



2025 AGM DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Sunday 02 February 2025

Venue: The Cafe Meeting Room, Millride FTC, Essington

03.02.2025

MEETING COMMENCED: 14:00

ATTENDEES

Shaun Shore (Chair), Chris Large (Secretary), Dave Pitt (Treasurer), Karl Morris (Competition Secretary), James Osborne (BFTA Rep), Pete Rowley (Castle), Ian Stoddart (Millride), Simon Critchlow (Brook Valley), Steve Booth (Brook Valley), Nick Murphy (Castle), Robert Banks (Harriers), Simon Francis (Throckmorton), Phil Gee (Millride), Dean Burfoot (Harriers), Rodney Howes (Millride), Bob Selvey (Millride), Mark Brameld (Brook Valley), Carl Hill (Harriers).

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

S Shore opened the meeting and thanked all those for taking the time to attend.

2. PERSONS AND CLUBS PRESENT, QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Clubs present: Brook Valley, Castle, Harriers, Millride, Throckmorton. Quorum was established.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Alan King (P Chase).

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM - 04 FEBRUARY 2024

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM were accepted and approved as a true representation.

Proposed: Castle. Seconded: Brook Valley.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Each Officer submitted an annual statement for the meeting. Copies of these are attached to these Minutes.

- 5.1 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chair outlined that those who have won a trophy in the Winter League, are warmly invited to attend the Masters shoot on 16 February (even if not qualified) so they can add the event and also ensure they collect their end of season trophy.

S Shore also requested that perpetual trophies are purchased for Piston and Stick Class.

- 5.2 **TREASURER'S REPORT:** D Pitt requested that all MFTA affiliation fees are paid by the 16 Feb (at or before the Masters) to ensure all monies are in and the accounts can be completed in full.



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D Pitt highlighted that the balance sheet was looking more positive, and although there were several more outgoing costs to be factored in, the final balance should still be better than last year.

D Pitt stated that due to Lloyds imposing monthly charges on the account, that account was now fully closed and the cash held by D Pitt and C Large. A new bank account (likely NatWest) that does not impose charges is due to be set up early March, and all monies will be paid into that.

- 5.3 **COMP SECRETARY REPORT:** The Competition Secretary spoke of a number of issues, some of which are covered in later noted Minutes. K Morris reiterated the need for the MFTA courses over the season to be consistent in their design, each ensuring they are all of a similar level of difficulty, suitable for all grades and set out with safety in mind.

It was also discussed that in the interest of fairness to all, competition courses should be 'fresh' for all competitors, in that a course should not be used and shot the day prior to a competition. It was suggested and unanimously agreed that if a course is laid out on the same ground, then **it's expected that the host club should make every effort to ensure the line of fire or positioning of targets is suitably different** so not to give anyone an unfair advantage.

K Morris put forward the suggestion of a slight change to the format of shoots in the Summer League for 2025. This was covered in Point 7.

- 5.4 **GRADING REPORT: ROLLING 10 vs ROLLING 16:** S Shore highlighted that, during the 24/25 Winter League, the MFTA has run a Rolling 10 alongside the Rolling 16 and would support a change to this format.

The MFTA has a vibrant local scene with the MFTA shoot calendar year extending to 18 events (10xWL, 1xMasters, 6xSL, 1xGP). We currently change our grades before and after the WL. If using a Rolling 16 then this will likely encompass two years of shooting.

If a Rolling 10 was adopted then it would be more likely to better reflect the last year of shooting.

There are 43 graded shooters in the MFTA that have 16 recorded shoots.

How does the grade distribution differ?

Grade	Rolling 16	Rolling 10
AA	15	20
A	21	16
B	4	3
C	3	4

Not much difference other than a change in AA/A. (No surprise that it's harder to hold AA over a higher number of shoots).

A vote was taken on the use of the Rolling 10:

Proposed: Castle. **Seconded:** Brook Valley.

