



BRUK AGM 2023

Minutes of BRUK AGM Meeting Saturday 11th November 2023. Held at Portishead Shooting Club.

The meeting was opened by Richard Collins who welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to both the competition and the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Healey (chairman) & Jerry May

Richard Collins (Treasurer) then read the minutes of the 2022 AGM and asked that they be recorded as true and accurate reflection of the 2022 AGM. This was proposed by D Hopkins and seconded by G Moore a vote was taken and carried.

President's report 2023

Adrian Hasell (President) The last year has seen BRUK continue to grow both in the number of members and the number of well attended competitions we have successfully held at ranges around the country, however we would like, if possible, to run more competitions at different locations. The committee are actively engaged in following some leads with this in mind but would really appreciate ideas from the members. Please bear in mind that we would ideally prefer new venues to accommodate both Air and Rimfire disciplines and not forgetting of course the number of participants.

The shooting calendar culminated with The World Championships in the Czech Republic.

To say the committee put a huge amount of time and effort into doing what they could to organize things for the UK team is a understatement, the majority of this was behind the scenes with the WRABF and locally helping with Travel/Documentation /Accommodation and Team Kit Unfortunately I believe/know that this was not appreciated by some who made it obvious by arriving wearing unofficial kit declaring "TEAM GB" which we are not!

Unfortunately upon arrival at the range the 25mtr Air range was far from ready, with no target frames in position, unless of course you consider a pile of 4 x 2 timber being ready, not to be daunted some of the UK group rolled up their sleeves, and spent the next couple of days building the target frames to enable the Air competition to take place, all of this rather than use the time to prepare themselves for their own events. Following the Air competitions the same team removed all of the frames to allow the Rimfire events to take place again at the expense of their own downtime.

Luckily all the time and effort was not wasted as the Air Team excelled themselves in their competitions and came home with many medals. I won't go into the actual results as I am sure you have seen them on our website and Facebook page.

Unfortunately for the Rimfire guys the competition was extremely tough with the ultimate winner from Portugal Pedro Serralheiro scoring a max of 1500 and 109xs over both classes, but that said they certainly did not disgrace themselves in skill or sportsmanship.

We are now looking forward and planning for the next one which is to be held in Finland 2025.

There were a few Rule changes rushed through whilst we were there without much consultation which I am sure my colleagues will cover.

[Chairmans report 2023](#)

Richard Healey had recently taken over from Colin Evans so no report had been produced.

[Secretary's report 2023](#)

It has been a busy year this year with the World Championships and European Cup in Pilsen, Congratulation to all that took part. The European Championships and World cup will be held in Finland in 2025. The qualification for this will start in 2024.

We also had the AirAbility Live weekend at Derby RPC which we sponsored with Targets and gave away a year's free membership to the top three rookies, we as Benchrest UK assisted the shoot along side, it was an enjoyable weekend and a great success. It's nice to see some of the rookies here shooting this weekend.

Amongst all this we have still managed to get a few shoots in this year including our Benchrest UK Nationals which was held at Derby RPC. Congratulations to all that took part and a very big Thank you to Dan and Gavin and their voluntary team of RO's who looked after us and kept us safe, without these people giving up their time and allowing us to use their ranges we would not be able to run these shoots so just a reminder to please be respectful.

While at the World championships the WRABF general meeting took place, the minutes of this meeting can be viewed on our webpage subsequently there have been a few rule changes. The latest set of rules can be viewed on our website.

The postal competitions for 2023 are coming to their conclusion in December and medals will be sent out to the medallists once all scores have been verified.

The postal competitions for 2024 will be available to enter online soon. All members will be notified by email and we will also put reminders on our Facebook Page. Format will be the same, you have to be a member to enter and you just pay for your targets for each class plus p&p.

[Treasurers report 2023](#)

Financial report showing the P&L for 2022/23 was handed out at the meeting, I explained the P&L we made a loss last year mainly due to sponsorship costs for Air Ability and the clothing and entry fees for the world championships in Pilsen. I am not concerned as we had already encouraged several new members across from Air Ability and we had a very successful shoot in Pilsen. Cash at bank was approx. 8K and we have stock of targets so the defecate in the P&L is nothing to worry about.

The membership fees increase from Jan 2024 to 20 pounds will further assist with funding as the insurance costs are increasing and range hire is becoming more expensive.

Question was raised around the cost of postage which is included in the equipment sales costs and worked out automatically on our website.

Membership Secretary

Membership numbers have stayed stable, and I have been getting more enquires from people wishing to join Benchrest UK to compete in the postals competitions next year. We have had six Junior members join us this year and we were happy to see one of our junior's Harry competing side by side at our nationals in September and may I add shooting amazingly well. We continue to try to promote the sport to the younger generation. Membership for Junior's is free but they must be accompanied by a paying adult family member, due to child protection laws.

Election of officers

The role of Membership Secretary is up for election Sonia Carr is happy to stay in this role. Sonia was unanimously voted back in by every member at the AGM

Any other Business

50m UNLIMITED AIR

- Mr P Cartwright brought up the possibility of Benchrest UK running 50m Unlimited Air matches in last year's AGM.

