

General Meeting - Minutes

Saturday 17th June 2017

Meadow Farm, Dagnell End Road, Redditch, B98 9BJ

Breakfast from 8:30am - prompt start at 10am

1. Chairman's welcome and report.

See Appendix A

2. Persons and regions present, voting reps identified, quorum established.

BFTA Officials

Roger Moy	President
Mark Bassett	Chairman
Andy Slade	Treasurer
Shaun Shore	Secretary
Martin Calpin	Competition Manager
Simon Evans	Grading Officer
Kev Sayers	Trade Liaison
Sam Reece	Minute Secretary
Elizabeth Moy	HVP

Regions Represented

Kev Sayers	MFTA voting rep
Rob Farnworth	CSFTA voting rep
Elizabeth Moy	FFTA voting rep
Trevor Ryan	NEFTA voting rep
John Johnston	WAFTA voting rep
Brian Langford	WAFTA voting rep
Simon Evans	SWEFTA voting rep
Carl Knapper	NWFTA voting rep
Graham Jopson	SEFTA voting rep

3. Apologies for absence.

Richard Greenwood	FFTA
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4. Minutes of AGM from November 2016 to be read and accepted as a true record.

Proposed by NEFTA, seconded by CSFTA, accepted unanimously

5. Matters arising from June 2016 GM

Transfer of funds back to EFTA – Treasurer

The funds are available for transfer but presently the EFTA does not have a bank account to transfer the funds into.

HVP definition - Secretary

Suggestion for consideration for implementing at the AGM 2017:

An Honorary Vice President (HVP) is a past servant of the BFTA who in recognition of services provided over many years has, at the Annual General Meeting, been voted into this position and has the right to attend and speak at any Committee Meeting.

The list of serving HVPs will be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting

Use of Shooting Jackets for silhouettes – request from CSFTA for regions to gather opinion on whether jackets should be banned from 2018

There was support for banning jackets and there was support for jackets and gloves to be allowed.

Expect different AGM proposals from CSFTA/NEFTA opposing jackets and SEFTA supporting jackets and allowing gloves.

NEFTA were encouraged to bring a detailed proposal to the GM in June for further discussion with a view to approving a proposal at the 2017 AGM.

No detailed proposal was provided.

NEFTA outlined the intention, which had been previously discussed. The main barrier to changing from the present timing method to self-timing remains the equipment that is required.

It was suggested that NEFTA could trial the new method at the BFTA Championship in 2018. More information expected at the AGM

6. Officers' reports: Officer gave precis reports to the committee. If digital copies were provided they are appendices to these Minutes

7. Correspondence – None received

8. Getting ready for the Euros 2017 – Competition Manager

Martin and Sam informed the committee of the entry numbers for the Euros.

149 competitors have entered and 58 are overseas visitors.

This means that the usual structure of the Euros can be followed.

Sam asked “should we take any more entrants?” It was agreed entries would be okay to increase the entry number to the desired 150. (The initial report of 142 entries was incorrect; there are 149 entries and therefore we should accept no more entries)

Shaun informed the committee that Nathan from Countryman Fairs had been in contact and tickets, vehicle passes and camping passes would be sent to Sam as soon as they were available.

Also, Nathan said that Countryman Fairs would put up some flags for each of the competing nations. Martin to inform Shaun of the countries involved and he will share with Martin.

It was agreed that all competitors in 2017 would receive a commemorative badge. Martin will design and purchase.

9. Preliminary shoot dates 2018

Shoot dates and venues will be confirmed at the AGM

Dates are not yet known for the World Championship and the European FTA Championship. When the dates are known this may mean dates will change.

Presently we have 7 regions committed to holding a GP (venues not yet certain)

Regions were asked if they could hold 2 GP in 2018. If yes then please communicate to the Secretary or bring information to the AGM

Roger indicated that Sywell are interested in holding the Masters/Showdown and that he would explore the possibility although mindful that dates would only be confirmed at the AGM.

