



**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at the  
The Beacon Way Public House, Bloxwich  
On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010.**

**1) Chairman's Report and welcome – please see attached report Annex A.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and made all members aware of the fire exits, warned about cables on the floor and requested mobile phones to be on silent. The Chairman expressed disappointment at the low turn out and encouraged representatives to attend future meetings.

**2) Persons Present and Regions Represented**

**BFTA Officers Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Roger Moy	Chairman
Jonathan Noon	Vice Chairman
Sam Reece	Minute Secretary
Shaun Shore	Secretary
Tony Cook	Competition Manager
Phil Tetstall	Grading Officer
Derek Winslow	Treasurer

**Regions Represented**

CSFTA	Andrew Slade	Rep
FFTA	Liz Moy	Rep
WAFTA	Pat Isaacs	Rep
WAFTA	Chris Isaacs	Rep
NEFTA	Beryl Noon	HVP
NWFTA	Stuart Swindells	Rep
NWFTA	Carl Knapper	Rep

14 members present and 6 regions represented.

**3. Apologies for Absence**

Received from:-

Lyndeen Calvert – CSFTA  
Steve Hughes – NWFTA  
Mick Woodhead – SARPA  
Rob Farnworth – CSFTA  
Mark Bassett – WAFTA  
Neale Marklew – MFTA  
John Walker – SEFTA  
Mike Noon - HVP

**4. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 30.01.10 to be Read and Accepted**

Proposed by NEFTA (BN) seconded by MFTA (TC).

The Chairman asked that regional representatives ensure that the Minutes of meetings are distributed within the regions.

#### **5. Action List from Last Meeting/Any Matter Arising from Last Meeting**

AP1 – Chairman to write an explanation of why the BFTA ended insurance. Complete see minutes from January 2010.

AP2 – Pictures to be included in rules. Complete see website.

AP3 – List of all clubs. The Secretary has a growing list of clubs that is approaching completion.

AP4 – NEFTA funding proposal. Ongoing.

AP5 – Produce a card to be given to non-cardholders wishing to shoot BFTA events.

Amended at this meeting. The Secretary to e-mail to all regions.

AP6 to 8 – Chairman to liaise with web manager relating to entry to GP series. Complete see website entry page.

HVP (BN) asked about the presence of Bowhead banners at the Euros this year.

The use of photographs on the website and any other BFTA publication was discussed. It was agreed that the identity of any juniors should not be associated with photographs. It was suggested that future score cards should contain wording that gives permission for the competitors photograph to be used on the website and any other BFTA publications. The Secretary will liaise with Chris Large but it recognised that we have a good stock of score cards that must be used first (AP1).

The Chairman announced that he will be standing down at the AGM in November. As he would not be attending many of the GP's he asked for any issues arising to be dealt with by the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman gave details of the sponsors' prizes on offer for this year's GP series and BFTA events. The Chairman thanked Mark Bassett for his work and Mike Noon for the support he offered.

HVP (BN) asked whether the BFTA should run a Chief Marshals course.

The Chairman asked BN to investigate the cost and arrangements for 2 people from each region to attend such course (AP2). The Vice-Chairman suggested that one of these people should be the region's competition secretary. WAFTA (PI) asked whether the Sports Council could be approached for funding.

A discussion took place pertaining to disabled shooting positions. NEFTA would like to see more rigour in determining disability. Such as:

- Disabled people will have a blue badge card.
- Those with temporary injuries should have a doctor's note or the injury should be evident.
- Chief Marshals are not able to determine disability.

FFTA are working on the wording of related documents.

The Grading Officer expressed his concern that the new grading list that he sends out at the start of each month is not updated on the website.

## **6. Correspondence**

The Secretary received an e-mail from a club in NWFTA asking if it could be advertised on the BFTA website. The Secretary asked the NWFTA representatives to investigate if the club was an FT club.

## **7. Officers' Report.**

### **Treasurer.**

The Treasurer explained that the income to the BFTA was lower than expected due to lower numbers purchasing BFTA cards.

The Treasurer announced that he is planning to resign in 2011. CSFTA (AS) expressed his interest in the treasurer's role. DW and AS to work together over the next 12 months.

Please see report. (Appendix B).

The Chairman expressed the committee's desire to lower the BFTA capital holdings.

The Chairman also asked regions to encourage their members to buy cards and become members of the BFTA therefore increasing the national representation.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Treasurer and also drew attention to the background work undertaken by the Treasurer.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary offered congratulations to all the clubs that had organised the GP series.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Secretary.

