

General Meeting of F Class Shooters, held 27th August 2002.

Jim Thompson, Canada, acted as moderator. There was no formal agenda, but some key topics were identified and discussed.

1. General Comments on the 2002 Event. Many people expressed their thanks to the DCRA for mounting this inaugural Championship. With an entry of around 135 shooters from around the world, it must be classed as a success. Special thanks were offered to Keith Cunningham and Linda Miller for their presentation of the MilCun Shield, for the individual World Champion, and to Jim McAllister, for the donation of the two silver trophies for the International and Open Team Matches. Everyone seemed to agree that the Championships should be repeated on a regular schedule.
2. Frequency of the Championship. There was a lengthy discussion on this, with two distinct points of view expressed. Those with closer links to target rifle shooting were of the opinion that the event should be held every three or four years, keeping it out of phase with other important cyclical TR events, such as the Palma and the Commonwealth Games. They also felt that the FCWC should be held in conjunction with a major TR event in which F Class shooters could compete, so as to provide an extended period of shooting. It was also pointed out that organising a team for a world championship every two years may prove too onerous and expensive for both participants and organisers. . Unofficial championships in the intervening years, with goodwill rather than official teams, might be a possible alternative. Others, more connected with the bench-rest community, opted for a more frequent Championship, preferably every two years, with greater independence from TR events. There was no consensus on this difference of opinion, although it was agreed that there was a lot of work involved in putting on such a meeting and that time was needed to do this and to allow shooters to plan for their travel. A show of hands indicated more support from those present for a two-year rather than a three- or four-year cycle.
3. Location of the next Championship. There were essentially four proposals:
 - a. From Great Britain, following the Bisley Meeting, in July 2005 or 2006.
 - b. From the United States, probably following the Raton Meeting in September 2004.
 - c. From South Africa, which was originally going to offer for 2008 or 2009, but which would be prepared to do it in 2004 or 2005, following the South African Bisley in April.
 - d. From Canada, following the DCRA Meeting in August 2005.On a show of hands, South Africa was the more favoured choice of those present.
4. How to resolve 3. and 4. above?
 - a. Most agreed that it is important to get the newly established International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations (ICFRA) to form an F Class Sub-Committee as soon as possible.
 - b. Nations should then make their proposals to ICFRA for holding the next FCWC. The F Class Sub-Committee should consider this, and make recommendations to the ICFRA Council for a decision.
 - c. Some people felt that it should be decided independently of ICFRA and NRAs since these were not aware of the needs of F Class.

- d. It was generally agreed to work with ICFRA for the next event. Nations should thus bid through their NRAs as quickly as possible.
5. Targets. There was animated discussion. The very large number of tied perfect scores in the first match provoked some of this.
 - a. It was agreed that the DCRA Long Range target, even using the vee-ring as the bullseye scoring 6, was too large, especially at 700 metres. The DCRA was aware of this, but had decided to use its normal target both for economy and for reducing the need for a substantial re-facing job following the TR matches.
 - b. Those who recognised a need to have a target usable by mixed TR and F Class competitors felt that the US Long Range target would be better, although some said it should probably have smaller rings for 700 and 800 metres. Some said the X-ring should score 11.
 - c. Several people said that there need be no link between TR and F Class targets and that special F Class targets, such as those used in Australia, should be used. Even in mixed events, TR and F Class shooters should be squadded separately and fire on different targets. Others objected quite vigourously to this notion.
 - d. Several people suggested that there should be a special aiming point, white or coloured, on whatever target is used.
 - e. Hope was expressed that the ICFRA Sub-Committee might assist in the search for a common and acceptable target.
6. Method of Shooting. Some want 'single string', others want 'pairs' or 'threes'.
 - a. There was general agreement that, if the squadding was 'pairs', no one should fire singly – any unpaired shooters should join an adjacent pair and fire in threes.
 - b. On a show of hands of those present, a majority preferred 'string' shooting in the FCWC.
7. Other Matters.
 - a. Wind Flags. It was suggested that individual wind indicators, such as in bench-rest shooting, should be permitted. Others felt that this should not be allowed and, indeed, would not be permitted or feasible on most ranges. Since many competitions are conducted on military ranges, there is often not a lot of flexibility regarding flags and flag placement. Several people asked for a more common design, weight and mode of hanging of wind flags.
 - b. Structure, Organisation and Rules in general. With some reservations, it was agreed that ICFRA presented the best means of trying to reach some consensus on the various matters where differences exist.
 - c. It was mentioned that the holding and format of tie-shoots need to be reconsidered.
 - d. The matter of rifle supports was raised, with the prohibition against 'rail guns' being stressed.

The meeting adjourned, with the moderator thanking all for their constructive comments and suggestions and promising to try to write up some notes (here they are) for electronic distribution.

Everyone is asked to communicate to ICFRA though their NRA at the earliest opportunity on any of these or other matters.

JCT, 23 September 2002