking skills

Competitions Manager - responsible for the following,

- Ensuring that all EVFC Competitions are run to the highest possible standard
- Advising potential competition organisers of EVFC expectations
- Reviewing suitability of organising committees and venues for EVFC competitions
- Monitoring Competitions and preparing reports
- Making recommendations for improvements in EVFC Competitions and Rules

The post holder should;

1. be experienced in the management of fencing competitions at international level
2. have good planning skills

Secretary / Treasurer - responsible for the following,

- The maintenance of names contact details of EVFC country representatives
- Assist the President in all duties as required
- Take charge of all administration duties of the Board
- Management of general correspondence with country representatives ensuring that all enquiries are dealt with by the appropriate Board member efficiently
- To take and circulate minutes of EVFC meetings
- The management of EVFC funds and bank account

The post holder should;

1. have good word processing and spreadsheet skills
2. have good interpersonal skills

President - responsible for the following,

- The General leadership of the EVFC Board
- Ensuring that the Board complies with the Constitution of European Veterans Fencing
- The chairing of EVFC meetings
- Liaison with other fencing bodies
- Representing the EVF Board at EVF events and European Veterans Fencing in the wider context

The post holder should;

1. have a good knowledge of European Veterans Fencing
2. have good decision making skills
3. have a vision for the development of European Veterans Fencing
4. be experienced in the chairing of meetings

The Board shall have the power to co-opt as required others to join working group, lead by a Board member, for the purposes of carrying out projects of value to the EVFC.

Election and Term of service

Board members should serve for a maximum term before retiring or standing for re-election. The maximum term should be decided by EVF Congress and be included in the Constitution.

Elections should take place by rota and the order of elections should be determined by the EVF Congress and be included in the Constitution.

Proposal

The President, Vice-President and Chairman of the EVFC make the following proposal to the 2015 Congress in Porec -

“That the Constitution of the EVFC be changed to allow for a management Board of Five members as follows,

President

Secretary/Treasurer

And 3 other members with responsibility for the following

Communication

EVFC Database

Competition supervision “

David Sweeney, President

Marja-Liisa Someroja, Vice-President

Tom Rafter, Chairman

April 2015