

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting held 2nd October 2023, 8.00pm on Zoom

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

Apologies (retrospectively): Mark

Minutes of meeting 4th September 2023

These were accepted without comment as a true record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

Proposal to change constitutional frequency of committee meetings

Rosemary had circulated suggested wording: "The committee shall meet once every six to eight weeks, the time and place to be decided to suit. Extra meetings may be arranged as necessary."

The committee were happy with this wording, so the proposal will be brought to the AGM.

Proposal to revert to pre-Covid shooting practices

It was agreed that as it was the committee who brought in the Covid restrictions at Panda, it should be the committee who lift the restrictions. It does not need to go to the AGM.

Anthony put the question, do we want to revert to pre-Covid shooting? There followed a discussion on what this means in practice.

Keith confirmed this means that anyone can turn up and shoot on a Saturday, the whole club opens up. The restrictions were only to limit the number of targets on the field when people had to shoot in their bubbles. This is no longer the case, people can share targets.

Mandy pointed out that some people may not agree to do this. We must cater for people who need to stay in their bubble because of conditions imposed by their employer etc.

Keith raised the question of what happens at tournaments, Mandy pointed out that they are held outdoors; also the Covid situation is now worsening again in the country.

Paul asked how many people want to come back and shoot on a Saturday. Anthony said that he for one would like to; at the moment we look like 2 separate clubs – Saturday, and midweek – and that is not good. Paul felt that if it's only a small increase in numbers there will be space for all.

Anthony thought the numbers will be lower over the winter, Paul pointed out that we are looking ahead to both winter and summer.

Keith felt that shooting indoors would be far more risky than being in a bubble outdoors, Mandy commented that she and Alan would not be shooting indoors. Rosemary asked what Paul would do; he is hoping to shoot indoors and anticipates that with the numbers expected so far, people will be able to have their own areas.

Mandy commended Paul for having updated the risk assessment in the bunker to cover a whole range of diseases, not just Covid-19. She emphasized that if people feel at all unwell, then they must stay away. She feels it is OK to open up again, but we must consider everyone.

The timing of a single Saturday session was discussed. Anthony said we are getting towards winter, the clocks go back at the end of the month and we start to lose daylight; we should think about changing the start time.

Keith suggested we revert to 11.00am start. People wanting to shoot earlier would have to use a different field - maybe do clout!

Anthony agreed. We should stick with 12.00 noon for now, and after the clocks change we move it to 11.00am. The morning shoot would be clout only. Some members may want to shoot clout first thing, and then another round in the afternoon.

Rosemary asked what we are doing about target faces. Mandy commented that we are likely to be moving to shorter distances using smaller target faces; do we really need more full-sized faces? We

agreed that we will make do with the full-sized faces that we have at present, but we must get some new ones for the spring.

Anthony & Rosemary agreed to look at the stock of target faces kept in the bunker, and circulate their findings to the committee. (This was done on Tuesday 3rd October.)

In summary:

The committee has now lifted all Covid-19 related restrictions. Any member may attend on a Saturday. Members are free to share targets if they want to.

At the same time, members who prefer to remain in a shooting "bubble" are free to do so. We must all be considerate of one another.

Saturday shooting times stay as they are until the clocks change at the end of October. From 4th November onwards there will be a single session on our normal field - arrive at 10.30 to set up, sighters at 11.00am.

Indoor shooting

Paul had sent out the hire agreement to the committee; it needed to be signed and submitted. It required the name, address and signature of someone who would be regularly attending indoors. The suggestion was made that it should be one of the three main committee positions (chairman, treasurer, secretary); one signature would be sufficient, and the signatory would likely be approached in the event of any damage to the indoor premises. Rosemary said that she would be the signatory.

Paul reminded us that the range needs to be registered on Sport-80 for insurance purposes. Anthony felt that Rosemary has the best access to do that. Paul thought that there is not a lot to do, just give the address and some minor info. Rosemary will do this in due course.

Rosemary agreed to fill in a paper hire agreement form and leave it in the bunker for Paul to collect. He will take it with him when he goes to take our equipment over, probably later this week. Paul had looked at dates and suggested starting on 21st October, meeting fortnightly through to 30th December. We agreed that it seemed sensible to make that booking as a trial, it would be enough to be worthwhile. Mandy commented that Caroline (the contact at the village hall) had said that we are not obliged to make a long term commitment. Paul said he will ask her about this.

Sean Gleeson had asked Paul about the hall for the possibility of coaching, he would be interested to do some coaching indoors. Paul didn't know how often this might be, but felt that if this was advertised to members it might bolster numbers and attract members in.

Paul emphasized that the maximum distance that could be shot is 10 metres, so we could not shoot any proper rounds. It would literally just be practice, and coaching could possibly be the most beneficial aspect.

Rosemary asked if Sean is aware of the size of the hall, Paul reminded her that his initial email to Panda members had stated the available distance as 10m. Paul did not want members to be visualising a large sports hall such as they may have seen in pictures. Paul will liaise with Sean and check dates with him, and these could then be advertised.

Mandy asked if Sean would want payment for the coaching. Paul replied that Sean has not mentioned money, and back in the summer he had said that he doesn't believe in charging club members for coaching. Mandy was happy with this answer.

Mandy is currently looking into a different indoor venue that would allow longer distance shooting. She will update the committee as appropriate.

Funding Bid (Magic Little Grants - £500)

Following on from the email that Rosemary had sent out, Mandy had started to look at the application while on holiday. As Paul had felt that this should be referred to the committee for discussion/approval first, Mandy had delayed applying.

Previous grant applications have often had caveats or conditions included. This seemed not to be the case for the grant she was looking at. It appeared to be a genuine grant. Mark had helpfully set up a treasurer's email address for her to use, and she was happy to complete the application. She had been completing the club accounts ready for the AGM and said that £500 would be about 10% of the club bank balance, so would be a welcome boost.

We all agreed that Mandy should proceed with the application as we had nothing to lose by it!

Beginners' Course

Anthony suggested starting a course on Saturday 6th April, to run for 5 consecutive weekends.

Times would be 9.00-12.00 each Saturday morning. Afternoon shooting would have to move to a 12.30 start, but as the clocks will have gone forwards by then that shouldn't be a problem.

Anthony checked if the committee were happy for him to set these dates and start trying to recruit people for the course? Yes, we were all happy with that.

Mandy mentioned that at tournaments, people have been asking about another longbow shoot at Panda. Should we set a date for that as well? (The title of the tournament, eg Pandamonium or Crecy) doesn't really matter.)

Keith commented that the main problem in choosing a date is avoiding a clash with other events! Easter Saturday had probably been chosen as the day for Pandamonium because it avoided any rugby fixture at the club.

We agreed to think about it and put it on the agenda for our next meeting.

Rosemary remembered that we now have to register courses and events on CMS. Paul asked if that means we need to wait for Mark to be more familiar with CMS, Anthony felt it was better to send Mark the information so that he would have something to work on to help him to learn.

Paul sent the dates for indoor shooting through to the committee, with the comment that we will only commit to the end of this calendar year.

Any Other Business

There was none.

Date of next meeting

We discussed whether we should hold another meeting before the AGM (which is on 27th November). The details for the AGM must be sent out at least 28 days beforehand. Mandy checked if it will be on Zoom again (Yes) and the date for sending information out. Rosemary said that it must go out by Monday 30th October at the latest, but she would prefer to do it at the end of the previous week if possible. Mandy was happy with that timetable in relation to the club accounts. There was no desire for another committee meeting before the AGM, so it was agreed that at the AGM the newly elected committee would set a date for their next meeting.