The committee have investigated this and have agreed that there is interest from members, and it would be something we could run at our shoots starting in 2024. This would be on the basis that the venue could accommodate 50m Air alongside the 50m Rimfire and would not be to the detriment of the Rimfire or the LR and HR Air classes and there is the time to shoot all. We are also happy to run this in our Postal Competition if the demand is there. We will require proof that your Unlimited Air Rifle is registered on your Firearms Licence without this you will not be able to shoot. It was felt that the sport lacked junior and younger members and that we should do more to encourage new blood. It was agreed by the majority that this was a good idea, but it was pointed out that juniors must be accompanied by a appropriate adult at all time and to achieve this commitment on top of everything else was problematic although the meeting felt that we should continue to promote the sport as best we could.

25M RIMFIRE

There is still not enough demand to bring back 25m Rimfire at side by side shoots. This will carry on being available to shoot in the Postal competition.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Membership fees were raised as of the 1st of January 2023 from £12 to £15 to reflect the vote taken in last year's AGM. The membership fees will increase to 20 pounds from next renewal year and will be reviewed at the next AGM.

ELITE CLASS / COMPETITION DIVISIONS

- Ms K Knowles brought up the idea of have an Elite Class / divisions within our side by side competitions similar to how the Postal competitions are run.

This was partly taken on board and proved successful and was used for the first time at our nationals at Derby in September, where we had medals for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and Gold, Silver and Bronze in the "B" Class, we will carry on using this throughout competitions where the numbers allow.

ACCOUNTS

Mr C Clements put forward that a formal set of accounts be produced.

Richard Collins our Treasurer has produced a formal balance sheet showing all income and expenditure for the year to date. He has covered this in his Treasurers report.

We received correspondence with questions from M Gleeves and T Jacobs. The subject of the 50 m air unlimited Air Class we have already covered in matters arising from the last AGM and voted on. Other subjects brought up were.

HEAVY RIFLE

On the subject of following the WRABF power ruling on the Heavy Air rifle class which could be shot at up to 20 ft lbs We propose that we run our competitions as before with a class for those wishing to shoot at sub 12 ft lbs and a class for those wishing to shoot the higher power Heavy Rifle. This will be on a trial basis. So on entry you will pick one HR class and competitions will carry on being shot together on the same details, You will not be able to enter both classes. This again will be on the basis that the range and the facilities can accommodate this and not to the detriment of the sub 12ft lbs HR class. After a debate it was agreed we would roll out a postal league HV Air sub 20ft pounds to gauge how many members would be willing to participate at a shoulder to shoulder event, and for now we would request all shooters not to increase power above 12ft pounds whilst interest is assessed.

MATCH DIRECTOR

T Jacobs Asked for a Match Director to be set at each shoulder-to-shoulder event. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that one of the committee members attending with the shoot would take on overall control for the event and any questions/concerns about the shoot would be directed to this person. The match director will be chosen by the committee at the start of the event and members will be informed who and how to contact them.

SHOOTING CALENDAR

M Gleeves asked if we could have a shooting calendar for the coming year with all dates on so arranging holidays from employers could be sought well in advance of the event and booking accommodation. BRUK does have a Calendar on the Website, booking ranges for a year in advance is particular difficult but the committee agreed it would try its best to give the membership as much notice about an up and coming shoot as feasibly possible. We must work around range availability and the fact that we are all volunteers and have work and family commitments means things might remain fluid. Hayley kindly offered to assist with our website as it was agreed its looking rather tired.

TEAM EVENT

This is something that we would happy look into Team events can be introduced for RF/AIR The winning team will receive a gold medal, no medals for second and third.

BENCHREST UK RANKINGS

M Gleaves asked about the UK Rankings for qualification to the world championships in Finland 2025.

After a lengthy debate it was agreed we would set out a qualification structure which would see shooters attending a minimum of 75% of the qualifying shoots during 2024.

M Gleaves kindly offered to put the spreadsheet ranking system together, the committee added that not only would raw skill be a qualifying factor, sportsmanship and teamwork would also be a consideration on qualification to the world championships in Finland, this was unanimously agreed by everyone present.

COMPETITION ENTRY

We have had to put our competition entry fees up this is due to rising venue costs and insurances. Entry for BRUK members shooting the first class will be £15 and £5 per additional class. Non members will be £25 for the first class and £10 for additional classes. This will be reviewed every year.

FACEBOOK

We have decided due to online abuse to move the posts/comments online to be moderated to ensure posts on our facebook page are constructive, sportsman like and helpful for our fellow members. R Collins asked not to involve others.

BENCHES

Based on the above Facebook changes we have checked with the world federation on bench heights and providing the bench is high enough to still hit the safe zone for range safety this is legal, I would like to remind you all that some shooters from all abilities have certain needs and we want to be an inclusive sport and encourage sportsmanship not gamesman ship.

R Collins raised the question about going for Home Office approval for BRUK, Graham has recently completed this for Buxted and was not concerned about the process, after debating this it was agreed unanimously, we should go for approval and Graham would inform the membership in due course.

G Moore raised the question about a review of the world championship in Pilsen in preparation for Finland 2025, once the qualification in 2024 is completed the team going to Finland should meet and plan the event.

G Freeman raised the question about BRUK voting a delegate to represent BRUK on the world federation forum, R Collins put G Freeman forward to represent BRUK and the entire room unanimously agreed this was a good plan.

K Knowles raised concerns over the committee being stretched thin after debate it was agreed that we would look at delegating tasks to other members but concern was raised from the committee about the current squabbling of members and infighting which must stop before any further decisions can be made.

The meeting was closed at 17:51