

Minutes of the 2015 FLAT League Organizational Meeting

Thursday November 20st, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Team High Gun competition will be separated from League High Gun competition. Team High Gun winners will be eligible for League High Gun prizes.
2. 2015 target fee and prize money will remain the same as 2014 (\$8 target fee +\$2 prize money).
3. 2015 Junior shooter target fee will be waived. (Juniors pay \$2 prize fee only).
4. The Weekly High Gun "Skin" competition, sponsored by participating clubs, will be modified to "pure skin" payout method. Detailed announcement is coming.
5. Shootoff rotation vote was rejected by 6-3 vote. Shootoff will be held at winning club's field.
6. McCann's shoot will continue to be held at Newfield (8-1 vote) and will be the final scheduled league shoot (9-0 vote).

Meeting called to order at 6:37PM

Representatives were in attendance from all nine participating teams:

Newfield – D. Buchanan, D. Sponable

Trumansburg – D. Bevins

Millport – T. Labar, R. Bell

Sullivan Trail – S. Beach, T. Jones, M. Beeman, M. Dipeta

Interlaken – E. Zaharis

McCann's – A. Walle, D. MacCheyne

Corning – M. Ahearn, L. Kinner

Dryden – P. Card

Lansing – G. Bordoni, C. House

Secretary/Treasurer – M. Patton

Club contact information was updated by each team rep prior to meeting start.

Each club representative was given a copy of 1) 2014 organizational meeting minutes 2) 2014 Treasurer's report summary, 3) 2013/2014 attendance and score statistics

2014 meeting minutes were reviewed with no questions. A motion to accept was made and voted unanimously (9-0).

2014 Treasurer's report was reviewed. Mark P. noted that the league (aka Mark) was now in debt \$37. A motion to accept was made and voted unanimously (9-0).

Old Business:

Mark P. reviewed the 2014 attendance statistics and noted that 2014 participation was almost identical to 2013 with nearly the same number of shooters at 227, exactly the same number of shootoff qualified at 184, and the same percentage of shootoff qualified shooters at 81%.

The target price (\$8) and prize money (\$2) was reviewed as required by by-law 6.5.1. There was agreement that the target price and prize money would remain the same for 2015. A motion to accept was made and voted unanimously (9-0). Mark P. noted that he would update by-law 6.5.3 to reflect the new target prices as he had forgotten to do this last year.

Mark P. reviewed the 2014 policy of providing free targets to Junior shooters. He noted that there were 6 Junior shooters last year who received free targets. After little discussion it was agreed that this policy would continue for the 2015 league. A motion to accept was made and voted unanimously (9-0). Mark P. noted that Junior shooters will be required to pay the \$2 prize money fee as they are eligible for shootoff prize money.

Mark P. discussed the Weekly High Gun Skin competition that was established last year. Each team donated \$10 to this prize which paid a single highest score for any week of the league. In 2014 the total \$90 prize was awarded at the first shoot to a lone 50 straight which ended the competition for the year. L. Kinner suggested that we continue this weekly competition but modify the award to a "true skin" competition. In this competition there would be a minimum of \$10/week available. If not awarded due to a high score tie the money would carry over to the next week. Using this method there would be a minimum of \$10 available at every shoot of the league and potentially up to \$90 at the final shoot if no one has the single high score. L. Kinner motioned to continue the Weekly High Gun competition at \$10/week donated by each team and convert to the "true skin" competition payout method. M. Patton noted that we will continue last year's agreement to carry this prize money over to the following year. T. Labar seconded the motion and it approved unanimously (9-0).

Mark P. then reviewed the issues caused in 2014 by shooters not declaring their category eligibility at the first shoot attended. He stated that for the 2015 league category declarations would be required at the first shoot attended and to avoid any issues there would be no additions or changes allowed after the 3rd shoot. L. Kinner noted that we should allow shooters to correct problems for one shoot after the declaration was made. M. Beeman stated that many shooters believed that the "Veteran" category was being interpreted as having to do with military service and not age as described by ATA rules. Several others agreed that this was a common misunderstanding among the non-ATA shooters. Mark P. said he would supply a clear announcement to be posted at the first three shoots but would enforce the requirement to avoid any issues for the 2015 league.

New Business:

Mark P. said that he would now like to cover the five issues discussed at the preliminary meeting on October 23rd.

Issue 1: Mark P. reviewed the proposal to separate the Team High Gun competition from the League High Gun competitions. He described that he would pay out Team High Guns as a similar percentage to each winner based on the amount of prize money supplied by winner's team and would also modify by-law 7.1 to remove "High Gun Team" to allow High Gun Team winners to compete for other league high gun trophies. He noted that the rule that a shooter can only win one League High Gun prize (1st -5th, Lady, Vet, Sr. Vet.) whichever is the most money will remain in effect. Mark P. noted that he had heard positive feedback on this change from the shooters he talked with. There was some discussion to clarify the proposal. A motion to approve the change as described was made by L. Kinner, seconded by R. Bell, and approved unanimously (9-0). Mark P. noted that he would change the by-law to reflect the decision.

