

BFTA General Meeting 18th June 2016
At Meadow Farm, Dagnell End Road, Redditch, B98 9BJ

Minutes

- 1) Chairman's welcome and report (Annex A)
- 2) Persons and regions present and voting representatives identified

BFTA Officers Present

Name	Title
Roger Moy	President
Phil Gee	Chairman
Shaun Shore	Acting Secretary and Competition Manager
Simon Evans	Grading Officer
Rob Farnworth	Web & Forum Manager

Regions Represented

Name	Region
Rob Farnworth (V)	CSFTA
Trevor Ryan	NEFTA
Dave Robinson (V)	NEFTA
Brian Samson	NEFTA
Martin Calpin	NEFTA
Carl Knapper (V)	NWFTA
Martin Gibbins	NWFTA
Graham Jopson (V)	SEFTA
Brian Langford	WAFTA
Liz Moy (V)	FFTA
John Johnston (V)	WAFTA
Lyndeen Calvert	CSFTA
Mick Woodhead	CSFTA
Simon Evans (V)	SWEFTA

17 persons present and 7 regions represented.

- 3) Apologies for absence

Andrew Slade (Treasurer), Richard Greenwood (FFTA), Sam Reece (MFTA) and Kevin Sayers (MFTA)

- 4) Minutes of AGM from November 2015 to be read and accepted as true record

Proposed by SEFTA seconded by NWFTA

- 5) Matters arising from November 2015 AGM

The Competition Manager informed the committee that the rules that were agreed at the AGM had been written and published in the early spring.

- 6) Correspondence

The Chairman read out a resignation letter from Paul Mangham

7) Officer Reports

- Chairman = Annexe A
- Treasurer = Annex B
- Competition Manager = Annex C

Trophies were discussed as part of the Competition Manager's report. It was agreed to try a new direction for 2017: The Competition Manager will organise the trophies for the 3 BFTA weekends. For GPs the sub-group of {Martin Calpin, Brian Samson, Roger Moy and Rob Farnworth} will consider some novel solutions and bring their preferred recommendation to the AGM in November.

- Webmaster = Annex D
- Grading Officer = Annex E

8) BFTA Merchandise

Martin outlined how the merchandising was developing. He provided details of cash flow and projected profit. Shaun thanked Martin for his hard work and design ability and this was reinforced by the committee members.

9) BFTA European Championship – discussion about changing the name of the Championship.

The Chairman opened the debate by asking if there was appetite for changing the name of the Championship and its prize structure. A discussion followed that favoured the change of name to reflect the changing landscape of FT in Europe and the world, whilst also reflecting the history that exists with the event. It was generally agreed that the prize structure should change but no firm suggestions were heard. The name that was most popular included the word international. The Chairman asked Roger Moy if he would contact Countryman Fairs and explore with them potential name change; Roger said that he was happy to do so.

10) WFTF Wales: Update from John Johnston.

John explained to the committee how the plans for the Wales 2017 were progressing. He explained in detail how the registration process would work and emphasised that the event will be run over 2 sessions so there is ample places available for UK shooters.

Full report is Annex F

11) BFTA sponsorship of Wales 2017

John outlined how the BFTA could benefit from sponsoring Wales 2017 and was looking for a contribution of around £2000. The general consensus was that if Wales needed more money then they should generate this by increasing their entry fee. The Chairman invited John to make a proposal to the committee at the AGM but he felt that there would not be support for sponsorship.

