

IBS Annual Meeting

January 14, 2012

Meeting Summary

Prepared by J. K. Stover, President

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the International Benchrest Shooters (IBS) was held on January 14, 2012 in New Cumberland (Harrisburg), Pennsylvania. An official record of the meeting will be produced and posted on the IBS web site (www.internationalbenchrest.com). The following is an unofficial overview of information and actions taken at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. followed by a Moment of Silence to remember friends and fellow shooters who had passed away in the previous year. A roll call was held of the 45 clubs that held registered IBS matches in 2011; a quorum was obtained either by a representative at the meeting or by proxy. Approximately 50 persons attended the meeting.

Reports of Officers and Committees

The Treasurer's Report was delivered by Bill Gebhardt. The organization's finances are more stable as a result of the dues increase of \$10 a few years ago. The IBS books were reviewed by a CPA and an audit committee consisting of Dr. Bill Sargent and Gary Amatrudo.

Dick Grosbier reported on how he manages the match schedule to minimize date and geographic conflicts. His intent is to make sure each match can draw the most shooters possible. Conflicts, however, cannot always be avoided.

Second VP John Cascarino gave a detailed on screen presentation regarding how he handles the myriad of IBS awards, trophies, patches and stickers. John has instituted extraordinarily detailed record in Excel to organize his difficult task. John was recognized for his diligent work.

Sid Goodling gave the Group Committee Report and indicated the group discipline had a reasonably good year. He announced that the 2012 Group Nationals will be held at Weikert. Harley Baker repeated as the Group Shooter of the Year and accepted his award from Sid. It was noted that more shooters competed in 2011 than in 2010.

Shooters elected to serve on the Group Committee are: Sid Goodling (Chair), Dale Boop, Mark Trutt, Bill Goad, Harley Baker and Kent Harshman. Russ Raines had served in 2011, but asked not to continue due to new work commitments. Russ was thanked for his service to the Committee and his keeping of the Group Shooter of the Year points.

Stanley Taylor, Chairman of the Long Range (600-1000) Committee gave a report on the number of shoots and competitors. (See IBS President's Report for data and charts). The 1000 yard Shooter of the Year was Steve Sabo who was present to accept his award. The 600 yard Shooter of the Year was Samuel Hall who repeated from the previous year.

There was extensive discussion regarding the location of the upcoming 1000 yard Nationals. We had two bids: Colorado Rifle Club and White Horse (WV). Since Colorado had never held a National it had been tentatively selected to host the 2012 Nationals. After extensive discussion the Executive Board decided to take a final decision under advisement. ***(at the Executive Board ratification meeting following the members' meeting the Executive Board awarded the 2012 Nationals to White Horse. After considerable fact finding it was determined that Colorado was not yet running its matches in conformance with IBS rules. Colorado has been advised of this. The IBS Long Range Committee will help the Colorado club relative to the sanctioned course of fire that must be adhered to before a club can host a National Championship.)***

The 2012 Long Range Committee consist of: Stanley Taylor (Chair), Steve Sabo, Jeff Walker, Bob Rosen, Joe Thielen, Samuel Hall and Ken House. Dave Tooley stepped off the Committee in deference to his work commitments. Dave was thanked for his long service to the Long Range Committee

Dr. Bill Sargent, Chair of the Score Committee, provided background to his committee's work in the prior year. The score discipline's participation was near even from the 2011 numbers. The Shooter of the Year for both VFS and 6X was captured by Dean Breeden. This is the first time both disciplines were won by the same shooter.

The Score Committee for the upcoming year are: Bill Sargent (Chair), Kim Llewellyn, Herb Llewellyn, Ricky Read, Wayne France and Orland Bunker.

Gary Long gave a report on the proposed Score Shooting Hall of Fame. Points for both IBS Score and NBRSA Hunter competition count toward membership. Once the inaugural class is inducted the members will run it themselves like the U. S. Benchrest Hall of Fame does.

Kent Harshman, Chairman of the Records Committee reported on the various records that were set in all disciplines. Records were set in all the disciplines, but the group discipline. A tally of the new records will soon be on the IBS web site.

