

## WAF TA AGM 2023 MINUTES

**Venue:** Hafodyrynys Sports & Social Club, NP11 5BE

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 **Time:** 19.20 **Meeting called by:** John Johnston

**Present:** John Johnston Tondu. David Hicks Tondu. Richard Beaugie Castleton. Gareth James Blaenau Gwent. Martin Boucher Blaenau Gwent. Howard Lloyd Blaenau Gwent. Gwynne Robinson Quarry. Pat Isaacs Castleton. Simon Evans Oaktree. David Williams Nelson. Mark Bassett Nelson. Steve Chubb Nelson. Jack Harris Blaenau Gwent.

1. **Apologies** – Dorian Falconer

Not represented – Lampeter ARC

2. **Minutes of OGM held on the 8th November 2022**

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed-Comp Sec, Seconded- B/Gwent

3. **Officers Reports.** Chair and Secretary read out their reports and they are appended to the minutes. The Treasurer gave out copies of his financial report to the meeting and it showed that the finances were in a good position. They are available to view on request from the Club Reps.

The Competition Secretary reiterated what was said by the Chair and Secretary in their reports and also gave his thoughts on the Welsh shooters strong performance in Italy despite the issues they'd encountered.

4. **Election of officers.**

Current Officers are:

Chairman – John Johnston

Vice Chairman – Mark Bassett

Secretary – Richard Beaugie

Treasurer – David Hicks

Competitions Secretary – Mark Bassett

Web Manager – Richard Beaugie Joint with John Johnston

Grading Officer – John Johnston

All agreed to stand for another term. Proposed by Quarry, Seconded by B/Gwent

5. **Review C Class reintroduction.**

It was agreed to keep C class within the grading system to encourage new shooters into FT.

Proposed by Oaktree Seconded by B/Gwent

6. **Review current suspension of shoot fees and the cost of badges for clubs**

The Chair suggested that if we received a grant from WTSF this year, then we could suspend fees for another year, but as we didn't know at the time of this meeting if we would be getting a grant, the Treasurer was asked if the current account balance would allow the suspension of fees to carry

on for another year. Dai confirmed that we could. It was also pointed out that it had been agreed last year that clubs would pay for badges, but due to some miscommunication, that did not happen. It was agreed that the suspension of fees and badges would continue for another year. Proposed by Nelson. Seconded B/Gwent and passed unanimously

7. **Use of “Sticks” in Open class.**

This item was first proposed as a way of allowing less able shooters who may not be able to get into a seated position to take part in WAFTA competitions, but after a healthy discussion it was agreed that sticks may be the choice for any shooter whether abled or less abled as long as it helps to get shooters to take part in competition.

The final proposal was that Mono, Bipod or Tripod sticks may be used to steady the rifle, but must not be fixed to the gun in any way. This will be for a trial period of one year and will be reviewed at the next AGM.

Proposed by Castleton. Seconded B/Gwent. Passed unanimously.

8. **Proposal that small liquid puffer bottles be allowed at WAFTA shoots to aid wind estimation**

As WAFTA has not banned smoking or vaping on the firing line which can be a method of reading the wind, it is difficult to justify the banning of water vapour “puffers”, but the use of powder puffers would not be permitted. Proposed by Oaktree, Seconded Castleton. Passed unanimously

9. **Review WAFTA grading percentages.**

John presented a summary of the numbers in each class that have taken part in WAFTA competitions over the previous year and it showed that there were very few in all classes except A class. There have been some shoots where only 1 or 2 were in a group and at one shoot, no B grade at all.

It was decided that the grade percentages be changed to:

C grade = <55%

B grade = >55 – 72%

A grade = >72 – 87%

AA grade = >87%

Proposed by Nelson. Seconded by Tondu. Passed unanimously.

10. **WFTC & EFTC 2023 updates.**

John told the meeting that South Africa who are hosting the WFTC are still waiting for their Website to be upgraded and were expecting it to go live within the next week or two. Until the Website is up and running, we cannot register our competitors. John will keep us updated with any news from the SA organisers.

Richard was able to give an update on the EFTC being held in Bulgaria. The first ten competitors have all paid the relevant monies into the WAFTA account and the registration forms have been completed and submitted to the Bulgarian organisers. The payments to Bulgaria will be made by WAFTA who will also fund the PCP and Piston team entry fees. We expect the next offer of places to be made in early February and there are 5 WAFTA club members still waiting for a place.

11. **WTSF updates**

John reported that there were no updates, but the grant applications had been discussed and he asked Blaenau Gwent if they would resubmit their disability toilet application.

The WTSF has invested in a set of laser rifles and shotguns for use in their "First shot-Top shot course which is designed to encourage young people into shooting. John will be asking clubs to help by hosting an event for young people, which could be scouts, cadets or other organised groups.