12) Target Shape

The Chairman invited debate as to whether the BFTA should move away from using animal silhouettes. There was general agreement that we should and discussion of how this could be done. The favoured idea was to set a time frame such that post a future date all BFTA shoots would require that only non-animal shapes were used. Chairman to form proposal at the AGM

13) Preliminary shoot dates 2017

Event	Date	Venue
BFTA Championship	8 th April 2017	ETL
BFTA Inter-Regional	9 th April 2017	ETL
GP1	23 rd April 2017	Avon Hawks - SWEFTA
GP2	14 th May 2017	NWFTA
GP3	28 th May 2017	Blaenau Gwent - WAFTA
GP4	11 th June 2017	CSFTA
GP5	2 nd July 2017	Iceni – SEFTA
GP6	16 th July 2017	MFTA
GP7	6 th August 2017	Emley Moor – NEFTA
GP8	20 th August 2017	Sywell - FFTA
BFTA Masters	2 nd September 2017	Castle
BFTA Showdown	3 rd September 2017	Castle
BFTA Europeans	16 th & 17 th September 2017	Weston Park

14) BFTA Support of Air Arms roadshow

The Competition Manger outlined a new project from Air Arms. They plan to introduce a roadshow to a number of outdoor events. The roadshow will showcase FT, HFT and Benchrest. Air Arms will supply all equipment. Air Arms requests that BFTA shooters attend the roadshow to instruct visitors about FT. The first trial of the roadshow will be at Weston Park in September and it is hoped that we can supply volunteers. Following that Air Arms will supply a calendar of events that they are supporting and hopefully we will be able to offer support from the region and clubs that are close to the events.

15) EFTA to establish a committee outlining roles and responsibilities for the world championship in England.

The Competition Manager expressed concern that work was taking place in preparation for the world championship yet roles had not been defined which may mean that the work was in vein. The Competition Manager endorsed Andy Calpin as the course director for the future worlds and suggested that he should be installed in the role ASAP. Rob Farnworth shared that the EFTA had identified roles and possible people to fill them and he agreed that it would be beneficial to have people clearly associated with roles. The Competition Manager suggested that roles and people were identified ahead of the AGM in November so that the committee would be informed at the AGM.

16) Change of chronograph procedure at GPs

NEFTA suggested that rifles should be chronographed at booking in. The pros and cons of such a system were discussed; the main concern was whether there was sufficient time before the am session. NEFTA indicated that they would trial the idea at GP7 and then decide upon proposing change at the AGM.

17) Inclusion of Piston Class at the Euros

The EFTA explained that there was growing interest in shooting Piston Class at the world championship so they would like to use the Euros as a qualification event. The Competition Manager said that this was easily achievable. The EFTA would supply one trophy for the winner of the class. Since the meeting Solware have offered to sponsor the trophy.

18) Concern about safety on discipline lanes

MFTA raised concern about the practice of loading rifles whilst seated for ranging and then moving to standing or kneeling with a loaded rifle.

There was discussion about the practice and disagreement about whether it should or should not be outlawed. MFTA are invited to fully describe their proposal and submit for the AGM.

19) AOB

Brian Samson informed the committee that as part of his role within the WFTF he will be running a marshalling course in Portugal prior to the 2016 world championship. He will also be running a course in preparation for Wales 2017. To host a world championship in the future countries will be required to have marshals that have undergone training. Brian offered to hold a course to train BFTA shooters. This was unanimously supported and Brian was asked to provide more details and costing in advance of the AGM in November.

Lyndeen Calvert asked the committee what should be done with the money that the EFTA has in its bank account now that the EFTA committee was a sub-committee of the BFTA. It was agreed that this should be transferred to the BFTA account and audited under the title EFTA. Shaun said that he will talk to the Treasurer and explain the situation and the desire of the committee.

From NEFTA - A NEFTA member had raised concern about the drone used at GP4.

Graham Jopson is a flyer of light aeroplanes and advised the committee that the use of a drone for the purpose seen at GP4 was not permitted. Graham knows Andy Mason the flyer of the drone, which was for videoing the shoot, and has informed Andy that the drone cannot be used. The video that Andy made at GP was widely praised from committee members.

A NEFTA member suggested that at GP shoots points should be awarded per session because of the sometimes very different weather conditions experienced in the session. Shaun drew attention to the Minutes from June 2015:

"GP Sessions – there was no support for scoring sessions independently although it was expressed that after a long journey shooters are understandably disappointed if session difficulty is markedly different. It was agreed that FT is an outdoor sport and the weather plays its part"

NEFTA were asked that if they proposed the change to session scoring then the proposal should contain full description of how the scoring system would work.