Issue 2: Mark P. reviewed the issue related to by-law 6.3.5 (adopted last year) which allows targets to be checked and set ATA standards prior to the shoot on Saturday and Sunday morning prior to the league shoot but not changed after that regardless of weather changes; even if targets become "un-shootable". Mark P. then reviewed the feedback he had received that if we do not allow "un-shootable" targets to be adjusted according to ATA rules, which allow squad leaders to see a legal target before shooting, that we would return to the previous issue of targets being adjusted (against the rules) throughout the league shoots. There was much discussion about this issue. Most present were very worried that allowing squad leaders to request that targets be checked for legality would disrupt and extend the league shoots. It was generally agreed that the current by-law 6.3.5 would not be changed. No motions were made and the current by-law rule will be enforced for the 2015 league.

Issue 3: Mark P. noted that this was not truly an issue as far as the Rules Committee was concerned but was related to receiving feedback about how he has changed the shootoff payouts to be a smaller number of places paid since he took over the league in 2014. He said that he targets paying shootoff prize money to approximately 25% of the shootoff participants which is significantly less than previous years but increases the prize money values. There was some discussion and there was no feedback that this was a problem. Mark P. said that based on the feedback he has received he would continue the shootoff payouts as they have been the last two years.

Issue 4: Mark P. reviewed the discussion and considerations related to rotating the shootoff. He also reviewed the feedback he had received based on the October 23rd pre-meeting. He said that for the teams that seriously compete for the shootoff that the additional income for winning and holding the shootoff is a serious incentive and returning the \$100 entry fee isn't enough compensation. He also related comments that, unless shooters were competing for a league high gun prize, they would have little incentive to attend more than the minimum number of shoots to qualify for the shootoff. The question was asked as to why this issue has been brought up to the Rules Committee. Mark P. stated that during the 2014 league he had received comments and requests from shooters at "more than a majority" of clubs to bring up this issue with the Rules Committee. There was some additional discussion followed by a motion by P. Card to keep the current by-law 6.6.1 in place which awards the shootoff to the league winning club's field. The motion was seconded by M. Ahearn. Before voting began Mark P. stressed that this was an important vote and that we needed to understand exactly what we were voting on. He explained that voting against keeping the current by-law in affect would require rotating the shootoff and how we would do that was by drawing shootoff clubs annually to establish the rotation. There was some discussion of where new clubs would come into the rotation, if adopted, and it was decided that any clubs not currently in the league would fall at the end of any rotation. After some additional clarification on details a second motion to rotate the shootoff as discussed was made by S. Beach and seconded by T. Labar. Mark P. clarified the voting to be "Keep" to keep the current by-law in place or "Rotate" to begin rotating the shootoff in 2015. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

"Keep" current by-law 6.6.1 in place: Dryden, Lansing, Newfield, Corning, Trumansburg, McAnn's.

"Rotate" shootoff beginning in 2015: Millport, Sullivan Trail, Interlaken.

By a 6-3 vote the current by-law 6.6.1 was kept in place and the 2015 league shootoff will be held at the winning clubs field.

Issue 5: The final issue as to rotating the McAnn's shoot according to the by-law 7.5 was discussed. Past comments were reiterated that clubs felt it was unfair that McAnn's was allowed to hold their shoot at Newfield each year providing Newfield with the additional income. During this discussion A. Walle confirmed that all income for this league shoot went to Newfield. A. Walle also stated that if McAnn's shoot was voted to be rotated that the McAnn's team would no longer participate in the

league. T. Labar commented that he believed that McAnn's shooters would shoot for another team if they did not have a separate shoot held at Newfield. After some further discussion and comments a motion was made to rotate the McAnn's shootoff (and consequentially remove by-law 7.5) by M. Ahearn and seconded by M. Beeman. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

No (McAnn's Shootoff remains at Newfield): Lansing, Newfield, Corning, Trumansburg, Millport, Sullivan Trail, Interlaken, McAnn's

Yes (Begin rotating McAnn's shootoff): Dryden

By a 8-1 vote the current by-law 7.5 was kept in place and the 2015 McAnn's league shoot will be held at Newfield.

At this point Mark P. reminded the Newfield representatives that they had offered to hold the McAnn's shoot as the last scheduled shoots if it was decided that the McAnn's shoot would remain at Newfield. Newfield reiterated that this offer was still in place but requested that the normal Newfield shoot not be scheduled as the league shoot before the McAnn's shoot (i.e. Week #8). Because this action requires a change to the by-laws Mark P. requested at motion and vote on this change. A motion to change by-law 7.5 as such was made and seconded. A roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously (9-0).

2015 Schedule Drawing Results:

The 2015 schedule was established by random drawing as follows:

Week #1: Jan. 3-4	Millport
Week #2: Jan. 10-11	Corning
Week #3: Jan. 17-18	Sullivan Trail
Week #4: Jan. 24-25	Interlaken
Week #5: Jan 31-Feb. 1	Dryden
Week #6: Feb. 7-8	Lansing
Week #7: Feb. 14-15	Newfield
Week #8: Feb. 21-22	Trumansburg
Week #9: Feb. 28-Mar. 1	McAnn's @Newfield
Off-Week: Mar. 7-8	-----
SHOOTOFF: Mar. 15	>> At Winning Club <<

Announcements:

Mark P. made the following announcements:

1. Mark P. will print the schedules and distribute them either personally or via mail to the clubs ASAP.
2. Again this year, the FLAT league results and information will be posted on the Dryden Fish & Game web site (<http://www.drydenfishandgame.org>)

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and passed unanimously at 8:02PM.

Mark Patton
FLAT League Secretary
24Nov2013