Event	Date	Venue	Region
BFTA Championship	7 th April	Anston	NEFTA
BFTA Inter-Regional	8 th April	Anston	NEFTA
GP1	22 nd April		
GP2	13 th May	Springfield	SEFTA
GP3	27 th May	Tawd Vale	NWFTA
GP4	10 th June	Nelson	WAFTA
GP5	1 st July		CSFTA
GP6	15 th July	East Devon	SWEFTA
GP7	5 th August	Anston	NEFTA
GP8	19 th August		MFTA
BFTA Masters	1 st September		
BFTA Showdown	2 nd September		
BFTA Europeans	15 th /16 th Sept.	Weston Park	

The Secretary read out GP rule 13:

Whilst the BFTA endeavours to ensure that Grand Prix occur according to the schedule published on the BFTA website, in the event of a Grand Prix being cancelled, for whatever reason, the liability of the BFTA extends to a refund of entry fee only. The BFTA accepts no further responsibility and will not be liable for any consequential, indirect or direct loss or damage.

The BFTA strongly advises that competitors that book accommodation for BFTA events take out cancellation insurance.

10. Items for Discussion

There were a number of items discussed. The intention was that these were precursors to proposals at the AGM. After each item there is a precis of what was said and what future action may occur.

Issues arising from the BFTA Championships and Inter Regionals – Competition Manager

Martin outlined that he was unhappy with some aspects of the administration of the Champs and Inters and he would propose structural change for the AGM.

BFTA Champs start time – Simon Evans

Simon requested that the last booking in time be moved to 12pm. Shaun responded by saying that the competitors could request to book in as late as 12pm by prior arrangement with the Competition Manager. Others offered concern that if the published time increased to 12pm then some might then see this as an invite to book in at 1pm. Martin will address the start time in the document presented to the AGM and the last booking in time could be further discussed if necessary.

All BFTA data to be published on the BFTA Website – Competition Manager and Secretary

The Secretary asked for clarity on the present arrangement: the BFTA website will be updated twice per year with summer and winter start grades. The process for communicating the information from Simon to Martin was now to the satisfaction of them both.

The ramifications of allowing non BFTA card holders to shoot BFTA events – Rob Farnworth

Rob had talked with a representative of Blue Fin (a broker for club insurance) and he advised that visitors who enter BFTA events may well be subject to different insurance cover and that liability for action involving guests may potentially lie with the club or individuals in the club.

At the BFTA event level visitors are rare but they do occur and the BFTA may well insist that to shoot BFTA events a shooter must have a BFTA card. At club level visitors are far more common and clubs are advised to review their policy of how a new shooter is integrated into the club and what they must do to show that they are competent to shoot without supervision. Also, clubs are advised to review their policy about visitors to the club and what access/supervision is required.

This is potentially a mine field for FT as the practice that Rob discussed with the Blue Fin rep is not uncommon and it is assumed that this has not come to light because

accidents/claims in FT are extremely rare. Rob was asked to seek legal advice and bring back to the AGM advice for the BFTA and for clubs.

This may also require that all shooters show their BFTA card at booking in as this will show that they their BFTA card is valid or that such information is shared with event organisers beforehand.

The legal responsibilities of the BFTA, and the host club/region and volunteers – Rob Farnworth

Rob highlighted that presently we do not have terms and conditions and therefore people who volunteer to take on roles do not necessarily know what they are committing to. Rob was asked to seek advice upon the need for terms and conditions and how this would be displayed as a document.

This also highlighted the insurance provider's expectation that all shooters would print and sign their name before any practise or competition shooting took place. This is a familiar practice at clubs but not at BFTA events where the signing of the back of the card has been deemed sufficient. At all subsequent BFTA events shooters will have to print and sign their name when booking in (Rob will provide a rubric document that all regions and clubs can download) and the BFTA strongly advises regions to adopt similar practice.

Protecting our intellectual property (rules, regulations etc) – Rob Farnworth

Rob will include this when in discussion with a legal advisor.

