

Minutes of Panda Committee meeting held 13th February 2023, 8.00pm on Zoom

Present: Mandy, Rosemary, Anthony, Paul, Mark, Phil

Apologies: Were received from Keith retrospectively

Minutes of meeting 16th January 2023

The minutes were accepted as being generally accurate, but two points needed clarification:

1. Mandy stressed that in the discussion about inviting general members to committee meetings, she had stated that members should contact Rosemary prior to the meeting in order to ensure that Rosemary would know who to expect to attend; this would enable her to manage the meeting effectively. This had not come across well in the minutes. Rosemary agreed to re-word the minutes to better reflect Mandy's contribution.
2. Mandy was unsure what Anthony meant by email discussion of committee items. Anthony explained that on occasions some discussion has taken place by email in the run up to a meeting; he struggles to follow and keep up with such emails, and would prefer all discussion to take place actually in the meetings where it can be properly minuted. Anthony could not remember any specific examples, and the only thing that came to Mandy's mind was email responses to a question that Rosemary had recently put to the committee (and had wanted responses).

Matters arising

Mandy reported that the first aid kit has been updated. Worryingly, though, when she came to it she found that the old kit was out of the previously sealed box and some of the old items had already been removed. Things were missing – Mandy doesn't know who took them or why – so she could not account for everything. She wondered if members knew that items were out of date and had taken them for personal use. No-one on the committee knew anything about what had happened.

Mandy reported that the club insurance has now been renewed and she has the documentation for it. The committee thanked her for sorting this out.

Beginners' course 2023

Anthony asked if the committee is happy for Panda to run a course without a qualified leader. He stated that he could do the online safeguarding course and submit a coaching diary, but it would take time to be assessed and it was unlikely that his qualification would be renewed in time to run a course in the Spring.

There followed some discussion about the legality and insurance aspects of pressing ahead without the qualification. Paul felt that AGB insurance would probably say that Anthony was not covered. He pointed out that AGB has updated its requirements and all sessions must now be registered – taster sessions, have-a-go sessions and beginners' courses. There was some inconsistency in the requirements for coaches in the different sessions, Paul had emailed AGB to check up on this but had not yet received a response.

Paul felt that we should wait until we have someone with a current qualification and DBS check before we run a course. He asked if Anthony actually wants to carry on coaching. Paul is aware of the pressure on Anthony as the only club member who has trained as a coach; in time, increasing age will limit what Anthony can do, and Paul raised the question if this is now the time to be looking for another person to take up the role.

Anthony felt that a second person would be of benefit to the club anyway, regardless of his own position. Paul agreed; we have a number of members who have shot for several years, and the club is happy to support anyone who would like to undertake the coach training.

Anthony suggested that he send an email to all members asking if anyone is interested in training as a coach, if they are they should get in touch with him. Mandy agreed this was a good idea, as for Anthony on his own being coach is a bit of an onerous role. A transitional phase would be good, with long term succession planning, to support Anthony over the coming years.

Anthony checked if the club is happy to reimburse him the £25 cost of the safeguarding course, Mandy as treasurer said Yes, there is no problem with this - it does, after all, benefit the club.

Paul asked if we should remove the beginners' course information from the website; it was agreed this was the right thing to do.

It was agreed that:

We will not run a beginners' course until we have a qualified coach.

Anthony will contact people on the waiting list to tell them a course will not happen this Spring.

Mark will remove the present beginners' course information from the website and replace it with a simple message to the effect that we do not plan to run a course yet, but we will do when we can.

(Paul suggested "Due to oversubscriptions we are not taking bookings for beginners".)

Anthony will email all members asking if anyone would like to take up coach training.

Anthony will crack on with the safeguarding course and submit his coaching diary.