Abstained: Millride, Harriers & Throckmorton.

The proposal was not carried, but it was agreed to continue to run and monitor the Rolling 10.



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5.5 **GRADING REPORT: SUBMISSIONS TO THE BFTA:** B Banks proposed that individual shooters need to register three separate regional results in order for their % to be submitted to the BFTA.

Proposed: Harriers. Seconded: Brook Valley. Agreed: Unanimous.

5.6 **GRADING REPORT: GENERAL GRADING: Are there too many AA/A shooters?** S Shore suggested yes. This has come about because of our use of fixed grade boundaries, whereas the BFTA reflects upon the boundaries each year.

Another consequence of fixed grade boundaries is that there are few B and C grade shooters. This WL we will award 1-3 in C grade – there are only 3 shooters that will complete seven scores.

In B grade there are 4 shooters that will complete seven scores.

It was suggested that based on the data at the end of the Winter League we either:

- i Split the grades into 4 equal(ish) parts
- ii Scrap AA and split the grades into 4 equal(ish) parts
- iii Do nothing

Why do either? The rationale is to make competition in grades more competitive. We could label the grades any way we like if necessary to avoid confusion with BFTA grade.

After some discussion it was suggested (Harriers) that Grades B and C are combined to even out the grades and encourage more competition. A vote was taken on the proposal to change the MFTA Grades to:

- AA leave as is
- A leave as is
- Combine B & C

Proposed: Castle. Seconded: Millride. Agreed: Unanimous.

5.7 **BFTA REPORT:** J Osborne reported that everything was in order with the BFTA, and in general the meetings went well.

6. ELECTION / RE-ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Current Committee at the time of the meeting: Chairman - Shaun Shore, **Secretary** - Chris Large, **Treasurer** - Dave Pitt, **Competition Secretary** - Karl Morris, **BFTA Rep** - James Osborne.

S Shore 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.

All Committee members were willing to re-stand for their positions. It was voted unanimously to re-elect the existing Committee.



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I Stoddart requested he be considered for the position of Joint Competition Secretary, to aid the responsibilities of K Morris.

Proposed: S Shore. Agreed: Unanimous.

7. MFTA SUMMER LEAGUE - DATES AND FORMAT (SEE ATTACHED DATES)

C Large stated that due to recent unforeseen circumstances and having had a dialogue with Alan King of Purley Chase, it would be wise to remove Purley Chase from hosting a Summer League until the running of the club can be clarified. This would relieve Alan of undue pressure.

However, it was discussed that Purley Chase is a hugely valuable asset to its members and to the MFTA, and it was hoped that everything possible would be done to ensure the club continues to function. It was hoped the other members of the club would step in to run the club until Alan is in a situation to return. S Francis suggested that if need be, members of other MFTA clubs could help out with a 'Work Party' to ensure the ground remains accessible etc.

S Shore highlighted the proposed Summer League dates and asked for venues to be allocated to the dates. It was also noted that the Greyhound were willing to host a round of the Summer League. All were agreed with the **change to Summer League 3 being moved to the 15 May 2025**. This was due to the change of date of the BFTA GPs 3 & 4 (See attached Summer League dates).

D Pitt suggested the Summer League was an opportunity to look at the progression of the sport, by looking at different shoot formats and to 'try something different'.

- 7.1 K Morris proposed small changes to the rules of the Summer League events, with a view to increasing variety in our regional courses, generating extra interest and increasing the skill levels of our competitors in preparation for national events. This was to include the use of reduced kill zones (25mm) set out to further than current BFTA stated distances. To balance this it was suggested that discipline lanes could be brought closer and full size kills used in the first instance.

A discussion was held as to whether this would put off newcomers to the sport, or alienate B and C Grade competitors. The general view was it was worth giving a go for the Summer at least.

Proposal: MFTA Summer League to include the use of reduced (25mm) kill zones set to further distances than the current BFTA rules allow. Discipline lanes: 1 lane of Standing max combined distance of 60 yds; 1 lane of kneeling max combined distance 70 yds.

