

MFTA 2024 AGM DRAFT AGENDA



Date: Sunday 04 February 2024, approx 2:30pm

Venue: The Cafe Meeting Room, Millride FTC, Essington

15.01.2024

1. Chairman's Welcome

2. Persons and clubs present, quorum established

3. Apologies

4. Minutes of previous AGM - 5 February 2023 (attached) to be accepted as a true record

5. Committee Reports

Chair, Secretary, Competition Secretary and Treasurer

6. Election / Re-election of the Committee

Current Committee is:

Chairman - Shaun Shore, **Secretary** - Chris Large, **Treasurer** - Dave Pitt, **Competition Secretary** - Karl Morris, **Grading Officer** - Vacant, **BFTA Rep** - James Osborne.

Nominations for any of the posts, in particular the Grading Officer are welcomed.

7. 2024/25 MFTA Winter League Dates

8. MATTERS ARISING

8.1 New MFTA Clubs – Request from Throckmorton Shooting Ground to join the MFTA

8.2 MFTA Affiliation fees (£25.00p/club due and to be paid at the AGM)

8.3 **MFTA 2024 Summer League:** It's proposed the MFTA is to host a small Summer League, consisting of five or six rounds. Proposed format is a standard 40 shot FT course, graded as per the Winter League. Trophies to be awarded at the end of the season in each Grade. Financials TBC. Dates TBC.

8.4 **Development of a Midland Open event:** At the last AGM, this was discussed and agreed it was a good idea and could be a success. It is proposed that an MFTA club (TBC) works with the MFTA to host a one-off Midland Event, with a format to be discussed. It is hoped a format with a point of difference can be achieved to make the event stand out from the usual FT calendar of events.

8.5 MFTA Inter-Regional Team Selection

8.6 Invitations to clubs to host the midland's BFTA GP 2025

9. AOB

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Chair: S Shore. **Secretary:** C Large. **Treasurer:** D Pitt. **Competition Officer:** K Morris. **Grading Officer:** Vacant.

Correspondence (Secretary): christopher@fsgdesign.co.uk



2023 AGM MINUTES

Date: Sunday 05 February 2023

Venue: The Cafe Meeting Room, Millride FTC, Essington

07.02.2023

Meeting commenced: 14.00

ATTENDEES

Chris Large (Chair/Secretary), Dave Pitt (Treasurer), Karl Morris (Competition Secretary), Scott Pywell (Grading Officer), James Osborne (BFTA Rep), Rob Jack (Blackbrook), Carl Hill (Harriers), Pete Rowley (Castle), Shaun Shore (Harriers), Nick Murphy (Blackbrook), Mark Brameld (Brook Valley), Robert Banks (Harriers), Anne Smith (Millride), Regg Van Jaarsveld (Millride), Neil Thorneycroft (Brook Valley), Steve Cash (Brook Valley), Ian Stoddart (Millride).

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Chris Large opened the meeting and thanked all those for taking the time to attend.

2. PERSONS AND CLUBS PRESENT, QUORUM ESTABLISHED

There was enough representation to conduct the meeting.

3. APOLOGIES

One apology had been received from Phil Gee.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM - 13 FEBRUARY 2022

The Minutes of the 2022 AGM were accepted and approved as a true representation. Proposed: Harriers (S Shore). Seconded: Blackbrook (J Osborne)

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Each Officer produced and read an annual statement for the meeting. Copies of these reports are attached to these Minutes.

S Shore commented in agreement with a statement in the Competition Secretary's report that sometimes mistakes do occur, as was seen at one of the League shoots where one too many reduced targets had been used on discipline lanes. C Large added that genuine mistakes can happen, and going forward we will try to ensure all courses are set to the current rules as best we possibly can.

K Morris also stressed the importance of clubs making more of an effort to encourage their own members to take part in our events, as there is a large pool of people there who could make a big difference to overall numbers.

D Pitt stated that the accounts supplied are current up to 31.01.23. A final set of accounts will be submitted for the year end, but as it stands with the forecasted expenditure we should make a small operating profit which although will not increase funds dramatically will keep the balance fairly stable.