Changes to classifications and handicaps

Anthony outlined the major changes that have just taken place in the system of classifications and handicaps:

Handicap numbers now run from 1-150. The classifications have totally changed and, as of now, nobody has an outdoor handicap or classification until they have shot 3 outdoor rounds this year. The classifications are now Archer 3rd, 2nd and 1st class; Bowman 3rd, 2nd, 1st class; Master Bowman, Grand Master Bowman and Elite Master Bowman. Each of these has differing scores according to bowstyle and age.

A new age group of 50+ was also added recently.

Anthony raised the question of whether we want to keep separate records for people in the 50+ age group or simply leave it as it is, with seniors being anyone aged 18 and over? Mandy felt that the system is quite complicated enough and we should aim to keep it simple for the records officer.

It was agreed that we will stay as we are and not differentiate for the over 50s.

Standard of shooting required for all carbon arrows

Anthony felt that classifications are no longer a good measure to use in this context. They are different according to bowstyle and not really a good indicator of an archer's ability to hit the target consistently. Handicap is a better indicator. Also, there are now two 1st class levels – archer 1st class and bowman 1st class, so a requirement for a 1st class classification is ambiguous.

Paul wondered if it would be prudent to keep the old classifications for the purpose of gauging ability for carbon arrows, Anthony felt that they still had the same problem of requirements that vary by bowstyle.

In preparation for the meeting Anthony had looked at a specific round (York, recurve) in order to compare the old and new systems. He gave figures to the meeting to explain the situation.

Anthony felt that a new handicap of 51 or 52 would equate roughly to an average score of 5 per arrow at 80yds, and asked the meeting if that is what we would be aiming for with our restriction on carbon arrows.

Mandy was happy to go with Anthony's calculations.

It was agreed that an outdoor handicap of 51 is to be the new requirement in order to shoot all-carbon arrows at Panda. Anthony said that he will email all members to explain this.

Mark queried changing the information currently on our website. Anthony said it will need changing, and the new information is on the AGB site. Also, there is an Excel spreadsheet where you can put in your details and score and it gives you your classification and handicap. There is a full set of tables and you can print off the relevant one.

Paul and Anthony compared notes on the contents of the Excel spreadsheet and how well it works – their experience so far is that it is not yet working properly!

Posting minutes of committee meetings on the website

Rosemary explained that the minutes are currently fairly detailed, with comments attributed to named individuals. She checked if the members of the committee were happy for that to continue, with the minutes going up on the website where anyone could see them.

Everyone present was happy for minutes to continue in their present format.

It was agreed that general members of Panda will be invited to attend the next committee meeting. Any member wishing to attend will need to contact Rosemary in order to obtain the Zoom link.

Yorkshire Sword vote

Information had been circulated about nominations for the Yorkshire Sword award. After a very brief discussion it was decided that Panda Bowmen will not cast a vote at all.

Any Other Business

Prior to the meeting, Paul had raised with Rosemary a point in the constitution. The constitution on our website says that the club can award classifications up to 1st class, but Paul thought that had been changed to Bowman at some stage. Rosemary had looked, and found this change documented in the minutes of the 2015 AGM, and also a copy of the constitution with the change incorporated.

The committee were satisfied that the constitution had been properly changed in 2015, and the 2 versions of it can be merged into one and then put up on the web.

Paul explained that Jacob has been working towards an Under 12s 1st class classification in order to shoot carbon arrows. Under the old system he needed a handicap of 71. Does he now need to achieve a handicap of 51? Is the handicap of 51 for adults only or will it be a flat line that everybody has to attain?

Anthony realised he had not thought about juniors when looking at handicaps; juniors would clearly need something different. He will look again at the figures and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

Anthony will not send his email about handicaps and carbon arrows until after we have discussed juniors and agreed handicaps for them at our next committee meeting. Most people in the club are still shooting short distances, so the email is not urgent.

Also, the information about carbon arrows on the club website should remain unchanged for now.

Date of next meeting

This was agreed as Monday 13th March 2023, at 8.00pm on Zoom.