

**Minutes of World Benchrest Shooting Federation Meeting
held at Royal Star Hotel, Orville, Ohio USA
on Thursday, 15 September 2005**

Present:

Australia	Stuart Elliott (D) Annie Elliott David Kerr Steve Brown Ira Rolley
Austria	Alfred Throner (D)
Canada	Bill Gammon (D) Jeff Wardlow
Finland	Juha Soderholm (D) Jari Rauderskoski
France	Herve du Plessis (D) Jean-F Raybault
Germany	Helmutt Hutter (D) Gunter Seifert
Indonesia	Sebastian Lambang (D)
Italy	Maurizio Fontanella (D) J C Braconi
Luxembourg	Serge Hoss (D) Victor Funck Francois Lunidini
Namibia	Kallie Venzke (D) R Raath
New Zealand	Kevin Duckworth (D)
Norway	John Flatby (D) Trond Aasly Paul Jensen
Philippines	Manny Garcia (D)
Russia	Vlad Lobayeu (D)
South Africa	Lukas Barnard Roland Thomson (D) Bob White
Spain	Alfredo Alvarez (D) Xavier Besas
Sweden	Ulrich Sandgren Stefan Karlsson Torsten Astrom (D)
United Kingdom	Tom Morris (D) Ian Dixon
U.S.A.	Donald Powell (D) Michael Ratigan

Welcome: Graeme Smith, President of the WBSF, commenced the meeting at 7:35 pm. He welcomed new Countries Philippines and Indonesia to the meeting

Additional Business Items: President asked those present if there are any issues to be added to the meeting other than the listed agenda items.

Chairman advised Peter Hammerich sent a letter to the WBSF asking us to discuss and consider wildcards

New Member Countries: New members offered opportunity to address the membership.

Phillipines: Dr Manny Garcia requested admission of The Philippines to WBSF. Dr Garcia advised, that although the Philippines Benchrest Shooting Association is currently USA based, they have a commitment to developing the sport in their home country.

UK seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

Indonesia: Chairman advised that Indonesian Shooting Association had approved their shooters participation in WBSF and sought membership. USA seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Argentina: Chairman briefed Delegates on visit to Argentina, that a 25 bench range was available in Buenos Aries and that further potential existed in South America. Chairman proposed Argentina be accepted for membership. USA seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Default Countries: Chairman advised with regret that two federations had failed to respond to Federations call for participation and had not paid membership fee. Chairman proposed to remove Switzerland and Iceland from the Federation list. Approved New Zealand / Australia

Chairman advised however that Sweden had been in contact with Iceland and they should be kept on our contact list for possible future re-admission. Chairman circulated copy of proposed plans for new shooting facility in Iceland.

Financial: \$1529.56 is the balance in the WBF bank account. This amount is the total of the membership fees. Stuart Elliot of Australia mentioned that it would be better if cash were not accepted for the membership fees.

Discussion Paper No1. *Determine what roles and functions this federation has in the further development of Benchrest amongst countries who are not currently members of this Federation.*

Wide ranging discussion held including:

Plan to develop a more regionalized championship, rather than Oceania. Japan, South Africa and Southern Asia could participate. There is some interest from Ukraine,. They might have created an Association, and have held one major event. Zimbabwe might be interested, and has visited South Africans and shown interest, but this region is politically unstable, although they have many shooters. Scandinavia – there are some shooters in Denmark, but not many. Icelanders have been invited to Sweden matches, but there were no takers. Europe scene somewhat mixed - there are many problems getting other countries involved in his region. concerns how to handle the logistics of distributing components to the countries that are wanting to compete and hold matches for the WBSF.

Chairman emphasized the importance of keeping the interest in participation, since this is the legitimacy to own firearms comes from for many countries. Possibilities in Ireland

Chairman – important to reach out to other countries to grow the federation. We must find a way to share the knowledge, and that the Federation look outward.

Championship Manual and Rule Book:

Chairman sought acceptance of Rule Book and Manual . These had been in development for four years and needed acceptance. Any later discussions could then make any appropriate changes.

Australia . Sec A7 – says this section needs to be expanded. Responsibility is vague.

Asked if there is any interest in a position of Vice President.

Canada; says there should be a Vice President because of all of the work, and if something would happen to the President, the responsibility would need to be transferred.

President – moved to accept the manual and Rule Book as official documents of the Federation- New Zealand and South Africa, passed unanimously.

Rules:

Vice President: Chairman sought a motion on the appointment of a Vice President.

Manny Garcia, Phillipines – asked if there could be a regional director from Europe, or different continents, and report to the presidents. Australia – moved that the Federation appoint a Vice President. Motion passed unanimously.

