Thanet Archery Club A.G.M Minutes – 2021/22

Held at:-

Newington Free Church, 41 St John's Avenue

at 7.30pm on Weds 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022



# Agenda Items

# Participants

**Committee members:-** Dave Batchelor, Lee Burns, Mike Davis, Anne Fretwell, Fred Hammond, James Plummer, Pete Verrall, Jim Whiddett.

**Club members:-** David Brown, Chris Bullen, Philip Bullen, Lewis Bullen-Steed, Andy Doyle, Barry Finch, Helen Fox, Bob Gawler, Linda Gawler, Walter Gibson, Ashley Greenslade, Louisa Greenslade, John Holton, Sue Holton, Bob Hutchings, Jan Seed, Tim Seed, Terry Stevens, Jenny Walsh, Ted Walsh, Ian Weeden + 1 member not signed in.

Apologies for absence: Dick Bailey, Brian Horne, David Rhodes, Addison Ritchie, John Ritchie, Justine Verrall.

- 1. Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of previous 2020/21 AGM sent out to members on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022. No objections or corrections were received, so minutes have been accepted by the Chairman.
- 2. Matters arising from last years minutes None received.
- 3. Chairman's Report Mike Davis

The whole of 2022 has been taken up with the Manston move. This started with the offer from Riveroak to Bob and myself and ended very successfully on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. As I have said before many people have helped get to where we are today.

The process was not helped when at the time me, Bob and Fred all were incapacitated. I cannot say enough how much I appreciate the team that pulled together to complete the tasks.

I will not apologise for saying these thank-you's again. But will apologise for anybody I have missed.

- I owe David Brown a special debt of gratitude for stepping up and managing the process when Bob and I could not.

- Another thank-you goes to James who managed to get us the Community Sports Association process and gaining the 100% discount of the rateable value of the building for the year.

- Chris Bullen helped by Lewis and Levi has mowed brambles, trees and grass to allow you all to shoot. - Fred and David for all their hard work - their wives think they have moved out.

- Anne and Linda for spending a lot of time making sure everyone was acting correctly and organising the storage.

- Terry Stevens, Wally and Ian Weeden who have carried out work in the building. Terry again for his work with the team setting up the Field Archery.

- Karl Hammond who worked on the electrics.
- David Rhodes who has spent a lot of time getting rid of brambles.
- Lee Burns for building the ramps.

- George Hirst, Daniel Verrall, Dick Bailey, Terri Clarke, Dave Batchelor and Paul Rockcliffe for general works around the field and building.

- Andy Doyle for testing the water to ensure it is safe.
- Bob for sorting the plumbing.
- Dave Batchelor for reviewing the website and the constitution.

There is a lot of work still to be done, and therefore plenty of opportunity to help in the future. The process has involved a lot of hard work and time but has proved that with a good team anything is possible.

In the next year we will be :-

- Getting the main field sorted ready for the Summer Season

- Providing easier access for those with mobility issues.

- Developing the fixture list with a varied set of activities as always.

- Encouraging new members by holding have-a-goes and beginner's courses.

- Brian has offered to carry out some training sessions to show people how to make strings and fletch arrows.

I am really encouraged by the number of members who are using the facility.

I would like to thank all those who have served on the committee this year the last two years have been particularly challenging and I have been particularly grumpy.

Here's looking forward to a great 2023.

Mike.

# 4. Secretary's report - Peter Verrall

Once again, we have had an eventful year as a club.

In 2020, it was dealing with Covid, in 2021 we went independent of Archery GB and we lost Frank Pullen.

This year we have moved to a new home. Even before any actual moving took place, it involved multiple rewrites of the constitution and club booklet in order to get CASC accreditation, 3 Extraordinary General Meetings in one year, rethinking safety rules, thrashing out the best way of doing target & membership fees at the new field, etc. I would like to thank all the committee for their input on that but particularly wish to pay tribute to Mike Davis, James Plummer and also Dave Batchelor for their efforts working out the final details. As you will see from other agenda items, there are quite a few more changes to the constitution, the most significant of which will be the proposals for amalgamated membership/target fees, and the addition to the committee of 2 new roles (Building officer & Field officer).

