

Thanet Archery Club A.G.M Minutes – 2017/18

Held at the Elms Club at 7.30pm on 22nd November 2018.

Agenda Items

Attendees

Committee members

Lee Burns, Gerry Choo, Irene Crouch, Natasha Crouch, Mike Davis, Colin Gallagher, Bob Gawler, Ryan Holden, Pat Powell, Pete Verrall.

Club members

Dick Bailey, Ian Cannon, Sophie Castle, Andy Doyle, Sam Gallagher, Toby Gallagher, Linda Gawler, Fred Hammond, George Hirst, Roy Holden, John Holton, Sue Holton, John Marshall, Keith Poulton, Daryl Scott, Terry Stevens, John Walsh, Jenny Walsh, Ted Walsh.

Apologies for absence: Darren Baker, David & Jenny Batchelor, Ann Fretwell, Peter Glass, Toby Hyde, Philip Joss, Andy & Charlie Mair, Dave Mather, Frank Pullen, Justine Verrall, Daniel Verrall, Paul Yandel.

1. **Minute of previous meeting** - approved.
2. **Matters arising** – None.
3. **Presidents Address - Frank Pullen**

Firstly I must apologize for my lack of attendance at the archery shoots during the year but unfortunately I have had many medical issues that have prevented my shooting up the field as often as I would have liked.

That said, I would like to take this opportunity on your behalf, to thank your committee for all their efforts throughout the year. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the club functions both safely and correctly. Their efforts are often overlooked by the majority of the club, however, without them this club would not function as well as it does. I will cite just a few of their activities which deserve a mention.

They are responsible for our financial stability and keeping our equipment in top condition. They have to deal with the school officials, to ensure that we can still shoot at the field for the foreseeable future; they also organize our beginners' courses, which are also essential to ensure that the club continues to gain new members who can develop into very competent archers in the future. They ensure that our scores for rounds are recorded correctly and lodged with the Kent Archery association and with Archery GB. They organise all our competitions throughout the year, both internal and also our essential fund raising open shoots. I could go on outlining what they do but I know that we will hear about many of these activities during the various officer reports.

Suffice it to say that they are the life blood of this club and deserve our thanks and respect. If any of you want to help the committee with any of the activities mentioned tonight, then I know that they would be only too grateful of your help, and you may even want to 'step up' and join the committee in the future, we always need 'new blood' on the committee to help us ensure that this club continues to blossom and grow in the future.

Thank You.

Frank Pullen (President)

4. **Chairman**

Mike Davis

Thanks to all the people that have helped this year, especially:-

- Sharon and Roy who even though they are not shooting members helped in many ways especially the catering for the Sylvia Indoor
- Pat for his tireless work with the endless stream of beginners and coaching people like me who are hopeless
- Bob for all the hard work arranging the Clout that in the end did not happen and just being involved in everything. If Bob was not around many things would not happen
- Linda for running the Sylvia Outdoor and again helping with all the internal competitions
- Natasha for organising last years and this year's Christmas shoots
- Ryan for the help organising the Sylvia Indoor shoot especially getting the sponsorship from the Archery Store
- Dave Mather and his wife for all their work keeping the records together and managing the Membership and AGB payments, which is no simple task
- Colin Gallagher for looking after the accounts and getting the bank account sorted out, again no simple task
- Andrew Mair for the very professional photos of several events

It is very important that more people get involved. There are a core of people that constantly put themselves out to make sure that when you turn up on a Saturday or evening that there is somewhere to shoot and you don't have to worry.

Some people think this just happens or the Archery elves sort it all out. This is not the case. It happens because of a few people's very hard work. 7 days per week.

There are a group of people that on each archery day they are there setting up the field but some people never get involved. I am not going to name names but if the cap fits do something about it. I understand that some people have reasons they can't carry a boss, but everyone can carry a rope or a flag. Do not assume that someone else will do it, don't wait to be asked or embarrassed into it. This is your club.

In addition, the Committee make a lot of decisions, some not that easy. They also come up with the ideas that keep your archery fun. So thank you for all those that volunteer - we are constantly looking for new blood and fresh ideas.

