



European Veterans Fencing

2025 Congress, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Tuesday 27th May 2025

Minutes

1. Present

Caryl Oliver	President (Attended via video link)	Jean Stock	BELGIUM
Karen Grant	Secretary/Treasurer	Arto Reskiniva	FINLAND
Benoit Pincemaille	Board member	Marie McGinnity	IRELAND
Leonardo Patti	Board member ITALY	Gillian Aghajan	GREAT BRITIAN
Atila Csak	Board member HUNGARY	Irena Tal	ISRAEL
Anne Cerboni-Bousquet	EVF Officer	Ans Hom	NETHERLANDS
		Tomas Ginzery	SLOVAKIA
David Sweeney	Member of Honour	Viara Nikolova	BULGARIA
Sue Church	Member of Honour	Dr Harald Leuders	GERMANY
		Angela de Rioja	SPAIN
Dominique Hornus- Dragne	Observer	Kerstin Warvsten	SWEDEN
Emmanuel Hornus	Observer	Zoran Stojanovic	NORTH MACEDONIA
		Andreas Moser	SWITZERLAND

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

All members introduced themselves to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Mason

Hynek Koutny (Czech Republic)

Nicolaj Rasmussen (Denmark)

Zurab Bokuchava (Georgia)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2024 CONGRESS

The minutes were approved.

4. PRESIDENTS REPORT

This was read out by Karen Grant on behalf of Caryl Oliver.
Report is on the website

5. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

These had been e mailed out in advance to all the country representatives.
The changes included

- a. EVF being administered by a board of 7 (previously 6) Directors on a part board bi-annual rotation.
- b. The secretary General role will be separated from the role of Treasurer
- c. Should the President be unable to attend and chair meeting they will nominate a Director to act as their deputy.
- d. Should a director be unable to perform their duties, the president will nominate an alternate.

Constitution changes document on website

6. SECRETARY/TREASURERS REPORT

Secretary and Treasurer reports are on the website

7. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Benoit's presentation is on website.

- Benoit Pincemaille presented a comprehensive report looking ahead at upcoming championships, the success of Ciney in 2024.
- Ciney – This event had 20 nations participating, 510 fencers and 108 teams.
- We had 68 Veteran teams and 40 Grand Veteran teams.
- Positive comments were
 - The venue was outstanding,
 - There was an efficient computerised weapon control system.
 - Excellent refereeing (with video)
 - All events ran smoothly
 - Particularly friendly atmosphere
 - The format of Veterans/Grand veterans is well appreciated and will be tried for the first time in the 2025 World Championships.

Forthcoming Championships:

2026 Madrid (Teams)

2027 Skopje (individual)

2028 (Teams) Under discussion – will discuss next year at congress

2029 (individual) Paris was keen to be considered and got a very favourable report from the EVF supervisor. Vote was taken and passed unanimously.

8. CIRCUIT COMPETITIONS

Leonardo's presentation is on the website

- Leonardo Patti delivered his Circuit report overview.
- There were 10 events which included
 - i. 9 for sabre
 - ii. 8 for foil
 - iii. 7 for epee
- Three locations changed, Budapest (Szolnok), Gdansk (Warsaw) and Athens (Chania). Unfortunately, the Athens competition was changed at short notice because the venue was given to a basketball event. It was noted that some people had already bought flights to Athens and the change of venue to an island was going to be a difficult and expensive change of plan. So, some fencers never made it to the new venue.

- The events are spread throughout Europe and on analysing where the entries are coming from it is pleasing to see that 50% are coming from abroad to the events.
- V2 and V3 are still the biggest categories, and Epee is still the largest weapon numbers in both men and women.
- We had 74% fencers that took part in one circuit, 14% took part in 2, 7% took part in 3 and 6% took part in 4 or more events.
- 2704 fencers from 35 different countries took part in the 24 competitions up from 2458 the previous season.
- We now have increasing numbers of fencers with EVF rankings.

9. DEVELOPMENT

- **Project Riposte.** Dominique Hornus-Dragne came to present Project riposte which is a sabre fencing project for women who have had breast cancer surgery. It encourages shoulder and arm movement on the operated side preventing shoulder stiffness complications while also increasing activity and fitness both of which are important for people undergoing Chemotherapy and radiotherapy. She was keen to encourage as many countries as possible to use this information to spread this project around Europe and was available after the event for people to talk to.
Presentation is on website
- **Initiatives.** This was presented by Attila Csak and Anne Cerboni-Bousquet. These noted the increase in seniors wanting to fence and travel to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of fencing.
- EVF has made fencing more accessible to veteran athletes.
- We are providing structured competitions for all veteran age groups all over Europe and aim to get more national Federations to recognise EVF events.
- Also looking at other aspects of fencing which includes connecting with people and using historic venues to add more meaning to the events.
- The aim is to add more social elements to tournaments with activities, tours, parties and cultural events.
- New project is to combine fencing and Skiing events.
- There was discussion around more events for 80+ fencers that would benefit from their own category rather than fencing in the 70+. The format would be different using a Round-Robin format. Event organisers will be contacted about this.
- There was discussion about setting up a fundraising cluster.
- There was also to be a presentation after the medal ceremony on 30th May of the women's veteran fencers' survey by Varpu Wiens

Presentation is on website

10. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Three positions were up for election. No nominations were received and therefore Karen Grant, Benoit Pincemaille, and Leonardo Patti were re-elected

- Secretary General - Karen Grant
- Director – Competitions - Benoit Pincemaille
- Director – Circuits - Leonardo Patti

It was noted that we are now looking for a person to take on the role of Treasurer. Please contact Karen Grant if you are interested.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Sweeney (MOH) and Gillian Aghajan (Great Britain) both asked for John Mason to be made a Member of Honour of EVF to honour his services to the organisation. This was agreed unanimously.

Meeting ended.