Then there's the efforts of all those who have been involved on the working group turning the plans into reality. I would like to echo Mike's thanks to everyone who got involved in big ways or small ways. It's been a huge team effort on the part of a lot of club members, and it's demonstrated what a great bunch of folks we have in this club, and I'm really proud of the team spirit we have at the club now.

It would be nice to think that 2023 might be a relatively chilled/relaxed year, but with the potential for hosting a greater variety of archery events (corporate, birthday have-a-go's, etc) I'm not entirely sure that's going to be the case. The next few months can be the period where we can allow the new processes to 'bed in' while the large range is prepped for next summer. But I do think that at Manston, the club can use the next few years to go from strength to strength.

One further thing I should mention is that Ryan Holden is not up for re-election this year. Over the last year his business has developed and archery career continues to progress at international level, and he has moved with his business up nearer to Lilleshall where he is also shooting for Shropshire. He's

making a new life for himself there, after starting as a youngster at the club, developing at county and then national level, and now he has every opportunity to pursue his archery career at the highest level and we would like to wish him all the very best for the future.

Pete Verrall.

# 5. Treasurer's summary and presentation of accounts - James Plummer

The net cash movement for the year was a surplus of  $\pm 1,546.87$ , the closing balance being  $\pm 10,410.39$  and the profit for the year was  $\pm 701.38$ .

We held two successful tournaments this year with the Sylvia making £254.48 profit and the Clout making £710.60. However, we were unable to stage a Have a Go shoot this year.

We have run a full indoor season with the new one having just started, and this has also made a profit of 237.00.

We were donated some archery equipment which we auctioned off to members with proceeds of £612.50.

We ran two very successful beginners' courses in May and July which brought in £1,065.00 and subsequently 28 of those who attended have become club members.

We also ran two coaching days for 16 archers who contributed £35 each with a net cost of £79.20. This was well worth it as everybody who attended gained a lot from Trish Lovell's expert coaching ably assisted by Leigh Collins.

We ran a full fixture list for the outdoor season and are still regularly seeing over 40 archers shooting on Saturdays. We have generated  $\pm 5,906.90$  income from membership and target fees with a cost of  $\pm 2,572.78$  for hiring the field, maintenance, and insurance.

We spent £1,783.32 on archery equipment, stationery, trophies and engraving and subsistence.

After several stressful months we were registered in the Community Amateur Sports Club Scheme (CASC) which means we can receive gift aid but also now must submit Corporation Tax returns to the HMRC annually. However, as a result we were also able to get a 100% discount on the business rates at Manston and were therefore able to relocate officially from 1st November. There are cost implications of this as we must maintain the building and fields from our own funds and have already spent £3,757.40 in preparing the ranges for the winter season. There are likely to be considerable costs involved in preparing and maintaining the facilities for next season however we are in a strong position with over £10,000 in cash and a strong membership of over 100.

James Plummer

Treasurer

# 6. Matters arising from Statement of Accounts (if any).

Dave Batchelor asked if the additional 20% discount is something we have to re-apply for every year.

**James Plummer** said that his understanding was that the 80% discount is our automatic entitlement, but the additional 20% is something we will need to apply for each year but, having been awarded it this year he sees no reason for it to be anything other than a formality. We have the land leased at  $\pm 1$ /year, so even if we had to pay the 20% it would still be cheaper than the rent we paid at St Lawrence College.

#### 7. Membership

- James Plummer

Membership Summary 2021-22 AGM

Membership this year has again been healthy for the club.

At the beginning of the year membership stood at 94 (including 7 Honorary, 15 Associate and 1 Social).

Of these 34 have not renewed, however we have welcomed 43 new members plus 6 returning archers during the year making our total year end membership 110 (including 7 Honorary, 20 Associate and 4 Social).

We ran two Beginners Courses this year, in May and July. 25 attendees from these courses subsequently joined the club. 18 other new members joined, being a combination of associates from other clubs, existing archers taking up the sport again and new archers having been assessed.

81 archers have shot at least once during the year.

Finally I have membership cards for everyone here, so please remember to collect yours at the end of the meeting.

James Plummer.

