

General Meeting 2022 - Minuets

Saturday 2nd July 2022

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

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

1. Chairman's welcome and report.

Trevor Ryan Welcomed everyone to the meeting and made attendees aware of safety

2. Persons and regions present

Officers Present

President	
Chairman	Trevor Ryan
Secretary	David Robinson
Treasurer	Andrew Slade
Grading Officer	John Johnston
HVP	

Regions Represented

Region	
NEFTA	Dylan Varney
MFTA	James Osborne (VR) Scot Pywell
NWFTA	NA
SWEFTA	NA
SEFTA	NA
FFTA	Andy Barnes (VR) Phil Hollis
CSFTA	Paul Whitehouse
STS	NA
WAFTA	John Johnston

3. Apologies for absence.

Roger Moy, Liz Moy, Natalie Shead, Chris Jones / Paul Silver-Gould James Kay

4. Minutes of AGM from 2021 to be read and accepted as a true record.

Proposed Andy Slade, Andy Barnes second

5. Matters arising from November 2021 AGM

We updated constitution and rules at the AGM Martin Calpin was asked to update but it hasn't. We discussed that perhaps as Martin isn't as active and been kindly volunteering his time to the maintenance of the site perhaps now is time find some additional support and if we can find someone who has the interest and time to keep the site more updated. Scot Pywell suggested Neil Mckinon and his son who had shown an interest who also suggested that people perhaps don't visit the site for correct information as its too complicated to navigate content its not updated with reports news and photographs so it is clear we need to find someone to take ownership of managing the site content and features. And perhaps approach Martin about handing over. Maybe if we have a few people from various regions who take the photos at GP's and maybe reports etc.

6. Officers' reports

6.1 Secretary,

This is the next to last report that I shall be doing as I will be standing down as secretary in November. The last few years have certainly presented some real challenges but collectively we have made it a great success it's nice to see that we constructed a calendar of shoots last year as usual with double header events for GP's offered out there was some concern and some criticism from some people about the calendar when we had constructed it. However as said before we need the GP series of shoots to allow the other shoots i.e., euros, champs weekend and showdown weekend to take place without the income from the GP's series we couldn't afford to hold these events. We worked out that we needed approx. an average of eighty shooters per GP to cover this year's costs and we have achieved that so far and more. I consider this a huge success as I have to be honest with some of the negativity out there from some people who might I add don't even support the shoots, the impact on the number of people shooting FT since covid and now with the rising cost of living especially fuel prices I started to have my doubts in my mind but its thanks to everyone who has made and making the GP event in their regions successful promoting it encouraging people to turn up and shoot putting positive messages out on social media etc you have all done an amazing job and thank you for your hard work. Thank you also to the shooters who do attend the GP series and support it and enjoy the day out. Rising costs of living are affecting us all I still think doing a GP shoot is a cheap hobby compared with some let's face it if you have 3 people in a car and it costs £80 in fuel and 15 to enter a GP that's 41.66 per person plus some pellets for a day out. Not many sports and hobbies you can do for that price. It's also encouraging that we are seeing new names and faces at the GPs this suggest to me that we have a good recipe that's proven and as we look towards the 2023 season, we can start planning the next calendar with confidence. As usual I have listed some dates with two-week gaps which we will discuss later in the meeting we will again as usual see if we can get some double headers to allow for those who would like to shoot double headers if we can find the regions who can support this.

It is with disappointment that once again theres a few people with axes to grind once again moaning on media platforms, emailing people that are not connected with the BFTA committee to air their views and moaning openly on a certain forum and also, I guess moaning and talking down the BFTA behind the scenes. Yet my email inbox that was open from the last meeting to the end of May remained largely empty. It was only after I sent the agenda my inbox then suddenly lit up. One item is a proposal which we will discuss today to try and look at the rationale behind that proposal as it has a very valid point behind it. Some things that came in have been the cause of some confusion for me but we will entertain it and We will discuss along with some other items at today's meeting to try and appease these people and their moans as well as address some people's genuine concerns. On the back of that I would like to remind everyone that proposals should come from a region not just and individual it should have rationale behind it and also thought and consideration for the long-term success and stability of the BFTA

Again, a reminder my Inbox for agenda items for the AGM in November will open at the close of this meeting and the close approx. One month before the meeting date as per usual. This will be my last meeting as secretary for the BFTA so it needs to be nicely organised so it can be handed over to the next secretary whomever that may be Lastly I'd like to thank a few people

John Johnston for picking up the reigns as grading officer I feel were making great progress thanks to Johns hard work on reforming the grading system. A truly mammoth task I'm sure John has poured many hours into this so far.

