

IMSSU GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Minutes of Meeting
23rd September 2006 – Bloemfontein, South Africa

1. The meeting commenced at 10.18 a.m. and all delegates and Council Members were welcomed by the President.

2. **Attendance**

President	Rob Boutcher
General Secretary	Jean-Pierre Beurtheret
Australia	Rob Boutcher, David Dewsbury
Austria	Heinz Krenn
Finland	Toni Kelo, Esko Lempola,
France	Michel Boulanger, Jean-Pierre Beurtheret
Germany	Gerhard Stern, Gerald Stibig
Ireland	Matthew Canning, Fabian Connolly
Namibia	Anton Bredell, Andries Auvenhage
New Zealand	Allan Murray
Norway	Birger Glosimot
South Africa	Ludy Starke, Phillip De Lange
USA	Bonnie Peter
Zimbabwe	Bela Charles Matuska

3. **Apologies:** Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Sweden, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Ron Speight (Zimbabwe), Manny Melendrez and Ray Schnarre (USA)

4. **President's Report** – a verbal report was given by the President, Rob Boutcher. He advised that not a great deal has been happening over the last two years. No new countries have come forward, though Canada was approached but nothing more has been heard from them. A very successful IMSSU World Cup was hosted by the Czech Republic in 2005.

The President also advised that at the last meeting in 2004, there was quite heated discussion at times. We are here for IMSSU to look at issues relating to all Metallic Silhouette shooters. There will be controversy at times, but proposals are for discussion. If they are reasonable, they will be carried on their own merits, if not, they will fail. We need to look outside the square as it seems that in most countries, the number of silhouette shooters is at best remaining static. Every country has its own licensing problems that impact on the number of guns in use. Silhouette shooting has been going now for thirty years or so and we need to work together to keep it going for the future.

5. **General Secretary's Report** – The General Secretary spoke to his report. "I will just speak about our sporting rules, not to launch a debate. It is not the subject today. The aim is to have all of us thinking it over. Handgun silhouette shooting was created about 30 years ago. Since then the situation has changed a lot, technically, economically, judicially and the rules changed a little too. Thirty years ago, long distance shooting with a pistol was something barely imaginable. There was only one bolt action pistol on the market and the first rules were designed in a process of trials and errors. Then, the now SBP and FP events evolved, patterned after the BBP events.

With the changes I pointed out, there is now some nonsense in our rules; things which should seem non-logical to someone examining these rules from the outside of the silhouette community. In Big Bore, many shooters use the same pistol to shoot production and unlimited. Two strictly identical matches are shot and there are separate awards for each one.

The situation is the same in SBP. In Field Pistol, same thing, but through a different process. Examining the results of the matches, it appears that using a scope or a dot does not give an edge over a diopter unless you have a serious eyesight problem. Results are not better and sometimes they are not as good. For this reason and also because some shooters have no scope, many competitors use their open sighted pistol to shoot both FP events. The same phenomenon is observed in small bore rifle. Shooters having an accurate light rifle use it to shoot also silhouette rifle. The main reason is that they learn to manage only one rifle and do not have to get used to two different ones. In big bore rifle, it is different. It is a really long range and a silhouette rifle has an edge over a hunting rifle, accuracy-wise.

I think that having too many events is not a good thing for the credibility of the sport, but having identical or almost identical events is not good. Things have changed but our rules have not adapted to these changes.

I invite you to observe the situation in your respective countries to see if the description I just made is true everywhere and I also invite you to discuss the subject with your shooters.

This could lead in the future, to find a consensus on necessary modifications of the rules.”