Membership Secretary

**Bob Gawler** asked how many who did the beginner's courses in 2021 renewed their membership this year.

**James Plummer** replied that 31 beginners joined from the 2021 courses, of whom 14 did not renew, which leaves 17 who did renew. The sad thing is that of those 14 who did not renew, half of them were juniors.

#### 8. Presidents Report 2022

During this year, we have, as a Club faced many changes. We have seen the Covid restrictions coming to an end and although we were allowed to shoot outside during some of this time, it still meant a lot of hard work for the committee to ensure the safety of all club members. This was something that noone could prepare for and I think our committee did us proud in everything they achieved during this very trying time.

In recent months we have also moved from our long-term club grounds at St Lawrence and moved to our new archery range at Manston.

I would like to thank Bob Gawler, Mike Davis and James Plummer for securing the new range at Manston.

This was no mean feat and took a lot of planning to acquire this site. James Plummer was instrumental in getting the 100% discount from Thanet Council regarding the rates on the building and through his due diligence, we have had extra monies to spend on improving the facilities and the site at Manston.

I would also like to thank the working party who have dedicated so much time and energy in getting the site ready for our first field shoot and the frost bite season. I would also like to express my thanks to all those members who were involved in this mammoth task. Moving from one site to another has been a lot of hard work and I hope that the coming year will prove that the change of venue has benefitted everyone who is a member of our club.

This coming year will see many changes to the way we shoot, as the new site will give everyone the opportunity to shoot during the week as well as at weekends This will give a lot more flexibility and

variety for all club members, as once the full site is up and running, there will be three different fields and shooting choices for members.

We now have a new website up and running depicting the new site, and this is proving very successful. We have increased our membership over the past year, and my thanks go to all those who have run the beginners' courses.

We have named the building The Frank Pullen Building in memory of our previous president who sadly passed away last year. It was an honour to welcome his wife, Lyn Pullen to unveil the plaque which is on the back of the building by the kitchen door.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again all those that have worked so tirelessly to get Manston up and running from the working party to the cleaning crew, and to thank the committee for all their hard work in securing this new site for all the members to enjoy and hope that the coming year our club will continue to grow and prosper.

Fred Hammond

### 9. Records officers report - Anne Fretwell

After the restrictions of Covid over the last two years this year has proved to be a very successful outdoor season with some outstanding achievements. A total of 1046 scores have been presented during 2022 Summer Season compared with 208 last year.

The most scores recorded by archers for the summer season 2022 were:

Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Bob Gawler & David Brown	who both submitted 44 scores
2 <sup>nd</sup> - David Rhodes	who submitted 54 scores
1 <sup>st</sup> - Fred Hammond	who submitted 66 scores

Many of the 1046 scores submitted were for Mike's ever popular 48 Badge Scheme and as they are Warwick rounds they also qualified to be recorded towards the Archery classifications badges.

107 keen archers qualified for a 48 Badge this season, compared with 12 last year.

Lewis Bullen-Steed, Paul Rockliffe, Isabelle Kinsey and Lorraine Kent all achieved 5 badges each up to Red.

Chris Bullen and Helen Fox both gained 6 badges each up to Gold Alex Moss gained the prestigious Purple badge.

6 New Members also achieved badges:-

Oliver Norton	- Green & White
Ryan Weedon & Toby Heritage	- Black
lan Weedon	- Green, White & Black
Mark Fox & Terri Clarke	- Green, White, Black & Blue

Not forgetting the determined regulars:

Fred Hammond & James Plummer - Gold

Archery Classification Achievements

There are also 15 archers who have achieved an Archery Classification this year.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

Senior - Paul Rockliffe, Chris Bullen, George Brearley, Philip Banks-Frances, Helen Fox, Lorraine Kent, Gary Hayde, Pam Davis.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

Senior -Paul Rockliffe, Lorraine Kent, Philip Banks-Frances, Rebecca Davis, Helen Fox. Junior - Lewis Bullen-Steed, Ryan Weedon

No one achieved First Class this year

#### Handicap Improvement

We record who has improved their handicap during the season and this year there are 13 Archers who have improved their handicap by 10 or more and 16 archers with an improvement of 5 or more points.

