

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting 4th August 2025, at 8.00pm on Zoom

Present: Anthony, Rosemary, Duncan, Sally, Paul, Keith, Phil, Mark

The **minutes of the meeting** 30th June 2025 were proposed by Keith, seconded by Duncan, and accepted by all as a true record of the meeting.

The **matters arising** suggested in the agenda were inadvertently missed out.

Correspondence

Rosemary read out a letter she had received from Leven Archery Club, thanking Panda for our welcome and friendliness at our two recent competitions (Pandamonium and the 70th Anniversary), and welcoming us to shoot at their ground near Beverley any time we are over that way. We agreed that it should be displayed in the bunker, Anthony offered to pin it up.

Fees for 2025-26

Rosemary had circulated a suggestion for fees, this was discussed in some detail:

Keith and Sally both felt that the Panda component of the fees was not enough. It barely allows us to tick over, with no leeway for any extras. We need to look to the future.

Our main income is from beginners' courses and competitions. Some clubs charge target fees, but that is not a practical option for us.

Sally said that if our plan is for the club to simply tick over, then we don't expect any big expenditure for now and it would be difficult to justify putting the fees up by much.

Duncan commented that we don't know yet what our plans may be.

Anthony said we will need to increase the rugby club component at some stage, it has remained unchanged for 10 years or more.

In response to Paul asking how much we had earned this year, Anthony guessed it might be around £1200; this just covers the cost of the bosses that we recently bought.

After due consideration, we agreed fees for 2025-26 as: Senior **£130**; Under-21 **£60**; Disabled **£80**; Associate **£56**.

Beginners' Courses

People are still asking, we have had 10 enquiries since the beginning of July.

Anthony has spoken with Nick, who has agreed to lead a course on Saturday mornings; Anthony will lead an evening course if there is demand, and if the rugby club have an evening where we can be sure of access to our field.

Last year we agreed to raise our course fees, but Anthony forgot that and charged the old rate for the 2025 courses. We agreed to raise fees next year to **£65** for seniors and **£45** for juniors.

Duncan asked if we explain to enquirers why they need to wait so long for a course, Anthony replied that he has not generally done so. Duncan thought, and Anthony agreed, that it would be good to explain how running an autumn course would take new archers into the bad weather season and it would be more difficult for them to learn and get into the sport.

Anthony suggested provisional dates for a course: **Saturdays 11th April to 9th May**; he will run the dates past Nick before making them public.

This would put Pandamonium on the 16th May 2026. If any beginner sessions are missed due to bad weather, the course could continue as needed after Pandamonium.

Chris Wright trophy

The trophy has always been kept in the house of a committee member. In view of the fact that our club insurance now covers trophies anywhere in the country, Anthony asked whether we should

allow members to take it home with them, or continue to let them take just the shield. Phil and Duncan both favoured giving out just the shield, and leaving the trophy with a committee member. We agreed to continue as we are.

Roping off the hedge

Anthony commented that the hedge down the side of the drive now has a number of dead hawthorn plants and is getting gaps in it. He asked if we should put in some metal stakes and rope the hedge off permanently? Paul reminded us that roping off the field was a requirement of AGB, but he thought we would have to do it each session if using metal stakes.

Keith suggested using wooden stakes like the one we have at the top of the field, which could be left in situ and not damage hedge cutters. Or maybe the rugby club could replant some parts of the hedge... Paul remembered a suggestion to take laurel cuttings from the bushes by our bunkers and use them in the gaps; Anthony has tried to grow cuttings but with no success.

Paul wondered if we have a long enough rope; Keith said we don't need to do the whole hedge; Anthony said there is second reel of rope in the other bunker, and if it was to be a permanent fixture it would be easier to do the whole hedge.

Sally suggested we should approach the rugby club and ask their opinion; Keith thought that is sensible as we don't want to cause damage to cutters.

It was agreed that Rosemary would write to the rugby club to explain the situation and see what they think.

Paul asked if we should start roping off each session now; Anthony thought we should, as there are some significant gaps in the hedge now. Rosemary mentioned an occasion when a ball came onto the field and a boy squeezed through the hedge to come and retrieve it. He was careful, and we were aware of him and waited, but it demonstrated the potential problem.

Duncan suggested putting a note/poster in the bunker to tell people to rope off the hedge.

An alternative is to put signs out near the gaps, we have some spare signs. (We have at least 2 gaps.)

We need to look at the hedge more critically, but for now we can put signs out on the roadside by the gaps. Anthony commented that generally there is at least one committee member present at each session, so we can pass on to other club members the requirement to put the signs out. Keith thought we should send out an email/WhatsApp message to all members to inform them, Duncan thought this a good idea on health & safety grounds.

Keith suggested that we could cut down to one spike + sign at the top of the field, then use the spare in a gap; Paul said we have plenty of spikes in the other bunker. We also have some smaller signs. But we want to carry the minimum necessary up the field!

The first thing to do is to contact the rugby club to see what they say; but in the meantime we must make it safe as best we can.

Those who are shooting on Tuesday morning (5th Aug) can look at the hedge, work out the best way forward, and send out a message to the rest of the club.

Pandamonium 2026

This year's event was smaller, probably because we lost the archers whose only membership is with BLBS. Some who were present said they they had persuaded AGB that their shoots were longstanding and so had gained approval for them.

A 2-way shoot could go on the BLBS calendar, but it would need more targets and stands than we currently have.

