

O. P. T. A. Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:30 PM EDT

Attendance: Bert Blackburn, Emily Brown, Lori Cantelo, Beau Douglas, Verne Higgs, BJ Jackman, Pam Muma, Peter Tsementzis,

Absent: Bill Drikos, Ron Rowe

Bert called the meeting to order at 7:38pm via Zoom conference call.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Pam made a motion to accept the Sept 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Verne seconded. All in favour. **Carried**

2. Business arising from minutes

1. Ontario Council of Shooters/Facebook/Website: Nothing to report

- 2. Provincial Trophy Cost:** As requested, Beau reported the trophy cost for the OPTA trophy package to be \$12,308. Bert asked if total included 2020 purchases, which it does. Total will be adjusted when last cheque is converted to CAD. People were happy with the trophy quality and the lower cost is a good thing.

3. **Monthly finances**

1. Review of current year-to-date financial results

- Outstanding invoice from Shamrock Leathers paid.
- The OPTA received a cheque in the amount of \$2052.96 from the Ontario Council of Shooters.
- There have been a lot of registered shoots this fall, which is great for shooters and for our financial picture.
- There is a GIC that is maturing in November. We have discussed staggering the GIC accounts to have one mature each year on a 5-year basis. We have almost \$100,000 in the account and it would make sense to invest some out of our daily account to at least earn some interest. Pam suggested keeping an amount of \$50,000 in the daily account.
- Lori made a motion to have the OPTA money allocated appropriately into relatively equal GIC investments that mature on a rolling 5-year basis. All in favour. **Carried.**

4. **New business**

1. Meet the Board – information for OPTA Newsletter

Beau said that he had sent out a form for all the directors to fill out for upcoming newsletters. This will allow the membership to know a little bit about each of us as shooters. Lori said she thought it was a good idea.

Emily asked that we all remain steadfast in contributing to the Hall of Fame page of the OPTA website. Any help would be appreciated to keep the history books alive.

2. Provincial Shoot Dates

Bert said he had received a call from Quebec about the OPTA Provincial shoot dates and avoiding conflict, and that we should set the shoot date this meeting. Discussion ensued about the difference in shooting 700 or 1000 target HOA. Peter said he was not in support of a 5-day shoot, others agreed that it does drag on. Beau stated that a mid-June shoot would conflict with our youth shooters being able to attend. Bert stated that he agreed that would be a deterrent for our young shooters and that we should be encouraging our youth to shoot, so that date doesn't make sense. Lori agreed that a 5-day shoot does get obviously more expensive, as well as vacation time being needed for the working shooter. Beau asked if Hamilton would be able to handle 300 target days. Lori said that there have made many improvements. BJ asked about HGC having a lit field for shoot-offs, and Peter said they did. Discussion ensued about various dates, and the impacts of various groups of shooters by selecting those dates. There have been many shooters who leave the Provincials and head right to the Grand, or elsewhere. Bert

suggested running it the long weekend in August, and running the shoot Thursday-Sunday, allowing Monday for travel.

Peter and Bert re-iterated that a June date is not appropriate for our youth shooters and that it would impact their attendance. Emily said that in years past, the provincial shoot was in June, so that winners could attend the Canadians. Lori asked if other provinces shot before the Canadians, and for the most part they do not. Emily suggested a May OPTA shoot. Discussion ensued about schooling, weather patterns, work obligations, etc.

Emily asked that we contact the HGC about their various other endeavours to make sure there are no conflicts for dates. Lori agreed that would be a good idea.

Bert said a Sunday finish might make sense for people to be able to travel home, rather than racing home.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

Bert made a formal request to ask the HGC to host the Provincial Shoot on July 28-31, 2021.

Open Discussion

Bert said there have been complaints about a lack of sponsorships from the OPTA. The board found that the money donated by the OPTA in the past did not serve its' purpose in increasing participation or shooter engagement. He said we are looking for ways to increase participation, not just to give association money away to shooters.

Beau asked if there was an opportunity to sponsor shooters who win at the smaller shoots by giving them a voucher/ticket to shoot at a future shoot.

Emily said that trapshooting is lacking in its' engagement with the various "New Shooter" or "Ladies Days". They fill up quickly but it seems like trapshooting is not very prevalent. Peter asked if these events were club driven, and Emily said that they are sometimes association-driven, by groups like the CCFR. There is a challenge to get shooters who attend these events to become active shooters, rather than just trying something new out and moving on. Discussion ensued about the potential of getting some new shooters out of our Inter-club or league shoots. Board members said that yes, there are many shooters at these league shoots who do not shoot registered birds. Peter commended Brian James for his efforts in recruiting many new members to the OPTA.

BJ said that many new shooters have a lot of things on the go and that may be a reason why they do not attend shoots. He also re-iterated that clubs could throw registered targets any time they wanted to, on any day of the week. He suggested we try to get clubs to throw Big 50s or penny pinchers throughout the shooting season. A registered shoot can be arranged on a really casual basis, as long as there are 3 shooters per event. Board members said that there are clubs looking at registering targets at various other times throughout the week.

Emily said that the CUSF has been growing and many universities are starting up shooting clubs. Peter said that he would happily give his time to help get some things off the ground in terms of providing instruction or insight to the student shooters. Lengthy discussion ensued about the viability of this demographic group, as well as the possibility of getting involved with the AIM/SCTP programs that are popular in the USA.

Bert stated that no matter what we do, we have to think of how our money is being spent to support these potential new shooters. He suggested that maybe we cover of the OPTA dues (\$20) for any first-year shooters. Peter said we need to be aware that simply subsidizing new shooters with money, targets, and shells is not usually helpful in getting someone to shoot long-term. BJ said that maybe we do cover the dues, but maybe we attach a caveat to the money and require them to shoot a few hundred targets before we simply give them a free membership.

Verne asked about investing in the CUSF or in the school-aged kids shooting programs to increase our participation. It is a huge success in the USA. Emily said that the CUSF has been looking at how to get involved

in getting younger students involved. Emily said that trapshooting seems to be lagging behind in terms of having people involved.

Peter asked what would be required to have us get involved in the CUSF. Emily said it comes down to place and time. Lengthy discussion ensued about who would be involved, how we could be a presence within the CUSF, and where we could help. Emily said that we should look back at the Strategic Plan and move to the implementation phase to attract both winter league shooters, as well as our other demographic groups. Beau will re-send this document out to all board members shortly.

BJ asked if we should ask someone from the USA about the viability of the AIM or SCTP program here in Ontario. Emily said that she is the AIM rep for Canada, and that it is not possible for us to be involved. Emily said that we should look at getting trapshooting back in the Ontario Summer Games, or getting CAN/USA shoots back running.

BJ said he hadn't heard from the HGC about payouts and scores. He also spoke with the club about contributing to the OPTA Handicap purse. Bert asked Beau to send the Handicap purse information out to all Trap Club chairs as a reminder for the new target year.

5. Next meeting date – Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:30 pm EDT.

6. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.

- Items on hold for future discussion –
 - Strategic Plan
 - Hall of Fame Building/Home Grounds

Action required from previous Board Meeting

1. Seek out the HGC to confirm proposed OPTA Provincial shoot dates of July 28-31, 2021.