

SWEFTA AGM 2024.

Held at Heathfield Community Centre, 12/10/23.

Meeting opened 11.00am

Item 1, Apologies for Absence:

Steve Franklin, Nigel Palmer, Paul Salmon, Rob Meatyard, Rob Underwood and James Head.

Item 2, Accept the 2022 Draft Minutes as a True Record.

The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Item 3, Matters Arising from the Minutes.

No Matters arising.

Item 4, Officer Reports:

Chairman's Report.	see Appendix 1
Secretaries Report.	see Appendix 1
Treasurers Report.	see Appendix 2
Benchrest Secretary's	see Appendix 2
Competition Secretary's Report.	post vacant, no report.
Scores Secretary' Report.	see Appendix 3

Item 5, Election of officers.

Chairman:	Steve Franklin.
Vice Chairman:	Neil MacKinnon.
Secretary:	Phil Foulds.
Treasurer:	Roz Harding.
Comp. Secretary:	James Head.
Scores Secretary:	Simon Thompson.
Safety Officer:	James Head.
Development Officer:	Chris Jones.
BFTA Reps:	Chris Jones, James Head.
Benchrest Secretary	Neil MacKinnon.

All were individually: proposed, seconded and unanimously voted into position.

Thank you to the outgoing Chairman, Kevin Jackman who resigned for personal reasons.

Item 6.

Proposed: The Committee.

Proposal: To co-opt Club Representatives onto the SWEFTA committee.

Proposal withdrawn.

Item 7.

Proposed: The Committee. Seconded: Purbeck.
Proposal: For Clubs to submit a shoot report, including photographs of their own league shoot. The format for the report and content will be designed by the committee at a later date. These reports will be uploaded to our website.

Unanimously Agreed. The proposal was successful.

Discussion. The membership asked what was required. The Acting Chairman said the report should contain no more than 5 photographs and a paragraph or two capturing the atmosphere of the shoot; No's attending, weather conditions, best scores, course data/difficulty etc. Most of all light and interesting.....

Item 8.

Proposed: The Committee. Seconded: Duchy.
Proposal: To pay subsistence/lodging of up to a maximum of £100 per BFTA meeting attended by the regions representative.

Unanimously Agreed. The proposal was successful.

Item 9.

Proposed: Duchy. Seconded: Dartmoor.
Proposal: To allow HFT Shooters who compete using sticks to shoot without physically touching the peg. The sticks can be positioned over the top of the peg with at least one stick being a maximum of 50cm away.

The vote: 11 for 3 against The proposal was successful.

Discussion. The meeting failed to agree on the exact wording of the rule and left it to The Secretary to come up with some suitable words to update the rule so as not to give standing stick shooters an unfair advantage over seated.

Item 10.

Proposed: Duchy Seconded: No Seconder.
Proposal: Sticks can only be used to support the front of the gun, e.g. the area in-front of the trigger and the sticks should not be clamped/fixed to the gun in anyway.

No Support. The proposal failed.

Item 11.

Proposed: Duchy Seconded: No Seconder.
Proposal: To reduce the maximum range of HFT targets from 55yds to 50yds.

No Support. The proposal failed.

Item 12.

Proposed: West Devon. Seconded: Purbeck.

Proposal: To limit the maximum range of HFT targets to 45 yards.

The vote: 3 for 11 against

The proposal failed.

Discussion. The meeting discussed the merits of UKAHFT and SWEFTA. SWEFTA won.

Item 13.

Proposed: West Devon, Dartmoor, Ashcombe. Seconded: Not Required, 3 proposers.

Proposal: To revert back to the original start and finish times for SWEFTA league shoots. Start 09:00 and finish 15:30.

The vote: 12 for 4 against

The proposal was successful.

Discussion. The membership had a vigorous debate about attendances at shoots and the hope this proposal would resolve some of the problem. The Secretary suggested it was an ideal time to introduce some comments he'd received on the same subject.

Feedback from the Secretaries question: "why is attendance at shoots low."

The distances to shoots and the cost of fuel.

Discussion. The meeting was in agreement with the statement.

An afterthought from your Secretary; perhaps we could post, advertise any spare seats to shoots but where and how? Anybody out-there with the know how?

To hold the Duchy and Purbeck shoots, the furthest we travel earliest in the year keeping the nearest shoots, Dartmoor, West Devon, Shebbear etc. for the middle to end of the season.

Discussion. The meeting was in agreement.

The fun is being drained from shooting by excessive rules; Smoking, Clocks etc. and rifle restrictions in HFT, no FT rigs, butt-hooks hamsters etc.

Benchrest club shoots clashing with SWEFTA events.

