

OPTA Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday April 6, 2021

Attendance: Bert Blackburn, Emily Brown, Lori Cantelo, BJ Jackman, Peter Tsementzis, Richard Bootsvelde, Ron Rowe, Verne Higgs, Bill Drikos and Pam Muma

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm EDT by Bert Blackburn via Zoom conference call.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Lori made a motion to accepted March 2, 2021 minutes, seconded by Verne. All in favor, minutes accepted.

Lori made a motion to accepted the CTA Satellite in Ontario minutes of March 15, 2021, seconded by BJ. All in favor, minutes accepted.

2. Business arising from minutes

1. Website/Facebook/Twitter – see appendix A

2. Ontario Council of Shooters – see appendix A

3. New Shooter/OPTA promotions – see appendix A

4. New Shooter Clinic – Pete stated that a tentative date of August 21 was set for the All-Star Day shoot at Napanee & District Gun Club. BJ mentioned that date is during the Cardinal Classic and many all-stars might not be able to attend. After discussion it was determined to hold the shoot on August 28th. Pete will send out to the Board a draft invite for the All Star as well as a questionnaire for those who wish to sign up for the day. The cost for the day will be \$25.00 per person which should cover lunch and targets. The participants will have to bring their own shells. Lori stated we should try to keep the costs down for the participants. Also since this is replacing the Sponsorship money, perhaps we could use some of it to pay for the All Stars mileage and lunch.

Verne and Lori will each get pricing on towels that will be given to each participant

5. Promoting High Level Trapshooting in Ontario – Nothing to report

6. Online Membership Payment – Pam has still not worked on this yet. She promised to have information before the next Board meeting.

7. Handicap Purse – B J has this completed and will send out to the Board. It will also be in the Clubhouse newsletter that goes out.
 8. Trap Chair Meeting Recap – The meeting was held March 23 and seem to be well received by those in attendance.
 9. Shooting in Ontario – Verne stated that the President of the St Thomas Gun Club, Bob Morphy, has been in contact with the area Public Health regarding holding shooting events. He was told that gun clubs are treated the same as golf courses. There is no participate restrictions if the social distancing could be obtained. St Thomas will go ahead with the May Shell Shoot but will not permit camping to see how things go. If all stays the same there will be camping permitted for the Provincial Championships in June.
 10. Satellite CTA location discrepancy – Bert informed the Board that Denis from West Nipissing had called him last week to say they had authorization to host the CTA at their club and that one of their members would send the scores to a club in Quebec. Bert let Denis know that the OPTA has already made a decision that this shoot would be held at only one club in Ontario and that being Hamilton Gun Club. Bert in turn contacted Josh Faubert and Paul Shaw to get more information and the ATA regulations regarding all this. It was determined that Josh was unaware but contacted the President of the CTA, Dwight Smith, to find out how this came about. In the end it was determined that West Nipissing would not be hosting the CTA shoot and it would remain solely at the Hamilton Gun Club.
3. Monthly finances
 1. YTD Financial Results – Financial reports as submitted by Pam for Board review. No questions from the Board.
 4. New business
 1. 2021 Provincial Championship Program – With the news that was received from St Thomas Gun Club it was decided that at this time the shoot in June will go ahead. It is too early to postponed anything right now. It was decided we would only needs a couple of weeks lead time if a postponement was needed.

BJ has sent in the quote from Shamrock Leather for the HOA trophies. Lori is still working with Todd Millard for the HAA trophies. Pam stated that some of the ATA trophies have been received.
 2. Shortage of Ammo – Ron stated that there is still a shortage of ammo.
 3. Emily asked for an apology from Verne for the email he sent out to the Board over the weekend. Verne informed her that the email was not directed at her but the entire Board. He said every time the Board has a meeting the information seems to

get out to the public quickly. He was concerned that someone on the Board was passing on information to those outside the Board before it should be. Bert reiterated that he had conducted a thorough investigation and concluded that there was no leak or dealing from anyone on the board. The arrangement was an attempt by Godefroy Cardinal to help his friends at West Nipissing be able to compete in the competition. It was innocent and not intended to challenge the authority of the OPTA. Emily reminded us that board meetings are confidential and that we have a code of conduct to abide by.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm EDT.

Appendix A

OPTA Board report for April 6, 2021

Submitted by Emily Brown

This report represents updates since November 9, 2020

1. OPTA website

The buy and sell page is seeing postings from shooters across Ontario and from other provinces. Some exceptional offerings go up and sell in 24 hours.

Since my last board report, I have posted 39 ads, taken 41 ads down, and edited 4 for price or content.

Other OPTA website pages have been updated as needed.

2. OPTA Facebook group page/Twitter

The OPTA FB group was started on January 8, 2014, over 7 years ago. It has become the go-to place for shooters, new, old and potential. The number of members of the OPTA Facebook group page has risen from 1028 to 1080 an increase of 52 new members since my last report. There are still over 70 requests to join but they have not responded to the screening question.

Analytics show that 879 members have been active on the site in the past month, with the top three posts being seen by 681, 624 and 572 group members. It is the place where trapshooters go for up-to-the-minute information on shoot events, shoot results and current club covid protocol. I post silver, bronze and intercountry league updates, schedules and results, in addition to OPTA/ATA information. Further it provides a place, even more important now when gathering is limited, where dialogue takes place amongst shooters.

3. Ontario Council of Shooters (OCS)

The Ministry which recognizes and supports the OCS as a Provincial Sporting Organization has provided regular updates to the group with respect to exceptional covid funding, high performance athlete protocol, and covid health restriction for amateur sport. There have been no meetings since the AGM on February 4th.

4. New Shooter/ OPTA promotions

On January 21 I hosted an Introduction to ATA/OPTA shooting to answer questions about how to get started in registered shooting. This past week, I turned that presentation into a YouTube video (and shared it to the FB group so that those who missed the webinar could view it, and so that it can serve as a resource going forward. It is the hope that that large numbers of local league shooters would find interest in ATA/OPTA shooting, and with a better understanding of the process, would consider taking it up.

5. Canadian University Shooting Federation (CUSF)

The CUSF continues to be very active, with some shotgun clubs still meeting regularly while respecting the pandemic restrictions. In Ontario, the Ottawa club is particularly active, and we have just added a new trapshooting lead to that group, Kent Adam, to balance out the strong participation in skeet shooting supported by an avid skeet shooter there. We are hosting an introduction to shotgun shooting clinic in the next few weeks, by zoom to CUSF participants across Canada.