To the Members of the IFAA

Their Executive and Council members

The IFAA Archers

In 2010 I informed you of my drive to normalise relations with FITA, now called World Archery (WA), and find a way in which the two associations could augment each other. In 2010 the then FITA Executive reached a draft agreement of understanding with the IFAA and this was later ratified by WA Congress and IFAA World Council during 2011.

A direct result of this normalisation was that WA would not oppose and in fact did support the initial acceptance of the IFAA by the TAFISA Exec earlier this year, which was followed by a formal acceptance by the TAFISA Congress in November 2011. This association with TAFISA will allow the IFAA to organise international archery events for all who wish to participate and allow international field archery events under their patronage and in time hopefully also open doors that were until now closed for us. TAFISA patronage will therefore be asked for all international events and their emblem will be shown at all our tournaments. A very short report will be sent after the event, accompanied by a few pictures to TAFISA for publication on their web site.

I have therefor requested patronage by TAFISA for the World Indoor Archery Mail Match. I ask that participating clubs download the WIAMM logo which is on our website and display this logo for all to see. I ask of you also that you send me one or two group pictures of participating archers with the logo clearly visible. The best photos will be published on the TAFISA website.

Patronage for the EBHC2012 and the WFAC 2012 will also be requested later this year.

In June this year I was invited to address the World Archery Congress to explain our position within the archery fraternity and how I visualise the manner in which both International Associations may work together in the future. Although the majority of the WA members have applauded that both associations work together, not all their members are in agreement with that and strongly oppose the idea that there may be more than one archery association in a country they represent. Some of our members have experienced this first hand and have been threatened by their counterpart. We believe that any sanctions against our archers by such associations are not in line with the mutual agreement of understanding between both parties. The IFAA will challenge such sanctions and discuss these issues with WA when facts become available, as we did on previous occasions.

As part of the normalisation with WA further discussions will be held with representatives of the WA before or during the WBHC2012.

From these discussions we expect ideas on how the IFAA and WA can get closer in the organisation of Field archery and 3D archery, as well as having similar definitions in shooting styles that are common to both organisations.

These include:

The Barebow style

The Longbow style

The Historical bow style

We will further try and motivate to WA the acceptance of the BU style in their events as a FU style, which is not allowed currently in the unmarked rounds, i.e. 3D

We will also try and come up with rules for Field and 3D ranges that suit both organisations and which

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The IFAA also made the first step in the development of archery by training our first IFAA Instructors at the IFAA Archery Academy in Yankton, USA, during October and November. 20 archers were nominated by our member countries and all these archers have committed themselves to the future Archery Development Plan (ADP) under the guidance of our newly appointed Training and Coaching Director: Lynne Fairhall, who resides in Australia.

Early this year the new ADP Committee will be formalised and will start working on a structured development plan for the IFAA. Within this year the IFAA shall have a Development system going that will not only assure improvement in performance of the individual, but also should assure an increase in attendance of the sport and improve the running of our national and international events.

The IFAA will further extend its influence in “World Archery for All” by introducing an annual archery da

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We have also extended our membership and welcome Bulgaria as our new associate member.

Various other countries have shown interest in joining the IFAA and we await positive feedback from them.

Unfortunately we were also faced by a few potential problems:

Hosting the WFAC 2012 in Tandil, Argentina, will not be possible due to volcanic fall-out after the volcanic eruptions in Chile. The ash clouds can easily be seen on the Web. They cause heavy mist in the region and cause throat irritation and respiratory problems to those who sensitive to these gasses. The Host (Argentina) has informed the IFAA Exec that a potential alternative venue has been found on the Atlantic coast and we are currently in discussion with the host to obtain certain assurances that the region is suitable and that they are capable of hosting the event in that region. We will do our best to keep you informed.

The enforcement of the classification card and making this card also a record card to show that you have had experience in at least two tournaments, whatever level, under IFAA tournament rules seems to be controversial in some countries and not clearly understood. We will work on that this year. I still maintain that we are probably the only association in the world that hosts international events for our individual sports persons without them having to have any experience in archery, let alone any of the Field Rounds, be it with faces or 3D. As an international association we must assure that our competitors have shot a bow before and know the basic rules of the event they participate in as well as the basic rules of behaviour on the ranges. Safety is our motto and that responsibility lies with the IFAA and not the event organisers or hosts. Any accident that can be attributed to lack of skill and knowledge will reflect directly onto the IFAA, especially when we know that this is allowed!

In the coming two years the IFAA should prepare for various challenges, especially if we wish to be worthy of our emblem “The World Family of Archers”. We need to grow in members and grow financially.

Our first and main challenge is to expand our membership and the number of archers participating at club and national level. We hope that additional exposure and our future ADP will make this possible and create a foundation on which our growth can be based.

The IFAA and many of our members are facing the problem of not being able to have permanent venues and the lack of exposure. Having a permanent range or ranges setup is almost impossible for many clubs due to insufficient space and potential vandalising of butts and markers.

I believe that we also must start looking at alternative events such as the “International Round” at

Similar events may attract new archers, learn the rules easily and guide our archers towards participati

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We must step out of the spiralling increase of registration fees for our IFAA sanctioned events and futu

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We need to extend our ADP and keep a formal IFAA Archery Academy going that is IFAA specific, with classes that include all aspects of the sport and management of the sport. Such Academy should not only be limited to Yankton, but should expand to other centres if and when demand warrants this. The main rule should be that all courses must be the same with similar documents and study material and must be given by qualified instructors. Lynne and some dedicated instructors will be working on such a scheme from early next year. Instructors will be certified and will receive special badges to identify them as soon as possible.

