Silvia Brown has qualified to represent Great Britain at the World Championships in Germany in October, represent GB at the European Team event in Medway in May, and England in the Home Nations competition in Durham next month!  Silvia Brown achieved her best result at a Veterans’ Nationals competition on 4th March – her birthday, winning a Bronze medal at the Women’s Sabre and the Gold Medal for her Age Group.

Before the competition Silvia had a conversation with her coach because she had a (?)Virus infection and was coughing and struggling for breath and not feeling at all well.   A brief warm up lesson and he told her she was functioning at about 60-70%.  She decided to fence since she was there.

The first two pools saw little change in her seeding – seeded 12, after the 1st pool still 12, and after the 2nd 14.  She lost fights with Jane Hutchinson, Yvonne Walls and Emma Potter – wipe-outs with 5-0 scorelines!  She won her first Direct Elimination 10-1, and then came up against Yvonne Walls, who was seeded 3rd after the pools. (To whom she’s lost 5-0 in the first pool).   A tense battle ensued with Silvia winning on the last hit.  Next was Emma Potter – who had just gained entry into the Vets as she turns 40 this year. The two had met in both of the pools, with Emma winning both bouts 5-0.  It was a super fight. Silvia led at the break 5-2 and Emma clawed back to a 9-7 lead.  Silvia pulled back at the last and took a 10-9 victory.   Emma told Silvia “You lulled me into a false sense of security – you really worked me out!”

The final however was a clear win for the eventual winner Beth Davidson, whose speed and skill won the day. Silvia was pleased that Beth didn’t get a complete wipe-out, as she managed to score one hit chasing Beth off the piste! By this time Silvia was according to one fellow fencer, sounding like Darth Vader behind the mask as her breathing had not improved during the day! As the finalists were announced Beth started a round of “Happy Birthday” for Silva which all the spectators joined in – it was a memorable birthday indeed.