



## MINUTES of the WAFTA OGM 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Venue: Hafodyrynys Rugby Club. Start 19.20

Present: Chair John Johnston, Treasurer Dai Hicks, Tondu. Secretary Richard Beaugie, Castleton. Competition Secretary Mark Bassett, David Williams, Dorian Falconer, Nelson. Gwynne Robinson, Quarry. Gareth James, Howard Lloyd, Jack Harris, Blaenau Gwent.

1. Apologies for absence. Simon Evans, Simon Poulter, Oaktree.
2. Minutes of last OGM were accepted as being a true record. Proposed Nelson, Seconded B/Gwent
3. Officers Reports. Treasurer Dai Hicks gave his report and told the meeting that the centralised approach for fee payment at the Worlds and Europeans meant our competitors made a good saving. WAFTA also supported the teams by paying for the team fees and also team kit, but still has a healthy balance in the account. Club reps were given a copy of the treasurer's report to share with club members.

Competition Sec Mark Bassett gave his report and congratulated our members Dorian, for winning the BFTA Championships and Mamba open and a credible 6<sup>th</sup> in the Euros, Jack, for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Mark for 4<sup>th</sup> place and John Easterbrook 4<sup>th</sup> in Vets class in the South African Worlds. Anthony (Numo) Jones winner summer series, Jack winner Welsh Masters and Grand Slam. It's good to see the regional shoots well attended. WAFTA has once again punched above its weight, holding two Grand Prix's and hosting the BFTA Masters and Showdown weekend.

Looking forward to next year, WAFTA will have another busy year, hosting the 3 day European Championships.

No reports from Chair or Secretary.

4. WFTC / EFTC 2023 feedback. Simon Poulter as EFTC team captain sent his report which is appended below.

The Secretary told the meeting that there were some reports/rumours circulating of a problem at the Bulgaria hotel and asked for comments. Jack explained what had happened and fully satisfied the meeting that it was something blown out of all proportion and that is the end of the matter.

5. EFTC 2024. Dorian and Jack gave an update on the progress so far. The ground has been secured and deposit paid. They have agreed with the landowner that three competitions can be held on the ground, so they are hoping that one regional shoot plus a GP can be hosted before the European Championships are held. The venue for the presentation ceremony has been agreed and a meeting with caterers has been set up. The Website and Facebook page is up and running. There is an issue with setting up a bank account, but that is being resolved. John Lewis has agreed to audit the accounts post comp. Sponsors are making contact and already many have promised prizes. The website has also been sponsored.

They have been visiting the ground and have already begun planning courses and shoot lines.

Initially there will be 225 places, but depending on demand, this could increase. It is hoped that the first round of entries will be completed by Christmas and the second round offered to those countries that have filled their allotted places.

A discussion then took place concerning WAFTA team selection for 2024. The current rules will be used for PCP and Piston teams, but this will be discussed further at the AGM.

Dorian told the meeting that they are proposing to include Open class in the competition and will hopefully get the ok by putting it forward as a trial with a limited entry.

A question was asked by Jack on how any surplus funds would be distributed. It was said that for the 2017 Worlds, the surplus was distributed between the clubs who were actively involved in the event with WAFTA having an equal share. It was agreed that we would follow the same procedure for the Euro 2024.

#### 6. BFTA AGM. (Attached) Review Agenda items.

After a long discussion, the meeting agreed that Proposal 7.1 was our preferred option, so keep GP series at one per region. It was noted that the proposal is to allow 2 dropped scores from 7 shoots, but only 1 dropped from 6 if one GP is cancelled for any reason. The committee felt this would be unfair and should be 2 dropped.

Proposal 7.5 was the option agreed for Showdown and Masters, but should the BFTA vote in option 7.4, then WAFTA would press for a reduction in the number of targets proposed from 120 to 100.

Proposal 7.6, which wasn't shown on the BFTA agenda circulated, was for the BFTA championships to be scrapped and instead make the Inter Regionals a two day event with unlimited team entries, best eight scores to count. The meeting voted against this proposal.