Temporary Rule Changes

There was only one temporary rule change on the ballot in 2011. It was whether muzzle brakes would be allowed in the Heavy Gun class. This was **approved** by a large margin.

Results of Election

None of the officers running had opposition. Re-elected were Bill Gebhardt (Treasurer) and John Cascarino (2nd VP – Awards Chairman). Newly elected was Jeff Walker at Executive Secretary. Retiring from that position was Harley Baker. Harley was thanked for his service. It was noted that a lot of top shooters in the game do not necessarily contribute their time to the organization as Harley has.

President's Report

Stover called on Harley Baker to brief the group on an effort up clean up various sections of the rule book. Harley, and representatives from all disciplines, will look at the 20+ locations in the rule book that deal with disqualifications. In many cases there is confusion or contradictions. Also, the penalties for disqualifications may be the same for a violation whether it is very minor or an egregious safety issue. Harley and his ad hoc committee will prepare a comprehensive set of rule book amendments this year.

The IBS Executive Board (EBoard) will continue to invite a representative from each discipline committee (Long Range, Score and Group) to sit as non-voting ex officio members of the Eboard. Since Jeff Walker is now on the EBoard, his ex-officio position will be manned by Bob Rosen. Dr. Bill Sargent, chair of the Score Committee, will continue as liaison to the EBoard. Kent Harshman represents the Measuring Committee on the EBoard. The group discipline is already well represented on the EBoard.

Stover thanked the committee members, webmaster Dick Grosbier and Recording Secretary Joan Borden for their efforts. Also, singled out were those persons keep points for the disciplines:

Phillip Yott – 1000 yard

Russ Raines – Group

Wayne France – Score

Sam Hall – 600 yard

Herb Llewellyn – Precision Rifleman

Each of these individuals devoted MANY hours of effort on behalf of their fellow shooters.

The president's presentation is posted separately on the IBS web site as a PowerPoint Show which allows any computer to open the report.

The state of benchrest competition was stable, with a slight increase in participation.

Some of the report dealt with highlights of the last year's surveys of benchrest shooters and shooters that are not yet involved in the sport. The response to the surveys was excellent. Over 550 benchrest shooters took the time to fill it out. Nearly 500 non-benchrest shooters responded.

The key points from the surveys are:

- There is strong interest in growing benchrest
- There is a group of shooters that would like to learn more about benchrest competition
- Cost is an issue for some
- The economy has adversely affected shooter participation
- Shooters would like to have more matches at more ranges (editor's note – we need more shooters to do this.
- Factory rifles were viewed as a good, relatively low-cost entry to the sport and should be encouraged.

Stover noted that the IBS needs to encourage member clubs to encourage new shooters to shoot factory rifles, even if it not a registered class of rifle. Further the IBS will post on its web site (on its own page) ANY club or non-registered match. The idea being we need to have more shooters get into the sport.

Proposed Ombudsman Committee

Dean Breeden made motion for seek the President to appoint a new committee-the Ombudsman Committee. He envisioned it to be a non-partial group that would hear appeals and protests and make recommendations to the EBoard. After considerable discussion the consensus was that the existing protest structure was sufficient.

Proposed 2012 Rule Changes

Score #1

Amend rule book to recognize a 2-gun champion at the Score Nationals. This would consist of the 100 and 200 Varmint for Score and 6-Power (VH or H) grand aggregates. Other awards for the 2-gun would follow those as already set for the VFS, H and VH classes. Dean Breeden is graciously donating the IBS awards to support this. **APPROVED as temporary rule change.**

TP #1

Amend Section B in tournament Procedures to add the following language: "4) Membership in IBS or IBS International shall be required of a recipient of IBS Awards, Trophies, Records, Precision rifleman Points or Shooter of the Year Standings".

In effect, this would have been a step to not accept cards from the other shooting organizations. The attendees determined the IBS gains more from the current situation. One-way "reciprocity" will continue.

REJECTED as a temporary rule change.

Proposed By-Laws Changes

BL#1 Amend the bylaws Article II, Section 8.4 to move the cutoff date for proposed rule changes from July 1 to September 1. The respective committee recommendations must be received by the Executive Board by November 1. **APPROVED.**