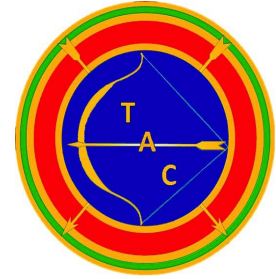


**Thanet Archery Club**  
**Committee Meeting minutes.**



**March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 7:30pm**

**- The Bell Inn, St Nicholas at Wade, CT7 0NT**

**1/ Apologies** – Dick Bailey, Lee Burns, Ryan Holden, Andy Mair.

**2/ Present** – Mike Davis, Anne Fretwell, Bob Gawler, Colin Gallagher, Fred Hammond, Roy Holden, Brian Horne, John Marshall, Frank Pullen, Pete Verrall.

**3/ Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting** – Accepted

**4/ Officers Reports**

**a/ Secretary (including Correspondence)**

Club & volunteer awards – nominations from *ontarget* clubs only by 28<sup>th</sup> February. John M nominated Bob Gawler, Frank seconded. (See Matters Arising Jan 2020). Asked Frank mid-Feb if he could put together something for our nomination via email, but we missed the deadline for this year.

**Report on Club Development Workshop – Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March**

On Saturday, I attended the Club Development workshop hosted by Archery GB's Arran Coggan (Lilleshall), Toby Andrews (SE regional club development officer) and Stephen Tully (AGB board member & former GAC chairman) from 10am-4pm at Guildford Archery Club (GAC).

The first session of the day was a workshop (workbook available to have a look at and Dropbox link to Powerpoints sent to committee) presented by a representative (whose name escapes me) from Club Matters on maximising the effectiveness of a club leadership team including:-

- Reviewing current club leadership structure
- Identifying key components of an excellent leadership team of a sports club
- Identifying how to achieve an excellent leadership team for your club

As you can guess from the above, the jargon and general approach was a bit 'corporate' – too much I felt for our clubs needs when you're working with unpaid volunteers (and said so). Others representing larger clubs like Guildford with significant land/property assets commented that for them a more corporate leadership style/structure was necessary as many of the issues they needed to deal with required expertise in asset management plus finance and legal know-how, and therefore go as far as setting out a detailed role description when looking for candidates. The purpose of the workshop though was not to advocate a particular structure, but identify what works for each club acknowledging that there is no "one-size-fits-all". Having said that, having clearly defined responsibilities and skills needed for our named roles might help overcome members' fear of the unknown & reluctance to stand for committee as people can see what's required and whether they have the skills to fit those roles. Something to consider in time for next AGM perhaps?

More useful was actually the discussion that followed between the attendees (I was sat next to the guys from GAC) and hearing their experiences of running their clubs and trying to galvanise their members into being more ready to muck in when necessary. What was particularly interesting was Guildford's experience of growing membership from around 110 in 2009 to over 250 today, e.g. the fact that even with 3 times as many members as TAC, they still only have about the same number as us (approx. 25-30) attending their AGM – barely enough to be quorate! Other similarly sized clubs also found their committee/board having to take on multiple roles despite having an abundance of members. So while we do have some issues, a largely aging committee membership (how do we ensure continuity by drawing in younger members?) and while we do occasionally complain about the reluctance of club members to take on committee roles/responsibilities, when we ask for specific help, people are generally more than ready to muck in.

On attracting new blood onto the committee, I think that our recent practice of encouraging named roles (i.e. captain & club secretary) to be shadowed by Ordinary committee members is proving to be beneficial to both committee and club, and should be broadened further. Additionally, with bigger clubs there is a tendency for members to assume that “someone else will do it”, even for basic things like getting targets out/putting them away! On that score, again I realised that compared with other, bigger, perhaps better-resourced clubs we actually have a pretty good culture of member engagement/co-operation which we should be proud of as a club. In contrast, Guildford have worked hard to develop their grounds (more on that!) to the extent that their range is available 7 days a week subject to the usual H&S rules and have all-weather targets which are left out permanently. While very convenient for individual members, it does mean they have tended to lose the cohesiveness a club gets from having to shoot together on specific days/times.

