

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting, Monday 22nd May 2023, 8.00pm on Zoom

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

Attending as observers: Nick, Sally

Apologies: Keith (retrospectively)

Minutes of meeting 17th April 2023

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

Matters arising

Anthony reported that the funding he had applied for from Yorkshire Sport had come through. He had paid for some courses which he will attend in June, and will send in the paperwork in July in order to get his licence renewed.

Mandy commended Anthony on his success in obtaining funding!

Paul reported on the cabin doors. A group of archers had looked at them on Saturday (20th May). The door to the left hand cabin had clearly been bent, there was a possibility it could be straightened.

Also, there had been an attempted break-in to the right-hand cabin on Saturday afternoon while archery was in progress. It had been reported to the clubhouse; staff there thought that the cabin may be covered by CCTV. Mike, the club treasurer, was less sure about this when he was informed of the incident. The cabin was not broken into, and nothing was taken, but we need to be vigilant.

Correspondence received

Rosemary informed the meeting that from time to time she receives enquiries asking if we can run an event (other than beginners' courses). In March we were asked if we could run a session of archery for disabled youngsters; also, if we could run a session for ex-services personnel and their families. More recently we were asked about the possibility of archery as a corporate event for a team who were having a meeting at the rugby club in the morning and looking for a light-hearted activity for the afternoon. Rosemary has responded that we are unable to run these activities at present due to a lack of qualified personnel.

She suggested changing the website so that it does not offer these events. Mark agreed that he would take down the relevant page from the website as that was the easiest way to deal with it.

Safeguarding

Mandy reminded us that Archery GB recently sent round information about safeguarding, including the need to be able to contact welfare officers. She asked if we could have a dedicated email address for the welfare officer, to be listed on our website. Anthony commented that Mandy also needs to be listed on Sport-80 as the welfare officer, Rosemary assured him that Mandy is listed.

Following discussion about the practicalities it was agreed that Mark would set up an email address of welfare@panda-bowmen.co.uk This is to re-direct to Mandy's own email address.

Summer Breeze event

Mike Bidgood had informed Rosemary that the city council will be running Breeze on Thursday 17th August at the rugby club. This will use the field where we normally shoot, and the whole club grounds will be very busy. We agreed to cancel archery for that day. Rosemary will inform Panda members of this a week or two beforehand.

Facebook page for Panda Bowmen

Mark had suggested that Panda could have a Facebook page. He had set one up during one of the lockdowns but never actually published it. He felt that it could be a good way to get club information out to people, and beginners' courses could be publicised to community groups in the future. The attendance of members who joined after recent courses has now dropped off and we need to attract new people.

It seemed that Mark is the only committee member who uses Facebook. Mandy had wondered who would organise and monitor a Panda page, Mark thought it shouldn't be too much work and he offered to look after it. He felt it is mostly people of his generation who use Facebook, younger people tend to use Instagram etc.

The committee were happy for Mark to go ahead.

Supply of target faces

In light of the closure of Aardvark Archery, Rosemary asked if the equipment officer could buy a supply of target faces to be left in the bunker for members to use; archers who wish to use their own target faces could take them as required. Now that Aardvark has shut, we cannot simply pop along to buy what we need.

Paul asked, had we agreed as a committee for the club to provide target faces again? Rosemary said No, we had not yet agreed, that was why she was putting the question to the meeting now. Was it sensible to supply faces now?

Paul felt No, not at this point in time. There are rumours of a new archery shop potentially opening in West Yorkshire; if this goes ahead, then we could stick with our present system.

Paul has been looking online for target faces and most online stores have a minimum order of 10-20 faces, some suppliers more like 50. This would mean an outlay of £70-£120 for the club. As the club has no significant income, Paul thinks this is not a good idea.

Anthony commented that he doesn't want to personally buy 10 faces, and he thinks other members would feel the same. Paul understood this, but felt that we should hold off until the possibility of a new shop has been decided one way or another.

Rosemary asked what we should do in the meantime.

Paul suggested that for the time being, members should take their own target faces home after use, to minimise wear on them. It may be that someone will need to go to a shop somewhere; members of a group (ie. Saturday or midweek) could club together and all chip in to buy a batch of faces. But with no local shops this could be a day out. Rosemary commented that it would be cheaper in that case to buy them online!

Nick used the Chat facility to say that he has some spare faces which he is willing to share. Mark thought that he had some too. The committee were grateful for these offers.

Any Other Business

Mandy informed the meeting that on 13th May Paul, Alan and Jacob had trimmed back the bushes around the cabins. We thank them for their work. Please would all members help to keep the bushes in shape to prevent them growing into the cabins.

Date of next meeting

This was agreed as Monday 19th June, 8.00pm on Zoom.