

## **Minutes of Panda Bowmen committee meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 8.00pm on Zoom**

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

Apologies: Keith, Mark

### **Minutes of meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

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

### **Matters arising**

Indoor shooting had taken place at Old Pool Bank Village Hall over four sessions. The number of archers shooting had been very low – 7, 8, 2 and 4. These sessions had cost the club £204, and fees received totalled only £110. This was a significant loss and clearly uneconomical, so the decision was taken (4<sup>th</sup> December, by email) to cancel the two remaining bookings.

### **Longbow Shoot 2024**

For many years Panda ran a Pandamonium longbow shoot, traditionally on Easter Saturday because the rugby club grounds were available then. Do we want to run a shoot this year?

Mandy said that longbow archers at other shoots have been asking about an event at Panda; she and Alan would be interested to help put an event on – not at Easter, but late April/early May.

Anthony commented that the beginners' course is planned for Saturday mornings 6<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May.

We ascertained that we will need to let AGB know of the event and register it on CMS. It will not be record status, so we could ask Sean Gleeson to be judge. Anthony is happy to help and support the event if someone else will do the organising. Mandy emphasised that we need more club members to help out; Rosemary commented that members who don't shoot longbow may be available to help.

We agreed the date Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May for the shoot. Sally commented that we must check with the rugby club that there would be no clash of events that day.

Depending on the number of entries, we may be able to use our normal field, or we may need to use pitch 3 over the bridge. Sally asked how busy it might be, maybe we could put on a have-a-go on the other field at the same time. Anthony thought in the past we have had maybe 20-30 archers. Club members help with setting up targets and marquee, looking for arrows, serving refreshments etc., and packing up at the end of the day. Rosemary commented that it feels quite hands on and we maybe don't have the personnel to staff a have-a-go as well. Sally suggested we keep the idea for the future when the club has grown.

It was agreed that Rosemary will contact the rugby club to check the fields are free, and then email Panda members asking them to help that day.

### **Classification badges**

Badges are available for the new classifications. Anthony said that in the past the club has provided badges to members – do we want to continue to do this or should we ask members to buy their own badges? Paul informed us that badges are only available from Merlin. There followed some discussion about number of badges needed, and how to get the best deal in view of the £5.99 postage.

It was agreed that the club should pay for the badges, it is a nice token gesture to members; one badge per archer, for their main bowstyle. Anthony will look at the classifications members have attained, work out some costings for what we will need to buy and email his recommendations to the committee.

### **Possible change to Panda bank account**

Sally had seen an advert for NatWest Bankline for community accounts, which seemed to be something new for charities and clubs, she had been looking into it on behalf of Panda. She informed the meeting that this is now on hold because the bank are not opening any new accounts of the type we are looking at. It looks as though the bank only have a certain quota of these accounts and they are all used up for now. Sally will keep an eye on the website for further information.

She explained that we would not be changing the account as such, just applying for a level of online banking. This a special account for clubs and committees with no fees involved.

In response to a question, Sally explained that she has added her signature to the bank account and updated the statement address to be her own rather than Mandy's.

Mandy has sent the club insurance information to Sally, who will make the necessary payment arrangements.

### **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration**

Members indicated at the AGM that they would like some form of celebration.

Paul and Keith had talked about this together and Paul had subsequently sent an email to the committee. The idea was to shoot 70 arrows at 70 yards (with interim distances for juniors). Paul felt longbow and barebow archers would be quite up for it. He had seen some ideas on a website for how to make the shoot more interesting and fun, eg random scoring where you shoot first and then pull an instruction out of a hat telling you how to score that end (eg. reverse scores, bonus points for greens...). This could open it up to all abilities and bowstyles and anyone could stand a chance of winning something!

Mandy asked if we want to make this a family fun day kind of celebration? We felt that would be good. Sally suggested we could advertise it at the rugby club to get more people. Maybe we could have serious archers on one field and other things on a different field; maybe have a bouncy castle for children?

We all need to keep thinking, and have further discussion at our next meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

The layered foam boss is damaged, and Paul had emailed members to say that it had been withdrawn from use.

Paul had not been up at the field since early October. When he was there recently he discovered that this boss had bungees on the back to attach extra support, and he could push his finger through the middle of the target. He felt it should not have been shot at for some time. The club would need to buy 2 or 3 new layers to revamp it, at a cost of around £100; or buy a new one; or make do with the old straw bosses. (But there seems to be a move generally away from straw bosses.)

Sally commented that the foam boss gets a lot of use. Paul has been absent for a while so has not seen its use on Saturdays. Anthony explained that this boss comes out on a Tuesday when David Mitchell is shooting; David has been shooting longer, outdoor rounds and therefore shooting at the centre of a 122cm face.

Anthony explained that he and David Mitchell (helped by Mike from the rugby club) had relayered the boss in April 2023. They had had significant trouble with it and Paul had commented subsequently that it had not been done well. So Anthony and David were reluctant to try it again. Therefore in October Anthony alerted Paul to the condition of the target.

Paul felt that in his absence, common sense should have prevailed and archers should have chosen not to use the target as it was clearly not in a fit state.

Sally suggested sending another email to members asking them to report damage to equipment.

Paul pointed out that all members have a responsibility to care for and repair club equipment, it is not just him. Anthony commented that Paul could co-ordinate and arrange repairs.

Paul said that one of the new straw bosses has already gone very soft in the centre (he thinks this may be a manufacturing defect), and also one of the old ones. A number of the bosses are firm round the edge but soft in the centre. We need to look at alternatives to straw.

Sally felt it is worth repairing the foam boss because it is well used. She asked if the Pandamonium event will raise money? Anthony said that the shoot generally does raise some funds. We only pay out for target faces and a gift for the judge (and travelling). Mandy thought the last event raised £250-£280. Sally said we should look at what other events charge and not undersell ourselves; we need to be clever.

The question was asked, how much are new foam bosses?

A standard layered target is around £200, a high end one with a replaceable centre is more like £560 + delivery. Egertec do a pack of 6 layered bosses for £1200 inc delivery, but these are free-standing and so would need alterations to our present stands.

Or for £500 you could get a sectional boss that slots together. So it depends very much on what you choose and how much you wish to spend.

Sally felt that, short term, we should repair the existing foam boss. The committee agreed, and Paul will look into this and arrange it. Anthony asked Paul to let us all know when there is work to be done, so members can help out. Paul can only come on a Saturday, but when there he can show other members how to layer the boss properly. This is an awkward repair to do and the last 2 or 3 layers are the hardest.

### **Summary**

Anthony summarised the main actions to be taken:

He will look into badges and inform the committee

Paul will look into repairing the foam boss

Rosemary will email the rugby club, and Panda members about Pandamonium

Mandy asked if Anthony has a proforma/flyer for Pandamonium, she is happy to work on that.

Anthony has previously worked on something from his very old computer(!). He will check on the format of it, and if possible he will pass on to Mandy something that she will be able to use.

### **Date of next meeting**

This was agreed as Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at 8.00pm on Zoom.