



Devon and Cornwall Archery Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2020

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held virtually using Go To Meetings. The meeting opened at 2pm with Phil Gilbanks in the Chair.

Members present: from the Committee John Poyner, Paul Callaway, Karen Williams, Sally Sandoe, Ann Gillbanks, Phil Gillbanks, Scott Williams, Sophie Twigg, Andrew Parkinson, Emma Martyn, Tim Pratt, Julia Hadley together with 17 Senior members representing 8 clubs.

Apologies for absence received from; Austin Hawkins, Steve Glover and Jane Farrow

1 Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM had been previously circulated and were taken as read. Proposed by Paul Callaway and seconded by Tara Earle they were accepted as a true record by show of hands all in favour.

2 Matters Arising

None

3 Committee Members Annual Reports

3.1 Chairman - Phil Gillbanks

Phil noted the sad loss this year of DCAS Team Manager Estelle Edwick who died in May. Estelle took over and built on the coaching programme that had been started by Jimmy Sandoe. Under her leadership DCAS Seniors won multiple GWAS inter-county champs, and performed well in AGB National Team Competitions.

2020 has been a terrible year for archery and other sports due to the impact of the global pandemic. We have had to cancel all county tournaments except the indoor champs which took place just before the pandemic started to affect the country.

The Committee has worked towards supporting clubs through the summer when rules allowed clubs to be open, and continued to meet regularly via virtual meetings.

Exmouth held an informal open shoot in the summer under the AGB Covid-19 Tournament Guidelines and a very successful field tournament in October; one of only clubs in county to attempt to put on open shoots. Thanks to Tim, all the club crew and judges.

We hope for a vaccine soon and ultimately a return back to some sort of normality, however we need to ensure we all keep safe.

3.2 Secretary - Karen Williams

Since our last AGM there has been a considerable increase in the work of County and Club Secretaries despite a significant reduction in the archery going on. The number of meetings attended has roughly tripled!! This has been a good time to develop new ways of working on line for committees. There are definitely initiatives that have happened to cope with the pandemic, such as meeting online and webinars to support clubs, coaches and archers from AGB, that I hope will continue even though I sincerely hope we can get back to normality with archery soon.

Club Secretaries among you will be aware more club administration is being cascaded out from AGB, to Club and County Secretaries who are now responsible for ensuring the virtual portal, Sport 80, is updated with more information on a more regular basis. I don't think this is a bad thing and I expect it will lead to AGB having more accurate information. Clubs will also have a sense of direct control over that information, but we have to recognise it is an addition to the work of club secretaries.

Now Tournament Organisers and other roles are starting to be recognised on the portal, more committee members are no doubt going to gradually be drawn into to this as well.

During the last year I have tried to reach out to clubs through phone calls emails and surveys. So have AGB and GWAS, there is a risk of members and club officials suffering survey fatigue, but it has been really useful to get a better understanding of our clubs and the wide variety of different shapes and sizes they take.

What is also clear from this is that clubs have had to constantly adapt to the changing restrictions.

Thank you Declan from Tamar Valley Archers for your question regarding a record of which clubs are open, which clubs remain closed, which clubs are open to visitors/associate members. I agree this would be useful, but it is likely as soon as we had collected the relevant data and publicised it it would be out of date. The clubs in our County range in size from Exmouth supporting about 140 members to clubs that support just three archers, and for this reason some clubs may prefer to stay more private about their activities.

But in principle I still think the suggestion is a good idea, and my recommendation therefor is that clubs ensure the link we have from the DCAS website to your clubs website or social media page is the most appropriate for you, and that on the page we link to, archers can see if you are open to members, visitors, and if your club is accepting enquiries from potential members etc.

Many thanks to all my fellow committee members and clubs for your support this year.

3.3 Treasurer - Paul Callaway

This has been an unprecedented last 6 months which has put paid to most of our outdoor competitions (not just the County ones) and now even our outdoor and indoor activities.

Consequently, this has had an effect on our finances. I have now had formal certification of the draft Accounts previously circulated to Club Secretaries, with no alteration to the figurework involved. My thanks to Francis Clark LLP for their Independent Review of the Accounts.

You will see that we made a loss of just over £2½ K, despite having received a very generous grant from Grand Western of £2½ K in respect of our historic purchase of our Scoring System.

The loss has occurred for a number of reasons.

- Our affiliation income is down (£4,142 compared to £5,800 last year). This is partly due to a reduction in the DCAS fee by £1 for Seniors (50p for others) for the new affiliation year, as acknowledgement of the difficulties that the Coronavirus restrictions have placed upon us. This might not seem like a lot (£1) but it represents a 16% decrease (and intended to be for one year only!).

Our newcomer affiliations over the summer were necessarily curtailed by the social distancing required for coaching outdoors, which put a lot of Club off doing it at all.

Our reaffiliations look to be around 1/3rd down on this stage last year. It seems that some Clubs are about at the same level, whilst others are presently running at about half their usual numbers. Intuitively, I suspect this has something to do with the ability to run indoor shooting (although that has also been postponed at present due to the Covid-19 lockdown this month).

