



## **EVF Congress 2025**

### **President Report**

I start this report by saying how sorry I am to not be with you all in Plovdiv. It is no secret that I am dealing with Cancer and my medical team has told me that it would be very unwise of me to undertake the travel to Bulgaria at this time.

I am, however, very grateful to the reach and power to cyberspace to keep my eyes and ears on the wonderful things that our family of veteran fencers have been doing throughout Europe.

During the course of this Congress you will hear, from Benoit Pincemaille, about the success of the European Team Championships in Ciney that kicked off this season for us.

You will hear from Leonardo Patti that we had some 1600 fencers from 35 countries participating in the European Veterans Circuit fighting for the title of Veteran Fencer of the Year.

You will also hear from those seeking to hold Circuit Events and Championships in the future.

All this is confirmation that EVF has listened to fencers and is delivering the activities they seek.

Look ahead, you will hear from Attila Csak about development of activities that are designed to be more social or combined with other sports for a fun rather than super competitive day.

We have tried a number of things to keep our oldest fencers involved and we will hear some new ideas.

As the workload continues to grow we are looking at some changes to our Board to assist Karen Grant manage the combined challenge of EVF and her own business.

Sitting quietly in the background is Michiel Uitdehaag – our tech genius who keeps our website working and, more importantly, who continues to improve and update the technologies we use to run events smoothly and efficiently.

Working closely with the Board we also have some Officers whose support and contribution to Veterans Fencing is invaluable: John Mason who manages the rankings, Angela de Rioja who manages our Referee Network and Anne Cerboni Bousquet who has been significantly involved in Project Riposte that you will hear about later.

EVF is lucky to have such a fantastic group of experts who give their time and enthusiasm for our sport – I cannot thank them enough for their energy, commitment and support.

I also extend particular thanks to the countries and teams that put in so much effort to deliver our Championships and Circuit Events.

European Veterans Fencing is a strong and growing community with whom it is a pleasure to work, share ideas and enjoy their company. I wish you all a wonderful Championships delivered by our Bulgarian friends and lots of competitive and social fencing throughout the coming year.

**Caryl Oliver**

**President – European Veterans Fencing**