

General Meeting - Minutes

Saturday 23rd June 2018

Meadow Farm, Dagnell End Road, Redditch, B98 9BJ

Breakfast from 8:30am - prompt start at 10am

1. Chairman's welcome and report.

The Chairman welcomed regional representatives and officials to the meeting. He warned of cabling on the floor and where the fire exit was. Lunch was set for 1pm and a comfort break would take place mid-morning.

2. Persons and regions present.

BFTA Officials

Roger Moy	President
Mark Bassett	Chairman
Andy Slade	Treasurer
Shaun Shore	Secretary
Martin Calpin	Competition Manager
Simon Evans	Grading Officer
Liz Moy	FFTA and HVP

Regions Represented

Kevin Sayers	MFTA voting rep
Sam Reece	MFTA
Rob Farnworth	CSFTA voting rep
Trevor Ryan	NEFTA voting rep
Graham Jopson	SEFTA voting rep
Carl Knapper	NWFTA voting rep
John Johnston	WAFTA

3. Apologies for absence.

Brian Langford	WAFTA
Richard Greenwood	FFTA
Alan Chambers	SARPA

The President offered apologies for Mike Seago and Andy Barnes from FFTA.

4. Minutes of AGM from November 2017 to be read and accepted as a true record.

Proposed by NEFTA, seconded by MFTA, accepted unanimously

5. Matters arising from November 2017 AGM

a) BFTA trials a double header GP in 2019: is any region interested in hosting in 2019?

WAFTA and NEFTA expressed interest.

It was amicably agreed that WAFTA would host a double header

b) BFTA Euros 2018. Mike Seago volunteered to help promote the Euros 2018.

Mike had priced up banners to promote the Euros and the committee agreed their purchase. The Secretary said that he would link Mike to Martin so that they could discuss Mike's involvement.

c) Euros 2018. Update from Martin about the team assembled to build the course 2018.

Castle FT have agreed to set out this year's course. Prior to this meeting it had been agreed by the Competition Manager, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to increase the fee paid to the organising club to £1500.

There was discussion about where the practise range might be situated. It was agreed that proximity to the car park, hence air, was desired.

d) SARPA. Secretary to update the committee.

Field Target in Scotland is now overseen by Scottish Target Air (STair). They have appointed Alan Chambers as their representative for Field Target and Alan will attend the AGM in November.

e) EFTA Worlds 2019. Secretary to update the committee.

The EFTA have hired an excellent venue in the Midlands. The site will be visited for an assessment in July and entry will open in September.

Rob, the EFTA Chairman, added that it is likely that the BFTA regions will be asked to deal with their shooters entries en bloc. More details would be published via the EFTA website (<https://efta.org.uk/>) and their Facebook page.

6. Officers' reports: written reports are not required.

Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Manager, Grading Officer, ~~Trade Liaison~~, Web Manager.
If digital copies were provided they are appendices to these Minutes.

The Treasurer informed the committee that the BFTA account held £25,520

He did raise a concern that the EFTA had not returned the money it borrowed for entries to Poland 2018. Rob offered the following explanation:

The EFTA has paid the money lent to it by the BFTA to the Polish FT organisers for the team entry. It has also collected the money from the team shooters to cover that entry. However because several shooters dropped out some shooters had already paid the Polish FT direct as they weren't in the team at the time. Polish FT have not confirmed our final bill and we would like that confirmed first before returning the BFTA back the monies kindly loaned so it does not complicate the accounts. We hope to do this no later than the World Championships at the end of August 2018 when we can resolve this issue face to face with the Polish organisers

The Competition Manager informed the committee that he was very happy with the events so far this season. He also reported that merchandise continued to work well and that traffic to the website was increasing.

Roger asked could this offer a potential attraction to future sponsors. Martin responded that was an intended consequence of keeping as much flow through the BFTA site. Should sponsors be interested then the traffic statistics are readily available.

Sam asked could Martin advertise Euros entry on the site and asked Shaun to pass her contact details for Jerome at Countryman Fairs so that camping tickets could be organised.

Simon asked for clarification on how much the BFTA would like to spend on the end of season trophies. Simon suggested that circa £40 per target was needed. After some discussion the committee agreed that Simon could have a budget of £2500 for the trophies.

7. Correspondence

The Secretary received numerous emails regarding SARPA and its potential replacement. In the week prior to the meeting Graham Ellis of Scottish Target informed the Secretary that Alan Chambers had been appointed as Scotland's FT representative. Their first course of action was to inform the WFTF of Scotland's status.

The Chairman received a complaint that was also seen by the Secretary, Treasurer and the NEFTA representative. The Secretary investigated the nature of the complaint and found it to be unfounded. However, there may be further action regarding the written comments.

It was questioned as to whether the BFTA needed to inform its insurers about the complaint? The Secretary was advised in private that any future action would be between the two individuals involved.

The Secretary reaffirmed that the work undertaken voluntarily by Brian Samson was of great value to the BFTA.

8. GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

There is insufficient time to review the ramifications of the introduction of GDPR. Fortunately the BFTA has two committee members, Rob and Martin, who work in fields that involve data management. Martin offered a precis of what the new regulation means for the BFTA and further information is given in the appendices.

In short the BFTA needs to ensure that the way it handles individuals' data is in-line with the regulation and Martin is working to ensure that this happens.

It was highlighted by Rob and Martin that agreeing to "terms and conditions" was imperative. If a shooter did not agree then they cannot shoot.

9. Preliminary shoot dates 2019

The dates and venues will be confirmed at the AGM in November 2018.

Event	Date	Venue	Region
BFTA Championship	6 th April	Blackbrook	MFTA
BFTA Inter-Regional	7 th April	Blackbrook	MFTA
GP1	28 th April	TBC	FFTA
GP2	12 th May	Tawd Vale	NWFTA
GP3	26 th May (Bank-H)	Tondu	WAFTA
GP4	27 th May (Bank-H)	Oak Tree	WAFTA
GP5	9 th June	ETL	SEFTA
GP6	23 rd June	Buccaneers	CSFTA
GP7	7 th July	York	NEFTA
GP8	21 st July	South Dorset	SWEFTA
GP9	25 th August	Blackbrook	MFTA
BFTA Masters	31 st August	Emley Moor	NEFTA
BFTA Showdown	1 st September	Emley Moor	NEFTA
BFTA Europeans	14 th /15 th Sept. (tbc)	Weston Park	

10. Items for information and discussion (in precis)

- Information from Andrew relating to Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult status.

Andrew issued the NSRA's guidance as a booklet and informed the committee that he was the Officer for the BFTA and that all necessary checks had been carried out.

Andrew shared the advice from the NSRA that all regions and clubs should have a nominated officer.

- From NEFTA – return Grading to rolling 20.

Trevor reported some disquiet from some of the NEFTA shooters about the new grading but they offered him no rationale as to why the BFTA should change to a rolling 20.

It was agreed that when the changes had initially been made that there had been some negative reaction nationally but this seemed to have settled.

Simon reiterated that he runs the BFTA grading and encourages regions to run their own grading lists.

- From NEFTA – chronographing rifles before competition.

Trevor shared concern that at GPs there needed to be a facility to chronograph rifles before shooting the course.

Discussion followed were the viability of chronographing other than within the lanes was discussed and it was agreed that the present arrangements were satisfactory. However some points were reiterated:

- The chronograph should be situated on the course in a position that allows shooters to check their rifles before they commence shooting. This should be within reasonable walking distance.
- The chronograph should always be manned including before the competition commences for am shooters. This may mean that the chronograph is moved to a position on the practise range if course builders are present on the course.
- A reminder that it is a shooter's responsibility to ensure that their rifle is legal.

- From SEFTA – regarding matters arising from GP2 at Springfield.

Graham shared that he was happy with the outcome post the Springfield GP. However, he felt that the BFTA would benefit from all communication being routed through the Secretary.

It was reaffirmed that marshals should only cross the firing line under a ceasefire and that they must wear high visibility clothing.

Also, the ceasefire applies to all of the course including the silhouette and practise range.

- From Simon – discussion about: i) ensuring BFTA courses adhere to the rules, ii) ensuring that BFTA offer a variety of target ranges, iii) is it time for BFTA event courses to be set to a formula agreed by the regions?

Simon identified a number of occasions this season when BFTA rules had not been applied. Such as:

- Flat terrain for discipline lane gates.
- Too many 25mm targets beyond 30 yards.

He also thought that too often courses were set too long and hence was it time to set courses to a formula?

This led to a discussion that shared Simon's concerns and supported that presently the guidance for course construction and the shoot rules are clear. Martin added that he now sends course guidance from Conor McFlynn that has been modified for BFTA use.

It was suggested that perhaps regions that do not follow the rules face a sanction but it was recognised that that may lead to clubs not hosting GPs.

The Secretary cited that on many occasions this committee had discussed "GP courses for all" and there had been unanimous agreement for it yet commonly this was not seen at GPs. Trevor highlighted Nelson GP4 as a course that he felt had got the balance right.

Simon suggested that the BFTA could employ someone to inspect the course the day before; similar to the role Cedric Smith undertook in the past.

It was agreed that this would be a good idea but finding a new Cedric was the most difficult part. Also, it was expressed that the region should be able to do this task themselves: have a member of the region whose explicit task is to check the course. Again this advice had been heard many times by the committee!

There was support for the idea that a course is "signed off" by a member of the club/region and that this was on view at booking-in.

- From NWFTA – should BFTA introduce a “Classic” FT class which uses basic equipment to encourage participation?

Carl introduced the initial definition of the class from Dave Ramshead:

- No changes to the FT courses or scoring.
- Any gun (within BFTA limits), but no adjusting the stock once started. (Butt pad, fore ends, grips, cheek pieces etc.)
- Any scope, but must not be set over 25x at any time.
- Dialling, focussing and range finding allowed as per FT.
- Spirit levels, windicators etc., all allowed.
- No 10m style gimp jackets.
- No Lasers or LRF's

The intention of the class was to encourage more entrants to Field Target.