12. **WAFTA Summer Series, the following dates were agreed.**

23/04/23	Blaenau Gwent	Summer series 1
14/05/23	Quarry	Summer series 2
04/06/23	Castleton	Summer series 3
25/06/23	Tondu	Summer series 4 (Changed to 02/07/23)
30/07/23	Nelson	Summer series 5
10/09/23	Oaktree	Summer series 6

These are qualifying rounds for team places WFTC and EFTC 2024 Best 3 from 6.  
Best 4 from 6 for end of season trophies.

**In addition**, Oaktree and Tondu are hosting a BFTA GP double header on the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May.

13/08/23	Blaenau Gwent	will host their annual John Lashbrook memorial shoot.
15/10/23	Blaenau Gwent	Welsh Masters

13. **Any other business.**

1. The meeting was informed that Lampeter were unable to host shoots as they have no ground. Because of this and following our constitution, WAFTA have no option but to remove Lampeter from its list of clubs. It is hoped that they will eventually find a permanent club ground and be in a position to re-join WAFTA.
2. The Inter regional shoot is being held in NEFTA this year and Oaktree asked if there was any funding available for the WAFTA competitors towards their entry costs.  
Two proposals were put forward.
  - a) All team members attending the Inter Regionals would get £15. Proposed by Oaktree. No seconder.
  - b) Every one that takes part in the team Inter Regionals to receive £18. Those who take part in the BFTA Championships to receive £12. So those attending both competitions would receive £30. Proposed by Comp Sec. Seconded by Tondu. Passed unanimously
3. Jack Harris informed the meeting that he was looking at some land that may be suitable as a club ground and was keen to put on an introductory shoot to enable the landowner to observe how we conduct ourselves. Jack was asked to come back with more details and a date for the shoot.

Future meetings will be held on a Wednesday and the date for the next meeting was set 21 June  
2023

Meeting closed 20.25

## WAFTA Chairman's Report 2022

2022 was the first year since 2019 that we were finally free from the Covid restrictions that had so badly affected our sport, and our members were able to fully compete in home, UK, and international competitions.

2022 was I believe the most successful year ever for WAFTA:

1. The WAFTA Team won the BFTA Inter Regional competition for the third time in six years.
2. Mark Bassett won the UK Championships
3. Jack Harris won the NEFTA Classic
4. At the World championships in Italy the Welsh team became the World champions ahead of Spain and Italy, the third time that they won this title. In the individual results Jack Harris was second, Mark Bassett fourth and Dorian Falconer fifth, out of a total entry of almost 200 competitors. Rhys Jenkins (17yrs old) was third in the Junior class.
5. Jack Harris won the BFTA Grand Prix series.
6. Anthony Jones was second at the BFTA Euros
7. Mark Bassett won the BFTA Masters
8. Dorian Falconer won the BFTA Showdown

A fantastic achievement congratulations to everyone.

We will be sending teams to both Bulgaria for the European FT competition and the World FTC in South Africa this year- I wish our teams every success, and on current form I hope that Wales are both European and World champions for 2023.

Tondu and Oaktree will be hosting BFTA 'double header' GP's and Nelson will be hosting the master's and the Showdown this year, demonstrating that WAFTA continues to fully support BFTA competitions.

We ran a full Winter and Summer series this year and shoots were generally well attended but are yet to recover to the levels of attendance pre Covid, let's hope that the recovery continues this year.

The Welsh Target Shooting Federation continues to support WAFTA, and its financial help has enabled us to fully kit out our teams and provide trophies for our series competitions, without any contribution from Clubs to WAFTA funds. I hope that we will hear soon that we will be awarded a WTSF grant for 2023. I am up for re-election as a board member for the WTSF at the end of this year; does anyone wish to stand for this position?

## Secretaries Report

As I'm sure you are all aware, I have had a "challenging" 2022 and I would like to thank you all for your kind thoughts and support during this time. Where I was able, I enjoyed taking part in the summer series and even managed to clear the course at Oaktree, something I had not done in competition since 2001. Just goes to show, age is not an excuse in FT and it's good to keep the youngsters on their toes!

In my November meeting report, I had a bit of a whinge about communications between WAFTA and the club members and from the clubs back to WAFTA. Whilst there has been an improvement, I hope we can continue this over the coming year.

I would like to thank our Chair, John for his outstanding work in representing and promoting WAFTA at the Welsh Target Shooting Federation. As a result of his efforts, we have received grants and support that helped us get through the pandemic period and has also allowed us to support the clubs by not requiring fees from them and not charging for badges.

John is also our representative at the World Field Target Federation and is well respected by the other RGB's. As a result, John was the person they turned to when the current President Sergio had to stand down at short notice. John is now the acting President until elections can be organised.

WAFTA had an outstanding year with Mark winning the BFTA Masters and BFTA championships, Jack Harris winning the GP series and Dorian Falconer winning the BFTA Showdown. Three of the top five places in the World Championships were WAFTA Competitors. The two team events, World Championship Team and Inter Regionals team were both won by WAFTA.

Richard Beaugie

WAFTA Sec.

15 Jan. 2023