

*European Veterans Fencing Congress, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021.*

## REPORT OF THE IRELAND REPRESENTATIVE

An old Irish story tells of a famously skilful man (An Gobán Saor) asking his son to shorten the road as they set out on a long journey. The son could not think of a way to do this so they returned home. The same thing happened again the next day. His mother then gave the son some advice. After that he had no difficulty, when requested to shorten the road he started to tell a story.

I wish I had a story to tell about Veterans Fencing in Ireland in the past year that would be of any use in road shortening. There basically is no activity here to report, with indoor training banned and no competitions at any level, veterans or otherwise. This is all the more frustrating as Philip Lee's success in becoming 2020 European Veteran Fencer of the Year at men's foil (V3) had led to hopes of further progress, but these have had to be postponed for now. On the positive side it seems quite likely that within the next few months most veteran fencers here will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, and we are hopeful of getting training and competitions going again in the Autumn.

It has been encouraging for us here to see the EVF continuing with its work despite the Covid constraints and to see the efforts being made to plan for competitions. On behalf of Irish veteran fencers I thank all those involved.

Hopefully it won't be very long until we all have the opportunity to meet and cross swords again, and all of us here also hope that our fellow veterans stay safe and well.

Best wishes from Ireland's veteran fencers.

Michael Ryan

EVF Representative for Ireland

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021