

THE GRAND NATIONAL ARCHERY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Saturday 13th July 2002
At Lilleshall National Sports Centre

PRESENT:

Mr Mike Shepherd	Director of Operations
Mr Derrick Lovell	Chairman of Field Sub Committee
Mr Peter Morris	Chairman of Judges Sub Committee
Mrs Pam Tonkin	Chairman of Target Sub Committee
Mr Nick Beeson	Chairman of Junior Sub Committee
Mrs Ann Webb	Chairman of Disabled Sub Committee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Alf Davies	President
Mr Dave Sherratt	Chief Executive
Mrs Ann Shepherd	Minute Taker

It has been agreed to create a new “National Tournaments Sub-Committee” which Pam Tonkin has agreed to Chair. Nick Nicholson has been persuaded to take on the role of Chairman of Target Sub-Committee in order that this arrangement can get underway.

Mark Davis has resigned as Chairman of Junior Sub-Committee. None of the current Junior Committee members were willing to take on the role so it was offered to Nick Beeson, who has been working in conjunction with them, and he has accepted the position.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Nick Nicholson.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING, ACCURACY.**

a. The minutes were signed as a true record by the Director of Operations, Mike Shepherd.

3. **MATTERS ARISING.**

- a. Mike Shepherd reported that the Board of Directors were not happy about the Guidelines for Junior Archers being made mandatory at the January meeting. Karen Moore, as the GNAS's new Child Protection Officer, is working on a policy for Child Protection and this will eventually be adopted as the Society's official document.
- b. With regard to Pete Pendrey's comments on the voting forms for elections of Chairmen and their sub-committee members (ref 8.i. minutes 06.04.02.) Pete's point was that, as the forms give the option of a No vote it may be possible that these could be in the majority if those wanting to vote Yes assumed that it wasn't important to return their vote. David Sherratt said that people should have the option of a No vote and if they were in the majority then that vote would stand. He stressed the need to ensure that people realise how important it is to return their votes.
- c. Following the Board of Directors comments regarding Child protection Pete Pendrey expressed some confusion about whether the Operations Committee was a decision making body or not. It was explained that decisions can and should be made by the Operations Committee but the Board of Directors would need to ratify anything that would become a policy.
- d. Mike Shepherd asked that everyone think about how allowing members of other societies to shoot at GNAS events could be implemented. This had originally been raised in the context of field archery in order for us to be able to show their members what we do. It had since been pointed out that any opening of our doors without careful consideration could leave us open to abuse from members of other organisations who may pay lower fees to someone else while taking advantage of GNAS services. GNAS members must not be disadvantaged by any new arrangements. Suggestions and ideas regarding a possible way forward are to be sent to Mike Shepherd by the end of August.
- e. More discussion took place with regard to the disabled archer being refused membership of a club (ref. 12ii. 06.04.02.). Repeated attempts to solve the problem locally have not been successful and the situation has deteriorated somewhat as

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the club concerned has refused to meet with the County representatives and the archer involved is now reported to be taking her case to the Press. Although the view that GNAS cannot condone anything that appears to be discriminatory was repeated it was still felt that the situation should be resolved locally and that the next step was for the Region to become involved.

4. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.

