

Minutes of the Meeting of the Staffordshire Archery Association 28/9/09

The Turf, Norton Canes

Present: D Dean, T Mackinnon, G McLeary, Q Edwards, B Edwards, A Stevenson. D Edwards, M Edwards, K Downes, S Mossley, T Robins, D O'Gara, N Hubbard, S Ellison, K Greatrex, M Cross, H Pooley, P Jones, B Jones, H Heeley, S Taylor, L Ankers, T Warburton, B Warburton, T Goad, R Hall

The chair informed the meeting that the possible motion brought by Chase Archers had been dropped.

Apologies H Parrish, P Shipley, N Goad, D. Cooper

Correspondence received by the secretary, in response to her letter relating to sponsorship of Steve Prowse and Stuart Taylor, was read out. It was agreed by the meeting that this response was not satisfactory; therefore, a further letter will be sent expressing disappointment and pointing out that this is in effect banning VI archers from international competitions. In fact few countries were actually represented in the Czech Republic. It was stated that GNAS fears self-funding archers (like Steve Prowse) as they are then able to ignore, in effect, any rules that GNAS decree for them. County archers stated in response to the body of the letter that we do not actually get any say in how members' fees are to be spent: This seems unfair as the meeting felt they would like to support those such as Steve, and indeed Stuart too. It was feared that a similar circumstance could occur at the Commonwealth, also with compound archers.

It was agreed that HP would write to GNAS again and send copies to other relevant bodies when informed of who they are.

The Treasurer reported that money is now starting to come in and that those difficulties with the bank have now been resolved.

Junior report was presented by Steve Taylor who spoke at length of all the championships won by Staffs Junior Archers at County and National levels. These young people have also won senior competitions and have provided our own seniors with a challenge. Stuart Taylor had particular mention for his success at Utah which now places him 19th in the world. 3 archers are to have GB assessment days in April 2010 though this may be hampered by lack of a Head Coach. Staffs is seen as a centre of excellence for juniors, due, in large part to Steve Taylor's commitment and his ambition for the juniors and also the support of coaches and parents.

Pam Jones spoke of the Judges' positive impression of the way in which juniors compete and conduct themselves: they should be seen as a model for others.

West Mids Region was not reported upon as all seems quiet on that front.

Robin Hall read out his Coaching Report (attached to this document) Wolf Archers was welcomed and introduced as a new club. Robin Hall will give all necessary help in coaching matters.

Karl Greatrex reported as Records Officer on the success of the Outdoor Champs which made a profit of £205. Record claims have been made in the last 6 months. 11th Oct is the Inter-County Champs: 14th March will be the Indoors at Lilleshall (tbc). Now confirmed.

Child Protection Officers will now need to have specific CRB checks made by clubs rather than those which may have been obtained in other connections (e.g. work). It is not mandatory to have CPOs but deemed better if clubs do have them. It is desirable that CPOs should not be coaches as there may be conflict of interest. Clarification will be put on the website.

Richard Court was discussed and volunteers asked for; ideally the shoot should be in June. It was suggested that it might be good to have this in the north of the county but any club is welcome. Clubs are to volunteer to TG before the next meeting.

Club Topics were raised.

Tara Mackinnon asked on behalf of Neil Smith whether longbow members of the LBS can shoot in GNAS competitions if they pay a County fee rather than full GNAS affiliation. Do records count for the county in this case? TG said he was unsure and would ask for clarification from GNAS. **GNAS "SAP procedure 1 Public Liability Insurance No 4 Those Insured: 'Members of the British Longbow Society while shooting on a GNAS ground and participating in traditional Longbow events'" See mutterings**

George McLeary of TVA reported that 11 more coaches are about to come on stream and that a grant to cover the costs has been useful. Coaching should help to strengthen the Senior Squad.

Chase Archers (S Ellison) brought up their unhappiness in the way that the Secretary had been elected, calling it 'underhand and unacceptable' also 'improper'. It was said that it was not right to pick someone with no experience over an experienced archer and secretary. TG said the choice had been made by the meeting at the time and that constitutional rules did not specify that experienced people should be elected. He also pointed out that the Chair of Archery UK is to be given to someone who does not necessarily have a background in archery. There followed a discussion of the constitution and procedure for nominations.

After reiteration from Chase, (S Ellison and N Hubbard), HP responded by explaining that she had been approached to do the job (having not thought of it before) but thought she had acted with integrity in this situation. HP said that though she was not an archer, she had accompanied her daughter for years and as a parent wanted to put back some of what she thought her daughter had received. HP was supported by TG and MC. It seemed to be the

general feeling of the meeting that the procedure had not been 'underhand'. Quentin Edwards pointed out that committees evolve and that the constitution should be changes. TG will look at the constitution but condemned an anonymous forum set up on the internet to discuss this matter. Now it should all end, he stated.

Spilt fields issues were again raised. TG pointed out the 'unequivocal' rule that would apply if archers were to contemplate making insurance claims. It is however up to individual clubs to decide, bearing in mind that GNAS rules would be broken if split fields were run and therefore insurances invalidated. He pointed out graphically the dangers of accidents.

TG asked for people to amend e mail addresses if they are inaccurate on his address book.

Squad days are to be organised by Karl, Robin, Harry and Tony. Carol Bye (County Coach) also offered to help with this.

Pam Jones reported on the change of rules to be implemented for Head to Heads. This will make for a more interesting competition and will involve seeds at a later time in the proceedings.

Days of meetings were discussed: some were in favour of regular 2nd Wednesdays in the month; TG thought it might be better to vary nights to allow for club meetings not to be affected on Wednesday. Alex Stevenson is to arrange for the next meeting to be at Cheadle Conservative Club on a date in December to be arranged. **Not available now at Working Men's Club, Mill Street, Leek, ST13 8ET**

Karl Greatrex brought up the subject of County trophies for many seem to be missing. George McLeary has photographed many of them for a record book and has made strenuous efforts to find missing ones. People who have trophies in their possession will collaborate to make an inventory. Tara Mackinnon suggested that Staffs University should be approached to design suitable trophies that whilst attractive would not be of any saleable value.

H Pooley

County Secretary

29/9/09