

Event Report EIAC2020

EIAC 2020 TIMELINE

2017
Provisional bid submitted to the IFAA EU

2018
Formal bid submitted, and accepted, by the IFAA EU

Tournament preparation tasks begin in earnest

EIAC 2020 brochures created and circulated at IFAA tournaments

2019
EIAC 2020 website launched

Registration opens

Event update presented at the IFAA EU Delegates Meeting, in Warsaw

Budget update completed and shared with IFAA EU Finance Committee

2020
Registration closes

Medals and Championship patches ordered and received from supplier

Merchandise order confirmed and products received from supplier

Competitor packs collated

Venue set-up, range built

EIAC 2020 tournament live

Venue cleared, range dismantled

Financial and administrative tasks wrapped-up

EIAC 2020 Event Report and Final Budget are sent to both the IFAA Executive and IFAA EU Committees



IFAA European
Indoor Archery
Championships
Northern Ireland
18 – 21 March

Tournament planning, hosting and close-out.

The European Indoor Championships are held biannually. Bids for IFAA tournament must be submitted by nations wishing to host an event two years in advance of the competition at the IFAA EU Delegates meeting. All bids are compared and the delegates then vote on the preferred bid. Nations with unsuccessful bids are held in reserve in case the host nation awarded the Championship later withdraws their bid.

In the case of EIAC 2020, the Northern Ireland Field Archery Association (NIFAA) actually submitted a preliminary bid for the Championships in 2017. NIFAA's bid was formally accepted at the EU Delegates Meeting in 2018. This lead-in time gives some indication of the level of planning that is required for a bid. Before any concrete planning can begin a venue, a preliminary budget and many other factors relating to the event must be defined in order to be able to submit a proposal.

Once a bid has been approved, all of the details have to be reviewed and refined to accurately capture the real costs and activities associated with hosting the Indoors.

In order to manage the running of the tournament the EIAC 2020 Committee was formed. This small group of volunteers dealt with every aspect of the competition. From administrative tasks such as creating a website, managing entries and payments, including those for merchandise and the banquet, to liaising with local accommodation providers, ordering faces and bosses, and gathering sponsorship, through to the physical work of building target stands, and, ultimately setting up the EIKON centre for the tournament, they did it all.

Having got so far, and on the brink of the tournament opening, the whole situation changed. At the start of March, Europe began to experience the wide-scale impact of Covid-19. The organisers and the IFAA were put under pressure to cancel or postpone the tournament and, equally, to keep it open by those archers who were planning to attend. UK Government advice was clear in terms of indoor gatherings, social distancing and hand hygiene but open in respect of sporting activities. In the end, EIAC 2020 went ahead.

The individuals who gave up two to three years of their lives to make EIAC 2020 happen deserve a huge "thank you" for delivering a first class, safe and enjoyable event

COMPETITOR FEEDBACK

"You could see the amount of work that went into this event. Fantastic efforts"

"Thank you to all the organisers and volunteers for making this event so memorable"

"Whole event was smooth and well organised. Good programme"

"Felt more like WIAC than EIAC. Great venue, great championship, great people"

"We were unsure what to do but by coming to EIAC2020 it was the right thing to do. Great people who kept us all so safe"

"Fantastic venue, well laid out and great access to facilities, you did a brilliant job"

"How tournaments should be run"

"The amount of planning and organising could be seen, great venue and great volunteers, you should all be very proud"

"Thank you, organisers for being so accommodating and helpful. Great event."



Having competed at nine IFAA Championships; 4 EBHC's, 3 EFAC's, 1 WBHC and 1 WFAC, IEAC 2020 was my first IFAA Indoor tournament. I had got close to attending the 2016 European Indoors, in Spain, but was unable to travel at the last minute. So, it was with much anticipation, and absolutely no idea about what to expect from the competition or the building Covid-19 crisis, that I set off in my car and headed up the road for Lisburn, and the EIKON centre...

The first impressions of EIAC 2020 come from the EIKON venue itself. It is huge, modern and very impressive. Entering the main doors, you are greeted at check-in and move onto the registration desk where you present your Membership and Classification-Scorecard and collect your competitor pack

From there, you move into the arena. Approximately two-thirds of the hall was cordoned off with barriers for the range. The remaining third was used for bow and speed check, and seating

What are IFAA Indoor tournaments really like?

Whilst EIAC 2020 was run under what can be considered exceptional circumstances the event delivered on all fronts.

Day 1 comprised of registration, practice and the opening ceremony. The practice sessions were broken out into four groups, covering both the Standard Indoor and Flint Rounds. Competitors practice in their groups, at set times.

Due to the reduction in numbers attending as a result of Covid-19 there was plenty of space on the shooting line, and opportunity for additional practice, if desired. Also, the opening ceremony was pared back to meet social distancing requirements.

