

## **2017 ASSA Competitor Meeting Minutes**

The following minutes are a combination of the two (2) member/competitor meetings conducted during the 2017 ASSA National Matches at Blue Trail Range in Wallingford, CT. One meeting was conducted during the position phase and one during the prone phase.

The duration of the combined meetings exceeded 2 hours 45 minutes, with the majority of the time expended during the “open forum” portion.

As outlined in the ASSA by-laws, at least one (1) annual member/competitor meeting is mandatory to be conducted at the national matches for maximum attendance, input and discussion.

Introductions of the ASSA Directors present were conducted at the outset of each meeting.

### **Minutes are as follows:**

The ASSA leadership thanked Dave and Debbie Lyman and the entire staff of Blue Trail Range for hosting the inaugural ASSA National Smallbore Matches and their incredible hospitality.

### **Competitor Packets**

Competitor packets were distributed at check in for each phase. Competitors are requested to review all of the information provided, which included:

- Match directives
- List of local restaurants
- List of local things to do
- Equipment survey (if you turn it in you get a large ASSA sticker)
- Letter from ASSA President M. Carter to NRA Smallbore Committee Chairman T. King (discussion regarding this letter is recorded in the communication section below)

### **Communications**

We are taking minutes during the meetings and they will be combined and posted onto the ASSA website at [www.americansmallbore.com](http://www.americansmallbore.com).

The ASSA leadership thanked the sponsors of the 2017 ASSA National Smallbore Matches:

- Lapua
- Bert's Garage
- Killough Shooting Sports
- Walther
- Champion's Choice
- Richards Associates
- Vincent Pistelli & Associates
- Bobbi Vittito
- Mr. & Mrs. Parker
- Dave & Debbie Lyman
- Shawn McDonald

The sponsors we mentioned help make this event possible with their support and contributions. Please let them know that you appreciate what they have provided and recognize their efforts in supporting the ASSA and our National Matches.

Reach out to our sponsors. Most of the time, the only feed back they receive in their business dealings are negative from customers that have an issue. It is sincerely appreciated when they receive good news and are recognized for their support.

Competitors, please note that as a “thank you” for attending the inaugural ASSA National Smallbore Matches, your membership dues for 2018 have been included with your entry.

The ASSA wants to hear from you and get your input! Please feel free to contact ASSA with any topic - from suggestions to the rule book to opportunities to improve how we run the match and anything in between.

The ASSA is an organization for shooters by shooters. THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION and your participation and input is what will make it grow and excel in growing and promoting conventional smallbore prone and position shooting in the United States.

When you send a communication to ASSA, you are directly contacting the leadership. This enables a more responsive and flexible organization. There are no multiple levels that require communication and approval before a response is provided. In addition, the simple structure mandates that the leadership is accountable to the members.

For clarification, the ASSA leadership receives no salaries or compensation for the execution of our duties. This includes our personal expenses for travel and living for conducting the national matches.

### **Membership Cards**

Please see Ken Benyo for your membership card after the meeting. He will also be distributing any remaining cards tomorrow morning before the start of the first relay. If you do not receive your card, please email him directly at [kenbenyo@gmail.com](mailto:kenbenyo@gmail.com).

### **Letter to T. King - NRA Smallbore Committee Chairman**

Mike Carter (President of ASSA) sent a letter to Tom King regarding his comments at the NRA prone award ceremony in Bristol, IN. ASSA reached out to Mr. King and invited him to visit the competitors at the ASSA National Matches to talk with the competitors, coaches and parents for additional input regarding the state of conventional smallbore rifle competition. Mr. King acknowledged receipt of the letter and advised that he had a conflict during the 3-position phase that would prevent his attendance at that time. He also indicated that he wanted more time to review Mr. Carter’s letter before responding.

A copy of this letter was included in all competitor packets and is also included at the end of these meeting minutes for reference.

