

SWEFTA AGM Minutes 2018

Held Buckley Wood Clubhouse 21st October 2018

Meeting opened: 10.00 am

Apologies: Paul Jackson, Bill Hartnoll, Mike Watts, Malcolm Hulak.

The officers reports.

Chairman's report attached.

Vice Chair, Competition Secretary, Safety Officer had no reports, Scores Secretary and Secretary reports attached.

Election of Officers.

John Farbrother agreed to remain Chairman and was duly elected.

Graham Dawkins agreed to remain as Vice Chairman and was duly elected.

James Head agreed to remain as Competition Secretary and was duly elected.

Paul Jackson had previously agreed to remain as Scores Secretary and was duly elected.

Andy Williams had previously agreed to remain as Safety Officer and was duly elected.

Rob Meatyard agreed to remain as Coopted Treasurer and was duly elected

Rob Lamerton had agreed to stand for Regional Secretary as Neil MacKinnon was standing down, this went to a vote and Rob was duly elected.

Neil MacKinnon agreed to stand for the vacant Development Officers position, this went to a vote and Neil was duly elected.

John Farbrother agreed to remain as BFTA rep and was given everyones sympathy in that role.

Item 6. A proposal to abandon Random Partners.

Proposed: James Head. Seconded: Neil MacKinnon

There being no discussion the item went straight to a vote and was unanimously carried.

Item 7. A proposal to introduce a partnering list.

Proposed: Andy Williams.

This found no seconder and so was defeated.

Item 8. A proposal regarding the carrying of rifles in a bag at all times.

Proposed: Julian Head.

This found no seconder and so was defeated.

Item 9. A proposal to time all FT lanes.

Proposed: Julian Head. Seconded: Paul Gould.

Tony Fouracres suggested that the existing rules already cover this matter. Lesley Oxbow-Trim thought that this would be intimidating for new shooters, the item then went to a vote.

For: 3 Against: 16 - Defeated.

Item 10. A proposal to time all FT lanes using WFTF timing rules.

Proposed: Andy Williams. Seconded: John Martin.

Neil MacKinnon explained very briefly the method of timing used at WFTF events. Tony Fouracres asked who was going to provide and maintain the stopwatches required? And who was going to ensure all stopwatches were passed from shoot to shoot. He also highlighted the extremely high failure rate suffered by cheap watches in wet conditions. Rob Lamerton suggested the current rule (Rule 13 2018 FT Rules) could be amended, suggesting the 3 minute WFTF system be used. Rob Meatyard asked about application of the BFTA / 2 minute system which John Farbrother and Tony Fouracres explained. Kevin Jackman suggested the whole matter was getting very complicated.

A vote was then called for on the proposal, with the proviso that exact timing would be discussed under AOB.

For: 1 Against: 18 - Defeated.

Item 11. A proposal to restrict HFT target maximum distance.

Proposed: James Head. Seconded: Rob Lamerton.

Rob Meatyard said that the current rules already allowed course setters to put targets out at any range beyond 10 yards and that there was nothing to stop them using 45 yards as a maximum. Rob Lamerton emphasised the hunter aspect of HFT, he pointed out that no one would shoot live quarry at 55 yards. Paul Salmon said he thought a 45 yard limited would handicap course setters and Tony Fouracres added that on shared courses like North Petherwin and any other combined courses, a 45 yard HFT limit would also affect the FT course.. Paul Gould said he thought the extra range added to the difficulty and Kevin Jackman said that HFT is not hunting or practice for hunting and that when practices it is at longer ranges which makes shorter range targets more straightforward. Stuart Oxbow-Trim repeated that HFT is not hunting practice and that the extra range (to 55 yards) adds to the fun. Tony Fouracres said he thought too many courses had been made too difficult and the point was made again about North Petherwin.

The proposal went to a vote. For: 3 Against: 16 - Defeated.

Item 12. A proposal to revise reduced target distances in FT.

Proposed: James Head. Seconded: John Martin.

Kevin Foote asked if this proposal would apply to HFT, the answer was no.

Tony Fouracres said this was all about course design and gave examples of how the proposal would adversely affect the Mendip course. Graham Dawkins and John Farbrother suggested that the change was necessary as some course have become too difficult. A loud discussion was then held regarding how the present and proposed changes differ.

John Farbrother again explained in detail how the proposal would work. Jeremy Stamp said that it was the individual course setters responsibility to ensure a good course, Pete James said they had taken kill sizes and distances very carefully into account when building the new South Dorset course. Tony Fouracres suggested that he would have to move too many targets if the proposal was adopted, Paul Gould asked if targets should not be standardised.

The proposal was put to a vote.

For: 8 Against 11 - Defeated.

Item 13. A proposal regarding the location of discipline shots.

Proposed: Adrian Cross. Seconded: John Martin

Tony Fouracres said the proposal was the way all courses used to be set. Paul Gould suggested it would take longer to have both discipline shots on the same lane, especially for new shooters. There was then a long and quite loud discussion regarding the various methods used to rangefind discipline shots. Herbie von der Stein asked how the sitting / standing / kneeling system works. There was more circular discussion during which absolutely no one agreed with one another and so the matter was put to a vote.