Proposed: Castle. Seconded: Brook Valley. Abstained: Harriers. Proposal was carried.

It was agreed a guide document incorporating the changes would be drafted and made available to all clubs hosting a Summer League to use if they wish. K Morris to action.

- 7.2 It was proposed that, as last year, the takings from the Summer League were to be awarded back as prizes, split by grade with a ratio of value to number of competitors in the grade. The best 4/6 scores would count towards the final results.

Proposed: S Shore. Agreed: Unanimous.



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8. 2025/26 MFTA WINTER LEAGUE DATES (ATTACHED)

The proposed dates of the 2025/26 Winter League were put forward. The list featured ten fixed dates plus the MFTA Masters/Clubs Cup.

Proposed: S Shore. Agreed: Unanimous.

9. MATTERS ARISING

9.1 **BFTA CARD UPDATE:** C Large explained that he had received all requests for BFTA cards other than Brook Valley. M Brameld was to confirm Brook Valley details w/c 3 February 2025. Final submission to the BFTA are to be submitted early February.

9.2 **MFTA INTER REGIONAL TEAM:** C Large asked for clarification on how the Inter-Regional team was to be picked. It was proposed the team would be the top 15 based on the final results of the MFTA Winter League (based on those who wish to take part).

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

9.3 **MFTA v FFTA v SEFTA (THE TRI-REGIONS CUP):** C Large stated the huge success of last years inter-region competition was such that it would be run again in 2025. Everything is in place and it will again be run alongside the Lee Blissett Memorial Shoot at Sywell on **29 June**. Every entrant has the opportunity for their score to go towards their overall region total. Results will be taken from the top two results in AA, A, B, C and P (BFTA Grading). The region with the winning team score will take the annual perpetual cup for the year.

C Large asked that our MFTA competitors supported the Lee Blissett event as much as possible, and therefore by default also supported the Tri-Regions Cup. Further details of the event will be posted online in due course.

9.4 MFTA EVENTS GENERAL ETIQUETTE:

- i K Morris stated that all MFTA courses should be set with the safety of all competitors in mind, with particular attention paid to targets placed adjacent to the line of fire. There have been a few instances over the Winter League where targets have been deemed potentially unsafe. S Shore agreed all targets must be positioned safely, and stated that the Competitions Secretaries have the power to adjust a target prior to the start of the competition if they see fit.
- ii S Francis also pointed out that in addition to the course builders, competitors themselves also need to be aware of all safety aspects at an event, even after some competitors have completed the course, ie. Be aware of potential hazards if walking away from the course and into the line of fire.
- iii A discussion revolved around a 100yd rule max distance per lane for two targets. It was observed that this does not mean the majority of lanes should have a max combined distance of 100yds. J Osborne stated whilst this is a good idea, if some clubs are limited on space in certain parts of



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the course, they may need to include pockets of lanes with longer combined distances in order to retain variation in the course. He summarised that common sense should be used to keep the course sensible for all.

It was proposed that the 100yd max combined distance per lane was introduced.

Proposed: S Shore. Seconded: Throckmorton. Agreed: Unanimous.

- iv S Francis put forward the suggestion that buddy marshalling or the pairing up of friends could be conducive to coaching (either intentionally or unintentionally) on the firing line, and that it may be better to allocate competitors a 'partner' at booking in. In addition this may also mean newcomers benefit from meeting a wider circle of people within the FT community. The general feeling was that for many, spending a morning shooting with their friend was a large part of why they take part, and it was felt to remove this enjoyment would potentially mean a large loss in numbers at MFTA events.

The proposal was not carried.