Discussion. The BR Secretary denied this ever happening but even today Dartmoor were holding a Benchrest comp. clashing with our AGM.

Reciprocation. Some clubs don't shoot events because they didn't receive support from a sister club at their shoot.

Discussion. The meeting was shocked that anybody/club behaved or thought like this.

Some are drawing comparisons between FT and HFT attendances at shoots. HFT is now better attended than FT. Equipment costs for an FT rig is thought to be the problem.

Item 14.

Any Other Business.

AOB 1 Shoot Fees.

Discussion. The meeting agreed there would be no change to shoot fees for 2025 as SWEFTA's finances are in reasonably good health and with no major expenditure forecast.

AOB 2 Item of etiquette. Can shooters/spectators/photographers who are on or near the firing line be reminded at the safety brief to speak quietly and to respect and not interrupt the concentration of those shooting.

Discussion. The meeting agreed and it would be added into safety brief.

AOB 3 Clubs sending first time shooters to an event must make sure they are fully briefed and understand the rules before attending. If necessary partner them with an experienced member of the club until they become proficient.

Discussion. The meeting agreed in principle but how? A proposal from West Devon was for Ungraded shooters or those without 3 attendances to shoot with a graded or experienced shooter. This proposal was unanimously agreed.

AOB 4 BFTA AGM – Any Items for inclusion to their AGM agenda.

Discussion. A proposal from East Devon to alter the BFTA Main Shoot rules for standing and kneeling to be revised to the same as the BFTA GP Rule. This was unanimously agreed and will be submitted for discussion at their November AGM.

AOB 5 BFTA GP - South West Region. Who, where, how.

Discussion. Our BFTA Rep reported that this conversation may be unnecessary depending how the vote goes at the BFTA AGM re the of running of GP's. If the proposal fails and the GP series runs as usual we, SWEFTA will be offered a GP but who wants to host it? The Secretary will write to our clubs asking them if they would like to host a GP. If no SWEFTA club volunteers to hold the GP then we'll reject our right to hold one in 2025.

AOB 6 Data protection. The committee will investigate the possibility of setting up a SWEFTA email account managed by the Secretary. Future emails from SWEFTA will be circulated with the recipients email address hidden. Email addresses will not be passed on to anyone outside the Association. The Secretary will first get permission from its member before their email address is passed onto anyone inside the association. Email recipients will be given the opportunity to have their address removed from our mailing list on every email sent.

AOB 7 Safety. Shoots should be postponed if there's a Met Office Weather Warning scheduled at the same time and location of a shoot. These warnings are usually to prevent danger of death from wind, flood and or lightning. Should we be ignoring them? The Swefta/Wafta, Welsh Open at Baenau Gwent in September should have been postponed especially as 2 of SWEFTA's members slipped and fell

because of the conditions. Thankfully no-one was injured or equipment damaged. Rumour has it; only half a dozen shooters completed the full course of targets.

Clubs should consider postponing normal league shoots for inclement weather too and not just run the event and risk poor attendance.

Discussion. The meeting agreed especially if the BFTA are to release more weekends in our diary by cancelling their GP series.

AOB 8 Benchrest Final, 12th October at East Devon, there's a £5 fee to shoot. Is any of this fee going to SWEFTA to cover costs, badges and certificates etc. Who qualifies to shoot this event? Why can't all clubs decide who their 5 best shots are and send them to the BR final? It's a SWEFTA event.

Discussion. The BR Secretary said the event was for those clubs who shoot to SWEFTA rules and have competed in a minimum of 5 league shoots. The Secretary said the event had to be more inclusive, open to all SWEFTA. The BR Sec. is to investigate the possibility of BR trials at SWEFTA FT/HFT league shoots.

AOB 9 HFT rule 11) SHOOTING
“There are no compulsory shooting positions in HFT and all targets can be shot from any position, standing, kneeling, seated or prone.”
It's been commented that some clubs are ignoring this rule and setting courses where shooters can only adopt one position to shoot some targets. HFT is a test of shooting skill and not a measure of athleticism or fitness.

Discussion. The meeting discussed this vigorously, the feeling was it isn't in the spirit of HFT. The Secretary is going to investigate any conflict of HFT rules that contradict each other. Any findings will be posted to clubs for approval if change is required.

There being no further matters raised,

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 13.05.

Chairman's Repot.

The year seems to have gone fairly smoothly despite shooting to the BFTA rules in SWEFTA's forty odd year history.

We need new committee members, we can't keep replying on the same people. Without the committee there's no SWEFTA.

We had some committee members resigned part way through the year. We dealt with this by closing ranks and sharing out their duties. This can't continue.

This year we have committee members stepping down after many years of service and it's crucial we get volunteers to replace them for SWEFTA's success to continue.

