



Minutes of the Shenley and Loughton Toxophillists (Shenley Archers) Annual General Meeting held on 19th September 2021 at Brookward School, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes, MK14 6JZ.

Members present:

The Chairman plus 32 members attended the meeting that was brought forward due to inclement weather conditions.

Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman (Cliff Amos) welcomed the members to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

Lorraine Hudson
Paul Birch
Tara Nikovskis
Louisa Nikovskis
Richard Johns
Kerenza Johns

Minutes from previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM (circulated to members) were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

Chairman's Report

It had been another challenging year, but the club had a great outdoor season at Brookward School, so good in fact that it had now been extended until the end of October 2021.

We now have a storage facility sited at the school (at a cost of £1700.00), which in the long run will be a major asset for the club. The storage facility was paid for out of club funds and has made a hole in our reserves. The agreement with the school requires that the storage facility be painted green to blend in with the surroundings and the club will require volunteers to help with that task (see AOB). Val Goldine has conducted the necessary research into what paints and primers are needed.

The members were informed that the indoor season would start from the 1st Sunday of October and therefore both outdoor and indoor shooting would be available during October.

For the indoor season only, we will not be using the booking system, but we will be maintaining a written register of attendees. Members will be required to sign in and out on that register and

members must ensure they do so every time they attend. Shooting will start at 2:30pm and members should attend on time to help set up. If members attend late, they will be expected to assist in the taking down of equipment. Members were reminded that it was not the responsibility of the committee to set up and take down club equipment, it is a collective responsibility for the club members as a whole.

The members were reminded that COVID had not gone away, but that Shenley Leisure Centre (SLC) are not imposing any restrictions on the club. In the absence of any guidance from Archery GB (AGB) the club will not be asking anyone to wear masks at this time, but members may choose to do so if they wish. The club will now revert to a single session at SLC, which will run from 2:30pm until 5:30pm. We will take down at 5:00pm to ensure the hall has been cleared by our finish time.

The members were informed that the club will be introducing indoor rounds to new members and will be running 'fun' shoots and competitions.

The members were reminded of 'Easy Fundraising' that is a free option that raises money for the club where online purchases are made via that website. Thousands of suppliers are now signed up to the scheme and if members require more information speak to either Cliff Amos or Terry Castleton.

Funding had been secured recently from Sport MK to purchase new equipment to help with courses. It should be noted that the funding is up to 75% of the total cost. Despite COVID, it has been another good year on the training front with many of the new members having been trained and qualified. The Chairman thanked the coaches Jackie Castleton and John Wilson who have helped make the newer members feel welcomed and have offered their continued support and guidance.

The club held a successful corporate day for Paul Birch's colleagues and a few members ran an archery afternoon for the students and staff of Brooksward School. This was held on one of the hottest days of the year and was exhausting but was well received and worth it when you saw how enthusiastic and thrilled children were when they hit the target or burst a balloon.

The Chairman extended his thanks to Terry Castleton who would be stepping down as the Equipment Officer for his assistance to the Chairman and for his work carried out on behalf of the club. Terry Castleton received a round of applause from the members.

Treasurer's / Membership Secretary's Report

Membership Report

John Wilson reminded the members that the club year runs from October to September.

The club maintains a sustainable number of members, but it had been noted, during the Pandemic, that 25% of existing members had not renewed.

The club had gained new members following training courses and there had been some requests via the website from lapsed members looking to re-join.

Treasurer's Report

The club accounts had been produced in the form of an income/expenditure report and will be available on the website or by email on request.

The club had made a loss (-£371.77) as there had been a reduction in membership fees received due to fewer renewals, our main source of income. Conversely, hall hire costs were reduced, although not to the same degree.

The true cost of the lockdowns will not be apparent until the next accounts are produced, however it is several years since the club membership fees were last increased, and we face higher costs due to the use of Brooksward School, not to mention inflation in general. The members were informed that it was difficult to see how an increase in club membership fees could be avoided during the next couple of years.

The club maintains a good financial reserve that will be used to see the club into the future, to encourage new and returning members and to generally guarantee the club's future.

Secretary's Report

John Galvin reported that he regularly attends the online committee meetings of the Buckinghamshire Archery Association (BAA) and has been forwarding any information regarding County and Inter County archery events, including competitions, coaching and boost courses to the membership.

If members have not been receiving these emails, it will be due to not having members email addresses on the circulation list. Members were invited to provide their email address after the AGM.

Equipment Officer's Report

Terry Castleton reported that the new storage facility would be utilised for winter storage of equipment to reduce the amount that had to be conveyed between Brooksward School and SLC. The storage within the unit needs to be organised and any suggestions as to how equipment should be stored would be welcomed from the membership.