5. Secretary's report

Bob Gawler/Peter Verrall

I took over as secretary when Danny stood down, shadowed I'm pleased to say by Peter Verrall, who has been a great support getting the minutes typed up and sending on to me so all I had to do was send them out to you all. Thank you Peter.

It has been quite a busy year - have had lots of correspondence about beginners courses that I sent on to Pat, or invited them to come along to the club, which a lot have done.

I've had lots of correspondence with A.G.B over insurance cover but we will be talking about that latter - the letters I have sent are there for you all to read & there response to my first mail was pages 14 & 15 in the magazine.

All the club shoots went off well apart from the end of season shoot this has not happened yet.

We did have a group of Belgians visit and this was very successful.

We really do need new blood on the committee Dave is standing down this year & John Walsh and I would like to stand down I will always be available to help where necessary

I have enjoyed being a committee member I've served as Ordinary Member, Chairman, Club Captain & Secretary.

None of these roles are difficult and you get lots of help from other members. I will consider being an ordinary member or if any of you would like to take on one of the vacant positions I would gladly help you out.

6. Treasurers and presentation of accounts Colin Gallagher

Paper copies of Income/Expenses summary distributed to members as requested.

Accounts November 2017 – October 2018

Extra outgoings 2018

February	Purchase of defibrillator - £854
March	Travel sponsorship for Ryan Holden - £500
	New medals/trophies - £741.95
April	Purchase of gazebos - £149.98
	Website fees - £85.04
June	Purchase of rangefinder - £94.48
August	Fish/chips for club championships - £141.00

Also spent over £1500 on 12 new bosses.

Income 2018

Sylvia Hogbin outdoor - June 2018

Income total:-	£546.50
Less expenses:-	£135.29
Net balance:-	£411.21

3-D shoot - July 2018

Income total:-	£104.00
Less expenses:-	£32.92
Net balance:-	£71.08

Sylvia Hogbin indoor - October 2018

Income total:-	£943.80
Less expenses:-	£723.72
Net balance:-	£220.08

Bank Account

Open balance - Started year	£11,464.50
Close balance	£11,466.65
Bank statement balance as of 31/10/18	£11,177.93
Total Income for year -	£11,311.18
Total Outgoings for year -	£11,309.03
Increase -	the princely sum of £2.15

Since end of accounting year we have spent £300 on First Aid courses for 4 newly qualified Emergency 1st Aiders (Gerry Choo, Bob Gawler, Colin Gallagher, Ann Fretwell are the willing volunteers), in addition to Pete Verrall who renewed his Emergency 1st Aid qualification at work in December 2017.

7. Membership

David Mather

Club membership has reduced substantially overall with only 61 members renewing their ArcheryGB as opposed to 83 last year. Especially badly hit was the junior membership. However, although we have less members on paper, we have more active shooting members than last year, which is encouraging at least, but we will be tracking how that progresses through the next year. [Since this report was prepared there have been another 5 new members].

The Archery GB renewal was via the Sports 80 system which had its advantages and disadvantages.

8. Records

David Mather

Second year with the Golden Records software. Total number of submitted scoresheets were 531 (550 last year) with longbow the most at 244 (219), recurve on 149 (179), barebow on 115 (130), and compound 23 (22).

Despite vociferous moaning the standard of overall score sheets is still pretty iffy, but like those that have gone before I've lost the will. My own particular thanks to Mrs Mather who has read out the 531 scoresheets as part of the input and never a cross word was exchanged. (Gentle cough.)

54 (60) people have submitted scores throughout the season. This is a bigger drop off than first appears as we had a large number of beginners. 20 archers submitted scores last season but didn't this year. Our most prolific archer this season was Gerard (Gerry) Choo and as regards rounds we saw a change from last year as Westerns are now the most popular round taking over from last year's Warwick.

It was always going to be difficult to match last year's records and I am sad to say we have come nowhere near it on the Kent records front with just 4 records being processed as opposed to over 50 last year. This is very much due to the fall in junior membership coupled with severe changes with several records withdrawn and junior records consolidated.