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6. ELECTION / RE-ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Current Committee at the time of the meeting: **Chairman** - Chris Large (stepping down), **Secretary** - Chris Large, **Treasurer** - Dave Pitt, **Competition Secretary** - Karl Morris, **Grading Officer** - Scott Pywell, **BFTA Rep** - James Osborne.

C Large thanked his fellow Committee members and the rest of the FT community for their continued support whilst in the role of Chair.

The current Committee stepped down.

- 6.1 One nomination (Shaun Shore) was received for the post of Chair. The vote was unanimous in favour of Shaun filing the post.
- 6.2 All other Committee members were willing to re-stand for their positions. No other nominations were received so it was voted unanimously to re-elect the rest of the existing Committee.

7. 2023/24 MFTA WINTER LEAGUE DATES (PROPOSED DATES AND CHANGES ATTACHED)

C Large stated that although numbers were slightly down on last year, the introduction of new [and returning] faces and great courses has still given us a very enjoyable and successful season.

C Large proposed that due to the lack of clubs able/willing to hold more than one Round of a Winter League next season, the number of Rounds was reduced to a total of nine + Masters/Clubs Cup (current ten). It was discussed that it was not the best way forward to have multiple Rounds at one club in order to squeeze in ten rounds, and with the potential gap created at the end of the season this could be used to look at staging a larger scale Open event (such as the MFTA Open).

N Thorneycroft added that Brook Valley would be willing to put on more than one Round if required.

D Pitt highlighted that reducing the League to nine Rounds would have an adverse effect on the MFTA's income, with a decrease of income by approx some £150.00, which although not a huge amount, given that costs next year are likely to increase it would make a difference to the end of year balance.

S Shore stated that if such an event was held in the 'gap' around late Feb/early March, it could serve as a great end-of-season event, attracting competitors from outside of the region which would have the added benefit of potentially making up for the lost revenue of a reduced Winter League.

It was agreed by majority that the 2023/24 MFTA WL will therefore consist of nine Rounds + Masters/Clubs Cup. Proposed: Castle (P Rowley). Seconded: Blackbrook (J Osborne).

C Large stated he would circulate the proposed dates/venues to Club Reps to gain final confirmation.

D Pitt also added that it was important to encourage more people from each club to take part in the Winter League. He highlighted that, as has always been the case, many club members simply do not turn up at the club if they know an official event is being held. This must be an issue we/the clubs address in order to attempt to increase overall numbers at WL events.



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8. MATTERS ARISING

8.1 NEW MFTA CLUBS & REQUEST FROM BROOK VALLEY TARGET SPORTS TO JOIN THE MFTA

C Large expressed his appreciation to both Pheasant Pen Wood and Brook Valley for working with the MFTA to host two guest Winter League Rounds. It was noted that both these events were very successful and very enjoyable. Sadly Pheasant Pen Wood is not currently in a position to offer any further FT shoots, which is a shame but the decision of the landowner clearly has to be respected.

Brook Valley Target Sports have put a huge amount of work into the development of their club, and on the back of working with the MFTA have requested they be considered for affiliation to the MFTA.

A unanimous vote was in favour of accepting Brook Valley as an official MFTA affiliated club.

8.2 MFTA AFFILIATION FEES

D Pitt highlighted that there were still a number of affiliation fees outstanding, and that it was disappointing that these had to be 'chased'. C Large confirmed he would tie up any loose ends with these outstanding fees.

C Large also stated that moving forward the MFTA will be more on-the-ball with concern to collecting the 2023 affiliation fees from all clubs which are now due. The fees remain at the cost of £25.00 p/club.

8.3 MFTA 2023 SUMMER LEAGUE

C Large stated that over the past few years (mainly as a result of the recent pandemic) the MFTA had taken the decision not to run an official MFTA Summer League. This was done in an attempt to allow the clubs to run their own League and therefore boost their income during the year. B Banks stated that these Summer Leagues were vital, and played a key role in keeping many of the MFTA clubs running so something has to be done.

S Pywell announced due to a number of reasons and commitments he is unable to run his own Open Series this Summer. However, the majority of the paperwork and setting of dates has been done, so if the clubs wish to take this Series on themselves that would be a good move and feed the need for the clubs to receive extra income. It was discussed and agreed the MFTA is more than happy to take a back seat and let this happen to promote a positive outcome.