The new archers who have improved their handicap most during the Summer Season are:

3rd	Mark McIntyre	who went from 77 - 72 Improvement of 5
2nd	lan Weedon	who went from 75 - 69 Improvement of 6
1st	Mark Fox	who went from 77 - 55 Improvement of 22

Handicap Improvement among the Old Hands is impressive:

3rd Philip Banks-Francis	who went from 74 - 57 Improvement of 17
2nd Lewis Bullen-Steed (J)	who went from 86 - 60 Improvement of 26
1st Helen Fox	who went from 75 - 47 Improvement of 28

#### Club Records

We also had a staggering 53 new Club Records achieved this year. As they are too numerous to mention each one here there is a list if anyone wants to see if they will be available online soon.

#### However, overall :

Senior Archers achieved 31 new club records and the Junior Archers are to be congratulated on achieving 22 new club records.

- New Archer Ryan Weedon achieved 3 club records in U12 boys barebow
- Lewis Bullen-Steed achieved 11 club records in U14 boys compound
- Alex Moss achieved 4 club records in U16 boys recurve
- Isabelle Kinsey achieved 1 club record in U16 girls barebow
- Alice Friend achieved 3 club records in U18 barebow girls.

A very respectable accomplishment by all.

Thanks and congratulations are due to all our archers for contributing to such a successful 2022 season.

Hopefully, whether you have aspirations of representing Great Britain in the next Olympics or are just happy to pass a pleasant summer evening shooting a few arrows with likeminded people, you will be able to build on what you have achieved this year and to look forward to an even more successful and, more importantly, a most enjoyable 2023 Season.

Anne Fretwell.

#### 10. Captain's report - Jim Whiddett

I would like to thank Bob and the current committee members for supporting me in my first year as Club Captain. I am still finding my feet in the role and will continue to learn as I listen to club members views, suggestions etc.

This year the club had successful shoots for normal club days and some great competitions. Thanks to Lynda for arranging the Sylvia shoot, to Bob for arranging the inter club Frost bite shoot and Andy and Terry for the first field shoot at Manston.

The clout shoot probably was the worst time for me to come down with covid, but club members came together to ensure the shoot was finally a success, thanks to all for stepping up at the last minute to ensure it went ahead, all who shot had a great day.

The club champs / handicap was a fitting final shoot at St Lawrence, a great day of shooting and the local fish and chip shop supplied some top food! Thanks to David supported by Linda for working out the scores and handicaps, something I yet have to learn!!

As club captain the safety of the field and shoots has been made easier by the support of club members who have help to set the field up whilst we were at St Lawrence, thanks especially to Dave and Fred for lining the field and to all who helped each week to set up.

Manston is a new situation, and we are still learning as we go. Thanks to all who have worked tirelessly to get the 2 ranges ready for the club to shoot on. The move to Manston also means that archers can use all carbon arrows, widening the option for kit.

I am sure there will be more changes and developments as we settle in at Manston, especially when we have three ranges in operation next year when the main field becomes the longer range.

I'd like to thank all who have made the move to Manston possible with special thanks to Mike, James and Bob for the work in the background to make the move to Manston possible.

Thanks, Jim.

#### 11. Child protection officer

- Dick Bailey (read out in Dick's absence by Pete V)

#### Safeguarding.

Our club is friendly and a safe club, but as always, that is a collective responsibility. We can all play our part to keep it that way. But if there are any concerns about anyone, or anything, please tell me, or any member of the committee.

#### **Beginners**

We had two full beginners' courses this year, with most participants becoming members. As ever, these courses can only happen with help from committee and club members, so many thanks to all who assisted.

The course dates for 2023 have not been confirmed yet, but there is a steady flow of interest, with deposits being paid to secure places.

To give you some idea, this month alone, I have responded to over 50 enquiries about beginners' courses and archers with some previous experience wishing to join the club.

This is likely down to the club move and publicity.

# Coaching

The club is very lucky to have a good relationship with a highly respected and world class coach, Trish Lovell.

Because of this, we were able to run two coaching days, with Trish and her highly experienced friend Leigh.

This proved a success, with some real positive feedback from the participants. Once again, thanks to all those who assisted and thanks to those who took part, for their patience, as this was a new venture.

