

Record numbers at the BVF Championships!



A 'stare' of sabreurs at the BVF Championships

Photo by Editor

Richard Bonehill
BVF Championships
Competition results

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Chairman's letter

Dear Members,

It was a terrible shock to hear, whilst I was out of the country, of the sudden death of Richard Bonehill and it is incredibly sad and hard to believe that he is no longer with us. Richard passed away on Thursday 29th January. The third death of a BVF member and friend in such a short period of time. Many of us knew Richard well. A man of incredible wit, warmth and intelligence in whose company you could never feel miserable. A man of integrity and honesty who was never afraid to voice his opinions, admit if he thought he was in the wrong or give praise which he thought was deserved. A very talented fencer, swordsman, coach, stuntman and actor. He will be sorely missed by so many, not just by his fencing friends in the UK but also by those who had the pleasure to fence him or enjoy his company at many competitions around the world over the years.

The BVF Championships and AGM were held in Gloucester this month with a record number of fencers and weapon entries and it was good to welcome and meet new members who were fencing in their first BVF event. The Championships were excellently organised by David Sweeney, with John Mason, John Crouch and Mike Robinson running the DT very smoothly using Fencing Time software for the first time at a BVF competition. Thanks go to them all and also to Janet Huggins, armourer, and to all the referees and helpers.

The committee extends a warm welcome to Peter Howes who was elected at the AGM to the role of Development Officer.

Thanks also to Sue Church who worked hard to sell the remaining 100 Club tickets. The lucky numbers were drawn at the Championships dinner by British Fencing CEO, Georgina Usher, who was one of our special guests. We were very pleased to welcome her. We were also pleased to have Hilary Philbin, President of British Fencing, as our guest and it was good to see Hilary's husband Jim. It is very pleasing that they are all BVF members. Although Hilary and Jim have not fenced for a while, Georgina won the Women's Epee for the third year in a row. Photos and names of winners and medallists are in this newsletter. The theme for the dinner was 'The Three Musketeers' with a 'guess the actor, role and film quiz' in honour of Richard, who would have loved it I am sure. Thanks also to Marcia Stretch, her team and the very effective compère Lawrence Burr for running the raffle, raising the sum of £207 for ET16 funds.

If you watched Question of Sport on BBC One this week you would have seen Jane Hutchison fencing with mystery guest Irish rugby international Peter Stringer. Jane and I had a lot of fun at Bath Rugby Club training centre with the QoS filming team and Peter, a great sport, who after a very quick sabre lesson took to fencing like a duck to water showing a true sportsman's interest and competitive streak!

Trek in the Himalayas

5 day trek in the Annapurna region

plus 5 days in Kathmandu - just £695

For info click on www.salago.com

A reminder for the European Championships to be held between 14-17 May. They are in Porec, Croatia this year, a very pleasant town on the shores of the Mediterranean where some previous events have been hosted. There will be over a thousand vets competing from over 20 countries. Entries have to be submitted to the organisers by the team manager/head of delegation (myself) and the cut-off date for this is 19th April. However I would much appreciate if have not yet sent me your entry that you could do so by 17th April. Late entries (after 19th) cannot be accepted. Ryanair flights to Pula and Trieste from Stansted and return seem to be mostly sold out so you may need to consider going via Venice or Zagreb if you have not already booked flights.

Details and entry form are here:

<http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/latest.shtml#euro>

The West Midlands Open will be held on 11th and 12th April in Dudley. Details and online entry for this event are also on our website:

<http://www.veterans-fencing.co.uk/latest.shtml#wmo>

Details and online entry for the Age Groups should be on our website next month. The match between USA has not yet been formalised and may have to be postponed but information about this will be sent out by email as soon as possible.

Georgina presents John with his winnings!

Sincerely,

Gillian Aghajan
Chairman

100 club winners!

The lucky winners of the second 100 Club:

1 st prize	£500	John Crouch
2 nd prize	£300	Lyn Robinson
3 rd prize	£200	Paul Baillache



The winners!

