



European Veterans Fencing

2021 Congress, Via Zoom

Saturday 3rd July 2021

Minutes

1. Present

Caryl Oliver	President	Isabelle Leveque	FRANCE
Karen Grant	Secretary/Treasurer	Harald Lueders	GERMANY
Benoit Pincemaille	Board member	Gillian Aghajan	GREAT BRITIAN
John Mason	Board Member	Peter Boros	HUNGARY
Leonardo Patti	Board member	Michael Ryan	IRELAND
Michel Deschamps	Board Member	Leonardo Patti	ITALY
Sue Church	Member of Honour	Timon Hagen <i>(representing Leon Pijnappel)</i>	NETHERLANDS
David Sweeney	Member of Honour	Tomasz Konczyklo	POLAND
Paul Van Agtamel	BELGIUM	Frederico-Fonseca-Santos	PORTUGAL
Irena Suljic	CROATIA	Peter Brigola	AUSTRIA
Alexander Kapustin	RUSSIA	Magrit Budde	<i>Invited (GER)</i>
Angela de Rioja	SPAIN	Catherine and Thierry Calambe	<i>Invited (FRA)</i>
Kerstin Warvsten	SWEDEN	Atilla Czak	<i>Invited (HUN)</i>
Anton Kreiger	SWITZERLAND	Gyurkan Judit	<i>Invited (HUN)</i>
Hynek Koutny	CZECH REPUBLIC	Heinz Reinkl	<i>Invited (AUT)</i>
Lena Talleroth-Kock	FINLAND		
Michiel Uitdehaag	<i>Invited (NL and webmaster)</i>		

1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

The meeting opened at 15.00 (GMT). All attendees were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Henry de Silva; Nando Capelli; Laki Dobridis; Jozsef Meszaros

3. PRESIDENTS REPORT

The report had been posted on the new website prior to the meeting.

Caryl explained that she was sorry her report contained lots of disappointment regarding the number of events cancelled in the past year, however she was concentrating on looking ahead. She acknowledged the work undertaken by Benoit Pincemaille, Karen Grant, Leonardo Patti and Michel Deschamps in their respective portfolios. Caryl thanked John Mason and Michiel Uitdehaag for their work on developing the new website.

4. SECRETARY/TREASURERS REPORT

The report had been posted on the website prior to the meeting.

Karen explained the very few transactions. There were no questions.

5. EUROPEAN CHAMPOINSHIPS

This presentation is on the website – Championships Report.

Benoit provided this report from Cognac as we had not previously been able to present and discuss it. The main points were that this was a large competition site, and the competition ran well. This was the first time it was run over the 5 days and this was a success. The numbers were high, and it was anticipated that Thionville would have 1500-1800 entries. As Thionville had to be cancelled for 2021 this estimate will not be tested until 2023.

The heat at the venue was discussed and it was confirmed that climate control is a requirement in the Competition Handbook.

Points for discussion:

1. The way that registrations and weapons control get done will be changed for Thionville to aim for less waiting.
2. There was discussion about having three finals at the same time. This generated some discussion in the chat with mixed opinions. It was agreed that this would be further discussed at the next Congress.
3. As the numbers for EMV1 and EMV2 are so high and continuing to increase Beniot asked for people's opinions on running these events over 2 days. Poules one day, tableau the next. The positives and the negatives

were discussed. It was agreed that this would be acceptable if the number of entries created the need.

4. For the team event in Hamburg in 2022 they will be running the Bronze medal and Gold medal match at the same time.
5. The splitting of the 70-74, 75-80 and 80+ age categories was discussed at length. From the analysis that Benoit has done on the results, age is not a significant factor in those that win. Matches were balanced and here was no clear relationship between age and results. The anecdotal feedback from fencers has been poor, the numbers are small and they don't get much fencing and are not getting a satisfying fencing experience. Again there was discussion around this. It was agreed that we would revert to V4 only for the time being but review again in the future.

PREVIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hosts for future European Championships:

2022 Hamburg (T)

2023 Thionville

2024 Brussels (T)

2025 Bids received:

Bids from Skopje (MKD) and Plovdiv (BUL) and these venues have been visited.

Bid Klagenfurt (AUT) but has yet to be visited. A presentation was done to the Congress at the end of the meeting.

6. CIRCUIT COMPETITIONS

This presentation is on the website – European Circuit Competitions.

Leonardo Patti presented the circuit competitions. He thanked the organisers and fencers for supporting the events that happened before the lockdown started. Four events were cancelled because of COVID, however the next event planned is in Budapest on 17/18 September for Foil and Epee.

There was an analysis of the stats from the events that had happened and there were 843 fencers participated in the 8 events that happened with more than 50% being foreign. There were better numbers for Foil and Epee, each which lost one

competition, but the numbers were understandably lower for sabre that had 2 events cancelled.

What was interesting was that there were a good number of people competing in these events that had never fenced in the European Championships and it was noted that you can get circuit points and be the Circuit champion without attending the Championships.

The plan is to keep the ranking from Cognac for the next European Championships in 2023. The best 4 out of the possible 9 events will count towards the ranking. There will be an increase in 5 events for each weapon this season (2021/22).

Everyone welcomed the resumption of the Circuit Events.

7. THE NEW EVF WEBSITE

The new website was presented by Caryl who introduced our new webmaster Michiel Uitdehaag. The Website is dynamic and includes a private area for member representatives to access documents and information as well communicate with EVF. Members were provided with their logins and passwords prior to the meeting and mostly this went smoothly! The site includes a more active calendar, live streaming of results and overnight update of rankings. It also provides support technology for event organisers. It is still a 'work in progress' as new elements are incorporated.

The website is now connected to the EVF Facebook page which currently has over 2000 followers. This has proved a valuable means of keeping in touch with European Veteran Fencers throughout the lockdowns.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Some reports we have received are now on the website linked to the country and available for people to see. Members were encouraged to check the website and ensure that their details are correct, and their reports are showing as having been received.

9. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

4 positions were up for election this year.

- Secretary General
- Competitions Manager
- Member Liaison/Communications
- Data and technology (1 year only)

Caryl apologised for not calling for nominations in strict accordance with our rules. This past year has had very uncertain times and we had no idea if holding a conference was going to happen. As such congress were asked if anyone had an objection or problem with this. No one did.

There was one nomination for each position. The following were voted in:

- Secretary General – Karen Grant
- Competitions Manager – Benoit Pincemaille
- Member Liaison and Communication – Leonardo Patti
- Data and Technology – John Mason

10 Any Other Business

There were questions around the Veteran World Championships this year, due to be held in USA in October. Caryl was able to feedback from the FIE Veterans Council where this was discussed.

The primary concern relates to the fact that no-one from Europe is allowed to enter the USA at present and we do not know how this is reviewed and by whom. There are also concerns about what will be required of those returning from the USA in terms of testing and quarantine.

Countries are able to apply to the USA for exemptions but it is not clear how easy it is or how long it takes.

Caryl advised that there is very little helpful information coming from the USA as present but that she would share whatever she heard.

Ultimately, the Veteran World Championships are an FIE event and it will be the FIE who make the decision about their status based on how many countries may or may not be able to attend.

Presentations

Margit Budde representing Hamburg read a short statement discussing the change of venue for 2022. A copy of this will be uploaded to the website.

Heinz Reinkl did a presentation for Klagenfurt to host the Individual Championships in 2025. A copy of this will be uploaded to the website

Caryl thanked all those who attended for their contribution and thanked the Board Members of EVF for their continuous work on behalf of European Veteran Fencers. She hoped we would all meet again face to face in Hamburg next May.

The meeting closed at 17.10.