### **Competition Manager.**

The Competition Manager has had correspondence with Ian Harford of Countryman Fairs. Ian would like to encourage more FT involvement at country fairs.

The Chairman suggested that Highclere game fair could be the location of the CSFTA GP in 2011. CSFTA representative (AS) said he would discuss the possibility at the next meeting of CSFTA.

The Competition Manager asked that regions supply venues for 2011 GPs in November (AP3).

Dates of 2011 GPs were confirmed.

The bonus bunny draw from GP4 SARPA had not taken place. The Competition Manager informed that it would take place when the BFTA had received the £150.

The Competition Manager announced his intention to resign from the role at the AGM in November 2010.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Competition Manager.

### Dates for BFTA competitions 2011

Event	Date	Venue	Region
BFTA Championships	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2011	Newbury	
BFTA Inter-regionals	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2011	Newbury	
GP1	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2011		MFTA
NEFTA Classic	30 <sup>th</sup> April & 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2011		
GP2	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2011		NWFTA
GP3	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2011		CSFTA
GP4	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2011		SARPA
GP5	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2011		WAFTA
GP6	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2011		SWEFTA
GP7	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2011		NEFTA
GP8	7 <sup>th</sup> August 2011		SEFTA
GP9	21 <sup>st</sup> August 2011		FFTA
BFTA Masters	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2011	Newbury	
BFTA Showdown	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	Newbury	
European Championship	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	Weston Park	

#### **Insurance Officer/Development**

The Insurance/Development Officer was not present.  
Please see report. (Appendix C)

#### **Trade Liaison Officer**

Not present. HVP (BN) reported that things were running smoothly.

#### **Grading Officer**

Please see report. (Appendix D)

The Grading Officer announced he will be resigning at the AGM in November 2010.  
The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Grading Officer.

#### **Web Manager**

Please see report. (Appendix E)

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Web Manager.

The Secretary agreed to provide a short report about GPs for the website if one was not supplied by the hosting region.

#### **NSRA**

No report

#### **AMTA**

See report within Chairman's report. (Appendix A).

#### **General Information.**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will advertise committee positions to BFTA members.  
Nominations to the Chairman on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

## **8. Discuss any possible rule changes for the 2011 season.**

FFTA (EM) asked that could course builders be made aware that their courses should fairly accommodate left handed shooters.

Standing and kneeling shots were discussed. The Competition Manager referred to the guidance that was sent to all clubs that were hosting GPs. In the guidance it is recommended that the total yardage of a discipline lane should be no longer than 70 yards for a kneeling lane and 60 yards for a standing lane; it was felt that this recommendation was not always being followed.

The Vice Chairman suggested that this could be replaced by an average length for discipline shots across the course.

The Competition Manager will e-mail all regions to remind them of these recommendations.

Further discussion will follow.

NEFTA (BN) proposal for the AGM that the maximum proportion of reduced targets used on a GP course be reduced from 25% to 20%.

A reminder for all clubs setting GP courses. Pellets must land upon land which the club has permission to shoot. If it is possible that a pellet might land beyond the boundary then backstops should be used.

CSFTA (AS) clarified that the use of thigh pods was not against the rules.

CSFTA (AS) asked whether marshals should wear high visibility clothing. This was agreed and was proposed as a rule change for 2011.

Also it was proposed that no-one crosses the shooting line under ceasefire unless they are wearing high visibility clothing.

## **9. AOB**

EFTA Secretary (RF) was not present but sent news that the next meeting of the EFTA is still to be confirmed.

## **10. Date, Time and Place of 2010 meetings (proposed) at The Beacon Way, Bloxwich.**

- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010, 10am start, The Beacon Way, Bloxwich. AGM
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 10am start, The Beacon Way, Bloxwich.
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 10am start, The Beacon Way, Bloxwich.

The meeting ended at 3.34pm.

## Appendix A

### **Chairman & AMTA Report to the BFTA Meeting, Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2010.**

Four rounds of the Grand Prix series over and GP5 next weekend at Anston. Attendance is good, around the 150 mark except for SARPA where there always seems to be praise for the course but never a great turnout. The way things are going I believe we will have lots more teams wishing to taking part in 2011 maybe we need to review the way teams can be entered i.e. a lot more flexibility.

**Country Fairs and Shooting Shows** are a great way of advertising our sport, I know many clubs actually run an Air Rifle Range at local shows but can we (BFTA) do more to help?