### **Open Forum for Discussion**

The meeting was then turned over to the membership to openly discuss ideas, recommendations and any concerns.

No time limitations were set for the meetings, nor were there any restrictions on topics that could be raised for discussion.

### **3-Position Match Operation**

A question was raised on how the 3-p competitors prefer the match operation. "Should alternating relays be used (i.e. Relay 1 prone / Relay 2 prone / Relay 1 offhand / Relay 2 offhand, etc.) or if Relay 1 should fire their entire daily aggregate followed by Relay 2 in the afternoon?"

- After discussions and comments, a vote was conducted with the results 12-7 in favor of alternating relays for the 2018 ASSA National 3-Position Matches.

### **Our Sport**

Another question presented was "Where do you see "gaps" in our sport?" Responses were as follows:

- Media / Publicity - more positive news needs to be put out to the media and general public. Use any and all methods possible including Facebook, Twitter, etc. Be positive, polite and show pride in our sport when posting.
- Generate a presentation on conventional smallbore position and prone disciplines to show at clubs, on YouTube, etc.
- A suggestion was made to conduct a survey "Why do I participate in this sport?" Use the results as part of ASSA publicity campaigns and tailor publicity to show our diversity.
- Communication - have at least one (1) jr competitor from each discipline as a liaison to the ASSA leadership to obtain and provide input from juniors. It was acknowledged that juniors are more likely to freely converse with other juniors versus adults - use the liaison to bridge the age gap. *\*\*ASSA leaders discussed this at the time and unanimously approved this to be implemented.\*\**

### **ASSA Matches / Regionals**

Is ASSA was planning on holding regional events?

- Yes, ASSA is planning on hosting additional matches next year. We will be developing the program and reaching out the clubs across the United States who may be interested in hosting the events.
- If any shooters' and/or their clubs are interested, please have them contact ASSA or provide the current match director's information to ASSA and we will make contact.

### **Wind Flags**

Will ASSA have a standard (uniform) wind flag for all regional / national matches?

- The ASSA rules have basic information regarding placement of wind flags, however it does not dictate design features and/or details of the actual flag.
- ASSA will review this issue and advise on the outcome.

Will wind flags be a requirement at ASSA Regionals and National Matches in the future?

- Yes, wind flags will be required for all ASSA Regional and National Matches. Each range may have different placement in order to accommodate variances in range designs due to berms, paths, elevation changes, etc.

### **Classification System**

Is ASSA considering a "High Master" class for smallbore?

- A high master class has been previously suggested and it will be reviewed by ASSA in more detail. Any high master class would require details to be finalized including what determines placement in that category, will other criteria be included (i.e. multiple 1600's, membership on past/present national team, etc.) before a final decision can be made.
- ASSA welcomes additional input on this item.

### **Distinguished Award**

Is ASSA developing a Distinguished Rifleman Award?

- A "Distinguished" award has been suggested and will be reviewed over the next year. At this time, ASSA will be focusing on a number of matches and increasing participation. This is a good idea and will be reviewed in more detail, however there are higher priorities that need to be addressed.
- ASSA welcomes additional input on this item.

### **Midway Fund**

The Midway Fund was mentioned as a future opportunity that ASSA might want to review for the organization and also to promote to other clubs/teams.

### **Collegiate Shooting**

Recommendations included:

- Talk to various NCAA and college club coaches about attending ASSA nationals
- Conduct a seminar on collegiate shooting. Include information on what is involved, difference between NCAA and club teams, opportunities and NCAA regulations that junior shooters should know about early in their careers if they are interested in shooting in college.

The above are a collection of my notes and have been generated to reflect what was discussed to the best of my notes and recollection while attending the full duration of both meetings. Any errors and/or omissions are my responsibility and the leadership of ASSA kindly requests that any errors and/or omissions be communicated to our attention.

Respectfully Submitted:

07 Aug 2017

Ken Benyo

American Smallbore Shooting Association

Secretary / Treasurer