We could open it up to other bowstyles. Paul suggested we allow other styles in order to attract as many entrants as possible. As people had enjoyed our 70th anniversary shoot, he suggested making Pandamonium a fun day shoot – it would live up to its name! Sally felt that our regular visitors

would probably come along almost regardless of what type of shoot it is.

Keith said that the longbow archer community is ageing, and numbers at shoots have been going down for quite some time now. He commented that opening Pandamonium up to other bowstyles would make the day longer because other styles shoot more slowly.

(Sally asked what a 2-way shoot is; it was explained, and she thought it sounded like a health & safety nightmare!)

Duncan preferred a 1-way shoot on our normal field; Anthony said we would probably need pitch 3 for the space.

It was suggested we could rotate shoots, having Pandamonium one year and a fun shoot the following year.

It was decided that the first thing was to check with the rugby club if pitch 3 would be available on Saturday 16th May (this would in effect prevent anybody else using pitch 4 at the same time).

Rosemary agreed to contact the rugby club.

On Target Club Development

Duncan drew the committee's attention to a supplement in the Archery UK magazine. The purpose of AGB's On Target scheme is to increase member satisfaction, club growth, member progression & retention, and club health; and develop specialisms. We would need to inform AGB of our intent to take part; show that we're working through the UK's sport governance code; complete a constitutional check and a risk assessment check; and have 2 named designated people to take a lead and to take part in online workshops. The workshops are on positive experiences; leadership & governance; and financial sustainability.

Sally asked what this means for our club – is it that we get to put something on our website to say that we comply with certain standards? Yes.

Keith asked if AGB would give us any extra money for doing all this extra work? Probably not, but we would be flying the flag for high standards.

Sally asked if there is a cost to the online sessions – Not as yet, but there is still a lot of information to come out. Sally thought this all sounds like AGB jumping on what businesses do.

Duncan explained that this scheme first started 15 years ago. It was paused for Covid and AGB are trying to get it going again.

Paul said it sounds good in principle, but who would the 2 designated people be? Duncan offered to be one of them; the second person need not be a committee member; or a new committee role could be created for these 2 people.

There is a need to uphold standards, especially as etiquette is waning in the club at present. People are turning up late, leaving early...

Duncan had explained to some people that if an arrow is lost, then everybody goes to help look for it; Keith had spoken to people about helping to set up. Sally asked if we need a code of conduct – Paul responded that we already have one! It is on the form that people sign when they receive a bunker key; but not everyone sees this, and in any case the forms are handed in and so no longer available to read. Sally suggested laminated copies of the code attached to the backs of clipboards; or something to go on the back of people's phones as so many people use an app now.

Duncan thought it would be worth taking this on; it'll give us another selling point and good practice is there for a reason.

Paul asked if the first step is to find a second person. Yes, Duncan will put out an email to all members asking for volunteers. Keith suggested we can co-opt them on to the committee and then they can attend meetings. It was agreed that we can co-opt at any time, and appointments are ratified at the AGM.

Duncan asked if the committee is in favour of pursuing this; Anthony said Yes Please, member retention has always been a problem; Sally commented that from the Risk Assessment and safety point of view it is a good idea, as in recent times there has been an increase in crimes using bows. It would help to make sure that we have due diligence robustly in place.

Duncan felt that people don't know what/how to report anything they have concerns about. Paul suggested sending out an email with the relevant contact details. Duncan commented that there is no board in the bunker with committee members' photos, names and committee positions.

Everyone was happy for something to be put up in the bunker; Anthony asked about putting the information on the website as well, that was agreed as a good idea.

Anthony explained that when he joined Panda he was given a Welcome booklet containing committee members' names and phone numbers; shooting times; information about tournaments and handicaps; and etiquette of shooting. Duncan thought we could use some of that now, Sally thought most of it could go on the website. Paul suggested that we make a flier for the website, and the secretary could give it to new members. Most people now are used to looking at things online, but we should keep the paper copy option available for those who want.

Anthony summed up – we've agreed to apply for this; now Duncan will take the lead in trying to recruit someone else to be a named person with him.

Any Other Business

Keith raised the issue of new members and timekeeping. The previous Saturday had been very late starting – it was at least 1.35pm instead of 1.00pm. Keith was glad that he had shot in the morning so that he could help others in the afternoon.

It is noticeable that many newbies are not helping to set up.

There was much discussion around what time members should be asked to arrive and what order people should do things in. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a second trolley so that targets could be taken over in batches; less weight on the trolley would mean quicker and easier journeys with it. Our trolley is old and unique, nobody has seen another like it anywhere! But discussion about trolleys kept coming back to the same point – **we have nowhere to store a second trolley.**

Suggestions were made about sending people to the bunker in shifts – maybe earlier arrivals first to fetch and set up their targets, followed by later arrivals to fetch and set up theirs; or sending representatives from each target to fetch them all at once.

Paul pointed out that before starting to set up the field, we need to know how many targets to set up altogether, in order to get the spacing right. It wouldn't work well doing it piecemeal.

In the end it was decided to ask all members to arrive at 12.00 noon to set up the field; after field set-up they can all put their bows together.

Mark commented that we can now put a message out on WhatsApp.

As Anthony & Rosemary were going away the following afternoon, Keith offered to send out an email and a WhatsApp message to all members.

The question was raised as to whether Panda wants to re-register with AGB. In view of the discussion about the On Target scheme we agreed to re-affiliate.

Anthony asked about setting the date for the AGM – due to shortage of time on Zoom, this was put off till the September meeting.

Date of next committee meeting

Agreed as Monday 15th September at 8.00pm on Zoom.