The discussion that followed expressed a number of views:

- The BFTA has tried SFT before and it had not proved successful.
- The BFTA has a grading system that accommodates newcomers.
- This would be harder than FT. To encourage participation courses need to be easier.
- The class could be attractive to sponsorship.

Of prime concern was whether there was an appetite for such a class?

The Secretary highlighted to Carl that the NWFTA had regularly struggled to raise a full team for the Inters whilst in other regions places are strongly contested. He suggested that perhaps the NWFTA could promote and introduce the class into its regional shoots and then report back if there had been an increased uptake. Carl agreed to trial the class and feedback.

- From Martin – how the changes implemented at the Champs/Inters weekend went.

Martin reported satisfaction with the changes and they had eased the administration of both events. He thanked the stats team for their help.

- From Martin – is it time for the BFTA to consider membership status (regions and individuals) given GDPR?

The crux of the issue is communication and agreement. Presently BFTA membership is regions, then clubs and then individuals. In the present era Martin believes that we need direct contact with individuals. For example if a region agrees “terms and conditions” then does this mean that the clubs and individuals do?

Roger gave the example of “who would host a GP?” if regions were not members etc. Martin was asked to draft how he thought a new structure be constructed and identify the advantages of doing so.

Sam raised that the BFTA would benefit from a form designed for all shooters to complete where “terms and conditions” were clearly stated and shooters signed their agreement. It was agreed that this was a good idea and Martin and Rob were asked to draft what this form might look like.

- From Martin – should BFTA introduce graded competitions to the Champs/Masters/Euros to encourage more participation?

There was strong support for this. However, it was agreed that it will be introduced in the season 2019 as in some cases it would flout rules already in place and this also offered opportunity to consider all ramifications.

- From Martin – BOB (online booking). Martin needs help from a programmer to ensure that we are compliant with GDPR.

Martin explained that the next phase of the online booking would be complex and time consuming and that he needed to employ a programmer to help with construction.

The BFTA Committee sanctioned Martin £750 to complete the online booking system.

- From Martin and NWFTA – Do we install a system for payment upon entry to BFTA events?

Martin also updated the committee on the potential for payment at entry. He informed the committee about the number of “no shows” this year and the cost to the hosting region.

The Secretary added that this topic had been discussed a number of times in the past but the hurdle had been the necessary expertise to implement the system. The Secretary asked Martin did he have the expertise and Martin responded that he did. He outlined that it will cost in the region of £750 to implement.

There was some discussion about cancellation of booking and refund. This would be finalised if the system gets the go ahead at the AGM. Martin informed that he was working on solutions to shooters cancelling their booking on the present system.

Trevor raised that a number of NEFTA shooters were not happy with pay at entry and would prefer the present method.

The Secretary asked regions to canvas their shooters in preparation for a vote at the AGM.

The committee was happy to sanction a further £750 to set up the system but the Secretary asked Martin to pause until the outcome of the AGM was known.

It was necessary to Minute that the BFTA does not operate a “turn no one away policy” for its GP series. This may have been the case when GPs were feed on shoots. Shotgun starts at GPs have been in place for more than 10 years.

- From the Secretary – update about shoot signing in requirements

The Secretary was asked to find out if shooters were also required to sign out when they leave BFTA events.

Graham advised that this was not necessary. The Secretary reiterated that signing in must take place at all BFTA events.

It was suggested that a standard signing in list could be used. Martin said that he would add these to the boxes that contain GP equipment.

- From WAFTA – discussion about a recent incident in which an air rifle was accidentally discharged causing damage to a chronograph. The trigger was unguarded and snagged on clothing. John Johnston will bring more details to the meeting.

John explained that an accidental discharge had occurred when a rifle was chronographed because the unguarded trigger had snagged in clothing and the discharge damaged the chronograph.

This initiated a discussion about rifle safety at the chronograph:

- The rifle should only be loaded when the muzzle is correctly aligned to the chronograph.
- The Chairman will source some safety glasses for use when chronographing and Martin will add them to the equipment box.
- Martin will purchase another Air-Chrony and the adaptor that allows the rifle to rest in front of the chronograph. This will be tested and if successful this model will replace the existing chronographs for the 2019 season.

Graham kindly said that he would allow the BFTA to use his Labrador chronograph to calibrate the BFTA chronographs. Martin will link with Graham to organise testing.

11. Any other business

The Secretary announced his intention to stand down at the AGM 2018 or earlier if the committee deems it in the interest of the BFTA. Regions are asked to canvas for a replacement.

Facebook.

Views were expressed that the BFTA Facebook page can sometimes contain inappropriate posts.

Rob with help from Graham and Simon will administer the site to ensure that the contents are appropriate.

Prone position for FT

Graham had been asked by a SEFTA shooter as to whether all targets should be viewed from the prone position.

The Secretary answered. No.

FFTA

Mike Seago asked for permission to purchase some banners to advertise the Euros 2018. The committee gave permission for 6 banners to be purchased.

AGM - November 17th 2018.

Shaun Shore (23rd June 2018)