

World Benchrest Championship 6  
Delegates' Committee Meeting Minutes  
City Club, Nelson, New Zealand  
1st November 2001

Meeting opened 19:58

Acting Chairman - Graeme Smith, Acting Secretary - Alan Peake.

Apologies: Hervé du Plessis (France)

Present: Norbert Weigl (Germany), Markku Ahlava (Finland), Graeme Smith (New Zealand), Torsten Åström (Sweden), Kobus Visser (South Africa), Ian Dixon (Great Britain), Don Powell (USA), Alan Peake (Australia), Jean François Raybaut (France).

Observers: Günther Seifert (Germany), Vince Bottomley (Great Britain), Tony Allinson (Australia), Chris van Niekirk (South Africa), Henri Divil (New Caledonia), Kevin Duckworth (New Zealand).

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Resolved: That these be accepted.

Discussion Papers:

Paper 1. Admission of new countries.

Republic of South Africa. Kobus Visser gave the meeting an introduction to the Benchrest scene in South Africa. They have 120-150 BR shooters in 4 provinces and are affiliated with the South African Sport Shooting Federation and are thus officially recognised by their Government. Accepted by acclamation.

Netherlands. Graeme Smith reported having contact with the Netherlands Benchrest Shooters represented by Klaas van Gorp of the Klavertje Vier Bench Rest shooting association. They intend to compete in WBC 7.

Currently, their association includes Belgian shooters but these will not be able to represent Netherlands at the WBC.

Resolved: That Netherlands be admitted.

New Caledonia. Graeme explained the situation regarding FNC's status for the Oceania games and for the WBC.

Paper 2. Registration of WBC/WBSF.

Problems with registering in Australia were mentioned and it would cost about USD 750 to register in USA which would be about USD 50 per country. Graeme Smith will investigate further. Mention was also made of a World Shooting Federation which, at a meeting in Bucharest, BR was apparently discussed. Also mentioned was the possibility of a World BR Championship somewhere in France. Graeme stressed the need for us to become formally recognised and it was suggested that each country should investigate registering the WBC/WBSF in their own country. It was also suggested that the BR organisation in each country should contribute to the fees associated with registration.

Paper 3.

The Chairman read out a letter from Hervé du Plessis, asking that the original format for the WBC be retained - i.e. 18 benches minimum, 7 relays maximum but no warmers. Ian Dixon (GBR) suggested two teams per country. Kobus Visser (RSA) pointed out that there are two options with 20 benches - set a limit of 120 competitors or run a longer competition. Don Powell (USA) recommended we revert to 12 competitors per country. He mentioned Finland as having 40 benches. He does not want the WBC to be given to any country which cannot handle the numbers involved. He felt that this would be regression instead of progress. Vince Bottomley (GBR)

spoke on the problems many European countries have with opposition to shooting and creating or extending existing ranges. He suggested that the WBC could be based on continents rather than countries as far as running the shoot is concerned. Jean François Raybaut (FRA) spoke of the need to limit entry numbers for recognition by world bodies of the WBC where shooters are representing their country. He said that there are other shoots (Super Shoot in USA) where there is no limit to which shooters may go. he also mentioned the problems with range development in Europe and felt that 18-20 benches is enough for a WBC. He considered that USA 1-2-3 had less meaning than two teams - quality rather than quantity. Torsten Åström (SWE) agreed with USA that the Warm-Up target could be dropped and 3 minutes added to the first business group. Other discussion revolved around the amount of daylight available etc. Kobus Visser (RSA) supported the present format but suggested competitor numbers could be based on the size of the benchrest community in each country. Kevin Duckworth (NZL) favoured more benches if possible.

Resolved: That a country wishing to host a WBC should have a minimum of 25 benches.

#### Paper 4.

The meeting agreed in general with the comments in the discussion paper and that individual competitors can still be accepted. However, Don Powell (USA) stressed that the WBC is a teams event and that individuals should only be accepted if there was space available. Some discussion followed about the placement of individuals. for example, if country A has 7 competitors and country B has 3, then country A can only send one team of 4 and country B can send 3 if space is available.

Resolved: That a country may send only teams of four competitors. If a country is unable to send one full team, it may send individuals.

#### Paper 5.

Resolved: That the word "Benchrest" be the accepted spelling. Countries were encouraged to provide better information regarding competitor numbers for planning purposes.

#### Paper 6.

The meeting was in general agreement that we continue observe the NBRSA rules regarding rifle specifications. There was no further discussion of the crossfire penalty and it remains at one minute-of-angle.

#### Paper 7.

A letter from Hervé du Plessis (FRA) was read out in which he suggested that each country needs a Benchrest organisation or representative. Italy apparently has no Benchrest organisation and there are similar problems with Spain and Canada.

Resolved: That for a country to accepted by the WBSF, a membership fee must be paid to the WBSF by a recognised association within that country.

#### Other business.

A motion that the Warm-Up target be counted for World Championship Record was defeated.

#### Election of Office Bearers.

Graeme Smith (NZL) was elected President.

Alan Peake (AUS) was elected Secretary.

Nominations for hosting WBC 8 in 2005.

Prior to this, Torsten Åström (SWE) gave a presentation to the meeting regarding the WBC 7 to be held in Sweden. Powder and primers will be available and the entry fees will be the same as at present. Details of transport, accommodation, storage of firearms and visitors' licences were given and the timing of the event is likely to be the first two weeks of August 2003. There will be a web site covering these matters.

Bids for WBC 8 were received from France (via a letter from Hervé du Plessis), Republic of South Africa and USA. France bid for the WBC to be held at Vitrolles where they have 18(?) benches. Jean François Raybaut (FRA) effectively withdrew the bid saying that while France could accommodate 150 competitors with 18 or 20 benches, they cannot build more.

Kobus Visser (RSA) gave a presentation for their bid. They propose to upgrade an existing range near Capetown to have 30 or more benches. Powder and primers are available. Benchrest shooters in RSA are a constituted body and are officially recognised by their government.

Don Powell (USA) offered to host WBC 8 at Kansas City with an existing benchrest facility of 55 benches.

A ballot was held resulting in USA being awarded the hosting of WBC 8 in 2005.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 23:32