- a. The Board of Directors had asked that two items raised at the 2002 AGM be discussed and decided upon.
- i. Should outdoor Imperial Rounds be shot in timed ends? Everyone present thought this had been suitably dealt with at the AGM. This had been a question posed on the Target Committee's questionnaire and the vote had been pretty equal. Discussion at the AGM had also pointed to the silent majority who had not responded and who were, presumably, happy with things as they are. On a show of hands at the AGM the majority of those present showed that they would be against timed ends. **The Operations Committee agreed that this had been a fair discussion and that the Outdoor imperial Rounds would therefore stay as they are.**
- ii. Ex President, Brian Trotter, had been dismayed that the inaccurate term "Lord Paramount" had now crept into the Rules of Shooting. He had said that the male equivalent of a Lady Paramount should be a Gentleman Patron. **It was agreed that, as this is more historically accurate, all references to Lord Paramount will be replaced by the term Gentleman Patron in future reprints of the Rules of Shooting and the SAPs.**
Details to be placed in Archery UK and on the GNAS Website.
- b. Mike Shepherd raised the question of GB Team blazer badges for members of the Disabled Team. It had come to his attention that these badges were not being supplied to disabled archers who are selected to shoot for Great Britain. Ann Webb said that as the disabled team members were not obliged to have blazers as part of their uniform there had been no reason to supply the badges and metal team badges had been supplied instead. **It was agreed that, as they are a source of pride for those archers who have represented their country abroad, GB Team blazer badges should be awarded to members of the Disabled Team. It was also agreed to backdate this arrangement to January 2000.**
Ann Shepherd to action.
- c. Pete Pendrey asked if a mailing list could be supplied to include who should be informed of Operations Meeting business.
Mike Shepherd to action.

5. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES.

- a. **Chairman of Field Sub-Committee: Derrick Lovell**
 - i. The All British Championships was once again an excellent event, this year hosted by Dearne Valley in Yorkshire. There are still problems however acquiring the necessary paperwork from the shoot organiser. David Sherratt was able to attend the Tournament on the Sunday during a thunderstorm, and even came away with a trophy! This was due to a new trophy being presented by Noreen Price for the Married Couple's Score. The old one was taken away by David for storage.
 - ii. The Field Squad's trip to Cadeer-en-Keer in Holland was judged to be a successful part of the training system and will be recommended by the Field Committee as part of future Squad programmes.
 - iii. Team Selection has now been made for the World Championships in Australia. GNAS funding will only run to sending six archers but, thanks to the policy of allowing archers to self-fund, a team of 15 plus 2 management will now be attending the event.
- b. **Chairman of Target Committee: Pam Tonkin.**
 - i. The Rules of Shooting have now been sent to all Club, County and Regional secretaries, Individual members and committees. It had been asked if coaches were to get free copies but this was not agreed. Several typographical mistakes have been brought to the Committee's attention and corrections have been put on the web and will go into Archery UK. These mistakes will be corrected in the next scheduled printing although corrections required to two pages of the Handicap Tables will be done immediately and distributed as soon as possible.
Errors have been found in all the compound score levels for the Junior Arrow Awards Table SAP 6-3, all figures are approximately 12-14 points lower than they should be. Pam had discussed this problem with Graham Potts and they were both in agreement that the table be left as currently printed and the figures raised again, if necessary, at the next time of printing. This was agreed by the meeting.
 - ii. Target Committee successfully ran the UK Masters, the GNAM and the Premier event, all in June. The archers were very happy with the new format for the Masters, the atmosphere of the shoot lightened for the team Head to Head round with archers supporting team members they may not even have met before. It is envisaged that this format will be used again next year.

c. Chairman of Junior Sub-Committee: Nick Beeson.

- i. Nick reported that the Junior National Championships had been successfully held at Skelmersdale. Despite some initial problems with access to the field there had been a reasonable turnout and everyone enjoyed themselves.

d. Chairman of Coaching Sub-Committee: Peter Pendrey.

- i. Mike Shepherd congratulated David Clarke on his report of a seminar held at Loughborough University to discuss a final report by the Government Task Force on coaching in the UK. Peter reported that David was initially worried that GNAS would not be able to meet the criteria. Five levels of Coach are required where we currently have four but it is thought that with some adjustment to the existing modules we should be able to comply. David Clarke and Arthur Timmins have been liaising with staff from Gymnastics with regard to this and have received some positive feedback.
- ii. David Clarke is now National Coaching Development Officer and Martin Speakman is staying on as a member of the committee. This information will go into Archery UK.
- iii. 22nd July should see the changes to the Leader Award Scheme up and running. Peter asked that special mention be made of Linda Jones, and thanks for her help with this, be minuted. Linda has put in a lot of work and volunteered extra hours to finalise this project. When this is finished the Assistant Coach grade will be looked at again in order to tidy up this part of the system.

e. Chairman of Disabled Coaching Committee: Ann Webb.

