

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting held 19th June 2023, 8.00pm on Zoom

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

Attending as observer: Sally

Apologies for absence

Received retrospectively from Phil.

Minutes of meeting 22nd May 2023

These were proposed by Anthony, seconded by Mark and accepted by all as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising

Mandy asked for a coaching update.

Anthony explained that he had done the first of two courses, the second one will be later in June. After that he will submit the paperwork. It will then be down to the County Coaching Officer to convene a panel to assess the application. Anthony doesn't know how often or when such a panel meets; he thinks he will probably hear the outcome by receiving his new membership card.

Mandy commented, and Anthony agreed, that this makes it difficult to plan any events (and Rosemary does receive enquiries for these). Anthony said that he will let the committee know once he has heard the outcome, and hopefully we can then start responding positively to requests for events. This could potentially be late summer or into September.

Timing of membership renewals for 2023-24

Rosemary checked when she should contact members about renewing their membership. Anthony asked what date the Panda bank statement is produced; it is quite variable, but roughly the 5th/6th of the month. It is good to think ahead, and AGB have been prompt this year in sending out information about fees. We agreed to follow last year's timing – initial email around 8th August, with deadline for payment of 23rd August. This works well in relation to the treasurer's holiday.

AGB have put their fees up for the coming year – adults up £3; adults 18-24, juniors and disabled archers up £1.

We agreed to pull these figures together in order to present proposed new fees at our July meeting. Members will be informed of the rises.

Mandy stressed that members do need to include their name and membership type on bank transfers. We do still have a couple of members who prefer to pay by cheque, we can make arrangements with them.

Club accounts

Following the discussion last month about the closure of Aardvark Archery and how to obtain new target faces, Mandy had taken a quick look at the club accounts. We receive very little income from each member. We have 22 senior members, 4 junior and 1 disabled. The club income from their fees was £439. We have had very little going out of the bank, but do have to pay for insurance and webhosting. £291 has gone out on these, which

leaves roughly £150 available. Paying for target faces would start to eat into this money, we might then need to increase fees or introduce target fees to recoup it.

Anthony asked how much we have in the bank; Mandy did not have an exact figure but she thought it was just over £5000*. This sounds a lot but large items are expensive – the last time we had to buy a new cabin it cost £6000, and even straw bosses cost a couple of hundred pounds each (plus delivery). We would need to think it through very carefully if we wanted to buy any large equipment.

* Mandy has checked – the most recent bank statement balance (25th April) is £5929.85.

Update on new archery shop

Mandy informed the meeting that Quicks are definitely moving to Sunnybank Mills in Farsley; people who work at Sunnybank know of this. This will be a bigger shop than Aardvark was, and also have an indoor range. So we will once again have a facility close by where we can buy target faces and equipment. The timescale is unknown as there is nothing on their website yet.

Wear and tear of bosses

Keith commented that lots of medium bosses have been downgraded to soft. He raised concerns about arrows going too far through the centres of bosses, and had been trying to work out how to prevent this (given the lack of club money for new bosses). We will have to accept soft targets and use them; we have 4 foam centres to reinforce the bosses, but only one stand with a bungee cord to attach the foam. So we need more bungee cords attaching, so that more stands can use the foam.

Keith also put out a plea for good archers to shoot from further away and spread their arrows on the targets, to preserve the bosses! Or, shoot at 80cm and 60cm faces that can be offset on the bosses.

Anthony thought that we have more bungee cords in the other cabin, these can be used. Mandy commented that more powerful bows may cause more damage.

Anthony wondered if we should have a cut-off point for bow draw-weight, above which people would be required to shoot a minimum distance – for example, 30lbs draw-weight or stronger should be shooting at 60+yds, on hard targets.

Keith commented that it depends on the arrows as well. He requested that we arrange for the bungee cords to be attached to the stands, and when everything is ready, that we email members to ask them to use the foam blocks.

Anthony agreed to look in the bunkers for bungee cords (and the staples to attach them) next time he is there.

Club provision of target faces

Anthony commented that it will be easier once Quicks have opened their new shop. But he felt that, given the postage/delivery costs involved in mail order, it is more appropriate for the club to buy a bulk order of target faces, than for individual members to buy a few.

Paul reiterated his suggestion that if a member wishes to buy some faces, they should contact other members and club together in order to economise on the postage.

Anthony acknowledged that money is tight, but felt that club money is there to support and enable archery to happen. Target faces are one of the basic things in archery, not many people shoot without one!

Keith said there are about 5 faces in the bunker; the centres are a bit shot out but they are usable for practice. (They would not be usable for a tournament.)

The committee showed no enthusiasm for the club to buy faces, so it was agreed that we continue as we are.

Any Other Business

Keith said that the metal detector with the armrest keeps beeping all the time. He has put it to one side because it is not working properly. He wondered if it needed new batteries.

Anthony said that he had replaced batteries in both detectors just a fortnight before.

Mandy checked with Anthony about the cost of the batteries (£8) and said she will let him have a cheque to reimburse him.

Date of next meeting

This was agreed as Monday 24th July 2023, at 8.00pm on Zoom.

Extra!

Rosemary explained that she had received an email from a lady in America who said that she was organising some archery for youngsters over the summer, and claimed that they had found the links page on our Panda website very useful. She wanted us to include another link on our page, which would take people to the organisation she works for, and an article about archery. Rosemary felt that this was basically an advertising and sales ploy. We agreed not to include the link on our website.