Richard Bonehill 1949-2015

Richard, a great coach and a true friend

I joined the Veterans 17 years ago, about the same time as I started fencing. At that time I was fencing a bit of foil and a bit of epee but was gradually drawn towards sabre as this seemed to be the more exciting and flamboyant weapon. Sure enough, this was where I found Richard and he eventually became my coach and a wonderful friend.

In 2006 I worked with Richard at the Veteran's World Championships in Bath on the opening and closing ceremonies. He was meticulous in everything he took on. The ceremonies were perfect, run with military precision down to the last detail. But this was Richard; he would never take anything on unless he could give it 100%. He even gave up his chance to compete to finish working on the closing ceremony.

We worked towards my first World Championships in Sydney in 2007. Again his total commitment to my training and a belief in my abilities got me the title. After that we never looked back and we worked hard together over the years with great success and a great deal of fun.

Richard was such a talented sabreur. He commanded a presence on the piste and would at times fence brilliantly especially if there was a crowd watching. Always the showman often finishing with flamboyant quinte parry riposte and the mask would be ripped off and the hand would be outstretched to shake hands almost before the lights went off; always with a big smile.

In 2013 at the Veterans World championships in Varna, Bulgaria Richard won a bronze medal. It was the 14th consecutive year that Richard had represented Great Britain in sabre at the World Championships. He was also the Captain of the GB Sabre Team which won a silver medal at the championships.

In total Richard won 4 World Championship medals including the Gold medal and title of World Champion in 2010 in Limoges. He was fiercely proud of being selected to fence for GB and England as well as for European teams. He was a natural leader and captained many winning teams.

Off the piste he had a magnetic quality. People used to love to be in his company and there was nothing he enjoyed more, after a hard day of fencing, than a double Jack Daniels in a long glass with ice and a can of coke. Dressing up for dinner meant a change of shorts and tee shirt but he wouldn't have been Richard without being so outrageous and everyone loved him for it.



**World
Champion
2010**



I am not really his historian but over the years he has told me bits about his colourful past. From his parents' pub off Russell square which entertainers used to frequent, to his days at the City of London Boys School with his two older brothers. It was here he started fencing. He had a few breaks for a few years while he went off to Goldsmiths College to study art and design and all the other stuff that art students were doing in those days involving riots and sit-ins. He did, however, design the medals for the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. It was at art school that he met Lynne and they worked together in the jewellery trade and became very successful. In time he became disillusioned as the value of the jewels he had to work with were more important to the wealthy customers than the beauty of the pieces he was creating so he upped sticks and went off to join the circus!

He rode horses in Wild West shows around the country and also rode in jousting tournaments, loving the outdoors and even sleeping in the shed with the horses at times. I believe it was from here he was talent spotted for stunt work and that is how he moved into the movie business, joined Equity and the rest is history, with appearances in Star Wars, Dr Who and many others films. He became a talented Fight Director for many productions including Highlander and Sharpe with his trade mark twist of the blade in the final thrust. Actors he worked with include Sean Bean, Pierce Brosnan, Leonardo Di Caprio, Patrick Swayze, Sean Connery and Kiera Knightley to name just a few from a long list of famous names.

On top of this Lynne and Richard ran an antique shop in Truro for many years and have run antique fairs each month in Lostwithiel for the last 25 years as well as three large antique fairs at Kingsley Village each year. On moving to Cornwall he joined Truro fencing club and became head coach. Jon Salfield was one of his pupils whom he inspired and who took over as head coach as Richard moved into his new role as Life President of the club. He was always fiercely proud of what Truro had achieved.

He defied his years with his shock of thick brown hair and good looks; he was the envy of many men. He hated illness, said it was a weakness and was very private about his own health. He used to say if he was to pop his clogs tomorrow he had had a wonderful life and wouldn't change a thing. However he also said he was immortal. Maybe he was, maybe he will live on in our hearts and memories and never be forgotten.