- i. Ann Webb reported that there had been no meeting of the Disabled Sub-Committee since the last Operations meeting but that the Committee had been in constant touch. After the next meeting, scheduled for early August, a recommendation will be made to the Performance Director about the Paralympic Team Manager for Athens 2004.
- ii. Ann has attended meetings of ACE UK, English Sports Institute and Sport England during the last quarter.
- iii. The World Class funded disabled archers attended an invitation event in the Czech Republic in June with excellent results. A small team of visually impaired archers also attended the event. The team has now been selected for the European Championships in Poland in August but due to budget restrictions not all who qualified can be funded. It has been decided, on this occasion, that the Ladies Compound Division will be offered self-funded places. The reason for this is that, at last year's World Championships, the only Ladies Compounds to attend were those in the British Team. The class is going to take a while to build up and at present is not a big class in any country.

f. Chairman of Judges Sub-Committee: Peter Morris.

- i. Plans for the Judges Conference are in hand. The date is October 13th 2002 and invitations have been sent out. It was decided to stick with this original date, even though Peter will not be present, as it had already been publicised to some extent.
- ii. Bob Tonkin has checked a lot of the content of the new Judges Handbook and Derrick Lovell is doing the Field section. These should be ready to hand out at the Conference.
- iii. Peter reported that the bill for the new Judges badges will now be in the region of £1,300 for 250, a quantity that will allow some spares for stock. These badges are designed to replace the old shoulder flashes. Dave Sherratt asked that a comparative quote be requested from Shotbowl.
- iv. The assessments for National and Regional Judges will take place on 30 Nov/1 Dec and there are currently 6 candidates.
- v. A review of the Judges appointments system will be undertaken. Peter reported that this year has been worse than last with tournaments falling foul of Judges who fail to turn up. At present there are three judges who are on standby and who are willing to fill in at short notice but this is not ideal and the situation needs to be reviewed.
- vi. Enquiries regarding Judging generate around 20 e-mails and 8 phone calls per week.
- vii. The Judges Committee is working with counties who have few judges in order to increase their numbers. This especially applies to Northern Ireland and Peter has been invited to hold a seminar there to motivate the judges they do have.
- viii. Judges Conference 2004. The intention is to go back to the February date which would mean holding no seminar in 2003. It may also benefit by allowing an international seminar to run along with the Junior World Championships.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE.

- i. Peter Pendrey reported that he was not totally happy with his Committee's Terms of Reference in that there is now no link to the squads from Coaching. He said it was also difficult to know at present where Coaching fitted in with the Performance Director's Terms of Reference. It was also pointed out that Richard Priestman's role as Technical Liaison Officer does not seem to be working. Peter said he was not unhappy about the Performance Director taking over the administration of the squads but he was adamant that a link should remain between the two. He said he felt that things had gone back 5 years, coaching had started to become involved in development but yet again seems to have no

link to this. David Sherratt talked about the background with regard to funding etc and the fact that we have had no money for Start and Development programmes.

- ii. The status of the new National Tournaments Sub-Committee was discussed. It was confirmed that this will be a proper Sub-Committee and will consist of a Chairman and 4 members in the same manner as the other sub-committees. Pam also envisaged a band of volunteers and helpers attached to the committee who would help with the physical side of running the tournaments. These people are yet to be found but Pam will approach those she thinks may wish to take part. She also wants to provide packages of information for each individual tournament that will include the format of the event, trophy photos, past winners details etc.

It is anticipated that the National Tournaments included in the Committee's remit will be primarily be target, senior and junior, including selection shoots. It will also include flight and clout but will not include Field and Disabled. Premier Tournaments will also be included at this stage although these do need to be looked at again for the future.