- 9.5 **USE OF CLOCKS AT MFTA EVENTS (WINTER LEAGUE):** I Stoddart suggested some courses this Winter League took too long to complete, which can be unpleasant in conditions that are less than perfect. It was discussed this may be down to a number of reasons; a main point being not all competitors progress/move on in a timely manner. It was highlighted that marshals can ask people to move on if they are deemed to be taking too long. It was discussed as to whether to trial the use of 'clocks' at the next MFTA Winter League would help. S Critchlow stated that as a relatively new competitor, he would welcome the use of 'clocks into our region, as it would put shooters like himself in good standing for competing in national 'timed' events.

Proposal: 'Clocks' are introduced for the next Winter League as a trial for one year.

Proposed: Brook Valley. Seconded: Castle. In Favour: Millride. Against: Harriers & Throckmorton. Proposal: Carried.

It was noted that the MFTA will need to purchase suitable clocks to facilitate the above proposal.

9.6 MFTA WEBSITE AND ONLINE PRESENCE

C Large stated that the increased online presence of the MFTA had paid off well, and since the Summer of 2024 we have seen increased numbers and interest in the MFTA. It was the aim of the MFTA to continue this as much as possible, with a view to also looking to source sponsorship for future events/leagues. The MFTA website was highlighted as one area that could be vastly improved, to be more user-friendly and engaging. This would of course still come with some [small] associated costs. C Large asked that he and J Osborne be given a little more time to look into this further and come up with a proposal. The Inside Edge magazine would continue to promote the MFTA across all platforms whenever possible.



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10. AOB

S Shore raised the question that had been asked as to whether those who cannot kneel, and therefore take all discipline lanes standing, have their own Class. It would take the form as having their own 'tab' on the results spreadsheet. R Howes raised the point that does 'Open Class' not cater for this? After discussion as to the merits of this, as the numbers in that class would be very small (an issue we currently have with B and C grade), it was decided that this would be trialed in the 2025 Summer League and based on the numbers involved, an EGM would be held with regard to retaining the 'Class' for the 2025/26 Winter League. It was noted that this class had no desire to receive an end of season trophy.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

01.02.2026

MEETING CLOSED 16:18

MFTA Summer League 2025 Season



DATE	EVENT	VENUE	
23	MARCH	MFTA SL 1	HARRIERS
05	APRIL	BFTA CHAMPS	NELSON, WAFTA
06	APRIL	BFTA INTER REGIONALS	NELSON, WAFTA
13	APRIL	ENGLISH OPEN	EASTREE, FFTA
27	APRIL	BFTA GP 1	THROCKMORTON, MFTA
3/4	MAY	NEFTA CLASSIC	EMLEY, NEFTA
18	MAY	BFTA GP2	EAST TREE, FFTA
25	MAY	MFTA SL 2	MILLRIDE
07	JUNE	BFTA GP3	LLANTRISANT, WAFTA
08	JUNE	BFTA GP4	LLANTRISANT, WAFTA
15	JUNE	MFTA SL 3	CASTLE
29	JUNE	TRI-REGIONS CUP / LEE BLISSETT	SYWELL
06	JULY	MFTA SL 4	GREYHOUND
12	JULY	BFTA GP5	ANSTON, NEFTA
13	JULY	BFTA GP6	REDFEARNS, NEFTA
27	JULY	MFTA SL 5	THROCKMORTON
03	AUGUST	MFTA SL 6 (FINAL)	BROOK VALLEY
10	AUGUST	BFTA GP7	ICENI, SEFTA
18/24	AUGUST	WORLD CHAMPS	N. IRELAND
06	SEPTEMBER	BFTA SHOWDOWN	EMLEY, NEFTA
07	SEPTEMBER	BFTA MASTERS	EMLEY, NEFTA
21	SEPTEMBER	MFTA WINTER LEAGUE 1	CASTLE
27	SEPTEMBER	BRITISH OPEN	CARISBROOKE, I.O.W, CSFTA
28	SEPTEMBER	BRITISH OPEN	CARISBROOKE, I.O.W, CSFTA

- Standard 40 shot ft course shot to BFTA rules.
- Shotgun start at 10:00am. Briefing 9:45am.
- Graded AA, A, B, C, O, P & Stick. Best four/six to count.
- Result average submitted for grading.