Proposal 8a. It was thought that whilst people were aware of the requirements for hosting a BFTA event, there were no written rules actually in place. This is needed and the meeting were in favour of rules being drawn up.

Proposal 8b. The meeting was happy with the proposed fees and subscriptions.

Proposal 10. The meeting were happy with the current officers. No names were put forward for Competition Manager vacancy, although it was suggested that this role could be covered by more than one person. John also informed the meeting that he intended standing down as Grading manager after 2024.

A discussion took place about where the Welsh round of the GP would be held. It was agreed by all that the new ground at Llantrisant would be the venue and would be held in June 2024.

Proposal 13.1 Although discussed, it was difficult to see how the changes to the rule would be beneficial and is only going to complicate the rule. It was also said that if the target was to be changed after four calls, how would the previous competitors that had called and been given a zero be compensated? The meeting was against this proposal.

Proposal 13.2. It was agreed that there should be a refund procedure

Proposal 13.3 WAFTA agree that supported shooting should be included in Open class at BFTA events, as we have already done for WAFTA events. Clubs should ensure that those competitors who do use supports understand the rules that will come into force if this proposal is successful.

Proposal 13.4. The meeting agreed with changing to a shotgun start for the BFTA Championships.

Proposal 13.5 Whilst happy with Teams being used for GM's, the meeting was against the AGM being on line.

9. AOB A safety concern was raised concerning competitors failing to obey the single whistle for ceasefire. There were two instances discussed. One where the competitor genuinely did not hear the whistle. The second where the competitor heard the whistle but chose to ignore the ceasefire.

In the first instance, if there is an issue with the whistle not being heard, either because of the terrain or due to some difficulty of the individual actually hearing the whistle being used. The marshal should agree a method of repeating the whistle down the line or adopt a different method of calling a ceasefire ie. Air horn or a better/louder whistle. If an individual is having difficulty hearing the whistle, that person should ensure their shooting partner is aware and the partner can then ensure any whistle is acted upon.

With the second instance, where the competitor has heard the ceasefire and has deliberately chosen to ignore it. The ruling is: A warning should be given to the individual that a ceasefire has been called and if still ignored, disqualification from the competition. In this scenario, it should be reported to the competitors club and to the WAFTA committee for possible further action to be taken.

John asked if the clubs could forward names that require BFTA cards to him by end December.

Dai Hicks told the meeting that he has now handed out the last of the regional shoot badges and John said he would look at some designs for new badges.

10. Date of next Meeting (AGM) 10 January 2024

Meeting ended 20.55

Rich Beaugie

WAFTA Sec.

Bulgaria Report:

WAFTA sent 9 shooters to the European Field Target Chamionships, held in the town of Varshets, Bulgaria. (The team shooters were joined by a couple of English interlopers as we had extra space). The shooters were grateful to have been supplied with Team kit by WAFTA to look more professional.

The competition was well organised and took place over extensive public grounds at the edge of the town. The terrain was, in parts, very steep which made for some technically difficult (and physically uncomfortable) shooting. The distance per round was around 2.6 miles each day.

In terms of results, Doz Falconer finished a creditable 6th, and Jack Harris 12th in the overall PCP competition. Sotiris Exarchos finished 10th in the springer competition, a great result as the main spring in his gun broke 2 days before we were due to leave, so he had a lot of work to get the new spring fettled and settled. Russ Summers was 3rd in the veteran springer class, and Rhys Jenkins supported by his family, was 4th in the junior PCP class. The Welsh team finished 7th overall.

Support was given by Gordon Withers, Steve Chubb, Steve Kociumbas and Simon Poulter. One of our English Interlopers, Steve Franklin, won the veteran PCP class.

At the presentation evening, we announced our intention to host the competition in 2024 and confirmed this shortly after returning home.

Preparations have already begun!

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Simon Poulter