S Pywell is to liaise with those clubs involved to ensure the Series continues. It was proposed the Clubs take on their own Summer Series, that would run in the same way as the previous Summer Open Series. Proposed: Neil Thorneycroft. Seconded: B Banks.

8.4 DEVELOPMENT OF A MIDLAND OPEN EVENT

Further to the earlier conversation around the re-introduction of an MFTA Open, it was agreed by the majority that an MFTA Open in some guise could be introduced into the calendar, and potentially fill the gap around late Feb/early March as a result of the MFTA Winter League being reduced to nine Rounds.

D Pitt commented that previous Midland Opens did rely heavily on sponsorship, and was it not for that the events would have run at a loss. C Large commented that there was the possibility of sponsorship



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and this was to be discussed, but whether that sponsorship is better suited to the general MFTA WL (due to venue choice etc) is TBC.

S Shore stated that the event has the opportunity to be a successful event, with competitors attending from outside of the MFTA. With good PR and a well organised structure there is no reason this could not work.

It was agreed that due to the time of year and the potential need for decent parking facilities the venue would be well suited to Millride, and a date was to be confirmed with the help of S Pywell.

8.5 MFTA INTER REGIONAL TEAM

C Large asked for clarification if the region was happy to continue to pick it's Inter-Regional team from the top 15 based on the final results of the MFTA Winter League. J Osborne commented that this was by far the fairest way to pick the team, and mitigated any ill feeling among those who may be 'knocked out' by any other method after have attended the majority of the League in order to strive to make the team.

S Shore stated that looking at the results, there were few names not on the list that a region would wish to be in the team anyway.

It was agreed this method of picking the team would remain by a majority vote.

9. AOB

FT MONKI AWARDS

R Jack put forward that after discussions with a number of the MFTA club members, they felt it unfair that these awards should be personally funded, and should if possible be funded by the region or the competitors themselves. C Large thanked the people present for their appreciation of the awards and their generosity in offering to contribute to their production. However, C Large stated that currently it is simply not possible for the MFTA to fund these awards due to lack of funds. It was also noted by C Large that these awards were not voted in by the members, so not appropriate to ask them for contributions, but developed through a desire for an individual to give a little back to a sport that has given them so much. It was agreed that the awards would continue for the foreseeable future as the currently do, and reviewed at a later date if required.

THE DAVE HARRISON MEMORIAL TROPHY

B Banks stated that the Dave Harrison Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the overall highest score on the day at the MFTA Masters on 12 March. This will be awarded irrespective of whether the top score is a shooter who has qualified for the event or is only shooting as part of a Clubs Cup team.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

04 February 2024.

MEETING CLOSED 15:30



Chairman's/Secretary Report (2023)

Welcome to the MFTA 2023 AGM.

Another year has flown by and once again I'd like to express my thanks to everyone who supported the MFTA, either through their dedication in attending the shoots, or those who continue to work tirelessly behind-the-scenes to organise and lay on the events – without the course builders, admin and stats etc the MFTA simply would not exist.

Overall, I feel this season we've had a good year of FT. Last summer the Open League was very enjoyable and this year's Winter League has seen some great shoots and some fantastic results by our members, with clearances from both James Osborne and Ian Stoddart at Rounds three and five respectively - well done both. I think this Winter League we have seen some of the best courses I have a shot for a long time. I don't of course wish to single anybody out as I know each club has put in a tremendous amount of effort, but I'd like to mention Purley Chase who I feel really pulled it out of the bag to give us all two challenging but fair courses this season, each with a different line of fire which was great. We also had the pleasure of using two new grounds for which I am extremely grateful – Pheasant Pen Wood were very accommodating and gave us a cracking course, well set out in a stunning private woodland, whilst Brook Valley have put in a huge amount of work to get their club up and running and continue to work with the MFTA and will soon be affiliated to the MFTA, bringing our total back up to six clubs which is great news.