6. Financial Report

- 6.1 The financial report was presented by the General Secretary.
- 6.2 We have €40,500 in the IMSSU account which is invested at a low interest.
- 6.3 There are some countries whose fees are overdue: Hungary has paid for 2004 but not 2005.. Brazil tried to pay the 2004 fee but did not succeed. The Brazil bank did not pay a draft and we don't know what the problem was. Paypal was suggested (through Ebay) which has lower fees. No fees for 2005 were received in spite of several reminders. Sri Lanka asked for an invoice but no payment was received.
- 6.3 Heinz Krenn, the Vice President in charge of verification of the account advised that the accounts were in order. The only expense was €52 for bank fees.
- 6.4 Heinz stated that the accounts are available for perusal by all delegates and asked that the meeting confirm the accounts. The meeting agreed

7. Vote for renewal of the Council.

- 7.1 There were 7 nominations received for 8 positions.

Heinz Krenn	Austria
Peter Lamprecht	Austria
Toni Kelo	Finland
Esko Lempola	Finland
Friedrich Gepperth	Germany
Bernard Paolini	Switzerland
Jean-Pierre Beurtheret	France
- 7.2 All nominees were declared elected.

8. Election of the General Secretary:

The only nomination was received for Jean-Pierre Beurtheret, who was declared elected.

9. Election of two Vice-Presidents:

Nominations were received from Heinz Krenn and Friedrich Gepperth
Both were declared elected.

10. Vice President in charge of Finances:

A nomination was received for Heinz Krenn who was declared elected.

11. **IMSSU Fees:**

- 11.1 There was discussion on the Big Mac Index which is related to the buying power of each currency in relation to a standard item (the Big Mac). Figures were presented relating to the difference in real fees paid by each country.
- 11.2 A postal vote will be taken by the end of 2006 on fees for 2007, based on the Big Mac index.
- 11.3 The 2006 fees will remain at USD\$2 per member, with a minimum of USD\$100, and a maximum of USD\$1000.
- 11.4 Members were asked to send the fees in Euros to save on bank fees. There are even lower fees if Paypal is used.
- 11.5 Requests for payment will be sent out soon.

13. **Creation of International Silhouette Referees:**

- 13.1 The General Secretary spoke on the creation of a body of International Referees advising that the finances are now available to create such a squad.
- 13.2 The requirements are that the Referees must know the rules, must speak English well enough to be able to communicate with everybody, may not be a shooter at the event, must be present for the whole duration of the matches, all day on every day of the championships, and must be a member of one of the juries.
- 13.3 It was suggested that expenses would be paid by IMSSU to a limit of €2000 maximum per referee for two referees. (maximum €4,000).
- 13.4 In Uzes, 7 French referees were examined by Jean-Pierre Beurtheret, Sami Makela and Jan Linsley. They had to answer questions about the rules and were observed during the match. Finland advised they also have a system of certifying referees, as do several other countries.
- 13.5 Finland said that they believe that referees are not necessary, provided the range officers know the rules and the juries are responsible to confirm procedures. There is a belief that it will be a paid holiday for the referees. The shooters need to be educated in different countries so they know the rules. The organizers usually know the rules, but the shooters do not. IMSSU should be offering education for the range officers.
- 13.6 France does not believe that a referee who is required to be on the range all day every day during the championship is having a holiday, but rather is working very hard.
- 13.7 Austria believes the problem is with the range officer since any problems occur at the firing line. The Range Officer must know the rules and the main problem is that they do not know the rules. If the problem is not solved on the range, the jury must decide.
- 13.8 Referees would meet with range officers and ensure that they are involved in training. Australia believes that referees should oversee the running of the competition and ensure that the competition is run correctly according to the rules and maintain a standard for World Championships.
- 13.9 There was discussion on how IMSSU funds would be better spent: promotion of our sport since numbers are declining, promotion of the World Championships, since we do not have enough countries able to host a World Championships, usually because of range availability, the loan of funds to help build up ranges.
- 13.10 After much discussion, a vote was taken: The proposal was lost – 7 to 5
- 13.11 As a result of the vote, it was suggested that the section in our Statutes relating to the establishment of international referees should be removed. This will be investigated at a later date.

14. **Reimbursement of travel expenses:**

- 14.1 It was agreed that the Statutes allow reimbursement where required and therefore it does not need a vote.