For: 9 Against: 10 - Defeated.

Item 14. A Proposal regarding the order of targets on a mixed discipline lane.

Proposed: Adrian Cross.

The item found no seconder and was defeated.

Item 15. A Proposal to reintroduce chrono testing at SWEFTA competitions.

Proposed: Andy Williams.

The proposal found no seconder and was defeated.

Item 16. A Proposal to review the current grading system.

Proposed: Graham Pyne. Seconded: Jeremy Stamp.

Graham asked where the percentage system came from and why it was used. Neil MacKinnon interrupted Jeremy Stamp with an explanation that he had tried various different methods of differentiation using the 2018 C grade scores, none of which had made any difference to the outcome of the C grade championship. John Farbrother then laid out the huge amount of extra work that would be required if each grade had its own percentage system and suspected that Paul Jackson well resign on the spot if we asked him to do five times as much work. Tony Fouracres detailed how the present system works and why it works. The matter was then put to a vote.

For: 1 Against 18 - Defeated.

Item 17. A proposal to introduce a SWEFTA Bench Rest league.

Proposed: Neil MacKinnon. Seconded: James Head

Neil MacKinnon gave a simply excellent explanation of the proposed league, stating the clubs were not obliged to take part, the proposed rules that were to be used, where the targets would be sourced and just about everything the assembled representatives needed to know. Paul Salmon agreed to act as a coopted member to help finalise the rules and procedures and the matter was put to a vote.

The vote was unanimous and the proposal was carried.

Item 18. A proposal to reintroduce the SWEFTA Winter League

Proposed: James Head. Seconded: Phil Foulds

Jeremy Stamp asked if all clubs were obliged to hold a winter league shoot and was told no, it was not obligatory. There was a brief discussion regarding the previous winter league and Tony Fouracres asked about the cost of trophies. John Farbrother said that WAFTA don't have trophies, just badges for class 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The matter was put to a vote.

For: 12. Against: 7 - Carried.

Addendum matters.

Item 1. A proposal to change the grading break points.

Proposed: James Head. Seconded: Rob Lamerton.

The matter went straight to a vote and was carried unanimously.

The new break points are:

AA - 80%
A - 70 - 79.9%
B - 58%- 69.9%
C - 57.9%

Item 2. A proposal to introduce FT target distances.

Proposed: James Head. Seconded: Phil Foulds.

James said that these suggested distances were just guidelines and were not obligatory.

Paul Gould felt that a definitive list was helpful, Tony Fouracres suggested that course setters know their grounds and are the best judges of where to place targets. John Farbrother said this was just a set of guidelines designed to help course setters. There was then a loud and circular discussion where difficulty and local knowledge was frequently mentioned, the matter was then put to a vote.

For: 9 Against: 10 - Defeated.

Item 3. Was withdrawn.

Any Other Business.

A Proposal to add AA grade to HFT.

Proposed: James Head. Seconded: Kevin Foote

The discussion centred mainly about the money needed to pay for additional badges and trophies. The matter was then put to a vote and carried unanimously.

Suggested break points.

HFT AA - 90%
A - 80-89.9%
B - 79.9% - below.

A Proposal to have all targets placed in sequential order.

Proposed: Graham Dawkins Seconded: James Head

Tony Fouracres suggested this was already in the rules; John Farbrother checked and said he could not find mention of sequential order. Jeremy Stamp asked about distances between targets and it was suggested these would not change from the present layouts. Rob Meatyard asked if this applied to both FT and HFT. The matter was passed to a vote.

For: 14 Against 3 - Carried.

There was then a long discussion regarding the timing used under Rule 13 of the 2018 FT rules.

It was suggested a system based on the WFTF 3 minute rule be used. There was a circular discussion about the marshalling of shoots and Rob Lamerton said that like all rules buddy marshalling should apply although it was accepted that some people do not like a confrontational situation. Lesley Oxbow-Trim said it was the clubs responsibility to ensure all shooters knew the rules and Kevin Jackman said there was a rule passed at the 2017 AGM to make sure this was the case.

The matter was then clarified, that the time allowed should a shooter be taking too much time, as defined in Rule 13 of the FT rules should be three minutes from the time of entering the lane, plus an extra minute per target if the lane has more than two targets. The matter went to vote.

For: 17 Against: 2 - Carried

A proposal for returning shooters to be put into A grade.

Proposed: Paul Gould Seconded: Lewis Haley

It was suggested that shooters returning to the sport should not be put in C grade and graded correctly after 3 competitions, as this meant there was a chance that some shooter would miss out on the chance to own a highly coveted SWEFTA badge. It was suggested that any shooter who has been out of the sport for more than three years or more be put in A grade and graded correctly after 3 shoots. Any shooter returning after less than three years return to their previously held grade and be graded after three shoots. The matter was put to a vote.

For: 17 Against: 2 - Carried.

John Farbrother suggested that at future AGM, if clubs are not able to get sufficient members (three) to attend the AGM, then they can notify the SWEFTA secretary in advance of the AGM regarding how they wish to vote on each proposal.

It was then agreed there would be a Christmas shoot, the date was set for December 9th and the venue Buckley Wood.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.55am and the minutes secretary gave a huge sigh of relief.