GPs lane allocation – Simon Evans

Simon asked could the rules that are presently used be modified.

The present general condition is that shooters from the same club are not put on the same lane. Simon would like this to extend to same region. This presented a problem in that at a home GP the regions' shooters are more likely to be represented. Martin was asked to liaise with Brian to see if it was possible and report back to the AGM.

Shooters using piston rifles in GPs but not in Piston Class – Simon Evans

Simon expressed concern that some shooters use piston rifles in graded class to massage their overall percentage hence move down a grade. He would propose at the AGM that piston rifles shooters could only compete in piston class and their scores can only contribute to their piston grade.

Regions not following BFTA rules – Simon Evans

Simon expressed concern that some regions do not follow BFTA rules but then submit their scores for grading. He sighted WAFTA that still allows its shooters to use their bag to aid kneeling.

It was reiterated to regions that unless they have an exemption because they are trialling a rule change then they should be following BFTA rules if they want their scores to be submitted for grading.

Modification of short course rules (notice for AGM proposal) – Simon Evans

Simon said that the Short Course Rules displayed on the BFTA website do not accurately reflect the short courses used in SWEFTA. Roger reminded the committee that these rules were created for SWEFTA because their available land led to difficulty in setting long courses. Shaun confirmed that these rules have been available since at least 2008 but as only SWEFTA used them they did not fall subject to the usual yearly update. Simon said that he would modify the rules to fit with the present practice and present them at the AGM for review.

Modification of grading rules to allow Grading Officer to use discretion in awarding grades (notice for AGM proposal) – Simon Evans

Simon requested that a panel be formed to look at shooters that present a sudden change in form that “may” be an attempt to lower their grade. There was discussion as to how best to do this to be fair to all concerned in the process. Simon will present a proposal for the AGM

The height of 15mm target – Rob Farnworth

Rob thought that the present ± 1 metre was too restrictive. This was generally agreed and discussion of how the parameters would be broadened included ± 2 metres and angle restriction. Rob, and others if their suggestion differed, was asked to write the proposal for the AGM

Loading the rifle on discipline lanes – Rob Farnworth

Rob felt that the inclusion of this rule into rule 10 was unnecessary. There was wide support from the committee for its inclusion.

There is little reference to safety in the BFTA Main Shoot Rules. The rules are found in the BFTA Bylaws which are, for information, displayed below in blue font.

The Secretary suggests that we review these rules at the AGM and perhaps include them as an appendix to the Main Shoot Rules

Appendix A – Safety Rules

Always treat your gun as loaded while not at the firing line.

Carry your gun **safely at all times**.

Remove the magazine between lanes if it's a multi-shot only.

Load **only one pellet** if it's a fixed magazine system.

Never cross any firing line without first calling a ceasefire.

Horn and whistle signals

One blast means stop shooting.

Two blasts means all clear (continue shooting if it safe to do so).

On hearing one blast, discharge your rifle into the ground at a safe distance across the firing line, if it's loaded, and stop shooting.

Don't look through the scope or sight the gun.

Never rest the muzzle on your foot.

Never discharge your rifle anywhere that is not a designated shooting area.

Never look through your scope anywhere but over a firing line.

Shooting

All guns must be pointing down range while you're loading.

If you have difficulty rising from a sitting or prone position, either put your rifle on the floor or your beanbag, or ask a fellow shooter to help by taking your rifle. Do not swing your gun around in the air.

Refreshment provision at GPs – Rob Farnworth

Rob requested that all regions that hold GPs ensure that refreshments (food and drink) are available for the entirety of the event.

Shaun reiterated the requirements sent to regions

- Refreshments – Available in near vicinity for the duration of the event.

11. Feedback from regions:

GPs

The consensus was that it was a job well done.

Kevin requested that if clubs cannot provide a Portaloo and instead use a tent then in the tent is a camping toilet that can adequately support those sitting.

There was a request for more signage to help shooters locate the grounds.

