

OPTA Board Meeting Minutes

Monday November 9, 2020

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

Absent: Bill Drikos

Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm EDT by Bert Blackburn via Zoom conference call.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Lori made a motion to accepted October 13m 2020 minutes, seconded by Pete. 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. Eastern Zone Satellite – Pete has been having conversations with Paul Shaw via email which all Board members have been copied on but Pete also had a face to face conversation with Paul on the weekend. Eastern Zone committee was not supportive of developing satellite zone. Paul has been pushing for Ontario to host this shoot in the past. Pete didn't feel that Ontario had a club large enough to host an Eastern Zone.
5. Sponsor Shoots – Lori stated that the Board has been discussing having a trophy package instead of giving out dollars. Currently the OPTA provides 2 X \$2,000 and 2 X \$1,000 each years to clubs who apply for Sponsorship. Bert stated we need to look at our objectives for these shoots. Initially they were to get more competition in Ontario but we need to determine if this goal is being reached. Pam stated that in her observation with the shoot reports that are submitted we continue to go down in target numbers. It has been around 8 years since the initial sponsorship which was to St Thomas for the Fall Team shoot and expanded to the current levels. Pam will look up the past few years and report at the next meeting. Emily brought forward that clubs should not only look to the OPTA for funds but look to other entities. A list should be created that lists all areas a club could approach for various types of sponsorships. It was also suggested that if a club applied for an ATA grant that perhaps the OPTA could recognize this by matching funds. BJ stated that at the Trap

Chair meeting held last year a few suggestion such as looking at how many shoots a club hold, how many targets are thrown in a year and recognize these clubs with sponsorship money. A suggestion of helping clubs with monetarily upgrades that would improve the target presentation or experience to a shooter at the club. Emily brought forward that perhaps the sponsorship money could be used to help non registered clubs to start hosting registered shoots. Emily suggested a webinar that will assist new clubs with the operation of hosting registered shoots. It would contain the before, during and after requirements to run a registered shoot. Pete suggested taking the funds from Sponsorships and put the money into a New Shooter Program. Bert asked the Board to come to our next meeting with some plans.

6. Lottery Fund – Lori stated that the funds must target Jr/Sub Jr shooters. Bert stated, if we host New Shooter clinics with a registration fee then we can cover the Jr/Sub Jr fees with this money. Yes at it targets the kids. Emily suggested using some of the funds to provide bursaries as long as certain target requirements have been met.
7. Provincial Shoot Date – Bert thanked the Board for the input and research over the month regarding suggested dates. The best date suggested was June 9-13, 2021. Having it early in the year provides the event champion more time to make plans to attend the CTA and Grand where they can participate in the Champion of Champion event. Verne stated that not having a shoot in St Thomas over a long weekend will actually benefit the club and its neighbors as now they won't have to listen to shooting over a long weekend. Pam motioned to have the Provincial Championship June 9-13, 2021 seconded by Ron. All were in favor. Verne will contact Bob Morphy from the St Thomas Gun Club to let him know of the dates.
8. New Shooter Clinic – Bert stated these will be good come Spring so long as the pandemic is under control. We can look at on field clinics as well as various Webinars. Emily said she will continue to work on these and has thoughts in place already just has but not had the free time to work on them. Lori offered to help Emily on this project. Pete and Verne both offered to help with the field time of these clinics.

3. Monthly finances

1. YTD Financial Results – Financial reports as submitted by Pam were briefly reviewed. Not much happening over the past month. There are 88 OPTA memberships already for 2021 which is great since there has been very little registered shooting. Pam was at the bank today to try to complete the changeover in the signing authority and was told the paperwork we had done was not acceptable and had to start all over again. This has been initiated at Pam's end and the St Thomas TD bank will be sending off the paperwork to the nearest TD bank to Bert and Lori for them to sign.

4. New business

1. Report from Emily – see Appendix A
2. Promoting Large Competitive Shoots in Ontario – Pete asked if has looked at holding larger shoots in Ontario that would entice our US shooters to come to Ontario.

Verne stated that moving the Provincial dates could help as now the date is more accessible to at least the New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan shooters. Emily spoke of CanUsa events that could also be eligible for funding through the Ontario Council of Shooters. Verne suggested that we could look at utilizing some of the OPTA funds to develop an elite club in Ontario. Pete asked if we could have Promoting High Level Trapshooting as part of the Board's monthly meeting discussions.