MFTA Winter League

2025 / 26 Season



DATE	EVENT	VENUE (ALL TBC)
2025		
21 SEPT	WINTER LEAGUE 1	CASTLE
05 OCT	WINTER LEAGUE 2	PURLEY CHASE
19 OCT	WINTER LEAGUE 3	HARRIERS
02 NOV	WINTER LEAGUE 4	THROCKMORTON
16 NOV	WINTER LEAGUE 5	BROOK VALLEY
30 NOV	WINTER LEAGUE 6	GREYHOUND
14 DEC	WINTER LEAGUE 7	MILLRIDE
2026		
04 JAN	WINTER LEAGUE 8	PURLEY CHASE
18 JAN	WINTER LEAGUE 9	GREYHOUND
01 FEB	WINTER LEAGUE 10 + MFTA AGM	MILLRIDE
15 FEB	MFTA MASTERS & CLUBS CUP	THROCKMORTON

Shoots will commence as a shotgun start at 10:00am.

Booking-In from approx. 8:30am.

All competitors MUST attend the pre-shoot briefing at 9:45am.

Access times to the grounds and practice ranges may vary.

Competition entry fee: £10.00 p/p.

All MFTA Winter League trophies together with the MFTA Masters and Clubs Cup trophies will be awarded at the MFTA Masters on Sunday 15 February 2026.



Chairman's Report

02 Feb 2025

02.02.25

Firstly I'd like to pay tribute to Terry Southern. Terry was a stalwart member of Purley Chase and the Greyhound. He also found the location of the English world championship in 2019. I remember well the look of pride on his face when he visited during the competition. Rest in peace Terry.

Last year I started my report praising Chris Large and I'd like to do the same again today. Chris is a major asset to the MFTA and for the wider FT community. Thank you, Chris, for your sterling work.

I also offer thanks on behalf of all shooters of the MFTA to:

- Dave Pitt for his work as Treasurer.
- Karl Morris (and Pete Rowley) for his work as Competition Secretary.
- James Osborne for attending BFTA meeting on behalf of the MFTA.
- Castle for hosting the MFTA GP in 2024.
- Brook Valley for hosting the British Open in 2024.

Since our last meeting we have enjoyed a summer and winter league. Thanks to all the clubs that hosted in the last year. It has been great to once again visit the Greyhound, and that Throckmorton has become a regular on the calendar; I look forward to the Throckmorton GP in April.

I reiterate that my tenure as Chair is wholly to support Chris. If any member of our clubs wishes to stand for the position, then please come forward.

Shaun Shore
MFTA Chairman



Secretary Report

02 Feb 2025

02.02.25

Another Winter League has been and gone, it seems all too quickly but I think it fair to say we have had a very successful season. Personally I put this down to the dedication of the MFTA and it's club's members in ensuring our region remains one of the best there is, with top class events that cater for the seasoned pro as well and the beginner. Speaking of which, I am very pleased to say we have seen quite a few new faces on the midland circuit since this time last year which is great.

The Summer League last year was a great success, with six very enjoyable rounds bringing in new people who, thankfully, have stuck with it and have also enjoyed a full winter season too. This is a great result for us, as we have all worked hard to improve the profile of the sport.

After a financially testing year last year, I am also pleased to say numbers are up. We are now averaging around the mid 40s+ at most events. I can put this down to a number of reasons; a better online presence on social media, a more interesting and inviting way of promoting the sport and of course the events themselves which have been second to none - and that is something we should all be extremely proud of. With a new Summer Season just around the corner which we should maximise on as far as event interest goes, and an exciting national season in place too I am hopeful this trend will continue, and as a result the MFTA will continue to grow and benefit from this increased interest.