Once again Andy Slade for running the purse strings faultlessly as always and ensuring were on track with paying our dues to clubs for hosting events Andy has served the BFTA for some 12 plus years I believe now as treasurer and thankfully we have a candidate who has stepped up to finally allow Andy to retire although I'm sure Andy will be instrumental in helping the new candidate in the role and any transition.

Thank you to Trev I consider him the pillar of FT promoter developer someone who drops everything do anything to ensure people have great days shoot he pours hours of work in not just behind the scenes but also doing the manual graft putting courses out etc. He will be there at the euros building the courses with some other lads who I also thank
Thankyou Shaun for stepping in to run spreadsheets and scores for the shoots after Robot Shaun's batteries seem to have gone flat.

Berty sterling work on organising the trophies once again

Martin C for maintaining the website and running the pre booking system

Thank you to everyone in every region who has contributed positivity into the BFTA over the last few difficult years. This enthusiasm and hard work are the key to ensuring Field targets continued future and success.

David Robinson
July 2022

6.2 Treasurer, Treasurer's Report (31st October 2021 – 2nd July 2022)

Welcome to my 13th set of BFTA interim accounts. It is good to report that we had a successful BFTA Championships and Inter-Regional weekend are now most of the way through the 2022 Grand Prix series, with 5 GPs having been held. I again re-iterate that the use of electronic banking has made the job as BFTA Treasurer a lot easier. I can't remember the last time I used the BFTA cheque book. I can access the BFTA accounts from my phone and iPad easily via the Lloyd's mobile banking app.

As Treasurer, I renewed the BFTA's NSRA Affiliation (2022) and insurance, together with the additional Marsh (Bluefin) insurance (2022 NSRA affiliation and additional Marsh (Bluefin – legal cover) insurance £205.00 + £70.00).

I have worked closely with John Johnston regarding the payment received and issue of 2022 season BFTA cards. Without stealing John thunder so to speak, I believe this has gone well, but the grading did cause for some concerns easily sorted by contacting John in the first instance

I would also like to thank Mark (Berty) Bassett for organising and securing additional class trophies for the Champs at short notice and Merion at Everson Trophies for providing some admirable glass trophies.

I have also paid Wold Farm £3,000 in advance for holding the 2022 Euros in September.

I remain concerned by the voted for position of awarding trophies for all classes at what were traditionally non graded shoots. The additional costs of providing substantial trophies for these classes, is expensive, **£500** for additional trophies at the Champs. I would like to see trophies only being awarded 1st to 10th overall in Competition, with also only 1 trophy per grade (AA, A, B, C Junior, Piston and Open Class) per non GP competition. This effects, BFTA Championships, Masters, Euros, not the GP and Silhouette series where metal Pin badges are awarded.

I have done a small bit of analysis regarding the 2022 season so far

GP1 Iceni total entries 79, including 4 entries on the day

GP2 Redfearn total entries 81, including 15 entries on the day

GP3 Anston total entries 92, including 19 entries on the day

GP4 Blaenau Gwent total entries 85, including 28 entries on the day

GP5 Southampton Buccaneers total entries 75, including 11 entries on the day.