**This is echoing an appeal from Steve Hughes** our Web Master, is it possible for someone at each of the GP Rounds to put together half a page of comments and/or observations that can be put on the Website as soon as possible after the event. You don't need to worry about the layout or pagination Steve will tidy things up before he puts them on the front page. We have two (at least two) roving photographers doing a great job out there at the GPs and other major shoots. If you think you took some good pictures or one great picture then send them to Steve and he will sort them prior to displaying them on the website. Just a thought, how many of you have a look at the ribbon photo at the top of the front page just to see if it's you?

**AMTA Meetings** I attended the first meeting of the year where we elected a chairman for the actual meeting from those of us around the table, the idea worked well. I am afraid I missed the last meeting as Liz and I attended the funeral of a wife of one of Broadlands' members.

Roger Moy

BFTA Chairman.

Always Remember, Gun Safety is No Accident.

#### Appendix B

##### **Treasurer's Report.**

When our savings accounts were opened, interest rates on them were over 5%. They are now at the pathetic level of 0.75%. You may recall the to achieve even this, we had to transfer all Bank of Scotland assets into the immediate access account, as the rates on the notice account did not exceed this unless funds were locked in for a term of seven or eight months, and we felt this was unacceptable. Hopefully, interest rates will rise at some time in the future.

At this time last year, our assets stood at £41,908.72. They presently stand at £44,825.86, an increase of £2,917.14. This increase is below the rate we have experienced over the last few years, and the reduction can be partly explained by the drop in BFTA card take-up, some 356 below the figure for this time last year. I have a breakdown by region if you are interested.

Derek Winslow

BFTA Treasurer

#### Appendix C

##### **Insurance and Development Officer.**

Sorry I can't be here today I've just become a granny and a family get together was more appealing.

##### **The good news is:**

The new system is now under way 48 clubs swapped from our old scheme to the NSRA We have had 3 to 4 new clubs enquire about being a part of the BFTA

##### **Now for the bad news and a whole lot of whinging**

It worked but not because of the way which was asked (praise goes to NEFTA and WAFTA who did do as asked). I have not heard a peep from SARPA (except Westfield whom checked with me direct)

It only worked because of my own hard work, time and effort. For this I thank the other 7 regions for making it so hard for which should be an easy job. I hope you are proud of yourselves not only was my job difficult but then the next in the chain (grading, shooters cards) was not able to proceed.

I walked into the NSRA myself(it's a good job its only down the road otherwise my phone bill would be huge) and spent time looking for the clubs under the old BFTA scheme to physically check on insurance and for those that don't /didn't use the NSRA I can only nag for so long. As their regional secretary hasn't been in touch (SARPA, SWEFTA)

All I asked is for the regional secretaries to ask each club in their region for a copy of insurance so they have it then send it to me. Not at all difficult I thought how wrong I was. I assumed they would want this info when a club joins a region.

### **We need to move forward**

I believe there is no structure for how each region should and do behave/share information. This should go back to basics.

How a club joins a region many joined I believe for cheap insurance but yet don't even keep a note on when anyone is using its facilities.

Also whether they even do FT at all. This is never checked upon. We (BFTA) should be more active in whatever is going on at these clubs it seems that we are only interested in the few that venture to competitions.

Yes I realise the coaching course is out there to be had but it is usually found like most things word of mouth.

We need to look at the whole of the BFTA and have a solid structure built. Things are changing in the Field target and I think we are lagging behind.

I have lots of ideas and drive but can't work with the system we have now it's too much hard work.

Lyn

Ps I am not about to resign but I may feel the need if things don't get a kick up the backside

### Appendix D

#### **Grading Officer's Report.**

GRADING.....No problems

CARDS.....Was a fiasco this year due to...

1. The agreed cut off date at the January meeting was the end of February, but only 717 Cards were applied for, so I extended that to the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. I sent out a reminder each week and then a daily countdown which eventually a total request for Cards was 1315, (About 200 down on the same time last year), and that was sent off on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>. After about 4 weeks I started to enquire to where they were, and it eventually took 8 weeks and 1 day before I received them. Apparently the printers were inundated with work.

2. The rumours of the £2.00 rule seemed to cause a lot of confusion with regions not knowing details, also, shooters were unable to book into GP1 because of the automated system was not showing shooters details correctly, so I was getting numerous calls asking for help. Result being, many hours of telephone conversations and emails.

INSURANCE.....Only 1, out of all the clubs who have applied for cards, has not had their insurance confirmed, that is JUNIPER and it applies to only 1 shooter. I did email Ros Williamson and she was going to check on it.

MONEY.....Total paid into the bank at the end of May was £4774.50

And finally, my Resignation. I will be finishing at the AGM in November. I will have done it for 3 years and as I'm 60 in December it needs someone younger. Everything will be up to date with written step by step instructions on how to do the rolling 20, and all recorded on a memory stick.

#### Appendix E

##### **Web managers report for the General meeting of the BFTA**

Thank you for the support the association has given for the website over the past few years. I apologise for not attending the meeting but I will always be unable to attend on a Saturday due to work commitments.

##### **General Matters**

The web site was rebuilt just before the start of the current season and is performing well technically. We are using the latest versions of all the software packages and seem to have few technical problems.

The hosting package and domains have recently been renewed for the coming year and we have maintained our disk capacity at 5GB which gives lots of flexibility should we decide to host picture galleries /archives etc. I will be chatting with Simon and Rob about that shortly. We have thousands of pictures going back years.

Monthly bandwidth is still at 50 GB which is proving more than adequate for our needs. Annual costs run at about £200 per year. This includes all services, hosting, software purchases, licences and professional site security package. Backups are automated on the server and are mirrored to a second server. It is excellent value for money and the service, backup and facilities we enjoy from the hosting company are of the highest standard. We could easily run the web site for less money. It would be harder work, lower bandwidth, have fewer facilities and would be less secure for our databases.

Traffic on the site is around 350 unique visits per day after each of the GP's, dropping to about 150-200 otherwise.

##### **On-line booking.**

The automated booking system seems to have very quickly settled down and I now get very few reports of any problems.

It takes a lot of pressure off the organisers as all replies are automated and fully customised to the event. Entries can only be made by current shooters card holders and are automatically checked for current grade etc against the grading lists. Organisers get a complete breakdown of all bookings with names/telephone and email details/grades etc a week before the shoot or when the online booking closes automatically at capacity.

(80/session)



The system works well, is backed up instantly after every booking and shows confirmation straight away on the site. Feedback from the event organisers has been very good so far. There have been rumours of people abusing the system by failing to notify of cancellations. In my opinion this is not the case and very few just do not turn up. If the same person does it twice in a season then we can easily ask them to book direct in future.

GP Event	Bookings	Attendance	Notified Cancel	Non - Notified Cancel
GP1	153	150	3	0
GP2	151	142	2	7
GP3	139	132	?	7
GP4	69	62	2	5
GP5	146 (So Far)	N/A	N/A	N/A
GP6	103 (So Far)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>

This represents an un-notified cancellation rate of only less than 4% - For any national event that involves travelling this has to be an expected figure but is by no means excessive. I can only account for cancellations which I receive – others may well have contacted the organisers. If each organiser would send in a list of those who did not give notice and did not attend then I will check it to ensure it not someone messing about. On that issue – if any person who has booked wishes to change their booking details, they simply re-book – this first booking is then removed from the system.

This is not automated and is not done straight away as our system also records the time and IP address of every booking made and can verify that a cancellation or change is being made by the same person and on the same computer that did the original booking.

Where this is not the case, I contact the people concerned and confirm the requested change. It seems to work well and stops anyone messing with the booking system.

At present, we only book two events at a time, starting the next as soon as the last one closes. This is deliberate and could be changed now the system is very manageable and working well.

The only down side is that in order to run the system, I have to import every single card holder into the system as a member – Updating that is difficult mid season as we have live bookings attached to the existing database.

Therefore should any new card holder wish to book online I add them manually. This has been a rare event and is not to do with not keeping up to date with the grading list etc.

### **Displaying Scores/ Results**

Displaying the results has always been a nightmare for me as the original system would not accept the very large and multiple page spreadsheets that we use. Each page had to be turned into a separate HTML file and made to look nice which took a long time – always on Mondays when I am most busy.

I therefore have relied on Neale Marklew and we simply link to his excellent results page very quickly updated after a shoot.

However, I have now found a way to host the results in their entirety showing league tables etc, very easily and quickly, as you may have seen this last week.

I will continue to host the result pages this way unless we have problems. Out of interest this is an excellent way to display previous years' data, is extremely secure and costs us nothing.

### **Grading Lists**

The current Grading List System allows people to look up their club from a list of all clubs and see their grade and BFTA number and results contributing to the grade. It is based on

a piece of ASP.net software written by myself for that purpose with a Microsoft Access Database running on a Windows Server – (Not ours- Ours is UNIX – it HAS to run on Windows ASP.net).

