European Veterans Fencing

2026 Congress, Cognac, France

Wednesday 13th May 2026

Minutes

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1. Present

Caryl Oliver	President		Peter Boros	HUNGARY
Karen Grant	Secretary/Treasurer		Varpu Wiens	FINLAND
Benoit Pincemaille	Board member		Marie McGinnity	IRELAND
Leonardo Patti	Board member ITALY		Gillian Aghajan	GREAT BRITIAN
Atilla Csak	Board member HUNGARY		Borys Pardus	POLAND
Anne Cerboni-Bousquet	EVF Officer		Ans Hom	NETHERLANDS
Michiel Uitdehaag	Board Member NETHERLANDS		Thierry Boutin	FRANCE
Angela de Rioja	Board Member SPAIN		Zoran Stojanovic	NORTH MACEDONIA
Sue Church	Member of Honour		Dr Harald Leuders	GERMANY
David Sweeney	Member of Honour		Andreas Moser	SWITZERLAND
Anne Mills	Observer		Clyne Grant	Observer
Poiloana Kyzmanovsua	Observer		Irene Enright	Observer

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

All members introduced themselves to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Jozsef Mezaros (MOH)

Lene Jensen (Denmark)

Alexander Arkhipov (Andorra)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2025 CONGRESS

The minutes were approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

No matters arising

5. OBITUARIES

- JOHN MASON – 1944-2025 John was awarded his Member of Honour by Gillian Aghajan who presented it to him in his garden on 25th August 2025. He was absolutely delighted to receive it.
- JORGEN KOCK – 1942-2025

6. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Report is on the Member's website President's Report

7. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

None

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8. SECRETARY/TREASURERS REPORT

Secretary and Treasurer reports are on the member's website.
At the beginning of the year EVF had two bank accounts, one sterling and one Euro. However, changes to the way Lloyds operate and the huge charges that were put on using the euro account have meant that we have closed this and are now running all the finances from the sterling account. Caryl is looking at other options.

9. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Presentation is on website. (link to presentation)

- Benoit Pincemaille presented a comprehensive report of Plovdiv 2025. We had less than 1000 entries. As these events are open we are never certain of the number of entries.
- Communication is key with the information being available early and promotion of the event at circuit events. We should make extensive use of social medial for this purpose also.
- It should be a friendly event, lots of merchandise, nicely decorated premises and a reception for the fencers.
- Suggested increase in fees
  Registration - Current €55 Proposed €60
  Entry - Current €40 Proposed €40
- Also proposed to return to a 4-day competition instead of a 5-day event.
- Presentation: we had a great presentation for the upcoming Individual 2027 Championships in Skopje (link to presentation)
- We had a presentation from the team bidding for the 2028 European Championships in Faches. This was voted and approved unanimously.
- 2029 Individual Championships will be held in Paris.
- We are looking for potential hosts for 2030 +

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10. CIRCUIT COMPETITIONS

Presentation is on the website (link to presentation)

- Leonardo Patti delivered his Circuit report overview.
- There were 13 events which included:
    i. 11 for sabre
    ii. 11 for foil
    iii. 10 for epee
- We had 2 location changes this time, Szolnok (Budapest) and Terni (Naples).
- We had 2 additional events in Salzburg and Dublin
- In total we had 3405 entries of 1909 fencers coming from 37 countries.
- Again, we have another year where around 50% of the entries are from abroad.
- We now have 1976 men and 863 women that have an EVF ranking.
- Our EVF observer reports have reported good conditions of competition (includes pistes, use of QR codes, friendly environments). It has been pointed out that the invitation letter should include information on the presence of equipment vendors, cafeteria and how to get to the venue. Also, it has been pointed out of there was a lack of chairs at some venues.
- We are now starting the first year of the 3 year cycle we run these events on, and we have 16 events.

11. DEVELOPMENT

Presentation is on the website (link to presentation)
Presented by Attila Csak

- After a period of rapid growth, the number of veteran fencers has stabilised
- Our sustained hight level of participation has significantly increased the visibility of veteran fencing.
- We need to maintain and stabilize this high level of participation.
- Looking to clarify and strengthen the position of veteran fencing within National federations giving it the same status as other age categories.
- We now have 40+ fencers at the World Championships, and we will be getting a dedicated working group together of young fencers (under 45) to establish what the barriers are for this age group and what will encourage them to be involved in the sport long term.
- We will also be looking at the 80+ fencers and creating a survey exploring the value of having a honorary round for this age group

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12. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Treasurer – Angela de Rioja confirmed in post for another year while the bank account is sorted out

Please note there are four Board Member positions due for election at the 2027 Congress

For information the current EVF Board and election dates:

2027 - Caryl Oliver, Atilla Csak, Michiel Uitdehaag, Angela de Rioja

2029 - Karen Grant, Benoit Pincemaille, Leonardo Patti

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

With no other business the meeting ended.

All Congress documents are here

Karen Grant

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