He leaves behind his wife Lynne, numerous cats and badgers and foxes and their beautiful white house overlooking the bay in St Ives.

'Never to have sailed the Spanish Main with Errol Flynn, never to have ridden the King's Highway with Louis Hayward, never to have fought the Cardinal's Guard with Douglas Fairbanks is never to have dreamed, never to have lived, never to have been young'.

From *Swordsmen of the Screen*

Jane Hutchison

See an interview with Richard on [YouTube](#)



**Richard and
Jane -
Sydney 2007**

BVF Championships Medallists



Men's Sabre

Silver - Rob Penton

Gold - Chris Farren

Bronze - Edward Simpson and Steve Potter



Cat 4 medal - Andy Bornemisza

Cat 1 medal - Chris Farren

Cat 2 medal - Steve Potter

Cat 3 medal - Geoff Silverman



Women's Sabre

Silver - Michele Narey

Gold - Beth Davidson

Bronze - Yvonne Walls and Jane Hutchison



Cat 3 medal - Yvonne Walls

Cat 1 medal - Beth Davidson

Cat 2 medal - Michele Narey

Cat 4 medal - Sylvia Brown



Men's Foil

Silver - Tony Bartlett

Gold - Paul Wedge

Bronze - Adrian Griffin and Graham Paul



Cat 4 medal - Brian Causton

Cat 3 medal - Paul Wedge

Cat 2 medal - Richard Sage

Cat 1 medal - Adrian Griffin



Women's Foil

Bronze - Sue Brooks and Jane Clayton
 Gold - Gillian Worman
 Silver - Kate O'Connell



Cat 4 medal - Kirstin Payne
 Cat 3 medal - Jane Clayton
 Cat 2 medal - Gillian Worman
 Cat 1 medal - Kate O'Connell



Men's Epée

Silver - Stephen Domek
 Gold - Chris Howser
 Silver - Mark Thompson and Nigel Fancourt



Cat 1 medal - Chris Howser
 Cat 2 medal - Nigel Fancourt
 Cat 3 medal - Howard West
 Cat 4 medal - Bill Osbaldeston



Women's Epée

Bronze - Jane Clayton and Jane Hutchison
 Gold - Georgina Usher
 Silver - Nicola Hull



Cat 3 medal - Jane Clayton
 Cat 2 medal - Jane Hutchison
 Cat 4 medal - Sylvia Brown
 Cat 1 medal - Georgina Usher



Champions at Arms

Simon Armour and
Jane Hutchison

Gloucester Smiles :-)!



Competition results (top half)

Aldershot Open 17/01/2015

MF (54) 6 Marc Bengry
7 Nick Mort
17 Paul Lowen
20 Gerry Gajadharsingh
25 Michael Thomas

ME (55) 1 John Leahey
10 John Chalmers
11 Howard West
19 Tim Buzwell
24 Simon Pink
26 Will Miller
27 Adam Steiner

WF (24) 5 Gillian Worman
10 Susan Westley

WE (32) 3 Nicola Hull
3 Marg Oniye
10 Helen Easter
12 Jenny Morris
13 Helen Thouless

Lancaster Open 17/01/2015

ME (33) 2 Chris Heaps
11 Michael Ramsden
14 Max Telfer
15 Kevan Riley

WF (8) 3 Brenda Hewitt

Scottish Open 24/01/2015

ME (44) 5 Hugh Kernohan
13 James Rhodes
14 Anton Pollard

MS (27) 2 Stewart Wilson
12 Duncan Rowlands

Northern Ireland Open 25/01/2015

ME (27) 6 Duncan Salter

WE (15) 6 Fiona Haldane

Slough Open 07/02/2015

MF (58) 16 Paul Lowen
21 Nicholas Mort
24 Gerry Gajadharsingh
27 Nick Fihosy

ME (58) 6 Kieth Barnett
18 Will Miller
24 Hugh Kernohan
29 Darryl Hazlewood

MS (31) 11 Kamal Yasin

WF (27) 12 Gillian Worman
13 Nadya Yordanova

WE (55) 3 Nicola Hull
26 Caryl Oliver

WS (23) 3 Jane Hutchison
8 Rachel Lasance

Competition results compiled using
Trawler software © John Mason -
Eureka Data Engineering



