

*European Veterans Fencing Congress, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.*

## REPORT OF THE IRELAND REPRESENTATIVE

Ireland veteran fencer numbers continue to grow, with a few formerly very active fencers suddenly discovering (apparently to their surprise) that they now are veterans. Some have had very little involvement in fencing in recent years so one objective for the year ahead is to get them to take up their swords again. With that in mind, and with the need to encourage veteran participation generally, we are considering starting a veterans competition here, hopefully by the next Congress we will have an event in place.

A highlight of activities in the past year was the Veterans Four Nations competition held in Dublin on March 25<sup>th</sup>. This involves veteran teams in all six weapons from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and this year we were able to field six Ireland teams, a significant improvement on the previous year. Despite this however our overall results somehow declined, leaving us in joint third place with Wales and well behind England and Scotland ([www.tinyurl.com/v4n23](http://www.tinyurl.com/v4n23)). Our gallant ladies however provided a lot of cheer, and we are looking forward to next year's event in Scotland.

The Ireland numbers due to participate in the upcoming EVF individual championships in Thionville have fallen short of expectations, with just eight Ireland fencers still registered, a decline on the last championships. This is all the more disappointing as we had hoped to have twice this number or perhaps slightly more. Clashes with work related activities turned out to be a problem for a number of people, with some withdrawing at more or less the last moment. Our thanks to the Thionville organisers for their efficiency and helpful co-operation in dealing with the changes.

There was some participation in other veteran competitions (all outside Ireland), with some good results which augur well for the future, we hope to see an increase in both participation and attainment in the year ahead.

All the veteran fencers here much appreciate the work of the EVF and on behalf of the Ireland veteran fencers I thank all those involved.

Best wishes from Ireland's veteran fencers.

Michael Ryan

EVF Representative for Ireland

9<sup>th</sup> May 2022