Trish is very keen to assist further and a number of us will be having some training in coaching, to further our abilities to coach beginners.

**Mike Davis** commented that Trish Lovell has offered to come down and help/advise our coaching team next year.

# 12. Equipment Officer - Brian Horne

None.

# 13. Junior Rep - [Vacant]

# 14. Propositions previously circulated - Pete Verrall

a/ Typo correction to remove the word "has" from Clause 1(d).

b/ To allow 50% discounted rate to disabled archers (see amendment to Clause 4(a).

c/ To amend the constitution to add a requirement for committee members to be club members (Standard, Junior\*, Associate, Honorary or Social). See draft clause 5(f).

#### \* Junior rep only.

d/ To amend clause 5(a) of the constitution to add the role of 'Building Officer' and 'Field Officer' to the list of named committee roles, and to rename the role of 'Child Protection officer' to 'Safeguarding officer'.

e/ To amend clause 8(d) items 10 & 11 of the constitution to reflect the changes in the previous proposition.

f/ To amend wording in Clause 3(a) of constitution to clarify classes of membership.

g/ To replace 'tackle' with 'equipment' in Clause 3(b) of constitution.

h/ To adopt new target fee structure as described in new club booklet and amend Clauses 3(a)1-3 & 4(b) & (c) of constitution to reflect that change.

Pete Verrall asked for any comments/questions on Proposition 14 h/.

**Bob Gawler** said that he thought going from £45/yr to £96/yr (for senior full members) was too high compared with other clubs, such as Dover. Bob also said that we have scrapped the target fees without an AGM vote.

**Mike Davis** said that target fees are included in that, and that Dover don't have the facilities we do, and once the AGB fee is added their fee is £110. Also, Dover don't have an alternative fee for those who don't shoot so often, which **is** included in these proposals. As regards the target fees, while the constitution states that "Each archer shall pay a Target Fee on each attendance. The amount of such fee to be agreed at the Annual General Meeting." We haven't scrapped them or changed the amount, just suspended them for the period up until the AGM to avoid keeping a large amount of cash as float at the field until the club has agreed the new fee structure. We've also reduced the fee for AGB and

NFAS members, so they pay £72, not £96.

**David Batchelor** said that anyone wishing to shoot at Dover has to pay £110, and the most you'll have to pay at TAC is £96, so actually we're cheaper than Dover.

**Bob** also said that the proposal was worded as if associate members were covered by their insurance, but they're not. It would be better if we scrapped associate membership and all members paid the club insurance.

**Pete Verrall** said that the wording hasn't varied from that agreed by the committee (including Bob) when he was on the committee last year. It was part of the AGB independence proposal last year which Bob supported. He also said that James Plummer has prepared a breakdown of how much members have shot over the last year, and how the new fee structure income might pan out based on likely membership choices.

James Plummer said that 35 members were already paying >£60 in target fees on top of their membership fees, i.e. >£105, so they would pay less under the new fee structure and 43 members who were paying <£20 in target fees, so they would be the ones who would be likely to take up the cheaper rate of £48/yr (or £36 if associate members).

Terry Stevens asked what the target fees are for.

**Bob** said it was for maintenance of targets, faces, stands, marking, etc. In the past it also covered the rental cost of the field at St Lawrence. Now it would cover the additional cost of maintaining 3 ranges, plus mower costs, etc.

**James** said that last year we received £2600 in target fees, he commented that most clubs have a flat fee, which covers all club costs, and with 12/7 shooting maintaining/administering a target fee pot becomes a much bigger job.

**Mike** said that we are simply trying to ensure that we cover our costs over this year. It is not reasonable to compare our fees with other clubs who don't have the same facilities and costs that we have.

**Tim Seed** asked if we'd taken into account the opportunities to raise funds from have-a-go's, Robin Hood's, corporate events, etc that our facilities afford us.