Basically, BFTA pay the hosting club £750 and also fund 6 X £25 = £150.00 Bonus Bunny Raffle prizes on the day so excluding Pin badges, scores cards and cloakroom tickets for raffle it cost BFTA £750 + £150 = £900 to fund each GP. So, with an entry fee for each GP equal to £15 we need at least

60 entrances to balance books. As has been aired on Shooting the Breeze and other Facebook forums these entry numbers are well down on pre Covid levels. I commend Shaun Shore's work in trying to see if alternatives are preferred. I believe the high fuel costs and increasing hotel costs are having a major effect on entry levels. It will be interesting to see if double headers are the way forward or a hybrid system using both current single GP and double-headers.

The **Lloyds Internet Business Bank** account holds **£33,840.07 as of 27th June 2022**.

This money includes entries for the Euros, East Devon GP and Castle GP. All monies to clubs for hosting GPs have been paid up to and including Soton Buccs GP5.

The **total monies paid into the Lloyds account amounts to £13,241.09**.

This includes BFTA shooters card purchase payments, Inter-Regional and BFTA Championship, 5 Grand Prix and European Entry fees. Please note we also pay a Stripe admin fee (deduction) on payments via BFTA pre-booking system.

Total monies paid out amounts to £9,554.56

Items paid for from **Lloyd's account** include:

1. NSRA Affiliation and additional Marsh (Bluefin) Insurance (£205 + £70) = £275.00
2. Expenses, accounts audit postage (two ways) and gift to Auditor (2021) - £133.54
3. Additional class trophies for BFTA Championships - £500.00

I have paid Martin Calpin £150 for his work on the BFTA web-site as well as payment for 5-year registration of BFTA web site domain name. Please note that the income generated by adverts is no longer paying for hosting the web-site and have been switched off. In 2019 we had 7K users and 80K page views, this has dropped drastically by over 50%. We now have 5K users but with results and unofficial stats being posted elsewhere STB/Facebook there is not the traffic there once was. People are also electing to pay on the pay, rather than book in advance using BFTA website. Normally booking opens one calendar month before the event, allowing for previous weekends comp results to be uploaded. Please note when more than one BFTA competition is open for booking and payment on the BFTA Web-site it is not easily possible to assign the Stripe payments from the Website to which Competition without a lot of work, so we tend to go by the physical number of entries.

Overall, the BFTA holds **£33,840.07** in the Lloyds Internet Bank Account. This is closely aligned with the £32k which accounts for approximately 2 years running costs that I have suggested is needed in reserve. We also have some stock of the end of season trophies (need to check), purchased in 2020, new score cards and pin badges, which we have available. **It is worth re-iterating most of BFTA monies comes from competitions.**

I had set up, in advance of actual GPs etc, means of paying all clubs/regions hosting a GP or other BFTA event, their share of entry monies, which means I can easily transfer the monies to their accounts via Lloyd's Banking Phone App. **This does require the hosting club/region to provide me with details of their Bank Account (Sort Code and Account No.).**

The electronic banking system has made job as Treasurer a whole lot easier than before, but has needed additional measures as effectively there are no cheques and paying in slips.

I would like to see an electronic system for paying for and registering for BFTA cards and perhaps we can decide if we are going to no longer have printed BFTA cards, similar to the loss of car tax discs.

In Summary

1. Total monies combined in BFTA account is **£33,840.07**. I have a printed copy of the Lloyds Bank account statements for viewing if anyone is interested (They will not be published!).
2. The income received from BFTA shooter membership cards for 2022 is £3,278 minus expenses (printing and postage) of £73.87. This is relatively healthy although it appears that a lot of members who have cards no longer actively shoot the competitions or are very selective in which they shoot.

3. The BFTA Constitution still needs to be amended to remove requirement to have two signatures per BFTA cheque in line with the change to the BFTA Lloyds on-line banking account.
4. Consider doing away with printed BFTA cards and adopting an electronic BFTA shooter/membership card system.
5. Carefully consider position wrt trophies allocated across class/grades at non-GP events or consider other metal Pin badges or embroidered patches?

Andrew Slade

BFTA Treasurer –2nd July 2022

6.3 Grading officer, recommendations to be discussed and proposals formed for AGM

Grading Officers Report 06.06.22

BFTA Membership/Cards

Thanks to the Regions for their assistance in collating the requests from their clubs for BFTA membership and for completing the card details for members.