During lunch I raised the issue with Arran Coggan and Toby Andrews of growing our coaching capabilities while struggling to access affordable and geographically accessible courses being, as we are, rather out on a limb. Arran Coggan suggested getting together with other local clubs such as Canterbury (and maybe Univ. of Kent student Archery Society) and hosting coaching sessions locally. I said that we'd looked at this before and been put off by the apparent minimum cost of approx. £2000 of running a coaching course. He seemed surprised at this figure, and said that his and Toby's job was to help support clubs to grow archery, and Archery GB would be willing to help fund it if we wanted to get Lloyd Brown down here to run a coaching course. We are after all based at a school and class-rooms would surely be available to hire if necessary. In any case, I definitely think this is worth pursuing if only to see what kind of subsidy Arran Coggan can come up with, and how much we can offer the course for. See **Action 5(a) 10/19**.

We also talked about Archery Big Weekend, and Toby mentioned that Betteshanger nature/rec. Park (formerly Fowlmead) have contacted Toby and are keen for a local club to run a Have-a-Go or even relocate to the site. I mentioned that we'd got a beginners course starting the week after, and that we'd decided to do a have-a-go on the Saturday of the Big Weekend. I said we were having a committee meeting this week and would broach the idea of running it at Betteshanger if they would be interested (see **Action 5(b) 3/19**).

After lunch, Arran Coggan, Stephen Tully and Toby Andrews talked about accessing various public/charity funding streams to help clubs develop. Arran Coggan and Stephen Tully gave an overview of the kind of funding bodies that can be accessed by sports clubs. They highlighted the need to understand the drivers for these funding bodies. None of them just dish cash willy-nilly, but have specific goals/objectives which clubs need to address when writing

bids. i.e. government grants related to health & well-being, similar with sporting grants from Sport England, Kent Sport, Active Kent, as well as tackling things like widening/diversifying participation in healthy outdoor pursuits for those with disabilities. Grants linked to Home Office for bids promoting social/community improvement/cohesion. There's a lot of money out there – it's just a matter of making specific, realistic, often modest bids for quite modest goals.

Stephen Tully (AGB board & previous GAC chair) provided some specific example of funding GAC applied for (and got) over the period 2008-2017. Over this period, GAC gained numerous grants from a variety of funding bodies for a whole range of small improvements to their club facilities which enabled them to gain all 3 specialisms, and maintain a facility which is available 7 days a week and has specific archery activities for juniors, disabled archers, etc. Some of the funding amounts were quite small (<£2000) and had quite modest goals (e.g. increase membership by 5% year-on-year). One major issue which took a lot of effort and a focussed sub-committee to manage the projects was negotiating with Guildford council a 125-year lease on the land they were on, with a minimum tenure of 30 years. This was crucial to the success of subsequent grants/loans as many of them required security of tenure to be feasible. Stephen Tully didn't mention this, but one of the other guys from GAC pointed out that a lot of this would have been impossible if they hadn't had Stephen Tully's expertise/time as a self-employed project and real-estate manager to guide them through these processes. Both Arran and Toby would be happy to provide letters of support from Archery GB for such bids, and proof-read them if required.

While a lot of these activities would be beyond TAC as we do not have (and could not gain) a long lease on the land we use or gain permission to develop it any way we choose, and therefore cannot acquire grants to do so, what we can do is seek to make the most of the reasonably good relationship we have with the school (and deepen it) by proposing projects which are of mutual benefit to us and the school. Examples are developing the wooded area for field archery and/or nature trail, or of more immediate interest, having the schools large sports hall at preferential rates for indoor shoots and in return providing free beginners places for school sports teachers to enable them to then progress to coaching their students or providing archery opportunities for their pupils throughout the year – even during periods of inclement weather as we have had recently. The former is probably a longer-term project, but the latter could be a possibility for next frostbite season.

Other things which came up was registering beginners shoots and have-a-go's with Archery GB. It's quite a simple process (I've already registered our May beginners shoot via the Club portal, and is also viewable on OpenActive. It means that people looking for archery activities can find them on Google maps, and they are hoping to develop it further this year so that people can pay for beginners courses online. Not sure how well that would work for us, as we generally like people to come up for a chat first, but we can have a look at that if/when it's up and running.

In the midst of discussions about have-a-go's, taster sessions & beginners courses, it was queried whether unless they are registered, they are not covered by insurance. Also if someone continued to go round different clubs doing have-a-go's they would be covered, but they could only be covered to do a few taster sessions before they would be expected to do a full beginners course and join a club. Stephen Tully commented that there were a lot of myths about AGB insurance and that generally as long as clubs abided by the rules of shooting, then they were covered.