Competition results (top half)

Merseyside Open 17/01/2015

MF (55)	10	Mike McKay	MS (39)	6	Duncan Rowlands
				7	Michael Swiffin
ME (55)	7	Duncan Salter		13	Dave Taylor
	12	Chris Heaps		14	Andrew Thornley
	18	Max Telfer			
	20	Peter Davies	WS (26)	1	Rachel Lasance
	24	Denis Callanan		3	Emma Waller
	34	Granville Ward		13	Yvonne Walls
	43	Tristan Spicer			

**Congratulations to
John Leahey - 1st ME - Aldershot Open and
Rachel Lasance - 1st WS - Merseyside Open!**

BVF Calendar 2015

Competition results compiled using
Trawler software © John Mason -
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BVF CALENDAR 2015

April 11-12	West Midlands Open 2015, Dudley, West Midlands Event Manager - Peter Baron
Apr 18-19	Home Nations, Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff Event Manager: Lyn Robinson
May 14-17	European Individual Championships, Porec, Croatia Event Manager - Gillian Aghajan
June 6-7	Age Groups 2015, Bletchley Event Manager - Marcia Stretch
June 26-28	GBR v GER, Darmstadt Event Manager: David Sweeney
Sep 5-6	Veterans Winton Cup 2015, Lilleshall Event Manager - Marcia Stretch
Oct 20-25?	World Championships, Limoges, France Event Manager - Gillian Aghajan
Nov 29	BVF v Royal Navy, HMS President 72 St Katharine's Way, London. E1W 1UQ Event Manager: Pete Baron

See BVF website home page for European competitions
and events - www.veterans-fencing.co.uk

**Caption
Competition
February/March**

send your entry to Editor
g.aghajan@virgin.net

Editor's Note:

The BVF newsletter is your voice: a chance for you to put forward your views, send reports, letters, photos or articles.

Please speak up!

Send to me:

g.aghajan@virgin.net

**Photos
by Editor**



**For you Richard xx
Editor**

**Caption
Competition
December**

Editor's choice -

'Yes, but how do I get it so shiny?'

Malcolm Cawton

'The Good Sheppard (and two of his flock)'

Paul Brenda



BVF contacts

Life President		Henry de Silva  6 Little Meadow Andreas Isle Of Man IM7 4HY Tel: 01624 880863
Officers	Chairman Newsletter Editor	Gillian Aghajan  Tel: 07747 792712 g.aghajan@virgin.net
	Treasurer Membership Secretary Webmaster	John Mason  Tel: 01225 761788 BVF@jrmason.demon.co.uk
	Secretary	Marcia Stretch  Tel: 01293 786 841 marcia_stretch@hotmail.com
Elected Members	International Fencing Officer	David Sweeney  Tel: 01453 758372 mrdsweeney@hotmail.com
	Domestic Fencing Officer	Peter Baron  Tel: 01384 400242 bvf@baronfencing.plus.com
	Development Officer	Peter Howes  Tel: 07870 221991 peter_howes_bvf@outlook.com
		Jonathan Stanbury  Tel: 01823 331909 alfg8@aol.com
		Lawrence Burr  Tel: 01823 433844 lsburr@btopenworld.com
Co-opted Member	Publicity Officer	Malcolm Fare  malcolm.fare@crossword.demon.co.uk



PLEASE NOTE

Any articles or letters for the April BVF Newsletter should be sent to:-

Gillian Aghajan
 by 17th April 2015
 Tel: 07747 792712
 email:
g.aghajan@virgin.net



Holiday Inn