The target length and difficulty of GP courses was discussed. Some regions use the "Daniels" guide and report that courses that meet these requirements are well received.

The guide offered by Conor McFlynn was also sighted as good practice. Presently the BFTA does not offer restrictions beyond reducers and discipline lanes; should it in the future? Regions are asked to seek opinion of their shooters.

John informed the committee that Sergio, WFTA President, had similar concerns such that at the Worlds in Wales he would hold a meeting to offer guidance.

Kneeling rolls

General consensus was that it was working well.

Some shooters had been seen trying to use the longer cone rolls to gain further support.

Martin was in the process of providing photographic guidance to outlaw such practice.

Badges

Martin reported that the majority of shooters that had won badges were collecting the badge at their next shoot; presently 71% of shooters are collecting their badges.

Carl highlighted that a shooter from the NWFTA was disappointed to win a badge compared to his last offering of a glass cube. The Secretary reiterated that the badges had been purchased for 3 years and that more money would be spent on the end of season trophies and perhaps Carl could encourage the shooter to take part in the whole series or attend the 3 full weekend shoots that the BFTA organises.

12. Any other business

NEFTA

Raffle – suggest that the winner(s) of the prize raffle does not have their ticket put back into the box/bag thereby potentially increasing the number of winner. Proposal for the AGM

Chronograph at Euros – suggested that there is a chrono as an integral part of the course at the Euros. Martin responded that there would be one in place.

Height of kneeling targets – argued that elevated kneeling targets offer advantage to those without extendable hamsters. Proposal for the AGM

Use of target checker – requested that all regions holding BFTA shoots use the target checkers provided at all times when a target's functionality is questioned.

WAFTA

Adopt WFTF core rules – WAFTA are discussing whether they should adopt the WFTF core rules and would the BFTA consider doing the same?

There was concern that WAFTA were considering moving away from the BFTA shoot rules although John Johnstone emphasised that it was presently only being discussed. The Secretary expressed that there would be significant barriers to such a change which was further emphasised with examples from other committee members.

Grading explanation on the BFTA website – WAFTA requested that there be a detailed description of the grading process on website. The Secretary will read the information on the website to determine if more information is required.

SEFTA

Graham informed the committee that he had been asked to test and write a review on the Labrador chronograph. He asked if the BFTA was interested in his findings. The Secretary answered that we would be interested to know what the equipment could do but felt that the price was too high given that BFTA equipment is regularly in transit around the regions.

AGM is on Saturday 11th November 2017

Shaun Shore – BFTA Secretary

Appendix A – Chairman’s Welcome and Report

I'd like to welcome you all to the BFTA General Meeting.

A couple of points of health and safety to start today's meeting are:

Please be aware of loose power cables in the floor.

Please make yourselves aware of the fire exit and for smokers, please locate the approved smoking area.

We will break for lunch at around 12:30 and we will have short breaks as required during the morning and afternoon sessions.

So the 2017 season is well under way and in full swing. Already there has been some incredible shooting by individuals and teams.

Congratulations to NEFTA for winning the Inter-Regional competition and to Neil Hague on becoming BFTA Champion.

The Grand Prix series is being hard fought already in all grades and it is great to see the young element of shooters making a breakthrough: Dylan Varney and Redvers Gallagher to note.

Dylan scored 49 at Avon hawks and this was matched by Red at a gruelling course at Blaenau Gwent.

The standard of competition at every shoot has been to such a high standard that it will make the season more exciting and prove the sport is growing. The end of season positions will be hotly contested and I for one will enjoy watching how the season develops.

The manufacturers' teams are also highly contested; there are 16 teams shared between two leagues and the scores are tight. The Rowan team are ahead in league 1 and league 2 is led by the P.O.P. boys.

All grades and classes are being well represented, which helps to drive more competition at all levels. I hope that the Grand Prix series continues to grow and we see an exciting finish to the season.

It's just over 3 months until Wales will be holding the World Field Target Championships. Preparations are going well but there is a still lot of work to do to ensure that it is a great competition.