That's me finished for the time being.

Thank you.
("I'll be back")

Secretaries Report.

It's been a relatively easy year.

It started with the preparation of the minutes of the 2023 AGM.

Next was the organising of BFTA cards for us all, thank you for your responses. I didn't have a single late request for a card. There was some confusion about clubs that no longer put on shoots, can their members be affiliated to SWEFTA? i.e. Mendip. The committee agreed that if the club still held insurance its members could be part of SWEFTA and so could hold a BFTA cards.

We had 2 resignations, the Benchrest Secretary and the Competition Secretary. As most of the work was completed before the resignations were received it was decided to continue running the leagues and not fill the positions until this AGM. Thank you Malcolm Elliott and Ralph Jefferies for your contributions towards a successful 2024.

I wrote an informal email to a club about the conduct of 2 of its members at a shoot. Some items in AOB can be directly attributed to this conversation.

I apologies for missing 2 shoots this year, Duchy and Phoenix. I missed Duchy for personal reasons and I was ill, thanks to my travelling buddy for missing Phoenix.

My year concluded with a steady bombardment of you all with emails and documents relating to this years AGM.

Thank you.
(mic drop)

Treasurers Report.

Annual Accounts	
Funds Held at October 2023,	£2,331.25
Income.	
Monies raised from 2024 shoot fees.	£1,101.00
Monies raised from the sale of Association badges.	£251.50
Total Income (A)	£3,683.75
Expenditure.	
Badges	£1,044.26
Cocoa (Website) Fee.	£302.40
BFTA Fees.	£235.00
Total Expenditure (B)	£1,581.66
Current Holding as at 12/10/2024 (Total A-B)	£2,102.09

Benchrest Sec. Report.

SWEFTA now has 4 clubs, West Devon, Purbeck, East Devon and Dartmoor actively shooting Benchrest to our new BR rules. Each club has held monthly shoots to decide who advances to the finals. This years finials are at East Devon ground starting at 09:00 on Saturday 19th October 2024. At present there's 20 competitors who've qualified to shoot.

Guests are welcome to view the final providing they respect the concentration of the competitors. No noise, laughter, smoking or vaping in the area directly behind the shooters. Parking is on the track to the club so please park responsibly. Sorry refreshments are not available, bring your own.

Thank you.

Competition Secretary's Report 2024.

The automated scores sheets have bedded in all OK, helping me post the scores ASAP while reducing the risk of any errors. I've one outstanding refinement I want to make, to include Ungraded shooters in team scores, although in practice that's only an issue after the final round and easy to work around.

Most scoresheets have been completed well, but a request to all clubs to **support their new shooters** in completing the cards correctly, as there has been quite a bit of confusion.

- When shooting Open or Piston, just select the relevant box
- Open+ no longer exists, it's now included in Open class
- When shooting Graded, as the scorecards do not currently have an Ungraded option, please just write **Ungraded** at the top of the sheet, do not tick any of the other grade options until your grade has been allocated after the 3rd completed league shoot.
- First target shot at no longer applies, so doesn't need to be completed.

Moving into 2025 the new Rolling 12 grade spreadsheets come into play and will be used to calculate your grade at the end of 2025 based on the 12 most recent scores. However, I'll keep the existing "live grade" functionality in the scoresheets, but that will only be indicative of the **current year's** scores and **not** your final year end grade.

And now for some stats:

We've the following remaining CrackShot sponsored certificates:

1st – 12
2nd – 47
3rd – 67

Note – We use approx. 100 certificates per grade per year (8 rounds x 12 grades) so will need more next year if Eric is still happy sponsoring the league

Remaining badges

SWEFTA association – 17
1st – 130 (approx..)
2nd – 140 (approx..)
3rd – 150 (approx..)

Note – We use approx. 100 badges per grade per year (8 rounds x 12 grades) so **should** have enough for 2025...

We've around 1,400 remaining scorecards – enough for a couple more years.

2024 SWEFTA Summer league competitors per round

	FT	HFT	Total	
Ashcombe	45	34	79	Round 1
Duchy	41	46	87	Round 2
Phoenix	38	32	70	Round 3
West Devon	44	41	85	Round 4
Dartmoor	38	38	76	Round 5
East Devon	38	35	73	Round 6
Shebbear	29	24	53	Round 7
Purbeck	21	25	46	Round 8
			569	

Total active shooters per grade

	FT	HFT
AA	7	9
A	13	21
B	15	15
C	10	n/a
Open	19	11
Piston	4	9
Big Guns	n/a	5
Total	68	70

2025 grade allocation - based on active 2024 shooters

	FT	HFT
AA	10	10
A	13	18
B	16	17
C	6	n/a
Total	45	45