

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting held 13th March 2023, 8.00pm on Zoom

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

Observing: Nick Lock

Minutes of meeting 13th February

These had been circulated prior to the meeting, and were generally accepted.

Matters arising

Paul had previously thought that the new handicap and classification system would be similar to the old one, but it is not; so he felt it should be minuted that whilst an archer's new handicap is still worked out based on 3 rounds shot, the classification is now based on shooting a certain number of arrows (12, 18 or 36 dozen) rather than rounds.

We then discussed record keeping for the 50+ age group. Paul understood the AGB rules to mean that we should keep separate records for the scores of archers in this group, because members can choose which category they want to be in. Anthony thought it is up to the club how we keep our records; many of our record scores were shot by people over 50 at the time. AGB does not dictate that level of detail in how we run the club.

Mandy clarified that at competitions and tournaments, archers can choose whether they wish to shoot in the 50+ category, as it may be a different round – that is where the AGB rule comes into play. A club member can choose to have a classification for the 50+ category without this affecting club records. This may affect how your score is recorded at the club, but it will not affect the club record scores (ie. the highest scores achieved for each round).

Paul pointed out that scores are different for the 50+ classification; Anthony realised that **he would need to mention the option for this** when he informs members of the new scheme.

Paul wondered if it would be worth publishing last year's handicap and classification results along with the equivalent of what it would be now. Anthony explained that because the 2 systems are so different, AGB say that we should not try to convert from one to the other.

Anthony was happy to publish last year's results on the old scheme purely to tidy things up, but did not want to go back through a whole year's scores manually. He explained that the software we use will work with the new scheme going forward, but it cannot convert from the old to the new. Paul accepted this.

Handicaps

Anthony had sent an email on 6th March with suggested handicaps for members to achieve in order to be permitted to shoot carbon arrows. He explained he was suggesting that members should be scoring 60-63 per dozen, which is an average of roughly 5 per arrow. This would likely mean that almost every arrow was hitting the target and therefore not much time would be lost hunting for arrows. Previously he had suggested an average of nearly 7 per arrow, but he now thought that was higher than necessary.

The table he had sent out was based on minimum distances required for the B2 classification; for each age group the handicap listed was for a score of 63 at that distance. Anthony felt this indicates that your level is such that you hit the target the majority of the time, and would allow archers to use carbon arrows to move up to the next distance. The rules for under-12s are different, and there is no requirement for them to shoot 40yds at all in the classification scheme.

Paul asked if it would be easy to work out for new archers; Anthony said Yes, because a single simple table applies to all bow styles and ages.

Keith commented that it should be possible to look at a score sheet, and if the archer was scoring mostly 5s or above, they were ready to move up to the next distance. Anthony agreed, but reminded us that we were also concerned about carbon arrows.

Anthony stressed he felt that handicap was a better measure than classification, because we are looking for people to be hitting the target regardless of bowstyle. The table published on the website would be simple, with no mention of bowstyle or gender.

If members don't know their handicap they can contact Anthony and he will tell them what it is.

Mandy checked that we will need to put in our shoots for this year as we are starting from nothing. Anthony said Yes; he is assuming that archers who gained bowman or first class last year will be achieving this anyway, but people are free to shoot shorter distances to gain a handicap initially.

The committee agreed that the principle of an average of 5 per arrow, suggested by Anthony and supported by Keith, was sound and at about the right level.

Paul asked about the process for notifying the committee when an archer achieves this level; he suggested it would be possible for a member to turn up one day with a set of carbon arrows (appropriately set up) and claim to be eligible to shoot them – how would the committee know if this was correct or not? Anthony understood, and said **he will email the committee as people achieve this level**; also, as youngsters change age group we will need to ensure that they gain the necessary handicap for the next age level up.

Coaching

Anthony has booked a place on a safeguarding course at the end of April; the course is online and will be taught (not just videos).

When Anthony sent an email to ask if members were interested to train as coaches, Sean Gleeson responded with an offer to help us out if there was a specific need; Anthony explained that it was a general question. Also, Dave Bilton had spoken to Anthony on the field, and although Dave is not in our target age range, Anthony would be prepared to support him as we need more coaches.

At this point in the meeting, Nick Lock spoke to inform Anthony that he had emailed him earlier in the day.