Annie Elliot, Australia (observer): requested that a new revised version would be necessary Chairman agreed Mrs. Elliott could be co-opted to review such new issue before publication

Mike Ratigan US (observer) Sec A10 pg. 4: doesn't think it's fair to have rule changes affected immediately, but should carry over to next delegates meeting to allow for clarification. Should go back to two year moratorium on rule changes. Limit rule changes from one world championship to the next. Eliminate temporary changes in rules. Chairman advised this is the policy within the rules, however there is provision for a temporary change if "agreed in writing" by all participating countries.

WBSF Records: Australia – sec A – WC records, p22 – doesn't say how records are to be expressed, which makes a difference on how measurements are noted. Australia recommends it be MOA only.

New Zealand - wonders if there is a difference between 100-110 yards, etc.

Germany - The measurements should have the distance notated and in MOA taken into consideration, since two different yardages are being shot. Five countries still use imperial measurements.

It was moved that two sets, imperial and metric, records need to be kept, using the same measurements (MOA). Agreed.

Rifle Specifications (B6) : Mike Ratigan USA (observer).. Trigger mechanisms, requested that we eliminate electric trigger systems from the rules. Agreed

Targets Dislodged (C3): should go back to the original NBRSA procedure, instead of letting someone shoot after the fact. Motion to have the rule read the same as the NBRSA procedure.

Measurement of Groups (C9): Annie Elliot, Australia (observer)– C9 does not describe how shots outside the border are to be measured. The rule should be clarified. Chairman – pointed out there is a clarification in appendix B of the rule book.

Measurement of Groups (C9a,b,c): That all aggregates should be expressed in three decimal places, not two. Australia moves, and Don Powell USA second the motion, passed unanimously.

Ties – Final Resolution (C10d): Canada moved to have this article deleted - USA second – carried.

Emergency Commands (C15): Australia suggested allotted time should be changed. Mike Ratigan USA (observer) – moved - add two minutes to the remaining time, but not to exceed the original time of the match. Carried.

Composition of Protest Committee. (C17): Mike Ratigan USA (observer) Organising Committee should pick from an experienced group of competitors, and not just any competitor. Remove the words "at random". Add two "experienced competitors". Carried.

Wild Cards: Chairman advised a request have been received from Peter Hammerich to consider if "Wild Card" shooters could be allowed to compete in 2007 (Weimar). Gunther Seifert, Germany - said this issue never came up in the German Federation committee. Meeting resolved to reject item.

Bench Rotation (E3): Meeting asked to consider making two bench rotation mandatory, rather than full bench rotation given. Motion lapsed.

Target Handling: Canada – proposed that the range staff verify that the correct targets are placed in the correct frame. Due to mirage conditions, a shooter could be disqualified through no fault of his own. It was agreed this was an operational matter for the target handlers and the referees. Agreed statement be placed in Section C to remind Technical staff of responsibility.

Reserves (A19): Canada – use of reserves. Delegates discussed the role, purpose and costs for reserves. It was agreed that countries could bring reserves, however the delegates agreed that:

- a) Reserves could shoot during official practice time along with their official competitors.
- b) Subject to their services not being required as replacements prior to the commencement of competition per the rules, no competition will be provided for rules and no entry fee will be payable.
- c) However the organizing may charge for cost of functions etc at their discretion.

Chairman to make appropriate adjustments to rule book to reflect this decision.

Motion put forward by Don Powell, (USA), seconded by Stewart Elliot, Australia, Motion passed unanimously.

Backer Procedure (C11d) Mike Ratigan USA (observer): of the view that backer should not be verified by the target crew, but by the statistician. Bob White, South Africa (observer) – “prior to removal” should be removed.

President – we should not delve into the point with too much attention since this is the world championship. This matter needs more consideration.

Page 15 – F1: New Zealand pointed out error – resolved to be altered.

Championship Manual

Meetings 7.5. Australia - consideration needs to be given on timing of Delegates meeting due to competition requirements and may be better scheduled prior to commencement of competition.

Entry fees – Page 24: Australia questioned whether \$50USD per day entry fee was sufficient. They are concerned that championships cannot operate at a loss. New Zealand concerned that exchange rates can make the difference between viable/unviable events.

Australia: motion to raise fees to \$60, seconded by Manny Garcia, Philippines: Motion passed unanimously.

Sweden: wants to see greater commitment from each country regarding advance payment.

Philippines: Suggested the fee non-refundable.

Mike Ratigan USA (observer): even if the fee were doubled, it would be insignificant.

Chairman referred meeting to Section 4 on Page 9. There is sufficient direction already in the Manual and members are reminded of their obligations.

Australia: motion to raise fees to \$60, seconded by Manny Garcia, Philippines: Motion passed unanimously.

Section 4.6 . USA advised they had refunded one competitor, and did not receive every entry fee by the deadline.