The Chairman suggested that as the trial of the kneeling roll appeared to be successful then we should adopt the WFTF definition for a 1 year trial period. Any blatant attempt to circumvent the rules would then be dealt with via subsequent rule changes at the AGM 2017. Prior to forming this proposal the Chairman would await feedback from BFTA shooters that attended the Portugal world championship.

The Chairman informed the committee that he would not be standing for the role of Chairman at the AGM in November. He was asked would he consider the Secretary role and he indicated that he would. The Competition Manager indicated that he would, if nominated, consider being the Chair and continuing the Competition Manager's role.

Lyndeen Calvert expressed interest in becoming Secretary.

Next meeting is the AGM on 19th November 2016

Shaun Shore (Acting Secretary)

Annex A

Chairman's Report for the BFTA GM on Saturday 18th June 2016

I'd like to welcome you all to today's meeting and hope we have a meaningful and fruitful discussion.

A couple of points of health and safety to start today's meeting are:

Please be aware of loose power cables trailing on the floor,

Please make yourselves aware of the fire exit, &

For the smokers, please locate the approved smoking location.

We will break for lunch at around 12.30pm and we will have short comfort breaks as required during the morning and afternoon sessions.

Unfortunately, as you are aware, Paul Mangham recently decided to resign as Secretary.

His resignation letter is shown below for information:

Hello Phil,

It is with a certain sadness and yet a sense of personal relief that I tender my resignation from the role of BFTA Secretary with immediate effect. The role no longer offers me any joy or satisfaction and has become a chore rather than a position in which I would have hoped to be of benefit to the BFTA.

This is due to a number of reasons which I would prefer not to go through but I am positive that I would be better off personally by removing myself from the committee.

I apologise for the timing of my decision but I thought it best to take this action now rather than devalue the role by not giving it the attention it deserves.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish yourself and everyone within the BFTA committee every success for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Mangham

Organisation wise, Shaun had already agreed to stand in for Paul at today's meeting, so he will act as secretary and produce the minutes.

I will produce the agenda and the minutes for the AGM in November, where we will appoint a new Secretary.

Moving on, today's meeting is a chance for us to discuss issues and formulate our plans for next year and beyond, mainly for the benefit of the BFTA, but also bearing in mind that the World Championships come to our shores twice in the next few years.

Phil Gee

BFTA Chairman

Annex B

BFTA Treasurer's Report (Nov 2015 - Jun 2016)

First, please accept my apologies for not being at the BFTA meeting, this is only the second meeting I have ever missed and only my first as BFTA treasurer.

A major source of frustration this period has been with the Bank of Scotland, where they stated we had not signed a cheque in accordance with the mandate. This cheque was to transfer £10,000 from the BoS current account into the NatWest account to ensure we had sufficient monies to lend to Wales for hosting the 2017 World Championships (was agreed could be up to £10K. To cut a long story short, after sending in a new banking mandate with 7 signatures they stated it was on the wrong form and to do it again after I had been assured that the form was correct. I have closed the BoS accounts and obtained compensation for them messing up. The compensation is £350 plus incidental expenses of £38, which I will claim a large portion back as my mobile phone bill and registered posting of the new mandate amounts for the brunt of the expenditure costs.

The **Bank of Scotland Current accounts** (both current and deposit) effectively contained ~ **£20,500**. This has (or is at time of writing) is being transferred to the Nat West current account, whilst I open a brand new deposit account with Nat West. The interest on the monies in BoS accounts used to amount to £13 a month.

The **National Westminster Current Account** statement shows balance of **£4,361.81 (as of 19th May 2016)**. **This figure does not include the BOS monies (~£20,500), still to be transferred.**

The total monies paid into NatWest account by Simon and myself amounts to **£7,578.50**, this with last year's balance amounts to **£14,315.77** in total.