On the whole, I found the day to be well worth the journey, and was able to take away a lot that could be useful to us as a club.

Comments from committee members:-

- Bob G expressed interest in going to the Kent Sport Club & Coach forum at Sandwich. He also liked the idea doing a have-a-go at Betteshanger - **Action 5(b) 3/19**

- John M asked if we could get more club members' engagement with our own AGM by having online voting, etc.

- Mike commented that as part of the consolidation of the club's regular competitions, we would present trophies at the AGM rather than on the day, and perhaps that would encourage better attendance.

### **Correspondence**

- Further enquiries about beginners shoots and have-a-go's. Passed on to Bob & John .
- Kent Sport Club & Coach forum March 26<sup>th</sup> – forwarded from Toby Andrews. (see Matters Arising).

**b/ Treasurer** – As of 28<sup>th</sup> February, account stands at £10,282.13; still waiting for the clearance of 2 Ursuline cheques of £240 each; AGB have still not cleared the cheque Colin gave Ryan for the record status registration; income £311 paid in; TAC payments by BAC transfer of £185; we just missed covering the rent for Ursuline by £4 – that's including the extra income we were getting from the Canterbury folks on Saturdays that we set aside to help cover Tuesdays. Colin has taken 3 bookings for the Sylvia Hogbin and 4 bookings for the clout, and Bob has just given him some more.

**c/ Membership** – Emails went out 'inviting' members & associate members to renew as per the revised constitution. Colin's had 8 TAC payments already, mainly from people who don't actually shoot that regularly. Although we've had a lot of enquiries, there have only been 2 deposits paid for the beginners shoot in May, plus 1 person who has paid in full. *Bob commented that the low number is probably due to the weather, as people are often invited to the field for a chat before signing up. Colin said that additionally there is the Coronavirus issue, which means people are holding off to see how that develops before committing.*

### **d/ Captains report –**

It has been very good this year so far considering the weather. John has stepped into the (shadow) role well which makes life a lot easier. We have managed to complete the Millennium shoot & the French plate, we had a successful work party thanks to John, Brian, Colin, Roy & Bob we managed to get rid of loads of rubbish. Another one needed to finish off – John will arrange another date.

Last Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> we had a group of Spanish students from 1.30 till 2.30 very successful thanks to Linda, Anne, Steve & Gwen, Ted & Jenny for their help. You will see from the e-mail that they want to have another this Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> what do you all think?

We have the American coming up in April - would Sharon do the hot dogs & doughnuts?

**e/ Records officer** – Counter idea has gone down well esp. the chocolate counters - everybody has liked mixing around doing it. She's finalised the design for the certificates.

**f/ Junior rep** – Vacant. (See Outstanding General Action Points 4(f) 1/20)

**g/ Equipment officer** – Brian said that the jelly bows need rests and knocking rings to go on them, but he doesn't have a key. Lots to do with the 3-D's once the weather starts getting warmer. *John M said it's something that can get done on the next work day. Another set of keys can be provided for Brian. Bob said we also need to make sure that the club bows are up to scratch for the beginners shoot in May. Brian also commented that he's getting a lot of requests for help doing repairs. General feeling of committee is, it's at Brian's discretion, obviously little 5-minute jobs don't need to be charged for, but he should be entitled to charge for his time if he thinks it appropriate.*

**h/ CPO** – None.

## **5/ Matters Arising.**

a/ Kent Sport Club & Coach forum March 26<sup>th</sup> – forwarded from Toby Andrews.

*Just a heads up that Kent Sport and Physical Activity Service are hosting a FREE Club & Coach Forum on Thursday 26 March 6.30-9pm at Discovery Park in Sandwich, Kent. Any help you can give to promote to your clubs and coaches would be most welcome. None of the workshops are sport specific and conversations we find are actually better when there are many sports involved as they can learn from each other.*