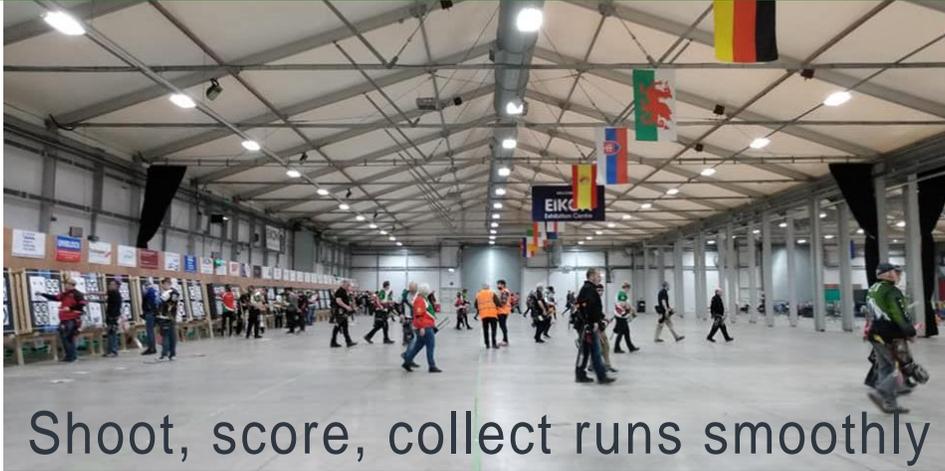
"One foot must be in front of the shooting line."

Day 2 started with the first of the two Indoor Standard rounds. There is no practice sessions on competition days so settling down during the practice end is key to starting the round well. Again, due to reduced competitor numbers each archer shot singly on a boss. Shot rotation (low/high faces) and position rotation (left/right faces) continued to apply as did double-scoring with a neighbouring archer from an adjacent boss.

Day 3 started with the Flint Round in the morning and the second Standard Indoor Round in the afternoon. This is not normal, each round is usually shot on a separate day. The organisers made the decision to compress the tournament in response to changing travel advice and potential restrictions

The Flint Round is not commonly shot in IFAA so it was a little bit daunting starting out. I found the 20 ft bunny quite nerve-wracking; it is so close that there is no excuse for missing but it is easy to get wrong. Similarly, for the end where one arrow is shot from each distance the pressure of moving and shooting different distances at different sized faces within the allotted time makes it very easy to make simple mistakes, such as misreading a gap card or sighting-aid, which may be used for all Indoor rounds.

The use of the new TIMEJUDGE system made shooting the Flint Round particularly easy. The electronic display counted down the time to start shooting, showed the time remaining in the end, gave the distance being shot along with the end number being shot/ends remaining.



Shoot, score, collect runs smoothly

Day 3 culminated in a nail-biting shoot-off for 2nd and 3rd place in the AFBB-R division. Both ladies did extremely well to concentrate, and hold their nerve over the three ends, as spectators watched on from behind the barriers, and demonstrated great sportmanship when the results were called.

With final scores tallied the Awards Ceremony could proceed. Awards were given to individuals as well as Style and National teams. There was much camaraderie, applause and genuine good will to all who were called up to the podium.

EIAC 2020 closed with the Banquet provided by the Vanilla Black catering team who had provided the on-site catering throughout the event. A three-course meal, with wine and table-service was a very luxurious way to end the tournament.

“You can tell you’re a ‘Field Archer’ at heart.”

Final farewells, an exchange of contact details and promises of seeing one another at the next tournament were all that remained as competitors, their families and the EIAC volunteers left the EKION centre.

EIAC 2020 was a well planned, well executed event which, whilst run under exceptional circumstances, still managed to delivered on the ‘family of archers’ experience.

The popularity of the event and the appeal of shooting the first ever IFAA event on the island of Ireland was evident from the number of registered archers; 385 from 23 countries. The sad reality was that, only 101 archers from 11 countries were able to attend and enjoy this first class tournament.

For me, this will not be my last Indoor Championship. In fact, I might invest in a bow stand for the occasion (and not use arrows as my bow prop!)

LINKS Website

Information about EIAC can be found on the events' website:



<https://www.eiac2020.org/>

Results

The results for the event are available on the IFAA website:

<https://www.ifaa-archery.org/index.php/tournaments/tournament-scores/2020-tournament-results>

YouTube

A video of venue preparations live-streamed on 15-March is also available online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iET3PSXRfi4>

IFAA World Indoor Archery Championships 2021

WIAC 2021

Hosted by the EFAA in the Medway Park, Kent, England 15 – 20 February

The English Field Archery Association (EFAA) was formed in 1970. It currently has over 1000 members in its ranks, including some from when the organisation was founded.

The EFAA has previously hosted 11 IFAA tournaments; 2 WFAC's, 2 EBHC's and 7 EFAC's, ensuring a wealth of experience will be brought their first Indoor event.

The timetable for the WIAC is as follows:

15-Feb: Registration, bow inspection, official practice and opening ceremony

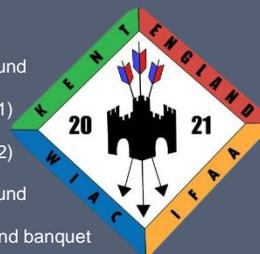
16-Feb: Indoor Standard Round

17-Feb: Flint Round (Group 1)

18-Feb: Flint Round (Group 2)

19-Feb: Indoor Standard Round

20-Feb: Closing ceremony and banquet



REGISTRATION: 1 JAN – 31 DEC 2020

For full event information go to www.wiac2021.co.uk



PHOTO GALLERY