Anthony had looked at the requirements for renewal and found that he may need to gain some CPD points – maybe by doing a couple more modules of Level 1 training; he will check with the county coaching officer once he has completed the safeguarding course.

Paul asked if Anthony would be able to get funding for his training; Rosemary had recently sent round some funding information to the committee. Anthony will look into it nearer the time.

Mandy suggested sending the information to Dave and Nick as well, as supporting several people to do coach training would entail a significant cost to the club. Anthony agreed that the cost is substantial, and said **he would send the information to Dave and Nick** once he had read Nick's email.

Mandy also commented that we would need to apply criteria to ensure that coaches who have benefited from club funding remain in the club and use their qualification for a minimum period of time; the club needs to have value from its investment in coaching. We all agreed that this was a good principle.

Club Management System (CMS)

Rosemary had attended a CMS webinar on 14th February and now reported on it to the committee: The CMS is a relatively new feature on the Sport-80 portal, which is where club memberships etc are managed.

The main feature of CMS is that it will give us a template for a website. So it is ideally suited to clubs who do not yet have a website; but those who do can still make use of it – either as part of their existing website or as something completely separate. It is possible to continue using the existing website as before. The intention of the CMS website is to give clubs a greater online presence.

When we want to run a have-a-go, taster session or beginners' course we must register it with AGB. This has been the case for some time, but now the registering has to be done through CMS. This means that if we want to run future courses, we need to register ourselves on CMS. Basically, it has become obligatory.

It is possible to set the website up to take bookings online; this is intended to reduce the burden of administration on the club volunteers.

It is also possible to set it up to receive online payments for courses etc, and the money would go straight into our bank account. If we wanted, we could even sell our memberships online as well!

We would need someone to be the CMS administrator for the club. Admin rights can be given to that person if they do not already have them.

The question is, how much would we want to use a new website?

Keith asked if we would have to pay for it – No, it would be free for us to use.

Could we be better off building up a new free website and then not having to pay for the existing one? Anthony explained that we could do that, but it would mean us losing our email facility, we would lose the Secretary email address and all the mailing lists. The CMS information makes no mention of any email facility.

Could we stick with our existing website and just have (as it were) a little CMS page? Yes, that would be possible. The CMS site does not have to be much more than a "landing page", providing a link to access our existing site.

Keith suggested we should ask Mark as he is our webmaster. Mark had not yet had the chance to look at the information; he asked if it is fully customisable and if we could put all our existing content on? Yes, that is the case.

Mark asked if it is possible to set it up on a test basis? Rosemary didn't know the answer to that, but commented that Yvonne (our RDO) had explained that we don't have to do everything all at once, we can take little steps and build up our website facility bit by bit. Mark felt that it would be nice to try it out and test it, to see what we think of it.

Paul commented that Rosemary had recently circulated an email with links to CMS webinars. Mark looked and found there were places still available for a webinar on 28th March. **He said he would book a place and report back at the next committee meeting.** As there is no particular time pressure, we were all happy for Mark to do this.

Donation of a bow

We had received a request from the daughter of Bob Dodd. Bob was a member at Panda some years ago but has now given up archery. His daughter was enquiring if we could take his bow and give it to someone – a young person who couldn't afford to buy a bow, or possibly a beginner, or even keep it for use on beginners' courses. She had sent photos of the bow. Anthony commented that the bow has no sight or stabiliser, it appears that parts have been already removed. Mark asked if it could be used for spares – No, you can't really do that with a compound bow.

Mandy commented that we seem to have received a lot of old, unwanted equipment, there is a lot of it in the right hand cabin. She felt that we should not accept this bow, as we have no obvious use for it. We all agreed with this.

Rosemary will email Bob's daughter (as diplomatically as possible!) to thank her for her offer, but also decline it.

Any Other Business

Phil asked Anthony to update the club records as they may be of interest to our newer members. Anthony was happy to do that and said he will either send round an email, or put the information on the website. There is too much of it to print off and display in the bunker.

Prior to the meeting, Mark had informed the committee that our website costs are going up. We would need to pay an extra 50p per month, plus VAT, which equates to an extra £7.20 a year. The committee approved this expenditure.

Maybe in due course we could migrate to the new CMS website. Mandy commented that our experience of AGB computer technology is that it doesn't always work very well!

Also, we do need an email service to be provided.

Date of next meeting

This was arranged as Monday 17th April 2023, at 8.00pm on Zoom.