We currently have 648 members for 2022, with the bulk of these issued by March 2022. We continue to have new members joining.

The payment system of bank transfer to the BFTA Bank account for cards was used by most regions, and this task was completed without any major issues. Thanks to Andy Slade for his prompt communication of payments received.

BFTA Grading System

When I took over this role there were only 152 shooters allocated a 2022 grade, presumably because of the lack of shoots cause by Covid restrictions. This number in my view was too low and if we had continued to use this for this season then it would have caused major issues.

To increase the number of graded shooters I used the average of the Winter league average % plus the 2021 graded % (and 2020 in some cases) to give a graded % for 2022. This resulted in 308 members having a grade at the start of the season, a significant increase over the original 152.

I have added results to the rolling 12 spreadsheet post every BFTA event, to determine grades for 2023. The spreadsheet is being tested on the BFTA website - Martin is trying to make this more easily viewed on a mobile phone; however, I will copy Regions with the spreadsheet to distribute to their Clubs.

Proposals for Grading in 2023

1. Regions are keen to include their Winter/Summer league results in the rolling 12 so I am proposing that the average % members achieve in their Summer leagues be included in the rolling 12 this year, to determine their grade for 2023. Their average %'s for the Winter leagues 2022/23 be included in the 2023 rolling 12. This will result in two regional %'s being used every year to determine BFTA grades.
2. Previously the 15/30/30/15% rule was applied to determine grade band %'s. This had the effect of creating a 'moving target' for grade bands, which changed every year, something that some members were unhappy about. I will be proposing that we fix the grade band %'s for the long term at bands which we agree upon at the AGM.
3. By October 2022 I will have sufficient data to make proposals on grade banding which I will circulate prior to the AGM.
4. Grades for 2023 will be issued by the end of March 2023

5. I will draft my proposals for an updated Grading Rules document and circulate prior to the AGM, after which what has been agreed will be posted on the BFTA website.

My main objective is to have a Grading system that everybody buys into, which is transparent and easily managed by the Grading Officer, and I welcome everybody's input to creating this.

7. Correspondences'

7.1 Email from Tony Fouracres re prizes in open class.

We discussed the email sent by Tony Fouracres regarding open class trophies and we will be forming a proposal to set in stone the position of trophies at all shoots that will then be voted on at the AGM in November

7.2 Proposal email from SEFTA (arrived after agenda had been sent out but advised rep Natalie that we would still discuss it at the meeting under correspondence's)

From: John Chopping

Sent: 01 May 2022 09:18

Subject: Fwd: BFTA Proposal Iss 1

Hi Dan,

Following on from our conversation yesterday, I wanted explain what I feel is a potential barrier to newcomers attending BFTA shoots.

Currently, the process for attending BFTA shoots is as follows:

- *An individual has to join a BFTA affiliated club.*
- *The club has to request a BFTA card on behalf of the individual.*
- *The individual receives a BFTA card and unique number.*
- *The individual can now book to attend BFTA shoots through the web-site.*

A situation recently arose when a good HFT shooter friend of mine was keen to attend the first GP at Icenii but he lives in an area where he is not close to a BFTA affiliated club. Further to this, he only wanted to attend a couple of GP's this year and the thought of having to pay a year's club subscription (to a club he won't be attending) and a BFTA card; understandably did not appeal to him. So we have situation where someone would like to pay and shoot a GP but the system is not allowing him to and I don't believe this is a one-off issue. FT has sometimes been accused of elitism and this closed off process is not helping the cause. I believe this needs to change.

I believe we need to have a facility that allows non BFTA card holders to attend selected BFTA shoots.

John

Playing devil's advocate I could see why, from a safety point of view, the BFTA don't just want anyone rolling up to shoot, without the first idea of who they are or where they come from. However, I equally feel that this is a misnomer, in so far as just because someone is a member of a BFTA club, this does not mean they are safe and have good gun-handling skills; after all there is no uniform induction process between clubs and even if there was this would likely fall under the EFTA or WFTA umbrellas. I then thought that perhaps the rule exists to encourage membership of BFTA affiliated clubs but again since the BFTA stopped providing insurance cover is there really a need for any club to be a BFTA club?