Discussion paper No. 3. Payment of fees. The following motion proposed

It is the responsibility of the recognized organizations to make entry fee payment in full before the due date on behalf of all shooters from that organization. Payment will not be accepted from individuals.

Stewart Elliot, Australia 2nd the Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Paper No 4 refer earlier in minutes

Discussion paper No. 5 Nationality requirements.

A wide ranging discussion held with several examples of dual citizenship and eligibility. Manny Garcia, Philippines is a dual citizen, but according to the proposed changes, he could only participate for one country. Gunther Seifert, Germany: nomination should come from the accepting association. We

shouldn't need to be more specific in the rule. Stewart Elliot, Australia :do we want a formal nomination, or a larsi-fair arrangement for qualification? Vlad Lobayev, Russia: feels this is an issue in Russia especially, since it's easy to get dual citizenship in their part of the world. Bill Gammon, Canada – gave examples of US residents that were Canadian citizens. Ian Dixon, Scotland: what are we trying to stop? Chairman : Country hopping – we should have a two-year stand down.

Ratigan: Recommended that primary place of residency determine eligibility

Graeme: motion to accept, second by Stewart Elliot, Australia. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion paper No. 6: interim membership. Chairman that the following motion be approved:

A4.2 Interim Membership:

On the authority of the President of the Federation, Interim Membership may be granted to a new country seeking membership, subject to such action being placed before the next Delegates Meeting for ratification of Full (or Associate) Membership or declinature in accordance with the rules.

Seconded by New Zealand. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Paper No7: Resolved no change to existing rules except section C10d Final Resolution be deleted.

Discussion Paper No 8: Penalty line on targets.

Austria: issue of the size of the gap for printing the competitor number. Resolved to refer the matter to Associations and for there to be more discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion Paper No9: refer earlier in minutes

Discussion paper No. 10; World Rimfire Benchrest championship proposal. Discussion if this is the correct body to address the formation of this group. There are two or three countries that are already interested. I Dixon (UK): Why would we be interested? Bob White, South Africa (observer): An established Benchrest organization such as ours could help to get the ball rolling and create standards. Lucas (South Africa) many juniors are involved, and might spark their interest. Stewart Elliot, Australia: a lot of RF shooting in Australia., probably will have to be score target, and unique. If an established target is chosen, it might alienate others already in their respective games.

Chairman requested paper and recommendation be accepted. New Zealand second. Motion passed unanimously

Discussion paper No11: Tuners: WBC has been unaware of tuner developments, in spite of new rule changes. Request clarity from NBRSA. USA: Doesn't think it's necessary. They are two separate organizations. One may or may not follow the other. Stewart Elliot, Australia: The rest of the world watches NBRSA. Changes can be adopted or ignored at will. Motion died for a second.

Discussion paper No12. Continental championships. Several examples given for different levels of sanctioned championships, such as the European one that Herve DuPlessis is involved with.

Stewart Elliot, Australia: give thought over the next two years.

Kevin Duckworth, New Zealand: try to encourage WBSF to sanction these matches.

Vlad Lobayev, Russia: would attract more shooters throughout Russia if more of these matches were sanctioned. Jeff Wardlow, Canada (observer). consider the promotion of different areas of shooting.

Stewart Elliot, Australia: make WBSF recognize regional championship as needed.

[South Africa] recognize world records? Mike Ratigan, USA observer: don't give them an opportunity.

Graeme: determine sensible regions. Austria: Negri had 120 members last year.

Norway: communication in Europe is not good. Sweden was unaware of championship in Italy.

Meeting accepted this is an idea to pursue over the next 2 years.

WBC2007

Gunther Seifert, Germany: progress report. New range is progressing slowly, but is on schedule. An informal Benchrest event will take place to attract interest. The match will take place in the last week in

August. Helmut Hutter took a survey, and if interest is too high, the rule of six relays should be addressed. 150 members are interested. Range has been pre-approved for a predetermined number of 25 benches. More cannot be added after the fact. The WBFS approves of the relay change if necessary. The facilities consist of a clubhouse, enough rest room facilities, and 100-300 meter ranges. Frankfurt is 2-3 hours from range. The international groups will need to refer to the website for further information on accommodations that will be selected.

WBC2009

PowerPoint Presentations were given by Stuart Elliot for hosting the WBC 2009 in Western Australia, and Bob White was representing South Africa.

A vote was taken, and 12 voted for South Africa, and 6 voted for Australia

WBC2011 Herve Du Plesses (France) gave notice for hosting the WBC 2011

Position – Vice President:

Philippines proposed a motion for Mike Ratigan to appointed Vice President of the association. New Zealand seconded the motion. Graeme called for any other volunteers, and none were chosen. Motion passed unanimously.

Position President: Position unopposed – Graeme Smith reappointed. However Chairman indicated time is coming when replacement needed.

Meeting closed 0045am

President:

Date: