

MINUTES of the WAFTA OGM JUNE 2023

Venue: Hafodyrynys Sports & Social Club, NP11 5BE

Date: 14th June 2023 **Time:** 19.20

Meeting called by: John Johnston

Present. John Johnson, Dai Hicks - Tondu. Mark Bassett, Dorian Falconer - Nelson. Gwynne Robinson - Quarry. Pat Isaacs - Castleton. Gareth James, Howard Lloyd - Blaenau Gwent.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Richard Beaugie - Castleton. Simon Evans. Simon Poulter - Oaktree
2. **Minutes of AGM held on the 17th January 2023.** The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Nelson, Seconded by Tondu and carried unanimously.
3. **Officers Reports.** The Competition Secretary, Mark reported that there had been some negative feedback on the recently held BFTA double header event and complaints have been received by BFTA. As a result, proposals are being drafted by BFTA setting out minimum standards for events. The meeting discussed this and commented that it was thought that these minimum standards were already in place.
The Chair John, reported that on a more positive note, the GP's had been well attended with over 100 attending each competition, so numbers are recovering from the lows of the pandemic period
4. **Use of "Sticks" in Open class.** The meeting agreed that the use of sticks has been welcomed by the majority of shooters and that this rule change has allowed more people to enjoy our sport. It was agreed that we would continue to monitor the use of sticks to ensure no modifications are being made to the rifle resting point and that it remained as a single rested point of contact.

Magazine fed Rifles. Nelson raised a safety issue with magazine fed rifles not always being emptied and magazines removed between lanes. It is a mandatory requirement that shooters make their guns safe when not on the firing line, between lanes or when a whistle is blown. For magazine fed rifles, this means removal of the magazine and then discharging into the ground to prove it's unloaded.

5. **BFTA Meeting. Discuss Agenda.** John reported that it would be a Zoom meeting, so should be shorter than usual.

BFTA AGENDA

- a) **The BFTA Calendar.** We move to a 3 year rolling calendar for the three BFTA weekends. So, at the AGM we establish commitment from regions to host:
2024 Champs/Inter, Masters/Showdown and British Open

2025 Ditto, 2026 Ditto. The GP allocation can remain the same.

Mark outlined the reasons for this change and said it would hopefully give security to the BFTA flagship events going forward as the venues would have time to prepare for the events.

It was noted that Nelson will be hosting the Masters/Showdown weekend later this year. With the recent double header and last year the Inter Regional weekend, WAFTA are more than pulling their weight with hosting events.

The meeting agreed with the principle of planning 3 years ahead for these events and that WAFTA would be happy to participate.

- b) **Entry cost and schedule for the British Open.** Mark suggested that a sum of around £50, which would be £25 per day, would not be unreasonable for what will be a prestigious event. The meeting agreed that this would be the figure WAFTA would back.

Trophies: will be for overall and grades as agreed at the AGM.

Prizes? BFTA to supplement trophy winners and raffle prizes for all?

John ran some figures by the meeting and estimated that after payments made to the host, there should be around £2500 left for prizes, so it shouldn't be a problem financing.

- c) **Partnership with HFT**

The prospect of a big event at Weston Park was exciting. Although what remained a concern to me was - who would set out the courses?

A discussion took place about the size of venue required to host both FT and HFT together. Also discussed was the current UKHFT organisation and how their finances were handled. It was pointed out that the WHFTA which is the World organisation is run by a different group and are trying to get better organised. It was felt that BFTA should consider the implications of being associated with an organisation with no elected committee and apparently no accounts.

6. **WFTC & EFTC 2023 updates.** John reported that the World Championships hosted by South Africa has only attracted 17 overseas competitors. Possible reasons for the poor attendance were discussed and probably cost of flights would have had a big impact. Also the European championships running just a month later would be a factor. WAFTA have strong teams going to S.A. and the Europeans in Bulgaria, so hopefully WAFTA competitors will be bringing home some medals from both events.

