 

WFTC Wales 2017 - The Year of the Dragon

Update on Progress Towards WFTC 2017 Newsletter 2

This newsletter will focus primarily on the registration process for WFTC Wales 2017 and UK Airgun Law.

Travel and accommodation will be covered at a later date

Our first newsletter received a good response, with much interest in our event location. The potential link with the BFTA European competition is also creating interest.

Wales 2017 has been publicised at several major UK competitions and the response has been tremendous, with many individuals already seeking more information and wishing to register. We anticipate that the demand for places at our event from UK competitors will be very high, with up to 200 UK registrations expected. We want to ensure that all RGB's are fully represented at Wales 2017 and so the registration process will initially give priority to RGB Teams, before it is opened to individual competitors.

**Wales 2017 Website**

The design and functionality of the website has been drafted, with particular focus on registration, which will fully automate both the registration of RGB Teams, individuals and the payment process.

The Website will go live on the 25th of August 2016, with the team registration live on the 1st of September.

**Welsh Airgun and Field Target Association Website**

A new WAFTA website has been created - http://fieldtarget.wales You may be interested in visiting this site as it will give you an insight into Field Target in Wales.

**Accommodation**

We are in the process of negotiating discounts with hotels and exploring all accommodation options in the area. We will update you on all accommodation options in the next newsletter.

**WFTC 2017-Wales Registration Process**

We wish to ensure that RGB's are fully represented at Wales 2017, and that non UK competitors are not excluded. Therefore, registration for Wales 2017 will differ from Portugal 2016 in that we will have two different registration processes, one for RGB Teams and another for Individual competitors.

Initial priority will be given to the registration of RGB teams. The registration process will then be opened to individual competitors.

Registration and Payment will be one simultaneous process.

**1. RGB Team Registration**

Team Registration will open on the 1st of September 2016 and close on the 15th of October 2016.

RGB's will have to register the number of PCP (max 8) and Piston (max 6) competitors that they wish to attend Wales 2017. Ideally Team members should be named at this stage, but names can be added or substituted (from individual registrants) later.

**Initially, the priority for RGB's is to register the numbers that they wish to attend Wales 2017**

The RGB representative that completes the Team registration will be automatically e-mailed a username and password. This will enable them to access their Team(s) registration details on the website to add the names of Team members or make amendements.This facility will be open until 26th of August 2017.

**It is essential that RGB's complete their team(s) registration by the 15th of October; we cannot guarantee their place at Wales 2017 after this date.**

**2. Individual Registration**

Registration for individual competitors will be open to all from the 16th of October and will close on the 31st of March 2017. Individuals who wish to secure a place at Wales 2017 are encouraged to register early.

If places are still available, we will however under special circumstances allow additional registrations after this date

**RGB Team Member Individual Registration**

Individuals initially registered in RGB Teams will have bypassed the individual registration process and will therefore need to register their personal details in a sub section of the individual registration section. During this process, you will select and pay for any 'extras' required, for example the Welcome dinner, guest dinners, bean bag refill etc.

When the RGB representative enters the Individual's name and their e-mail address in the Team registration section, an e-mail will be automatically sent to that individual, with a unique username and password inviting them to access the Team member Individual registration section.

They will be able to complete their registration from the 1st of September 2016.

**It is essential that RGB Team members complete this process to validate their registration.**

**Payment**

Payment for Teams and individuals will be by PayPal. Confirmation of payment will be indicated by the addition of Teams and individual names to the competitor list on the Wales 2017 website.

Competitors will benefit from completing the registration and payment process early , as they can then go ahead with confidence and book accommodation and make travel arrangements.

**Guidance on Law Relating to Air Rifles in Wales and England**

*This guidance note has been written on the assumption that all competitors will be using standard “FT” type rifles using either spring or compressed air to power the rifle.*

*The UK Firearms legislation is extremely complex. If any competitor is unsure about the legality of his or her Rifle, please contact the organisers for clarification.*

In the UK. The ownership and use of Air Rifles is governed by some of the strictest Firearms Laws in the world.

The penalties for breaking the laws that govern the use of Air Rifles are severe and if broken, would bring you entirely under the jurisdiction of the Firearms Laws. In simple terms, when used unlawfully, Air Rifles are regarded as firearms, and so carry exactly the same legal status as shotguns and live-ammunition guns. There is no concession in law for an Air Rifle’s reduced power level.

It is an offence to have an Air Rifle if you are prohibited from possessing a firearm. Anyone who has been sentenced to a custodial sentence of between three months and three years is prohibited from possessing an Air Rifle or other firearm or ammunition for five years from the date of their release. Anyone who has been sentenced to three years or more is prohibited for life.

Scotland and Northern Ireland have different and more stringent rules governing the ownership and use of Air Rifles.

In Northern Ireland, all Air Rifles require a license.

In Scotland, it will be a criminal offence to have any Air Rifle without a licence from

January 1st 2017.

**Air Rifle** **Power**

The legal muzzle energy limit for Air Rifles is 12ft.lb (16 joules). For Rifles producing more than 12ft.lb, a Firearms Certificate (FAC) is required. No licence is required for Air Rifles below 12ft.lbs

There is currently no restriction on the use of a moderator / silencer when used on a sub 12ft.lb Air Rifle.

Trigger locks are not required in the UK

**No Air Rifle requiring an FAC will be allowed within the grounds of the competition**

**Using an Air Rifle**

Air Rifles may be used only on land where the user has full permission to shoot.

**It is illegal**:

* To shoot on any land, including common land, river banks, public land, recreation and land covered by water, i.e. lakes and rivers where you do not have full permission from the land owner or tenant.
* To fire an Air Rifle closer than 50 feet (15 metres) from the centre of a public highway, or footpath.
* To fire an Air Rifle pellet beyond the land to which you have permission to shoot
* For a person in possession of an Air Rifle to fail to take reasonable precautions to prevent someone under the age of 18 from gaining unauthorised access to it

**It is legal:**

* For anyone above the age of 14 to shoot an Air Rifle on private land where full permission to shoot has been given.
* For those below the age of 14 to shoot an Air Rifle on private land, but only if closely supervised by a responsible person over 21 years of age. The supervising adult is legally responsible for the actions of the junior shooter.

**Transporting and Storage of Air Rifles**

Air Rifles must always be transported in a securely fastened case that does not permit the Rifle to be fired whilst in the case.

The Rifle owner must take reasonable precautions to stop unauthorised access by people under the age of 18.

Persons between 14 and 18 years of age are not allowed to transport an Air Rifle to the venues at which they shoot without a responsible person aged 21 or over being present.

It is illegal to have an Air Rifle (loaded or not) in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. This restriction applies to all Air Rifles, even those that are being carried in a securely fastened gun case.

Transporting to and from the competition venue would be regarded as a reasonable excuse.

**BFTA European Competition**

Whilst this competition is organised by the British Field Target Association, we will however assist the BFTA in giving them an indication of the numbers of WFTC competitors who wish to attend this event, which takes place the weekend before WFTC 2017.

In the registration process competitors will be asked to indicate if they wish to attend this event. We will then pass the total numbers and details of competitors who wish to attend to the BFTA.

This will not guarantee that you will be able to attend this event, however the BFTA have indicated that they will endeavor to accommodate WFTC competitors who wish to attend .

More details of the BFTA Euros will be featured in future newsletters.

**Communications**

Please use this e-mail address - admin@wftc2017.wales to contact us if you have any queries or wish to contact us. We will be setting up a WFTC 2017 Face Book page in the near future.

John Johnston June 2016