In short the BFTA is currently likely, unconsciously, to one degree or another, prohibiting the growth of the very sport it is entrusted with running, a zero-sum game all round.

Therefore we would propose that bookings for GP's and perhaps other BFTA shoots allow provision for non-BFTA members to try out our discipline and furthermore that this may potentially be achieved in with a system such as the below:

- All GP bookings are still carried out through the BFTA web-site as usual.
- Non BFTA card holders will have to click on the chosen event as usual but instead of putting in a password etc, they will have to sign in as a guest.
- During the signing in process, they would have to enter all necessary details, agree to all T's & C's and also confirm they have read understood the competition rules and gun safety requirements.
- As an incentive for individuals to join a BFTA affiliated club, the entrance fee could be more expensive and their details not saved for future, easy booking.
- Once this process is complete, they will be sent a confirmation e-mail which they can show stats upon their arrival.
- All non bfta card will only be allowed to shoot in an ungraded class.

The above proposed process is not set in stone and if the web developers and officials have alternate better suggestions then these would be warmly received.

Kind Regards

John & Dan

The committee discussed this email and the general feeling around the table at this point is regions are the members of the BFTA and any shooters that want to compete should be part of a recognised association i.e. regional or overseas this gives the BFTA assurances that the individual is competent, safe and understands the rules and this learning process is usually dealt with at club level within a region especially as club member also includes declaration of s21 of firearms act. We feel that the sentiment is valid however we want people to shoot but the baptism into ft shooting should be done at club level first before attempting a large national shoot. If there can be another proposition that can satisfy the allowance of people into the National shoots who are not known to a club or region, we would like to look further at this but the current proposal will not satisfy the insurance, constitution and by laws

7.3 James kays email

James Kay sent an email in and has shown interest in taking on the treasurer's role he included that his profession will make him a competent candidate to fulfil the role finally allowing Andy Slade to stand down, Andy will support James in the transition

7.4 Chris Jones email

Advised that Chris Jones from Swefta had emailed giving two possible dates for their gp round next year.

7.5 Shaun's emails and research

Shaun shore had sent a few emails regarding what shoots the bfta should run and how it should consider the 2023 calendar all reps had seen the email the results of the research and individual shooter comments. We discussed that the "Hybrid" and "The usual" were in fact the same thing as usually we try and accommodate double headers in multiples recalling last year, we attempted to do two double headers for the 2022 season but no regions other than NEFTA Could accommodate this. The research showed that the majority of shooters would like to see a mix of double headers and single day GP's Therefore we will build the calendar as suggested by the research in the usual and hybrid way

7.6 Email From Dave O'Hara

Discussed in AOB

8. BFTA Europeans 2022

Four members attending from Nefta Tues to Friday bfta to provide rooms and sustenance expenses to cover this they will build the courses taking orange strings targets brackets assisted by FFTA. We need to think about next year and we will put a proposal out weather to go back to the game fair or seek to go to wold farm again. James Osborne mentioned that the sessions at the euros need to be more evenly split ie 50 shooters morn 50 afternoon but still not separate out grades from shooting different sessions will speak to Shaun about this to see if he can get a more even split. Also, we need to try and get the marshal list out as soon as possible before the shoot so that people are more prepared on the day and ensure they are at the marshalling points when required as Andy Slade pointed out last year several marshals never turned up to do their stints. Preferable to do the shooting squads in advance but people will still be required.