I'd like to thank people who are going to assist the Wales team in running the event.

Without their help it would be a struggle to get the event to run smoothly.

All in all 2017 is going to be a very busy but exciting year for everyone involved in field target in Great Britain.

On a different note, it is sad to say that we lost a good friend in Neil Long earlier this year. Neil was BFTA Secretary previously and was a great man to talk to. Neil was a good friend of mine and was originally from Mountain Ash in South Wales so there was always that Welsh connection between us. Neil will be sorely missed but never forgotten from field target. RIP fella... Hope you're ok up there.

Mark Bassett - BFTA Chairman

Appendix B – Secretary’s Report

It is not easy for me to say the following but I believe it must be said.

I have served the BFTA for 10 years and I do so because I believe it is worth it. I respect all those that give up their time to further the sport and in particular anyone that takes up an officer’s post. I wince when I read and hear criticisms of the BFTA as if it were some entity that exists rather than the people around this table and the shooters that they represent.

We must all accept that it is not individual views that become proposals and possible rule changes; it is the decision of the regions of the BFTA. Many times in my role as Competition Manager I had to correct people who confused my view with that of the BFTA. In all cases whether I agreed or not it is, in my opinion, necessary to support the party line and if in disagreement attempt change through the proper channels.

Since the AGM there has been friction between Martin and Simon and the outcome of which is for discussion today. As the Secretary of the Association communication falls within my remit and I am unhappy that the grade data, and any other data, is not displayed on the BFTA website. We must today collectively agree that BFTA data must be on the BFTA website and ask Martin and Simon to do this as swiftly as possible. From my limited understanding this simply requires Simon to send a spreadsheet as regularly as grading update is required.

Please can I reiterate that as the representatives of the regions it is incumbent upon you or someone you designate, to ensure that clubs providing GPs know the rules and, crucially, that the course is checked to ensure that it is within the rules.

Finally I would like to pay my own tribute to Neil Long. I was fortunate to know Neil away from his role in the BFTA and he was a delightful chap that it was a pleasure to know and to learn from; rest in peace Neil.

Shaun Shore

Appendix C – Treasurer’s Report

The Bank of Scotland Current account and Deposit account were both been closed and the monies transferred to the NatWest Current account in June 2016. BFTA at the moment operate only with a NatWest Current Account.

The National Westminster Bank account holds **£31,332.52 as of 5th June 2017**.

I have yet to repay/reimburse EFTA with the sum of £1,162.25 as shown in last year’s accounts. **I am waiting for EFTA to state who the money should be forwarded to.** I therefore intend to reimburse EFTA the monies they gave to me and shown in the accounts, minus the WFTC 2017 PayPal and Team Entry fees (not individuals). This will also allow a mechanism for the BFTA to continue funding 50p per BFTA card back to the National regions.

This will also allow payment to WAFTA and SARPA of 50p per BFTA card retrospectively. There are still the monies to refund to WAFTA (133 cards £66.50), SARPA (39 cards £19.50) and EFTA (969 cards £484.50) still to be agreed and paid for 2015/2016 season

The total monies paid into the NatWest account by Simon, Sam and I, amounts to **£9,233**.

Total withdrawals amounts to **£5,350.42** so far this year and this includes the following items worthy of mention:

1. 3 years’ worth of GP Competition badges in lieu of trophies (the new Gold, Silver and Bronze Badges) - £1,307.16
2. 2017 BFTA Championships and Inter-Regionals trophies - £366.41
3. Fee to ETL for hosting 2017 BFTA Championships and Inter-Regional - £602.00
4. 6 of Kneeling Rolls and Kneeling Pads embroidered with BFTA logo - £448.78
5. Design and printing of BFTA membership cards - £814.00
6. 2017 NSRA affiliation and additional Bluefin insurance £205.00 + £60.00
7. Donation to Paul James shoot - £250

£400 was paid to Martin Calpin (Competition Secretary), as an advance on his expenses in the role.