Total withdrawals by cheque amounts to **£10,487.96** so far this year and this includes the following items worthy of note:

1. 8 off printed target testers - £200
2. 5000 new score cards (new logo) - £650
3. Design and printing of BFTA membership cards £810
4. NSRA affiliation and insurance £281.30
5. Donation to Paul James shoot - £250
6. 3 off new Polish chronos - £220.64
7. Loan to WAFTA to assist with early items associated with 2017 Worlds - £5,000 (this will be re-paid)

I would like to thank Shaun and Chris Large who waited patiently until I had sorted out BoS mess to be repaid for expenses and invoices incurred with BFTA.

The next expenditure on the horizon is the repayment of 50p per card back to EFTA, WAFTA and SARPA from 2015-2016 BFTA card purchases (retrospective). Although EFTA will again become a sub-committee of BFTA, we should still pay the monies back to the National Regions this will help to provide English team kit for Portugal World FT Championships this year.

With the abolition of the Team Entry fee, Air-Arms made a generous £1,000 donation to BFTA. I believe to help sponsor the Euros (Shaun can provide more details).

As agreed by the BFTA committee, we continued with a **£250.00** contribution towards the Paul James Memorial Shoot on 10th April 2016. This contribution meant that a greater sum of money was donated on behalf of the memorial shoot, to the hospice which assisted Paul.

We have also purchased another 3 small Polish made Chronographs for the GP boxes and further evaluation at a cost of **£220.64**

I have paid Martin Calpin **£739.20** which covered the cost of some new BFTA merchandise with new BFTA logo (Hats, cloth patches, and metal pin badges). Martin has provided details expenditure and income details and I am pleased that Martin is making a welcome profit for the BFTA from the sale of these items. Well done Martin. Without pre-empting Shaun's Competition Secretary Report, we have had a successful and profitable BFTA Championships and Inter-Regionals, GP1 Meon and GP2 Bisley.

In summary, most of the money in the BFTA funds has been generated by the Competitions and most of the money paid out is also in Competition Trophies and prizes and the anticipated end of season draw prizes. The increased the shoot fee to £12.00 with £6.00 going to the club/region holding the event and £6.00 going to BFTA, (noting the BFTA provides both the trophies and 3 X £50 (£150) raffle prize draw monies at each GP round), appears to be keeping BFTA funds healthy and stopping the gradual bleed from the reserves that was taking place.

Andrew Slade

BFTA Treasurer – 18th June 2016

Annex C

Competition Manager's Report - GM June 18th 2016

BFTA Championship and Inter-Regional Championship

I'd like to express my thanks to Tondu FTC for the excellent organisation of the season opening weekend and in particular I'd like to identify Simon Evans for his work in preparation and throughout the two days.

BFTA Championship

Congratulations to Justin Wood on becoming the BFTA Champion 2016 and well done to Simon Higgins and to Dave Schofield who finished in second and third place.

Inters

The new format of 8 scores from 15 shooters, and an excellent course, made for a fascinating contest. A number of regions were in the running for the trophy places and some very high scores were posted. A single clearance from James Osborne was not enough to lift MFTA higher than third, consistent high scoring from CSFT gave them the runner up spot and, drum-roll: it was a maiden win for WAFTA.

I think this was a great result for the competition and hope that it has encouraged all regions to dream that the Inters is within their grasp.

Some negatives

Unfortunately the standard of kneeling that I observed on the Saturday was poor. It seems that despite what we publish in the Minutes and write in the Rules some shooters will ignore and do what they have always done or they do not know what to do. This concerns me because this was not a club shoot where shooters could hone their technique this was the BFTA Championship; if you want to compete in this and other BFTA events then please know and obey the rules.

Shooters' administration: the BFTA Championship was the worse event that I have administered. Cards were not signed, scores not complete and the rear of cards not filled in; one card had no total and no signature!

Shooters need to know that signing and dating the back of the card is their means of signing into a shoot and if this is not done then insurance criteria is not met.