A second metal detector had been purchased for use on the field.

The numbers of beginners and those utilising the bow hire scheme has resulted in the purchase of additional equipment. Where possible, additional sets of limbs had been purchased, rather than complete bow sets, to introduce flexibility and reduce costs.

Terry, who was stepping down as Equipment Officer, hoped that someone would take on the role and that he would always be happy to lend support and advice.

The Chairman suggested to the membership that the role could be separated into equipment (repairs etc.) and bow hire.

Tournament Officer's Report

The Tournament Officer, Paul Birch, was not in attendance and therefore no report was available.

Junior Representative's Report

Ariana Davidson reported that a poster had been developed to promote archery and club membership and will be displayed at her school. Ariana hoped to develop the junior membership of the club.

Coaching Report

Jackie Castleton thanked all those who had assisted during the recent back-to-back courses. Jackie stated that it was good to see so many of those who had completed courses joining as members and that it was good to see those members gaining experience. Jackie stated that she feels proud when she looks around the club at the many members that she has coached. Particularly highlighted was Adele Baines who is progressing well and entering competitions.

Further courses had been arranged that will be held at SLC after the club shooting sessions. These will continue to be a maximum of eight participants to ensure the required level of attention and instruction can be provided.

Jackie explained the pre-course procedure in respect of equipment preparation and the need for the incoming equipment officer to work closely with Jackie to ensure smooth running of courses.

Records Officers Report

Robert Hearn awarded a 252 badge to Sue Mitchell and continues to maintain the records of submitted scores that are reproduced on the club website (members area).

Webmaster Report

Paul Redman reported that the website has been under constant development and that suggestions for further development are welcome. The website has had the size of images reduced to allow faster page loading of portable devices.

Recent updates to the pages of the website include items for sale, COVID rules, events/diary, photographs, and the club blog. Paul stated that the club blog was particularly underused and hoped that members would be contributing to it. It was suggested that posts on the club's 'What's App' could 'link' to the blog page.

Paul gave a snapshot of the website statistics in respect of visits to the site including the number of new requests for training courses and membership enquiries.

Some members raised the issue of the log in details for the members area of the website. Paul will circulate those details to members who request them.

Child Protection Officer's Report

Paul Lawrence reported that there had been no reported issues in respect of child protection or any other safeguarding issues. The membership was informed that a confidential reporting facility was available on the club website.

Paul reminded the membership to be respectful to others.

Committee Nominations

The following members were elected (or re-elected) to the following positions by the membership:

Chairman – Cliff Amos

Vice Chairman – Tan Quach

Secretary – John Galvin

Treasurer – John Wilson

Membership Officer – John Wilson

Records Officer – Robert Hearn

Equipment Officer (Maintenance) – Paul Lawrence

Equipment Officer (Bow Hire) – John Wilson

Communications Officer – Paul Redman

Child Protection Officer – Paul Lawrence

Coaching Organiser – Jackie Castleton

Junior Representative – Ariana Davidson

Events and Social Media Officer (new position)

It was proposed that a new committee position of Events and Social media Officer be created by the club. The motion was proposed by Cliff Amos and seconded by Mandy Dixon. The membership was asked to vote on the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Adele Bains was nominated for this new committee position and her election was unanimous. Adele was welcomed onto the committee.

Chairman's Cup

There were three nominations for the Chairman's Cup. The nominations were:

Adele Bains

Terry and Jackie Castleton

John Galvin

Following a vote of the membership the Chairman's Cup was awarded to Terry and Jackie Castleton.

A.O.B

Cliff Amos: The Chairman asked for volunteers to assist in the painting of the new storage facility. A number of members indicated that they would assist.

Terry Castleton: Terry stated that he had access to a 230V portable generator that could be used to power sanders as those with batteries had a very short working duration.

The volunteers were asked to bring sanders, step ladders and their own PPE.

Jackie Castleton: Jackie asked the membership to consider becoming coaches for the club. Jackie was intending becoming a Level 2 coach. Jackie stated that as one of the few coaches in the club her personal shooting was severely reduced and additional coaches would share the workload. Currently Jackie and John Wilson were the only club coaches.

A general discussion was held on attempts made to secure places on coaching courses. Some of these may not be held until 2022.

Coaches from Bedfordshire County will hopefully be attending shooting sessions, on a monthly basis, to provide guidance to club members.

Sue Mitchell: Sue asked if photos of the committee members and their respective roles be provided on the website to assist members in identifying club officers. Paul Redman would undertake this matter. **ACTION: Paul Redman.**

John Wilson: John reminded the members that the reminders for the next years membership fees had been issued via email.

Closing Remarks

The Chairman closed the meeting and due to the improved weather conditions invited members to set up for the club competition.