*A choice of two (actually looks like 3!) workshops on the night from:*

- *Funding*
- *Dementia Friends*
- *Engaging & Retaining New Members*

b/ While at the workshop on Saturday, discussing course registration, there were a few comments that it doesn't always work too well as a lot of clubs don't have an esp. helpful post code because their ranges are in the middle of a field. We sometimes have a similar issue with visitors not being sure of which entrance to use. How about we add some photos of the entrances to each of our venues, so that people can easily identify where to drive in? *PV to get some photos to email to Andy Doyle – Done.*

c/ Alex Moss wheelchair – fundraising. Ideas, suggestions? *Mike would like the club to subsidise the cost, up to another £1000 on top of what they have already raised. Committee agreed to this, but it won't come with a new bow, and Alex will have to tow all the target up the field.*

d/ Update on 48 scheme. *Mike has done all the paperwork for this, just need to check with Lee about the badges.*

## **6/ Outstanding general action points.**

**Action 4(g) 3/19a** - Inventorying all the equipment in the shed, and clearing out the junk. Colin G, Bob G, Brian H, Roy H, John M (and probably Frank as well) all available to complete the inventory during the week. To liaise and arrange time(s) to complete over the coming weeks. Update? *Completed – Action closed.*

**Action 4(e) 9/19** – Club shooting records from online database to be to be put on board in hut. A monthly update suggested, but Anne not sure of the practicalities since there are not that many club records created. KAA soon to make club record available online, so best to hold off for a month until we have a better idea of how that will work and what else is necessary if anything. Any further thoughts? *Likely to be a hassle to keep up to date, and with online records available not a priority. [Action closed.]*

**Action 4(f) 1/20** – Co-opting a junior rep - any suggestions? *Frank said we probably don't have enough juniors to require one. Any of the committee can be available for juniors to speak to anyway. PV said that quite a few clubs combine the CPO & junior rep, perhaps Dick might be happy to take it on for the time being?*

**Action 5(b) 3/19** – Mike's suggestion for the Archery Big Weekend is to run a Have-A-Go on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, with the possibility that any punters might then do the full beginners course either in May if there are still spaces free, or later in the summer. Will need to register that before end of March. Following PV's conversation with Toby Andrews at March 7<sup>th</sup> Club Development workshop, Betteshanger nature/rec. park (formerly Fowlmead) have contacted Toby and are keen for a local club to run a Have-a-Go or even relocate to site. Any thoughts on that? Also possibility of developing stronger link with them, possible site for field archery (see **Action 8(a) 1/20**) or new site for club if we needed to move in the future. *Colin commented that they had funding problems with their new facilities last year, and also issues with the foundation. Committee agreed that it's worth pursuing further though. PV to contact Toby Andrews to arrange meet-up with Nolan Leigh at Betteshanger. [Action ongoing.]*

**Action 8(a) 11/19** – Trophies – Obtaining trophy cabinet to put the older trophies in; purchasing cheaper trophies for people to keep at future club competitions. Regarding trophies, Lee can get hold of trophies, with pre-engraved removable plaques so that they can be repurposed. A number of different trophy styles available which can be earmarked for particular shoots. Any progress? *Mike said we have a trophy cabinet when we're ready for it – just need to clear a space. Also for some of the grottier historical trophies, Mike suggested we remove the names plaques and put them on a board (approx. 3' x 2') so that the record isn't lost, and then dispose of the tat. Colin may have suitable piece of wood depending on size required. Mike to liaise with Colin once we know how many plaques we looking at. [Action ongoing] John M asked about the possibility of running a league table over the year with handicapped scores based on an average of an archers last 6 scores, so that longbows can compete against compounds, etc. Mike suggested for the sake of simplification doing this with the TAC48 rounds. We even have potential trophies for this originally made by Pat P's son, again to be handed out at AGM. Might encourage more people to put scoresheets in, as it requires at least 6 scores to average. [Action 6(a) 3/20]*

**Action 8(b) 11/19** – Club tournaments; sign-up sheet for running club events. Are all events now covered? **[All covered – action closed]**

**Action 8(b) 1/20** - Frank raised the possibility of organising a club trip to Bill Terry's archery museum. Update? *Bob to enquire with Bill Terry regarding an appropriate date – subject to Coronavirus.*

**Action 8(c) 1/20** - Fred suggested a fun shoot for the last Ursuline indoor shoot. He's

happy to help organise that. The date would be 31<sup>st</sup> March. Update? *Fred has all the target faces & scoresheets prepared for this, Anne helped him get some prizes – also got a booby prize with some fetchings on it.*

**Action 8(d) 1/20** – Club socials; ten-pin bowling (£20/head + food/drink), indoor bowls, bat-and-trap, Mahjong, etc. Anything definite on this?