9. Preliminary shoot dates 2022

Please can regions propose which dates and the venues they require and then the dates and venues can be 100% finalized in November's AGM

Things to consider

Bank Holiday Dates	
Easter Monday	Mon, 10 Apr 2023
Early May Bank Holiday	Mon, 1 May 2023
Spring Bank Holiday	Mon, 29 May 2023
Summer Bank Holiday	Mon, 28 Aug 2023

- NEFTA Classic 29th and 30th of April 2023
- So far can find no information on WFTF OR EFTF events

Event	Date	Venue	Region
BFTA Championship	1 st April	Emley Moor	NEFTA
BFTA Inter-Regional	2 nd April	Emley Moor	NEFTA
GP1	16 th April	TBC	SEFTA
GP2	27 th May	Tondu	WAFTA
GP3	28 th May	Oaktree	WAFTA
GP4	11 th June	TBC	CSFTA
GP5	8 th July	TBC	NEFTA
GP6	9 th July	TBC	NEFTA
GP7	23 rd July	TBC	SWEFTA
GP8	6 August	TBC	MFTA / FFTA
GP9	20 th August	TBC	MFTA / FFTA
BFTA Masters	2 nd September	Nelson	WAFTA

BFTA Showdown	3 rd September	Nelson	WAFTA
BFTA Europeans	16 th / 17 th September	WOLD FARM	WOLD FARM

Dropping 3 scores from either 8 or 9 rounds dependant on MFTA / FFTAs GPS going ahead only two regions volunteered to do double headers those been NEFTA and WAFTA

10. Proposals formed from discussions (To be voted on at the upcoming AGM)

- 10.1. Trophies now need to be documented and fixed into print. suggested proposal: in “open events i.e. euros masters and championships” the open class should be awarded 1 to 3 as per the rules for open, grades aa to c and recoiling should be 1st position only proposal to be discussed and formal proposal formed for voting at AGM.

Proposal formed

1 to 10 in the open format shoots ie masters Championships Europeans then 1st place trophy for grade ie AA, A, B, C Recoiling then open class as they don’t compete in the main competition they should be award as per the current rules 1st to 3rd the for juniors as we will not know if any turn up hence buy some blank trophies or medals to carry in stock to present to juniors on the day for 1st place maybe more if more attend. Hence canvas regions for yes no vote in November AGM and vote for either medals or trophies for juniors
NEFTA Will sponsor Junior positions for 2023

- 10.2. Wold Farm or back to Weston Park? Regions need to vote to their preference for where they want to go for the euros 2023

11. BFTA Officers

At the next meeting (AGM) we will be seeking new officers particularly secretary amongst other posts that are vacant. We have an interested party for treasurer we still require trade liaison, comp sec, web manager to name a few

Treasurer now looking filled with James Kay

Scott Pywel is offering to fill in comp sec position and will speak with Trevor and will run things like scores and again if he can have access so that scores etc can be uploaded and updated asap with links going onto forums and social media to the site.

Paul Whitehouse is offering to assist with website but can’t commit to a full-time position, Phil Hollis would also like access to assist in updating content and layout. Suggesting a group of people to be doing web management.

12. AOB

Mark Lawrence accumulated lots of prizes for GP’s and as there is now no trade liaison officer what do we do with the prizes we have had donated. Trevor has suggested that he looks at the prizes he has in hand and perhaps half the prizes 50 percent to euros and 50 percent to GP end of season and will decide how its distributed and if we do it as a raffle to generate investment for the website.

All the regions present agreed an end of season gp raffle £5.00 per tick no limit to how many you can buy must be there at the presentation at the end of the day to listen for your number you need to be there to claim your prize open to all bfta card holders

Dave o Hara asked in an email if Anthony jones could enter the Walther team, we discussed we cannot allow extra people to enter the team event once the season has started people can resign from teams but cannot restructure or re enter another although this is in the rules we will perhaps reword the rules to better clarity in the future as the rules do briefly cover this already.

CSFTA we would like to ask people why they are not shooting GP's or even local competitions. Paul Whitehouse will put a questionnaire together that can go out to all shooters in all regions and has been sanctioned by the BFTA. He will bring results back to AGM

CSFTA what about like a basic class ? We discussed we already have the grades and we have also have the prone position available at bfta events. Anyone can enter with no matter what kit they have so long as they are a member of a club of a bfta affiliated region.

13.Next Meeting Dates and close

AGM 19th November 2022

Proposal emails accepted from now until 21st October 2022 from regional reps.