Thanks to Phil Tetstall's hard work the grading lists are kept well up to date and updated monthly.

Updating the current system from Excel spreadsheets to an Access based ASP.Net application is more complicated than originally thought and although it works well takes longer than I would have hoped, hence on occasion the grading pages lag behind the update. I am therefore in the process of setting up a much simpler system that will mean Grading lists can be kept up to date at all times.

**ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR USE  
WITHIN THE SITE THERE ARE SEVERAL MATTERS WHICH I WOULD ASK YOU TO  
CONSIDER IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE SITE, MAKING IT MORE INTERESTING AND  
PRODUCTIVE**

### **Calendar**

Although I am asked to promote events, little extra info is ever sent. This means there is massive under-use of our ability to promote regional and National shoots. Please ask the clubs that wish to advertise a shoot to send some info about last year's event, maybe a picture of the winner, the format etc Otherwise all I can do is enter it on the calendar with no info.

Input from the events and news is the lifeblood of the front page.

I know that after each GP everyone is tired. I ask each club would they be kind enough to do a small paragraph or two and let me know the main winners as soon as possible after the competition finishes. This is generally placed on the site within minutes and these days can be done from a mobile phone. Sometimes this is not forthcoming and simply leaves the site empty after a major shot until the results have been finalized. Even then all I can do is announce that the results are in. (Tony is always very quick and Neale Marklew hosts them very well.)

Two of the four GP's this year have not submitted anything whatsoever after the shoot. All input has been from others.

Please ask all those who run the GP's to try and organize just one person to get something in ASAP after the event. The interest is quite strong. The above also applies to the local shoots. We advertise the Shires/The Portcullis/Bulldog bash etc – then nothing – no pics, no words, and no results.

Interesting News articles are also of great value. Anyone can submit something of interest and generally we can get it onto the site in quite a short time. It enhances the site and makes it interesting to visit.

### **Sponsorship**

The ability to promote our sponsors on the site is vastly underused.

I can do all sorts of things with the advertising capabilities within the content management system. Apart from some very limited input by way of a list of sponsors, all artwork used has had to be taken from the sponsors own sites.

E.g. *Countryman Fairs* are a sponsor.

I have had nothing whatsoever to use on the site and have taken all our links etc from their own website. They may not like this as it is copyright. I am sure it OK but we could do far more than we do at present.

I think only Napier has actually supplied any artwork and that was simply the word Napier. If the sponsors are happy then so am I but I do feel that we miss a major opportunity to say thanks by not using the site more fruitfully in this respect.

In order to know how to help the sponsors I need to know what they expect on our web site.

Also – A regular list of current sponsors would be most welcome

#### **Updates – Club details etc.**

Many of you are aware that if asked, I can update club details, contacts and web site info very rapidly indeed – sometimes within minutes. However please - a personal plea for each club to check their own details and send anything missing such as Telephone numbers/email addresses and website details.

I was recently asked to update SARPA's clubs list which was done very quickly. I noticed that very few of the clubs had any web address and on a whim – checked on line and found that at least four of them had web sites that we could link to and had not mentioned these in the update. Again this is under-use of the facilities we have available.

#### **Club Finder**

Although we have the location of most clubs I am looking at producing a NATIONAL Club finder for all BFTA Regionally affiliated clubs giving full directions and locations for every club on our list.

The old Club Finder Map still works a treat but we need to update it a little.

#### **Merchandise**

If we sell it – advertise it on here. Most frequent question I am asked – can we buy badges etc?

#### **Pictures**

A very big thanks to all those who send in the photographs – Rob, Simon and all others. The Random slices at the top right of the screen are generally taken from the pictures of the last shoot (Except for the promotional ones). They are greatly enjoyed by those “caught in the act” and we get enormous positive feedback – only once have I been asked to take a picture off the site.

#### **The Forum**

First big thanks to Alan Forest who does put a lot of hard work in as Admin. I generally only provide technical support in there – and the odd “opinion”. ☺

In my opinion it is vastly over complex and should be simplified. The attendance rate is extremely low and frequently less people per day than there are forums. Forums need to be active and have multiple active threads in order to stay interesting. I will have a chat with Alan and suggest some remodelling. Even if we just switch some of the forums off for a while whilst we grow a bit.

There are some superb national Forums such as Shooting the Breeze. We have more forums than they do and 0.1% of the visitors.

Thank you,  
Steve Hughes  
BFTA Web Manager 16/6/2010