

## OPTA Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 13, 2020

Attendance: Bert Blackburn, Lori Cantelo, Emily Brown, Dominic Gitto, BJ Jackman, Ron Rowe, Richard Bootsveld, Paul Shaw, Bill Drikos and Jamie LeBlanc

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm by Bert Blackburn via conference call.

### 1. Approval of meeting minutes

Lori made a motion to accept the March 16<sup>th</sup> board of directors meeting minutes which was seconded by Bill. All in favour, minutes accepted.

### 2. COVID-19 Impacts to OPTA business

- Paul Shaw provided an overview of what was happening around the ATA as a result of pandemic measures in various states and provinces. Overall the ATA is encouraging provinces/states to not cancel too early and think about what a target date for a decision might be. One risk of cancelling is that shooters may lose interest in shooting and not come back.
- Paul indicated that there are a number of things to consider: how to deal with trophies, number of participants might be down across the board or might be up depending on timing and environment, how to address physical distancing (on the line, cashiering, the clubhouse, washrooms), target availability, ammunition shortages, etc. On behalf of the ATA he hoped OPTA would wait until June 15 to make a final decision. This is similar to timing being discussed for a decision on the Grand American.
- The board discussed that the Province of Quebec has banned public events until end of August, Alberta to end of June, Ontario end of June at earliest. The common view was that when things open up it is going to be slow and not everything at once and that recreational shooting is not likely to be a priority compared to more basic societal priorities like schools, businesses and jobs.
- The board discussed liability risk and extent of insurance coverage. Possible that waivers may be prudent for all involved (participants, volunteers, attendees, staff, etc.). The board also consider impact on lodging and food.
- Lori tabled a motion to delay and consider the decision on whether or not the Championship should proceed until the next board meeting scheduled for May 11, 2020. The motion was seconded by BJ. All in favour, accepted motion.
- In the meantime, trophy plans will continue to be refined keeping flexibility in mind.

3. Business arising from minutes
  1. Website/Facebook/Twitter – See Emily’s report (Appendix A)
  2. Ontario Council of Shooters – See Emily’s report (Appendix A)
  3. New Shooter/OPTA promotions – See Emily’s report (Appendix A)
  4. Strategic Plan – deferred to a future meeting
  5. 2020 Provincial Championship
    - a. Trophies – discussed previously as part of COVID-19
    - b. Program – intention to consider how to develop a simplified program and distribute primarily online with copies at the event should things proceed. This will limit waste of printing and postage should the event not proceed.
    - c. Other (planning log) – A number of items were touched on in the event of cancellation should that occur. It may make sense for the OPTA to sponsor events later in the year or early in the next target year this fall. The AGM was raised, and Jamie committed to research options in the event of cancellation.
4. Monthly finances
  1. Review of current year-to-date financial results – nothing of significance raised. Minimal transactions taking place. Bank balance and investments put OPTA in a strong position.
5. New business – none raised
6. Next meeting - Monday May 11th 7:30 pm via conference call.
7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

## Appendix A

OPTA Board report for April 13, 2020

Submitted by Emily Brown

This report represents updates since March 16, 2020

### 1. OPTA website

The website continues to be quiet, with respect to buy and sell items. Since the last meeting, I have uploaded 4 buy/sell ads, taken 5 down and there were no edits. There are currently 53 posts on the buy and sell page.

### 2. OPTA Facebook group page/Twitter

In the last month, the number of members of the OPTA Facebook group page has risen from 875 to 908, an increase of 33 new members. I attribute this spike to people looking for information about club closures and people being interested in connecting with other shooters online when face to face interactions have been suspended. Facebook posts

### 3. Ontario Council of Shooters (OCS)

I attended a follow up meeting of Provincial Sporting Organizations on March 30, to discuss feedback from the prior meeting. Needless to say, there have been significant changes since the prior meeting with cancelled events, and the associated loss of revenue that sporting organizations and concerns over the Ministry's commitment to base funding and grants. The Ministry has said that funds already granted would be forthcoming, but it is the advice of the sporting organization group that we keep exceptional track of funding losses as a result of the pandemic closures and cancellation, including a decrease in memberships, and in our case, daily fees, target fees, program sponsorships, etc, to compare past years to this exceptional year.

### 4. New Shooter/ OPTA promotions

Nothing to report

### Canadian University Shooting Federation (CUSF)

The AGM was held on re was a board meeting of the CUSF on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The AGM was very well attended. There are 18 active clubs so far with more in discussion. I am particularly delighted to share that today, the University of Toronto, with some minor changes to the club bylaws, to name the club the University of Toronto Target Sports Association, has approved the shooting club. Due to the pandemic and associated cancellations, all CUSF spring events are cancelled but clubs are looking at strengthening their positions and are planning for a strong fall.

### 5. Other business

I attended a meeting of the Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Association on March 30, to discuss what important issues that organizations are facing, and ways that organizations and

industry associates can work together to move each other's mandates forward. This is the first of many intended meetings, but with the current health restrictions, it is difficult to make firm plans with respect to collaborations.

The next scheduled meeting of the Ontario Gun Club Cooperative has been postponed from mid-May at East Elgin Sportsman's Club to a date at the same location, sometime in the future, suggesting October. This group of gun club representatives met last fall and formed an alliance with the agreement to meet to discuss Ontario Gun Club matters going forward.

The Canada Downrange (Canada's only sport shooting show) has been offering their Season 1 episodes, which were only available on the paid subscription sports channel, on Youtube, and can be seen here

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOxuhdrwHS2ayra64gCCwA39PdhYMRg2A>

The episode filmed at the 100<sup>th</sup> provincial last year, is the first in Season 2, and has yet to be uploaded to Youtube.

I was invited to participate in a live online show called Slamfire radio on April 2, to speak about clay target shooting, primarily trapshooting. It offered a great opportunity to have a relaxed dialogue about the fundamentals of trapshooting, how to get started, buying your first trap gun, etc. It can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNKGBFTI4y4&t=352s>