



WFAC 2018 Event Report

Preparing for WFAC

Why go?

After attending EFAC 2017, in Germany, having not shot an IFAA Field event since 2013, I was re-bitten by the Field Championships bug.

Additionally, when South Africa hosted WBHC 2013, I ultimately decided not to go. After the event, I regretted my lack of courage about travelling to SA. I felt I had missed an opportunity to experience competing in a very different environment and to meet people from the other side of the world who, perhaps, never get the chance attend IFAA tournaments held in Europe.

Travel planning

One benefit to WFAC was the all-in event package covering accommodation and airport transfer as well as the entry. It made it very simple to 'book WFAC', leaving only flights and any additional holiday planning to deal with.

I would highly recommend to anyone travelling to such an unusual destination (how many of us get to go South Africa?)

to set aside extra time and money to enjoy a 'once-in-a-lifetime' holiday.

Health and personal safety

Advanced planning was needed for the necessary vaccinations for the region WFAC was held in as well the other areas visited as part of holiday destination(s).

When in South Africa, tourists need to be mindful about their personal safety, in certain areas and after dark.

Training

The one thing about Field is the more you put into training, the more you get out of it. Through practice, bow-fitness increases which is vital to have enough stamina to last the five-days of shooting.

Practice also allows for refinement of gap or other aiming techniques and improves confidence in one's own ability to execute the shot correctly on a repeat basis because every point counts.

However, no matter how thorough your training **nothing** can prepare you for the intense heat of the African sun! It is **hot!**



WFAC facilities

The tournament was hosted using facilities operated by the Elgro River Lodge chain. The Game Lodge, with its 5000 acres of game reserve, provided the venue for WFAC.

The hotel with the conference center, was the site used for registration, bow-check and the opening and closing ceremonies.

The River Lodge hotel, on the outskirts of the town of Potchefstroom, was used as the venue for the IFAA World Council meeting.



IFAA World Council Meeting

The IFAA's World Council meeting is scheduled directly ahead of World Field Championship tournaments to leverage participation at WFAC with delegates attending the meeting.

The World Council is the IFAA's AGM. It is where elections for the Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) occur and proposals to modify the Book of Rules are ratified

The World Council meeting also provides an opportunity for the Executive Committee and the Delegates to discuss IFAA matters generally and make decisions about how best to support the IFAA and progress the sport worldwide.



IFAA EXECUTIVE ELECTION RESULTS

The positions of General Secretary and Vice President were up for election at the 2018 World Council.

The **Secretary** role was uncontested; Marietjie Fryer continued in the role.

The **Vice President** position was contested with Steve Kendrick, the incumbent VP, being re-elected.



Participating in WFAC

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held in the town of Potchefstroom, with the Parade of Nations taking part in the town park adjacent to the conference center.

At the opening ceremony, it was announced that WFAC 2018 had the largest attendance of any WFAC to date with 391 archers representing 25 nations from Africa, Asia, Australasia, North and South America and Europe. Whilst many European tournaments generally have much larger numbers, seeing the diversity of national flags truly showed the "World" aspect of the tournament.

Following the parade, everyone returned to the conference center to partake in a selection of canapés and refreshments whilst making conversation with fellow archers in the much-welcomed shady courtyard and patio areas.

The social element of the opening ceremony lasted all afternoon and into the early evening. The crowd gradually dispersed, heading back to their various hotels to enjoy an evening meal and make the most of last minute relaxation ahead of the tournament, with its early morning starts (buses depart at 7am) and kick-off (shooting for gam).



WFAC Opening Ceremony

WFAC 2018 OFFICIAL FACEBOOK ALBUM

https://www.facebook.com/pg/SouthAfricanArchery/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2107494275941250



First and second place AFBH-R and AFBF-R women shot in the same group together on Day 4 of the tournament (Field, round #2).

It was a great opportunity to watch top-class shooting in both styles.

L-R: Ulrika Koini (GER), Lynn Ellingworth (IRE), Aire Lauren (EST) and Melody Richards (USA)

The Venue

The immediate grounds of Elgro Game Lodge were the base-camp for WFAC. The muster, briefing and lead-out all used this central area with the practice range just a 5-minute walk away.

WFAC comprised of four ranges. The 4-range format means competitors shoot one range twice, the second time being the Marked Animal round.

Probably the main difference to other Field tournaments I have attended was the terrain and the flora and fauna.

All of the ranges were flat with open shooting lanes, which had very little tree cover thus provided no shade.

Occasionally, wild animals from Elgro's game reserve were seen on the range.

Finally, yet importantly, all of the bosses were positioned off the ground to prevent snakes nesting under them!

In terms of facilities, each range had a refreshment stop where archers could sit down and take a break in the shade.

Additionally, marshals drove the circuit of range in a jeep to supply 'on the go' food and cold drinks as well as being available for First Aid and/or general assistance. This was a smart move by the hosts and was highly valued by the archers who benefited from the service

The Tournament

Many of those involved in WFAC 2018 had worked on WBHC 2113. The teams' collective knowledge and prior experience of coordinating a large-scale IFAA tournament was evident across all aspects of the event.

The range marshals and shoot director ensured the range set-up and infrastructure were first class.

The circuit of each range utilised the jeep tracks around the reserve. Whilst this arrangement resulted in a lot of walk-backs overall, it meant the risk of encountering snakes when walking through grassland/scrub between targets was minimised.

For the Marked Animal Round, new specially designed, and IFAA approved, animal faces used. These faces featured animals native to South Africa and contained a small piece of text with information about them.

Another small but clever idea was the use of coloured rings placed over a single stake to denote each shooting position. This decluttered the lane and reduced effort/ number of pegs needed



The majority of the WFAC admins were staff from the various Elgro facilities. In addition to managing registration, coordinating bus transfers to/from the shoot venue and operating the refreshments tent, they continued to cover their regular day job in the hotels. Their service provision was seamless and archer-focused.

Closing Ceremony

The ceremony was held in the function room of the Conference Centre. The awards ceremony was preceded by a 3-course meal. Not only was food superb but the dining set-up provided an opportunity for social interaction throughout the evening.

Final thoughts

Overall, WFAC had the feel of a professional event with a personal touch. Based on my experience I would not hesitate to visit South Africa again.



Photo Gallery