Mark asked about the purchase of team kit for both competitions. A budget was agreed and Mark will get sizes and put an order in to our supplier.

The World championships 2024 will be in USA and 2025 will be Northern Ireland. Both have been confirmed.

7. **Welsh Target Shooting Federation.** The error that had been made with funding into our account has now been resolved.

The WTSF will be running safeguarding and child protection workshops, which are online. John said that he felt that it should be a requirement that each club in WAFTA have a safeguarding and child protection officer. The workshop is planned to run in March 2024 and John is asking for volunteers to go on the course. Howard told the meeting that the NSRA insurance has a section that requires a named safeguarding officer to be registered with them for the insurance to cover some claims. John will send details of the course to all clubs and the cost will be funded by WTSF.

8. **Global Warming. Protecting our shooters.** Howard raised the issue of the changing weather patterns causing very hot conditions that meant that there may be a need for a water station and cover to be provided at shoots. It was agreed that some guidelines would be put together to bring back to the meeting which would enable a code of practice to be drawn up.
8. **WAFTA Winter Series.** Simon Evans on behalf of Oaktree informed the committee by email that they will no longer be hosting WAFTA shoots This means we are down to five shoots for this winter series. John asked if any club would like to put on two shoots to bring the number back up to six. B/Gwent offered to host two as long as they were spaced well apart, which was agreed. It was further suggested that a rota could be drawn up so each club in turn would host the second shoot to keep the Summer and Winter series at six shoots. Castleton said that they would probably have not been able to host some shoots without the help they have had from other clubs and took the opportunity to thank B/Gwent members who helped with the course setting at the last couple of shoots, it was very much appreciated. Pat said that with the help being offered from B/Gwent, he would be able to keep the club going for as long as possible and happily take their turn on the rota.

Dates for 2023-24 Winter series:

Blaenau Gwent	November 5 th
Castleton	November 26 th
Quarry	December 10 th
Nelson	January 21 st 2024
Tondu	February 4 th
Blaenau Gwent	February 25 th
Tondu Grand Slam	March 10 th

In addition, Blaenau Gwent hosting Welsh Masters and WAFTA/SWEFTA challenge October 15th
Blaenau Gwent Xmas shoot is December 17th

9. **Any other business.** The subject of toilets was brought up and a discussion took place about the cost of putting suitable toilets in place. Blaenau Gwent attempted to get a grant for a disabled toilet on their ground and the application was turned down which has put off other clubs from applying. John has raised this with the WTSF and was told to ensure any further applications go via the WTSF where they can vet the application and offer assistance to ensure it has the best chance of success.

Entry fee for the Grand Slam. It was mentioned that when this competition first started there were no fees and all qualifiers received a badge. Over the years the badges had been dropped and there had been a small payment for entry, but it had been irregular as no one was sure of the agreed fee. The meeting thought it would be worth having qualifier badges similar to the BFTA Showdown badge and also £5 entry on the day that would go to the host club. This was agreed and Mark will source badges.

Welsh Masters. This year, the Masters will also be the Welsh round of the WAFTA/SWEFTA challenge. As a result, it will be run to BFTA rules and John confirmed that the competition would therefore be included in the grading.

Welsh Open Trophy. Mark asked if the meeting would back his proposal to purchase a trophy to go with the perpetual shield for the Welsh open so that the winner has a keepsake of the event. The winner this year was ungraded, so didn't receive anything for his win. This was agreed and Mark will purchase a suitable trophy and present it to this years winner.

C class and Ungraded. B/Gwent raised the issue of a winner of C class not receiving a badge because an ungraded shooter had a higher score. The ungraded shooter has subsequently moved into a higher class. Mark suggested the easiest way forward was to look at ungraded scores and if they had earned a badge in C class, then double up for that position. It was agreed that this would happen in future.

10. **Agree date of next meeting** November 8th 2023

Meeting closed 20.25hrs