## **6/ Outstanding action points on club development**

**Action 5(a) 10/19** - OnTarget Archery GB club development programme – there's quite a lot involved in this - does it need a designated Club Development Officer or sub-committee to oversee? How can we increase our coaching capacity? The possibility of locally hosted coaching raised by Arran Coggan – see Club Development workshop report. *PV to contact Arran Coggan expressing interest in hosting course locally, either at St Lawrence or Ursuline college and clarify overheads, etc. [Ongoing.]*

**Action 6(a) 7/19** – First beginners 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May; 1-5pm. Agreed to start calling for helpers from start of summer season and discuss further at April meeting. **[Discuss next month]**

**Action 7(d) 3/19** – Adding scene shoot(s) to programme; date set for 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020; organiser John Marshall; start calling for helpers from May, discuss further at May meeting? Mike D suggested using the time after the frostbite to spend ½hr or so to test out the idea. Any further progress? *Something to try out after frostbite season, run a mini-scene shoot parallel with a normal shoot. [Ongoing]*

**Action 7(a) 9/19** - Mike has a suggestion regarding reforming the club into two sections, a target section affiliated to Archery GB using the main field as at present, and a field archery section affiliated to NFAS (or whoever) using the woods at the side of the main field. Can we reword the constitution to allow us to do that, but maintain one committee to oversee both? Could we run two sets of accounts, as we would probably need to? Would the school allow us to use the woods every week & what would be the cost? Throws up a lot of questions we don't have answers to, needs further exploration. Frank to look at the constitution, Bob to talk to the school about using whole field. Possibility of developing wooded area in co-operation with school as a dual-purpose field shoot course and nature trail? Still need to talk to the school before discussing further. **[On hold]**

**Action 7(a) 10/19** - What if we were to deregister our field with ArcheryGB, and register the **top** field instead? This would then free up our main field for use by members or visitors who choose not to take up Archery GB membership as long as we insure ourselves, and that insurance would cover AGB members and non-members. Mike said that Folkestone have done something similar by deregistering their shooting field and registered Dave Ash's paddock as their home ground instead. They then took up separate insurance on their field which is now available to AGB & non-AGB archers. Bob suggested we invite Emma to one of our committee meetings this spring so we can discuss some of these issues. Progress, date? *Emma hasn't forgotten, but doesn't have answers to some of the questions we are asking. Intending to come along when more info available. [Ongoing]*

**Action 8(a) 1/20** - John M would like the committee to consider sending out an advert asking for info on wooded areas in/near the Thanet area for use for field archery. Lee suggested checking with real estate agents. Mike suggested using NextDoor, an online Facebook-type app so you can select the area to send enquiries about. The other is Facebook Marketplace which gets lots of responses. John said we will obviously need to draw up a draft advert with all the main advantages of field archery as an environmentally sound use of land. Brian suggested Symondswold which was located at Northbourne School near Tilmanstone. Mike suggested the old hoverport site, owned by TDC. Now there's also the possibility of using Betteshangar. John M to draft advert for next committee meeting. Do we have a draft advert to look at? Not yet. *Bob suggested getting a local paper along when we do the scene shoot in July, and then drop in the hint that we would do with some wooded land to do field shoots. Brian Horne said that they have some wooded space over at Port Regis near Kingsgate. [Ongoing]*

#### **8/ A.O.B.**

- Anne asked about Corona virus – should we be preparing advice for members? i.e.
  - 1/ use sanitiser gel provided, but please be thorough when washing your hands with soap and hot water.
  - 2/ If you are showing symptoms of Covid-19 (i.e. persistent cough, fever/high temperature, breathing difficulties, etc) or have been in contact anyone who is, please stay away from all club activities for the time being.
  - Colin wanted to know if there was a shoot-until-you're-knackered round. Mike said there was one where you left all your gold-scoring arrows in until you ran out of arrows then you went home (Short Metropolitan Billericay).
  - Club clothing – Dave Ash is no longer processing orders for named club clothing as it isn't commercially viable anymore. Roy said there's a company at Manston (True's/Trew's?) that do TADSAD's shirts.

**Next meeting:- Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**Meeting closed at 8:45pm**