15. **2008 World Championships:**

- 15.1 An application was received from Finland - Esko Lempola gave a report on the venues.
- 15.2 Following discussions Finland was confirmed as the venue for 2008

16. **IMSSU Website:**

- 16.1 The General Secretary stated that the website is virtually dead. News has not been sent from the member countries. There are a lot of advertisement windows that appear and it is impossible to get rid of them or block them with a firewall. The site location needs to be changed and then it is up to everyone to send information to put on the site. If this is not done, there will be no site. The General secretary also advised that the names “imssu.org” and “aetsm.org” have been registered at minimum cost to IMSSU. Creating and maintaining a website is a lot of work. A webmaster is needed and information from all countries is needed to keep it current.
- 16.2 South Africa advised that they have a person looking after the SAMSSA website. It was agreed that the President and General Secretary will talk to this person.

17. **Juniors at World Championships:**

- 17.1 Namibia raised the question of including juniors at IMSSU World Championships. There was discussion. Some countries are not allowed to have junior shooters. There is nothing in the rules that would prevent juniors from competing at World Championships in a class of their own provided it is legal in the host country. It was decided that junior awards are the prerogative of the host country.
- Finland stated they believed the IMSSU needed a plan for promotion of the sport and suggested that a specific meeting should be held to set goals. He suggested that delegates could think about the best way to promote and maybe a specific meeting could be held during the 2008 World Championships.

18. **Silhouette at the Olympics:**

- 18.1 Ireland queried the possibility and the President replied that as much as he would like to see this he did not believe it was possible as the ISSF is the recognized organization for the conduct of matches at the Olympic Games.

19. **Air Rifle Events at World Championships:**

- 19.1 South Africa asked about Air Rifle events in IMSSU. Some countries are shooting air rifle. It was agreed at the last meeting that air rifles should be shot at every level up to national events, but not at international level because our governments may say that if we can shoot air rifles, then we have no need for rim fire or centre fire rifles.

20. **Team Sizes at World Championships:**

- 20.1 IHMSA Championships originally involved 4 person teams but IMSSU cut team sizes to 3 because of expenses.
- 20.2 South Africa asked for the best 3 of 4 shooters.
- 20.3 It was pointed out that this proposal would disadvantage countries who cannot afford to send 4 shooters and would advantage the host countries.

21. **Target Damage:**

- 21.1 Field pistol targets are cracking at the leg. South Africa asked for adjustment either to the size of the foot or the thickness of the foot to counteract the twisting motion which causes cracking at the weld.
- 21.2 It was noted that the main problem is the quality of the steel and the welding which becomes brittle with time. A special welding rod specifically for the hardened steel is required.

22. **Production Handgun:**

- 22.1 There was discussion on the Drulov handgun which has a cocking piece that is too long to fit into the rule.
- 22.2 These handguns can be shot in Unlimited.

23. **Peep Sights for Big Bore Handgun:**

23.1 The meeting was advised that the rules regarding peep sights were agreed in 2004 and any changes will not be possible until 2008.

24. **Classes at World Championships:**

24.1 Classes were removed from World Championships at the last meeting. New Zealand believes that this is the most serious bar from attendance at the World Championships – shooters are spending thousands of dollars to travel around the world and have no chance to finish in the top 3.

24.2 New Zealand was advised that this can be made an agenda item for 2008.

25. **Rifle Competitions:**

25.1 A previous recommendation suggested that all shooters shoot their events on the same day.

25.2 This is a recommendation only because it cannot be enforced on all host countries because of range layout, number of targets and other local issues.

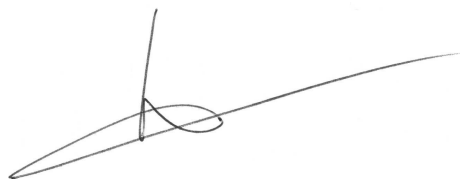
26. **Thank you**

The President expressed thanks to South Africa for hosting the 2006 Championships and to Finland for hosting the 2008 Championships.

27. The President thanked the delegates for their input into a harmonious and fruitful meeting and declared the meeting closed at 4.00pm.



President



General Secretary