**Pete Verrall** said that we've done such events in the past (& taken a lot of income from them, - **Mike**) but this year because that kind of income is something of an unknown this year, as is some of our expenditure i.e. while we have a quote/budget for the main field clearance, we don't know how reliable the mower is going to be, and what the annual maintenance costs will be for that, and there are other ancillary/consumables costs that aren't yet nailed down, so what we have tried to do is ensure that in general the membership costs stay roughly the same for this year, so that come next AGM with a whole year at Manston to review, we can then adjust our fees based on experience rather than speculation.

**Bob** suggested we keep membership/target fees as they are for a year. We've always kept cash at the field in the past.

**Mike** said that we're in a different situation now where the field is open during the working day and in use at lot more often, rather than being used once a week and locked up/overseen by SLC grounds staff the rest of the time.

**Andy Doyle** asked about the limited shoots membership will be monitored – by the signing-in book? He's signed in twice but not shot yet. Unless there's a way of noting attendance for non-shooting reasons, he'd run out of slots quickly.

**Pete** said that was an easy thing to sort out – it's just a case of having a way to sign in for nonshooting reasons in the book. There also seem to be some confusion over the fees. Those NFAS members who only shoot part of the time, would pay £36 (not £96) for 25 shoots a year. **Louisa Greenslade** said that the proposed fees compare v. favourably with other clubs they been members of where the fee including AGB were £150 or more.

The proposal was then put to the vote and passed by 19 votes FOR vs 11 votes AGAINST (see below). Mike said that although the proposed change to the fees was passed, given the numbers voting against, the committee will review the proposed club fees between now and end of March with EGM held if req'd.

Linda Gawler proposed keeping the frostbite target fees to ensure continuing income over the winter. Pete said that the committee had discussed keeping frostbite fees and charging a flat £20 for seniors & £10 for juniors & disabled members for the whole frostbite period, but with cost-of-living (& the need to take a bit of a breather after all the work involved in getting us to this point – Mike), had agreed to propose waiving them for the rest of winter, but if people are happy to pay then the committee isn't going to argue with that.

Proposition	Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions	Result
14 a/ & g/	30	0	0	Passed
14 b/	30	0	0	Passed
14 c/	30	0	0	Passed
14 d/	30	0	0	Passed
14 e/	30	0	0	Passed
14 f/	30	0	0	Passed
14 h/	19	11	0	Passed
Retain target fees for frostbite season	9	0	21	Passed

Additional proposition to retain target fees for remainder of frostbite season passed with majority of attendees abstaining.

# **15. Election of Committee members**

Post	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder	Votes (for/against)
Club President	Fred Hammond	Jim Whiddett	James Plummer	30 for
Club Chair	Mike Davis	Fred Hammond	Bob Gawler	30 for
Club Captain	Jim Whiddett	Fred Hammond	Helen Fox	30 for
Club Secretary	Pete Verrall	James Plummer	Dave Batchelor	30 for
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	James Plummer	Pete Verrall	Bob Gawler	30 for
Head Coach	Dick Bailey	Fred Hammond	Anne Fretwell	30 for
Records Officer	Anne Fretwell	Mike Davis	Helen Fox	30 for
Trophy Officer	Lee Burns	Chris Bullen	Anne Fretwell	30 for
Equipment Officer	Bob Gawler	Fred Hammond	Anne Fretwell	29 for
Building Officer	David Brown	Mike Davis	Paul Rockliffe	30 for
Field Officer	Chris Bullen	Lee Burns	Fred Hammond	30 for
Safeguarding Officer	Helen Fox	George Brearley	Pete Verrall	30 for
Junior Representative*	Lewis Bullen-Steed	Jim Whiddett	Helen Fox	30 for
Ordinary member	David Batchelor	Helen Fox	Chris Bullen	30 for
Ordinary member	Roy Holden	James Plummer	Dave Batchelor	30 for
Ordinary member	Andy Doyle	Tim Seed	Jan Seed	30 for

\* Lewis Bullen-Steed indicated his willingness to serve as the Junior rep so was added to the ballot and elected

# **16.** Trophy/Award Presentations

Handicap improvement (New members) – Mark Fox

Handicap improvement ("Old" hands) – Helen Fox

Clean sweep for the Fox household. 😊

17. Christmas Shoot Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (hopefully!) – the theme revealed! Pantomime fancy dress

Meeting ended at 9:10pm – thanks to all attending!