It should be clear that totalling and signing as a buddy marshal is a fundamental part of the process.

If at the Masters and Euros cards are incomplete then I will instruct our hard working administration staff not to look for shooters who have not completed their straightforward task. The score of shooters who do not complete their card will not count. This message will be clearly advertised before the events and verbally at the briefings.

GP1-4

Some sterling and very much appreciated work from: Meon, Bisley, Tawd Vale and Quarry.

Brian's Robot-Shaun is superb and brings the scores rapidly for public viewing; thank you Brian!

Issues arising from GPs

1) Shoot-offs: at the AGM regions voted to enforce a uniform method for shoot-offs. This has not always been adhered to. For GPs 5-7 can organisers please ensure that they know the requirements for shoot-offs and have personnel ready to administer them?

2) Chronograph: working well. However, the batteries do need to be new at the start of the GP and the chrono marshal should have batteries (which are supplied) on hand in case the chrono performance drops off. For GPs 5-7 can organisers please change the batteries before the am and pm session? At GP5 we will be experimenting with a Perspex tube to aid alignment to the chrono. I'd like to thank Simon Francis for his ingenuity, time and work on this project.

3) Silhouettes: it has been reported that some shooters are using the silhouette range to practise prior to the GP event commencing. GP organisers please ensure that the silhouette range is not open until the am session commences and please paint the targets so that they are fresh for the shooters in the pm session.

Suggested changes that may be proposed at the AGM

1) 15mm targets: we have advised that these targets should not be elevated or declined yet this keeps occurring. Suggestion – 15mm targets must be placed such that the height of the target is within 1 metre of a horizontal line from the shooting gate to the target; feedback welcome.

2) 25mm targets: in my reports of recent years I urged regions not to interpret 25mm to mean 35 yards yet this keeps happening. Suggestion – only two of 25mm targets can be placed in the range 30-35 yards; feedback welcome.

3) Chronograph: change the methodology to the one that is used on feed-on shoots. Shooters pay their entry fee and then have their rifle chronographed. This offers the following advantages: shooters do not potentially complete part of the course with an illegal rifle and the chronograph will not spend most of the day not being used; feedback welcome.

Trophies

The change from cubes to medals has saved approximately £1500 this year. However, their cost still seems too high when they are left on the presentation table or journey home in someone else's car. I think the best way forward is to end GP trophies and invest the money saved into the end of season trophies.

For next year, assuming that trophies are required, I will look to produce a different medal to capture the winner of the series. It has been suggested to me that we could present something bespoke or unique at GPs. My answer remains the same: I am very happy to pass the responsibility of trophies elsewhere – in fact it would be a blessing. In the absence of a volunteer I will continue to do what I can.

Inters - Medals

The medals presented at the Inters for the last 3 year have now been used up so I will be looking to purchase some more. I remind regions that because the medals are bespoke it is not cost effective to order for just one year so I order for 3 years and hence the cost will look high in the Treasurer's report at the AGM.

Cards

I have purchased 5000 GP cards and we will need more silhouette cards after next season; many thanks to Chris Large for his continued support.

Kneeling

I think the introduction of the ankle roll has identified that it is the clear way forward. I have received no negative feedback about their use and presently would propose that shooters provide their own roll and the BFTA consider supplying flat mats on kneeling lanes to keep knees out of the mud.

We would need to define the dimensions of the roll and to aid this it will be interesting to hear feedback from our shooters that visit this year's world championship in Portugal.

Shooters are reminded that if they choose to use an ankle roll to aid kneeling then they cannot also use a bag. It might be reasonably argued that putting your knee on the edge of the bag to keep it clean whilst using a roll offers no advantage. However, that is the present rule for kneeling which is regularly abused.

World Championship

Good luck to all BFTA shooters attending the World Championship in Portugal.

Shaun Shore

Annex D

Webmaster's Report

2015-2016 has seen the web site revamped with the new BFTA branding. Aside from this, the platform and all its various other elements were updated to the latest versions. The website is set to be backed up monthly. I have monitored the website resources and we have no need to increase our package for the foreseeable future.