On the club record front it was a good year - down on last but still a healthy 80 club records broken this year (108).

The main bulk of the membership have also been improving with 29 archers improving their handicap this season. As regards badges this year a total of 16 classification badges were handed out - slightly down from last year (19) overall

- 7 (9) 3rd Class
- 6 (7) 2nd Class
- 1 (1) 1st Class
- 0 (1) Kent County Bowman

- 2 (1) Bowmen/Junior Bowmen

So finally thanks to all and let us look forward to an even better 2019.

9. Club Captain

Pat Powell

Pat thanked the club members for the help given him this year in setting up the field and being 'on the ball' which makes the job so much easier.

10. Child protection officer

Irene Crouch (stepping down)

Irene had nothing to report, other than that she was stepping down, and she hopes that a newly elected CPO will continue to do a sterling job.

11. Equipment Officer

John Walsh (stepping down)

Nothing to report.

12. Junior Rep

Natasha Crouch

A few new juniors joined this year, who are already achieving great things including Alex Moss from TADSAD who's a fantastic archer and we hope to see more great things from him. The downside is that she has been told we've lost quite a few juniors, which she wasn't aware due to being out with injury for most of the season. She does believe some changes need to be made in order to encourage juniors to join, and then carry on shooting. At the last committee meeting in October, we had an idea that the juniors already at the club could help with the beginners shoots to help make it more junior friendly and a bit less scary, and hopefully encourage them to stay interested. If anyone has any ideas please pass them on.

13. Christmas Shoot

Natasha Crouch

The Christmas shoot will have a Nursery Rhyme theme (i.e. dressing up as nursery rhyme characters), and will be at the Ursuline College on Saturday 15th December, and mum (Irene) is cooking the food (Natasha volunteered her!), but please can members bring food to share (sausage rolls, mince pies, etc + wrapped Secret Santa gift (child-friendly - i.e. no alcohol/Ecstasy!) to a max. value of £3.

14. Election of Committee members

Discuss having a publicity officer on the committee - committee has approached Andy Mair .

<u>Post</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>	<u>Vote no's</u>
President	Frank Pullen	John Marshall	Keith Poulton	>20
Chairman	Mike Davis	Bob Gawler	John Holton	>20
Secretary	Peter Verrall	Linda Gawler	Bob Gawler	>20
Treasurer	Colin Gallagher	Keith Poulton	Roy Holden	>20
Club Captain	Pat Powell	John Holton	Andy Doyle	>20
Membership Sec	Colin Gallagher	Roy Holden	Keith Poulton	>20
Records Officer	Ann Fretwell	Linda Gawler	Colin Gallagher	>20
Equipment Officer	Andy Doyle	John Marshall	Mike Davis	>20
C.P.O	Not filled, but one interested party.			
Junior Rep	Natasha Crouch	Jenny Walsh	Sue Holton	>20
Publicity Officer	Andy Mair	Fred Hammond	Gerry Choo	>20
Trophies	Lee Burns	Mike Davis	Sue Holton	>20
Ordinary member 1	Bob Gawler	Gerry Choo	Terry Stevens	>20
Ordinary member 2	Ryan Holden	Keith Poulton	Sue Holton	>20
ordinary member 3	Gerry Choo	Keith Poulton	Sue Holton	>20
Ordinary member 4	Roy Holden	Keith Poulton	Sue Holton	>20
Ordinary member 5	John Marshall	Gerry Choo	Terry Stevens	>20

15. Notified Items Mike will go over for and against becoming independent from Archery GB.

At this stage the committee is not asking for a vote on whether to go independent, only whether the committee should explore it further with a view to bringing a proposal to a vote next year. These are some of the pro's & con's.

Pro's

- 1/ No AGB fees, which is a big plus because for seniors it's quite a lot of money. Of course TAC fees would have to increase to cover some form of insurance, but it would probably be a lot lower.
- 2/ The club would be run without constant guidelines/advice from AGB, which Mike sees as a plus because some of the guidelines are quite onerous and restrictive. A lot are quite good and should be followed. TAC would still collect scores and offer awards from 3rd class up to Bowman.
- 3/ Though the club as an entity would no longer come under AGB, Individual members could still join AGB as independent members and take part in record-status shoots.