3. Ontario Registered Shoot Dates – BJ asked if any clubs have submitted registered shoot dates for the 2021 shooting season. Pam said that 6 clubs have submitted and she will contact the remainder of the clubs to try to have them submit dates. It will be easier to cancel dates then to register at the last minute.
 4. OPTA Membership payments – Emily asked about having e-transfers for shooters to be able to pay membership fees online. Pam stated that Jamie had looked into this in the past and was having some issues with the bank on setting something up. Pam will talk to the bank again to determine what the issues were and if we can get something set up.
5. Next meeting – Tuesday December 1st at 7:30 via Zoom.
 6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm EDT.

Appendix A – Emily's Board Report

OPTA Board report for November 9, 2020

Submitted by Emily Brown

This report represents updates since October 13, 2020

1. OPTA website

The buy and sell page has been on fire this month, with some irregular items such as once-fired hulls, being listed and sold in a matter of days. There seems to be a high and rapid turnover for many items. In one month there were 14 ads put up, 20 ads taken down and 3 ads were edited with new photos, or a change in asking price. There are currently 59 posts on the buy and sell page.

Updates to the website have been done to reflect the board changes, information regarding winter leagues, and save the date notification for the 2021 Canadian championship. I still need to upload the 2020 AGM minutes when they are edited and available.

2. OPTA Facebook group page/Twitter

The number of members of the OPTA Facebook group page has risen from 1024 to 1028 an increase of 4 new members. There are 40 requests to join but they have not responded to the screening question.

3. Ontario Council of Shooters (OCS)

Nothing to report that is directly related to the Ontario Council of Shooters.

4. New Shooter/ OPTA promotions

No new shooter events have taken place, although there is a need.

I have been asked a few times in the past month about ATA shooting, and how a shooter would participate. I think that given our mandate of increasing the numbers of OPTA/ATA shooters I would like to see a set of webinars offered by the OPTA, particularly one on getting started in ATA. A logical pathway exists between converting recreational league shooters to competitive shooters so these shooters would be our target demographic.

5. Canadian University Shooting Federation (CUSF)

Student clubs which were established have continued to operate despite the pandemic in locations across the country. In Ontario, those very active clubs include ones in Ottawa and Windsor. After an initial denial and appeal, approval of a shooting club at the University of Toronto was recently granted. They are working on establishing an executive and opening up membership. The CUSF recently received another significant donation so funds are available for club events to introduce new people to the shooting sports, and to offset the costs for students to take their PAL/RPAL courses. There is a former CUSF student shooter who has started to shoot the Bronze League. It would be great to support these student clubs through mentorship, and range events, and to translate more shooters into ones who continue to shoot, and choose to compete at our clubs.

5. Other business

- i. The provincial sporting organization (PSO) cooperative has been instrumental in keeping amateur and high performance sport at the forefront of concerns for Minister Lisa MacLeod, and she has been responsive to concerns being raised. Many of the PSOs (Ontario Para Network, Ontario Hockey, Fencing) appeared at the Standing Committee

on Justice Policy to have sport considered separately from entertainment, long term care, etc.

- ii. There is a future of Sport 4 Ontario meeting on November 10th that I will be attending to determine what that organization will look and how the Ontario Council of Shooters (OCS) might benefit from a relationship. As I understand it, the OCS has paid a membership fee to Sport 4 Ontario in the past.
- iii. Again this year, I was going to submit an application for a WISE grant for women and girls in sports. The due date is today, November 9th. I have submitted an application every year on behalf of the OPTA for the past three years but have not been offered a grant. I have requested feedback on the applications and have taken that into account in subsequent applications. I was going to apply this year again, but on further investigation, I noted that this focus was not simply on women and girls in sport but 60% of the grant money was going to particular equity seeking groups, such as people of colour, indigenous and deaf persons and persons with disabilities. I do have something on the horizon but the timing does not align with the application deadline.
<https://womenandsport.ca/resources/wise-fund/?fbclid=IwAR0WRnmlhUwV4QBz4YJ6IPyo4vymApPg0ZSOhInKbdHJR1cyhALZ47RCYbE>
- iv. I continue to work with Sheridan College, and the Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Association (CSAAA) to develop a gunsmith program at the college. The committee is now headed by the VP of Savage Arms who is keen to get a program in Canada going with the incredible shortage of qualified individuals. I will be touring the facility next Wednesday to work on this further.