I'll wrap this up by saying a huge thank you and well done all who have shot the Winter League this season, to all those who have managed to take a trophy winning place, those that have simply just enjoyed themselves and to James Osborne, who has put in a brilliant but hard earned season of results for him to take the overall title of MFTA Champion 2025.

Finally, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of the MFTA over the past 12 months, and in particular to the rest of the Committee who give their time and effort to make everything happen. Thanks to Karl Morris for always being at the shoots early, making sure the course accessories are always in place and for being very supportive; to Shaun for his help, support and encouragement and for ensuring the results are available in super-quick time, to Dave Pitt for his rigorous attention to detail in assuring our accounts are up-to-date and to James Osborne for his time given over as BFTA Rep. We all work extremely hard to ensure the region is well run and your feedback, particularly to my many emails, is always very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Chris Large
MFTA Secretary



Competition Secretary Report

02 Feb 2025

02.02.25

We've seen an increase in shooters attending shoots over the past 12 months on all MFTA ran competitions. This shows we must be doing something right, especially when you consider some of the appalling weather we have had over many of the Winter League shoots. With this in mind I do think we need to try and make the courses we set out more consistent between the clubs we shoot, I think having a 100 yards combined maximum on all free-standing lanes would help with this because, as it stands now there isn't any rules covering this at the moment within the BFTA. I think doing this would help make the courses more consistent. The other point I would like to make about the courses that clubs are setting out for the competitions we shoot, should be courses are newly set out for the competition, and should not have been shot by anyone attending the competition prior to the competition starting. I know this is a lot of work for the clubs hosting a competition, but if people have shot the same course prior, this gives them an unfair advantage and needs to stop.

We use some fantastic shooting grounds in the Midlands and it would be nice to see some of the shoots set out in new positions with the grounds. I know some grounds have limited space but with a little imagination and work this can be achieved.

Looking forward towards a Summer League

I would like to propose we don't strictly follow the BFTA rules on course setting and we set our own format, now this would mean we could not put the results forward for a grading percentage at the end of the Summer League, but it would give us the freedom to put some different and challenging course out (i.e. reducers out to longer distances, have say only one standing and one kneeling lane instead of two); so we are not talking about massive changes but this would give new challenges to the shooter.

Grading and Rolling 16

We have also been showing a Rolling 10 on the MFTA website at the side of the Rolling 16 we use at present, so people can see the difference it makes to the end of year grades and it shows a more accurate assessment of a shooters current form. I do believe we should move from the old Rolling 16 to the Rolling 10, this may mean we need to adjust the percentage levels for all grades so we can even out the grading over all.

So to sum up, we have had a good year for new shooters attending MFTA competitions this year and the level of shooting has gone up over all grades and I would like this to continue, and for us at the MFTA to try and lead the way to get people interested and back into the sport we love.

Karl Morris

MFTA Competition Secretary

02.02.2025



MFTA Draft Accounts

01.04.2024 – 23.01.2025

Expenditure	£	Income	£
NSRA Insurance	275.00	Affiliations	150.00
Scorecards	160.00	Summer League	868.00
Domain/Hosting (IT)	74.26	Winter League (9 Rounds)	1,558.00
Summer League Prizes	899.00		2,576.00
Photocopy	2.40		
Post	24.00	B/F 23/24	+ 2,918.42
Total	1,434.66		5,494.42
		Expenditure 24/25	- 1,434.66
		Total	4,059.76

As we have had to close our Lloyds Account due to the introduction of monthly charges, all monies are currently held in cash until a new bank account is set up (approx March 2025).

	£
DJ Pitt	3,561.76
C Large	498.00
Total	4,059.76

To come

	£	£
Millride Winter League	(In)	
Winter League Trophies		(Out)
AGM Room Hire		(Out)
Clubs Cup Team Entry	(In)	
Clubs Cup Trophies		(Out)
Masters Trophies		(Out)
Masters Host Club		(Out)
Inter Regional (Entry/Caps)		(Out)
Misc/Postage etc		(Out)