4/ Visiting archers would still be able to attend shoots as long as AGB allowed it, and we don't yet know if that will be the case.

5/ TAC can still run any shoots other than record-status shoots.

Con's

1/ Master Bowman and Grand Master Bowman could not be awarded because they have to gain at AGB-administered record-status shoots. County/national records will not be available without AGB membership, because they are controlled by KAA, who are controlled by AGB.

2/ TAC could not run/host record-status shoots as they are all subject to AGB rules.

3/ Those who want to do record-status shoots will have to pay both the increased TAC fees and the AGB fee.

4/ No access to AGB store discounts/benefits.

5/ TAC would have to fund its own coaching (which it has to do anyway!) We may have issues finding an AGB coach who's willing to coach us.

6/ TAC would have to fund its own CRB checks, which again we already have to do anyway.

7/ TAC would have to insure its own archers against 3rd party liability, which has already been taken into account.

8/ We wouldn't get the AGB magazine.

9/ We would lack guidance and legal support. However, most insurers offer legal advice/protection as an option anyway.

10/ No support/coaching for elite archers. We have to pay for it anyway, and any elite archers would want AGB membership to do record-status shoots.

16. Any Question from the floor

John Marshall asked if we can still be both members of TAC and AGB. Answer (Mike D):- Yes we can be members of SCAS, KAA and AGB as well as TAC members.

Ted Walsh asked if we can still go to away shoots. Answer (Mike D/Bob G):- If you went to AGB shoots, you need to pay AGB fees. Others such as Longbow association shoots, you could join a longbow association and then take part, much as AGB members do already. There are a few longbow shoots run by AGB that are run to British Long Bow Society (BLBS) rules. However when KAA runs a longbow shoot, it's run to AGB rules, so when it suits them AGB do allow shoots run to rules other than AGB rules.

Sue Holton asked whether AGB members would still be able to visit and shoot at our field.

Answer (Bob G/Mike D):- We think they would, but all fields of AGB clubs have to be registered with AGB. At present, both the top field and the lower field as well as the Ursuline College are registered with AGB. We don't know for sure yet whether if we went independent, AGB would then tell their members that they were not covered to shoot at our field. There are a few longbow shoots run by AGB that are run to British Long Bow Society (BLBS) rules. However when KAA runs a longbow shoot, it's run to AGB rules, so when it suits them AGB do allow shoots run to rules other than AGB rules. We don't know what – if anything – AGB would advise their members, but we are suspicious.

BLBS archers or those from any other association would still be able to shoot at TAC and be covered by TAC insurance, as long as those associations had no objections.

As people are probably aware, Bob has been corresponding with AGB asking what benefits archers get from Archery GB, and in an article in the most recent magazine they published chairman Mark Davis' response. However he skirted around most of the questions and so Bob contacted them again and received a phone call from AGB chief executive Neil Armstrong. He went through Bobs letter point by point. He he would look into family membership and concessions for couples and though he was adamant that it was the insurance company that sets the rules that everyone has to be AGB on the shooting line or no-one is covered, even though other insurance companies can't find this clause in the policy, he promised to look into it, so watch this space.

We have also been told that coaches are telling juniors who attend Lilleshall that they must not shoot Portsmouths or frostbites, but this is not actually their policy. Bob has also spoken to AGB coach development officer Lloyd Brown & national coach Richard Priestman and they don't know where this has come from. They tell their archers (as we all do) that it's about technique, and they said that they would prefer that if they are going to shoot Portsmouth that they use a FITA 18 face as it hones their technique more, and although they don't recognise frostbite rounds, they would never tell their archers not to shoot one, as they encourage their archers to shoot different distances. They both told Bob that a lot of their top archers do field shoots where all the targets are at different distances. If anyone would like to see a copy of the letter Bob sent to AGB, just ask him for one.