Martin Calpin has provided financial updates wrt Merchandising and has now re-paid **ALL** of the original £739.20 spent on BFTA merchandise stock. The BFTA Shop continues to make a profit. Keep up the good work!

As agreed by the BFTA committee, we continued with a **£250.00** contribution towards the Paul James Memorial Shoot on 2nd April 2017. This contribution meant that a greater sum of money was donated on behalf of the memorial shoot, to the hospice which assisted Paul.

Without pre-empting Martin's Competition Secretary Report, we have had a successful and profitable BFTA Championships and Inter-Regionals, 3 rounds of GP series so far and an already large entry for the 2017 European Championships.

In summary, most of the money in the BFTA funds has been generated by the Competitions and most of the money paid out is Competition related expenses (Competition Trophies and prizes and the anticipated end of season draw prizes). The increased the shoot fee to £12.00 last year with £6.00 going to the club/region holding the event and £6.00 going to BFTA, (noting the BFTA provides both the trophies and 6 X £25 (£150) raffle prize draw monies at each GP round), is keeping BFTA funds healthy and stopping the gradual bleed from the reserves that was taking place.

Andrew Slade

BFTA Treasurer – 16th June 2017

Appendix D – WAFTA Worlds Update

Registration

Registration closed on the 30th of April after being open for 8 months. We have the following entries:

Competitor Numbers	Total
Total Entry	368
Total RGB's Represented	29
PCP Competitors	304
Spring/Piston Competitors	64
Female Competitors	26
Veteran Competitors	47
Junior Competitors	11
UK Competitors	158
Non-UK Competitors	210
PCP Teams	24
Springer/Piston Teams	11

Some registered competitors have decided not to attend after registration closed, we will not be offering these spare places to new competitors. We are now focusing on the key tasks that we need to complete, without the distraction of registration.

Catering

We will have 3 food and one Alcohol outlet at Glanusk during the competition, and hope to have 10 'craft stands' as well as Sponsor stands.

The Welcome dinner will be a Hog roast, and will be very informal.

The Awards Dinner will be a three-course meal, which will be much more formal. A marquee will be attached to the dining room to accommodate another 200 guests, with live video link of the awards ceremony.

Sponsorship

Sponsors have been very generous with their support and donations for prizes. Thanks to Mark Bassett for his efforts.

Sponsorship details can be seen on our website; however, we have other sponsors that we have yet to finalise the details of their support, and we will add these as and when offered have been concluded.

Welcome Pack

Every Competitor will receive the following in their Welcome pack:

3 Baseball Hats, a personalised polo shirt, AA thermos flask, pens, WFTC sticker and cloth badge, a 'pellet' key ring, pellets, ID badge, a Certificate of Attendance and Sponsors literature.

Course Construction

This has already been planned. We will start constructing the course on Sunday the 17th of September and hope to complete this by Tuesday.

We will now be having one stand-alone course and two integrated courses, rather than the three separate courses that we originally considered.

Registration/Stats

We will have 4 volunteers manning this critical area.

All competitors will have to register and have their equipment checked before they will be allowed to shoot on the zero range or silhouette ranges. This process will be strictly controlled by our Marshals to ensure that the registration process is completed efficiently, and within our schedule.

Marshalling Course

Thanks to everyone who attended the course; and Brian Sampson for running it. We now have 39 WFTC trained Marshals.

We will be holding another course at the Manor Hotel at 10am on Wednesday the 20th of September, but this is mainly intended for non-UK Shooters. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

Course Design Workshop

Sergio will chair this, starting at 4pm on the 20th of September at the Manor Hotel. All those interested in attending this workshop should contact me at admin@wftc2017.wales.

Communications

We will publish our 4th and final newsletter next month and at the end of August we will e-mail every individual Competitor with a welcome to Wales 2017 pack, containing all the key information about our event.

In Summary

There are still a lot of tasks for the Team to complete before the competition, but we are on schedule.