- iii. Terms of Reference were then discussed in general terms and it was agreed that all sub-committee chairmen look at their Terms of Reference and that these be reviewed at a future operations meeting. With the setup of the new National Tournaments Committee some items will no longer be relevant in other committee's Terms of Reference.

All Chairs to action

- iv. The number of years that committee members and chairmen are elected for was queried. The period of office for a chairman is currently 3 years with 4 years being the period of office for a committee member. No-one present could shed any light on the origin of these time periods and it was suggested that both periods of office should read 4 years. It was pointed out that this should be done formally and Nick Beeson offered to draft a proposal.

Nick Beeson to action

7. ELECTIONS OF CHAIRS AND THEIR SUB-COMMITTEE'S

- i. David Sherratt requested from each Chairman a list of their committee members and the date they are due for re-election.

8. NON GNAS MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION AT GNAS CLUBS AND EVENTS

- i. Item discussed previously in meeting and minuted as 3. d.

9. SAFETY MATTERS REGARDING USE OF RELEASE AIDS BY JUNIORS LESS THAN 14 YEARS OF AGE.

- i. This matter was raised by a judge from Southern England and the view of the committee was that the archer's age is irrelevant. What is important is the training that is given to all archers in the first place, regardless of age.

10. BUDGETS

- i. David Sherratt reported that the Office are trying to find the most effective way to keep Chairmen informed of the ongoing state of their budgets. The original intention was to use the Sage software but they have now given up on this and have gone back to Excel. Each Chairman was given a copy of the current details relating to their particular budget and the generalities of the paperwork were explained. David said he did not mean to take individual questions at the meeting but would be happy to discuss the figures with any Chairman who wished to do so.

- ii. Figures for the Operations Director, and a report from Lynne Evans, were also handed out. In spite of the increased income from subscriptions we are still wildly short of budget requests. It was stressed that we cannot afford to have a deficit budget and so the Finance Committee have tried to be realistic about the figures. Although looking at an increase in membership numbers of around 1100 they are not all income generating i.e. approximately 400 are members of junior clubs.

David talked through the figures on this printout in general terms and explained some of those that were substantially less than the initial budget requests.

The total budget for International events has been increased to £60,000 but this still needs to be allocated to individual events with agreement as to how much self-funding will be involved. Management commitment needs to be taken into account in order to avoid a repeat of the problems of the Junior Europa Cup event of this year.

It was asked if funds could be moved about i.e. within budget headings. David said there would be a certain amount of flexibility. For example if money could be saved on meetings it could be used for squads (i.e. in the case of Field) etc. with the proviso that the Office and Lynne Evans are kept informed as to the situation. If money is not spent in the current year it cannot be carried forward to the following year.

Derrick Lovell and Ann Webb both said they had hoped to leave the meeting knowing how much they would have for International trips in 2003. They and Mike Shepherd will liaise with Barry Eley to get this organised as soon as possible. Next budget submissions need to be in by the end of March 2003.

11. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- i. This item was included on the agenda as a formality and, as there had been no comments or problems raised with regard to it, no discussion took place.

12. COACHING REPORT BY DAVID CLARKE

- i. This item was discussed previously in the meeting and is minuted as 5.d.i.

13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- i. The section in the Rules of Shooting regarding Longbow sights and aiming points are currently being read as though both can be used at the same time. This was not the intention of the Rule, only one method should be employed, not both. Pam will put a proposal to change the wording to indicate this in the Target News in the next Archery UK.

Pam Tonkin to action.

- ii. Pete Pendrey reported that thanks had been received by e-mail from the Sri Lankan governing body in respect of the Coaching assistance they had received from Ken Bearman. This will also be mentioned in Archery UK.

- iii. For general information the Commonwealth Cup was mentioned. It had been suggested by Australia that this event be resurrected as archery is not likely to be included in the next Commonwealth Games. No further information is known about the plans for this.

The meeting closed at 3p.m.

The next Operations Committee meeting will take place on 5th October 2002.