We have successfully defeated an attack from Russia which seemed to be trying to pull the server down. I suspect this was nothing related to the activity of the BFTA, just we were a random target. I will continue to monitor any potential vulnerability.

Traffic to the BFTA site from other sources is around 2500 visits a month. Traffic sources to the BFTA continue to be largely coming from STB (approx. 50%) and Facebook (approx. 20%). No other source of related traffic generates more than around 30-50 visits. In addition, direct visits, people simply typing the website address, accounts for around 7,500 visits.

Main areas of interest are the technical manuals, and booking in, and the grades. About 25% of the incoming traffic looks at the forum.

The two banners we have up attract about 10,000 views each month. I have contacted Countryman fairs on more than one occasion but they have not supplied anything. I have had no other information on sponsors.

It has been noted that the BFTA logo and names & logos similar to the BFTA have been used by various other websites.

As the forum does provide a possible security risk due to its outdated software, which cannot be updated, and because its use is quite minimal, it's my intention to incorporate its useful functions into the BFTA main site and archive the information contained. I shall also be intending to trial booking in pre-payment using Paypal, and also an e-commerce so we can concentrate the BFTA's web message in one place. I expect those elements to be something that happens over the next 12 months.

Rob Farnworth

Annex E

Simon proposed that the scores from the BFTA Championship and Inter-Regional Championship move to the Summer Grading list. This is required so that when competitors book in for GP1 they know what their Summer Grade will be. Simon will identify at the AGM what date will be the cut off for regions submitting Winter League scores.

Simon will begin to remove scores that are over 3 years old from the Grading List after this year's Winter League Grades are published.

Simon Evans

Annex F



WFTC 2017 - Wales - Update for the BFTA OGM 18.06.17

First of all I would like to thank the BFTA for the financial support that they have provided for WAFTA, in the form of a loan to cover our initial expenditure for Wales 2017. We anticipate that this loan will be repaid at the BFTA AGM in November 2016.

Shoot Venue and Awards/Welcome Venue: We have confirmed booking of both the Glanusk Estate and the Manor Hotel. Deposits have been paid to ensure that these venues have been secured.

Hotel Accommodation: given that Crickhowell and the surrounding area is very rural, there are no major motels in the immediate vicinity, rather there are plenty of small hotels, inns, B&B's and holiday let accommodation. We are currently negotiating discounts with the small hotels and Inns and will update you on our progress at a later date.

The nearest large Motel is the Premier Inn in Ebbw Vale which is 10 miles from Glanusk, however we cannot negotiate with them until September 2016. Premier Inn are currently building a Motel in Abergavenny (7 miles from Glanusk), which will be ready by July 2017. We hope that they will start taking booking in October 2016.

WFTC 2017-Wales Website: construction and design is progressing well and we will go live on the 25th of August. The registration process has been particularly complex, and is now almost ready for testing.

Registration Process:

Registration for Wales 2017 will therefore differ from Portugal 2016 in that we will have two different registration processes one for RGB Teams and another for 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 will be 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 to enable them to access their Team(s) registration details on the website to add the names of Team members or make amendments. 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; otherwise we cannot guarantee their place at Wales 2017

2. Individual Registration

Registration for individual competitors will open on the 16th of October and close on the 31st of March 2017. This will not give any priority to RGB's, so 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 in RGB Teams will have by passed the individual registration process and will need to register their personnel details in a sub section of the individual registration section and select and pay for the 'extras' they require ,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, otherwise their registration will not be valid.

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.

BFTA Euros 2017

The Euros will be held the weekend before Wales 2017, and we believe that some overseas competitors will find it attractive to attend both events.

To assist Shaun we will ask competitors in the registration web page to indicate if they wish to attend the Euros.

We will by the end of April be able to provide a list of names and e-mail addresses of those that have indicated that they wish to attend.

John Johnston