Over the years the IFAA has accepted member countries with a strong following in bow styles that are

The question that I raise is: Could the IFAA cater for such associations under the “Historical Bow” style

Would the TAFISA Games be suitable to the IFAA for hosting such traditional events?

In accepting these associations would the IFAA fill a gap in the archery fraternity and allow them as a r

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Other challenges to be addressed:

We need to resolve our old fashioned ideas about “Professionalism”.

In my opinion this term should be deleted from our rules. The term is almost “discriminatory” as it only applies to three of our eleven shooting styles and archers in the other eight styles cannot be seen as Professionals even these archers no longer comply with the Amateur rules stated in our policy.

What makes the Amateur rules actually a complete mockery is that an archer in those three styles is allowed to shoot as a Professional in any non-IFAA tournament and receive great financial awards, but can still return to IFAA sanctioned events as an amateur.

At the next IFAA Council meeting late next year I will submit an extensive proposal to delete the term P

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We must also educate our archers that it is not embarrassing to be a class B or class C archer and ma

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We must get the status of our international events sorted out.

We need to get recognition of international events by the international archery fraternity and the archer

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I have suggested in my speech to the WA Congress that we could look at a change in name of our wor

He/she will still be the winner without having to set a minimum score level, which in any case would be

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TAFISA holds the “TAFISA Games” every four years in which the sports associated with this associatio

The next games will be in 2016 and the IFAA will bring in a traditional team.

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Financially:

We need to grow financially and do so independently from the growth in our membership.

We need to use our link with TAFISA to promote archery for all and obtain sponsorship for our tournaments, our instructors' and coaching education, our development programmes, school programmes (possibly in conjunction with other existing organisations), but most of all the IFAA needs to create funds to allow for a manned office, on a temporary basis as a start and more permanent later.

This may be a long term vision, but with growth such an office will become necessary. At first we may consider approaching other associations that are run by volunteers to share such office and/or person.

Rejuvenation of the IFAA management:

I will be taking steps to introduce new presidential committees in the future to try and get new faces into the IFAA management and the development of the sport.

These people will not be experienced in matters of the IFAA, its running and its politics, but they be "trained" and will come up with fresh ideas and fresh programmes that will hopefully allow a

refreshed IFAA to work under new leadership.

Such steps may not be acceptable to all members as this may bias future elections, but we must get new and younger people in management positions with the knowhow to run the IFAA as we no longer can afford inexperienced volunteers that may be voted in on the basis of popularity alone.

In the current IFAA Exec and even in the current IFAA Council are people that I recognise from my first meeting in 1992 in South Africa.

Tim Stone and I have been Exec members for 16+ years. Some of the council members, including myself have been in the IFAA Council for 20 years or more.

We may create a degree of stability, but we surely do no longer represent all the aspirations of our new members and archers.

Improve communication with our archers.

Over the years some of the National Councils have stood accused to block, delay or even misrepresent communication that has been sent out by the Exec and/or having made decisions without consultation with their archers and so form a bureaucratic block that should be totally alien to our association.

We are also aware that information is sent to Representatives who are no longer in office and the IFAA was not formally informed.

In some cases the Representative is simply too busy to spread the information and forgets to do so.

This causes a degree of strain of the IFAA and the Exec that is unnecessary and we must take the necessary steps to make sure that all who are interested can have access to this information and so with that knowledge approach their national exec in accordance with the rules of that member association.

Although the IFAA is not in a position to dictate to a member how internal matters are run, we need to make sure that archers are informed and make decisions based on knowledge.

I have therefore asked our webmaster Steve Barratt to revamping the IFAA website. This website will have a section where all issues that will affect our archers and the IFAA, the records of decision etc. will be accessible to all our members.

We will start an “open door” policy so that no member archer can claim not to have access to information. Our archers will have direct access to minutes of our World Council Meetings, proposals to amendments to our Constitution and Book of Rules, vote results, etc.

In addition there will be a “Down Load” page that allows anyone to download IFAA standards like scorecards, equipment inspection cards, information sheets on how to set out ranges and what potential dangers to take under consideration, etc.

Last but not least:

We need to get stricter on accepting new member associations and place some conditions on them; similar conditions that will have to be set on our current members.

Member Associations will need to commit themselves to host at least one outdoor tournament (Field/Hunter/Animal or 3D) that will last at least two days at national level or two single day events.

Current members who do not host such annual event(s) will be “motivated” to include such event(s) in their annual archery calendar or face the possibility to become associated members without a vote.

Why should such a member have the right to vote on a sport in which they are not actively involved, even though their archers are?

All in all we are prodding in the right direction. I use this term “prodding” as progress is slow and sometimes frustrating, especially for those who are new to the administration.

However, if or when the IFAA Council will accept the 2012 proposals, we must make sure that all members will be following in the steps and we do not loose members on the way.

I will be attending the Meeting of European member associations in Scotland in March 2012 and will ask that some time is set aside to discuss and explain various issues mentioned in this report.

Europe represents almost 60% of our total member associations and 70% of our active member associations. This meeting this year is important to prepare the delegates for what is to be discussed at the World Council meeting later in October.

Kind regards,

Loet Smit

President of the IFAA