- Our summer DCAS Tournament income has disappeared (Net last year around £1,000). However, the depreciation of our equipment has had to continue (£828).
- Coaching Activities has shown a loss, largely as a result of expenses still owing from the 2018/19 Yelverton Level 1 course, which were paid in this year (whereas the income linked to that course was received last year). We have also bought a new laptop for coaching use and decided, as a Committee, henceforth to write-off in the year incurred any expenditure on small assets up to £1,000 (rather than depreciate them over time).
- Junior Activities have knowingly/deliberately made a loss. There is still a significant balance in the Junior Fund (around £1,500) and the Juniors for whom it's applicable are not getting any younger! So, we're spending it for their benefit.

Overall, you'll see from the money in the bank that we're in good financial health and able to weather the storm of this pandemic for some time to come.

I commend these Accounts to the Membership for formal acceptance. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Sarah Conisbee and seconded by Sharon Hills. Unanimously agreed by show of hands.

3.4 Tournament Secretary - Ann Gillbanks

Covid seriously curtailed Tournaments this year.

We will not attempt to run the Indoor Champs in 2021 due to the restrictions on indoor archery, but we hope to run a virtual tournament .

Please could clubs register the proposed dates of any tournaments with us to put on the DCAS Event Calendar. This is to ensure clubs are aware of the weekends events are planned to take place to avoid clubs double booking weekends.

Thanks to Simon Slade for running the winter postal, Yelverton for hosting the Indoor champs, Tim Pratt and Andrew Hoyle who ran the virtual fun County Champs.

3.5 County Coaching Organiser - Andrew Parkinson

Very little has happened, since few events in the winter. Watch this space for webinars for coaches and archers in future.

3.6 Judges Representative - Julia Hadley

It has been an 'Annus horribilis' for Archery this year. With the restrictions on archery due to the Covid pandemic little to no competitions were run. For those that did manage it the administration around the health and safety of all concerned was arduous and complex.

In addition to the struggles to hold competitions there were struggles to get Judges to cover due to shielding and concerns over safety. We can only hope that next year sees us return to a normality and that competitions can run again.

All qualifications for Judges and seminars were postponed so none of our current County or Regional Judges were able to advance but hope the new year will allow for this to happen.

The number of judges within the counties has therefore not changed with the following numbers:-

2 National Judges

3 Regional Judges

6 County Judges

We have not been in a position to recruit more potential Candidate Judges and I feel that with the uncertainty of the future we need to increase our numbers and encourage more members to join us in the under 50's age group. I would ask all clubs to give serious thought to who we could encourage to take up judging in the future and please ask anyone interested to approach any of the judges to find out more.

3.7 Junior Representative - Sophie Twigg

We would have loved to run more junior coaching sessions, but they have all had to be cancelled since March 2020. Next year we are hoping to do more smaller coaching sessions for juniors within the AGB Covid Guidance for coaching and to find new additional ways to support juniors.

3.8 Records Officer - Scott Williams

As for all the other reports, not much to report, but there were 18 County and 6 Regional records set but DCAS Archers since the last AGM before lockdown.

4 Election of Committee

The following members were elected to the Committee for the forthcoming year, being the only nomination in each case:

President	Sally Sandoe	re-elected
Vice-President	John Poyner	re-elected
Chairman	Phil Gillbanks	re-elected
Vice-Chairman	John Poyner	re-elected
Secretary	Karen Williams	re-elected
Treasurer	Paul Callaway	re-elected
Tournament Secretary	Ann Gillbanks	re-elected
Coaching Organiser	Andrew Parkinson	re-elected
Junior Representative	Sophie Twigg	re-elected
Senior Team Manager	Andrew Hoyle	elected
Records Officer	Scott Williams	re-elected
Judges Representative	Julia Hadley	re-elected
Public Relations Officer	Declan Ross-Thomas	elected
Web Master	Scott Williams	re-elected
Safeguarding Officer	Emma Martyn	elected
Rep to GWAS Council	John Poyner	re-elected

(A second post of Rep to GWAS Council is held ex-officio by the Secretary.)

A new role of Equipment Officer is being developed on the committee. The role will oversee the progression of a policy in development to ensure the County's Tournament Equipment is appropriately stored, maintained and made available to Clubs. Tim Pratt has volunteered to take this role on and was co-opted unopposed.

The formal acceptance of these elections was proposed by Neil Bancroft and seconded by Tara Earle - Unanimously agreed

5 GWAS Report - John Poyner

Grand Western Archery Society (GWAS) has made a number of awards this year. The following members of Devon and Cornwall have received awards.

Honorary Life Membership - Paul Callaway

Award for services to the region - Tim Pratt, Jimmy Sandoe, Colin and Anne Holmes.

Plans for the Regional Indoor Champs are currently under consideration.

Grand Western are offering a small interest free loan scheme for clubs who need funds to enable them to get back to archery following the pandemic. A budget of £20,000 in total has been set aside for this. Clubs who wish to apply for this support should contact the Regional Treasurer Ann Jackson.

There being no other business the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Devon and Cornwall Archery Society closed at 2.45pm.

Date set for the next meeting of 21 November 2021.

Minutes recorded by
Karen Williams
Secretary

Accepted as a true record by

Date