John Marshall commented there are other clubs that are looking at this, and Bob confirmed that in Kent and the south-east there are loads of clubs that are thinking about this (according to KAA President Bob Beaney). Most of Scotland has come out of AGB already, and there are two clubs that have been going since 1952 and have **never** been in AGB, apart from their coaches who decided that they would be in AGB. Of the 4 clubs in east Kent TAC (~70), Dover, Folkestone (~45) and Canterbury (~100), about 10-15% go to record-status or other outside shoots, but most are happy just doing local shoots, although quite a few go to longbow shoots. It's quite a change from when Bob started when most people went to outside shoots. In those days TAC had shoots on Saturday and Sunday, but they found that so many were going away on the Sunday to do away shoots that the club stopped opening the field on a Sunday. Even AGB said that at FITA 18 shoots, so few go that it's really only the top archers that do them, as they're all going back to doing Portsmouths because it's an easier round.

Terry Stevens asked regarding the AGB-imposed rules; what were the bad rules? Mike answered that much of the child protection rules that have been brought in are well-intentioned, but some of them are quite heavy-handed and limit the way we can offer support to youngsters and vulnerable adults. Clubs are run by volunteers, and most (esp. the smaller ones) simply can't adhere to everything - we don't have the time or expertise. John Marshall commented that it's possible to buy in policies that are less onerous but still provide the necessary protection. Mike also mentioned the amount of paperwork that's involved in the accreditation scheme, and that it's practically impossible for the average club to deal with it all. Another issue is the stipulation that all <18's must have an adult with them, even experienced archers like Natasha or Sophie. When Bob joined TAC, Sue Holton would have anything up to 20 juniors under her wing, much the same as Cubs or Scouts.

John Holton asked whether we would be able to use all the handicaps/classifications in the rounds book. Mike said that they are copyrighted, but not through AGB anymore, but through Clickers Archery, and the software is of course licensed to us once purchased, as is the case with any software purchase. The only exclusion is the the top 2 classifications which can only be achieved at AGB record-status shoots.

Dave Ash did not arrive, but Bob said that Folkestone would be ready to go independent by the time AGB fees are due for renewal.

John Marshall asked what timescale/process do we need to work to given that we need to vote at a General Meeting and AGB fees are due next September. We obviously can't wait until next AGM as it will be again too late. Mike suggested a secret ballot, and then committee to decide on the way forward. Pete Verrall proposed that the committee take the next 6 months to research all the remaining issues related to going independent prior to having an Extraordinary Meeting fairly early in the summer season where the whole club can then vote on it. This was agreed as a reasonable proposal.

17. Any Presentation – Mike Davis/Lee Burns

The Quicks trophy - awarded to the person who is in their second year of membership and has reduced their handicap by the most. Only two people reduced their handicap in this category.

So the winner is:- 1st Sophie Tyler (recurve) reduced her handicap by 4 from 79 to 75

- 2nd Laurence Whelan (recurve) reduced his handicap by 1 from 62 to 61

The Beginners trophy - awarded to the person attending a Beginners course in 2018 and finishing the season with the lowest handicap.

- Winner Darryl Scott (recurve) - with a final handicap of 54
- 2nd George Hirst (longbow) - a final handicap of 71
- 3rd Dick Bailey (longbow) - a final handicap of 72

The GNAS Medal -

- In joint 3rd place with a handicap reduction of 5
Gerry Choo 74 - 69/Wally Gibson 76 - 71 - (longbow)
- In 2nd place with a handicap reduction of 7 - Charlie Mair 66-59 (recurve)

And the winner is - with a reduction of 8 from 47 - 39 and thus the winner of this year's GNAS handicap medal

- Peter Verrall (compound)

18. Any Other Business

- **Toby Gallagher** has looked after the web site but no longer has the time to maintain it – any offers to take it on. **Andy Doyle** said that he would be happy to do that.
- **Ted Walsh** asked whether we have heard any more about having to move on from St Lawrence College. Mike Davis said that we have heard nothing more and so we are still unlikely to move for another year.

Thanks to all standing down committee members & welcome to all new members

Meeting Closed at 8:30pm