At last year's AGM we again took the decision not to run an official MFTA Summer League, instead making way for Scott to run his own Open Series which I feel really benefits the clubs, as it gives them an opportunity to boost their income, and as we (the MFTA) never took anything from our Summer League anyway it doesn't adversely affect our financial situation. Speaking of our financial situation, it's fair to say that although we have had decent Winter League, numbers are slightly down resulting in the MFTA only managing to remain steady, with no marked increase in this year's funds. It's true we don't really need an awful lot, and at the moment it's not a major issue as we have relatively few large expenses other than the usual culprits; however looking at next year when we are forecast increase costs with items such as the MFTA Masters badges etc it will become a much tighter situation. This will, or should shine a much brighter light on how we need to act now and look to build on numbers and therefore increase our annual income.



Chairmans/Secretary Report (2023)

On a more positive note we've seen quite a good number of new faces at our shoots, and many of them seem to return which is great to see – let's hope we can build on this trend. Recently I spent the morning at a shoot with one of these new people and his enthusiasm for the sport was superb. But more so, it was great to hear his feedback on how welcoming, helpful and inclusive to beginners our people were – so thank you all for that it really is vital we make everyone feel welcome and encourage them to keep coming back.

So, looking forward we have the final round of the Winter League at Blackbrook which will be a great day, plus a great finale to the season with the MFTA Masters and Clubs Cup Championship at Millride. It would be great to see as many clubs as possible take part in this to make it a successful event (there's decent prizes!) and of course it's much better to have a good number of people present for the end of season presentations.

A little later this year we also have BFTA Inter Regionals. I'm sure you'll know of our disappointment last year not placing in this event (to say I was gutted was an understatement!) so let's see if we can rectify that this year and bring the regional shield back home. We have some outstanding marksmen/women in our region, so I hope we can get some good support for this and put forward a winning team that represents what we are truly cable of.

Finally, I will be stepping down this year as Chairman as it was only supposed to be temporary post but I would like to thank you all for your continued support this past year, and especially the rest of the Committee and a number of others who have helped me enormously along the way. I have no doubt the person who fills the post will do a first-class job, and I look forward tremendously to working alongside them.

So to end, let's continue to build on our success and enjoy another great year of FT.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Large', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Large

MFTA Chairman & Secretary



Competition Secretary Report (2023)

I only started in this position at the beginning of the winter league but the courses hosted by the clubs have been on whole very good. Attendance at the shoots has been OK, some clubs have had very good numbers attending and others have had lower numbers but still 30 to 40 shooters, so overall good but we are always looking to improve on numbers.

Clubs do need to be checking over the course prior to any shoot to be sure they are set out to BFTA shoot rules (please make sure there are no objects between the targets and the shooting positions that could be hit when sitting/standing and kneeling).

I do believe if we are continuing to try to increase the numbers to shoots, we do have to make sure the courses we are putting out are balanced, so when we do get new shooters attending they are not put off by all the targets being very challenging on the course. Putting out a balanced course does not make the course easy for the more accomplished shooter because it is normally the disciplines that sort the top shooters at each shoot.

I think we need to look to the local MFTA clubs to help with getting new shooters to MFTA shoots, and then it is our job to keep them coming back.

So to summarise, the standard of shoots put on by the MFTA clubs has been good and attendance has been good, the atmosphere at the shoots is always welcoming and the standard of shooting by all grades is on the up, so the future of field target in the midlands is looking up and with a little help from the clubs on setting courses and informing their members about midland shoots, things can only get better.

Karl Morris

MFTA Competition Secretary



MFTA Accounts

To date 01.04.2022 – 31.01.2023

These accounts are shown 01.04.22 to 31.01.23. An additional balance sheet will need to be produced as our financial year end is 31 March.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Affiliations (3)	75.00	Domain (IT)	14.38
Winter Leagues (8)	1,146.00	Hosting (IT)	47.88
	1221.00	NSRA Insurance	205.00
		P/copy	1.60
		Post	13.93
		Stationery	5.00
		DJP Exp.	20.00
			307.79
Balance	£		
Income	1,221.00		
Brought forward from 21/22	3,036.59		
Expenditure	- 307.79		
	3,949.80		

Over the next 7+ weeks approx. up to 31 March we will have a [small] amount of additional income (Winter Leagues, affiliations, Clubs Cup entries) plus some additional expenditure (Clubs Cup host fee, season trophies, room hire, Inter Regional entry fee and awards etc) which based on last years figures should still give us a small operating profit.

It should be noted that next year we will incur further additional costs such as the re-ordering of Masters badges, general running costs etc.