

THE GRAND NATIONAL ARCHERY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Saturday 12th July 2003
At Lilleshall National Sports Centre

PRESENT:

Mr Mike Shepherd	Director of Operations
Mr R K de B Nicholson	Chairman of Target Committee
Mr Nick Beeson	Chairman of Junior Committee
Mr Peter Morris	Chairman of Judges Committee
Mrs Ann Webb	Chairman of Disabled Committee
Mrs P Tonkin	Chairman of National Tournament Committee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Alf Davies	President
Mr Dave Squires	GNAS Field Committee member representing Derrick Lovell
Mrs Ann Shepherd	Minute Taker

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Derrick Lovell, David Sherratt, Barry Eley, Dennis Whiteman, Eric Jackson.
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.**
 - i. Nick Nicholson was still concerned that the disciplinary regulations have not been circulated to clubs, counties and regions. He reported that he had checked again and people had still not received them.

Mike Shepherd to action.
 - ii. Ann Webb pointed out that the revised qualification dates mentioned in 5e ii. of the previous minutes had not been put into Archery UK as a special item. Ann will supply the Editor with the text she wishes to have included.
 - iii. Nick Beeson said he was still unhappy with the GNAS website and had had no response from Neil Parrott. Mike Shepherd reported that he had quizzed Eric Jackson about the situation at the last Board meeting where it had been suggested that someone who was retired or no longer working might volunteer to do the job. It was still felt that links for every Chairman was the best idea and that if these people were able to input their own information it would take some of the pressure off Neil. At this stage Nick Nicholson asked if special software was required for this, something that had not been mentioned when the topic had been discussed previously.
 - iv. Mike Shepherd reported that the Board of Directors had agreed to the dropping of the word "sub" before each Committee name.
 - v. There had been no report as to whether the details on the FITA website had been corrected.
4. **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.**
 - i. Mike Shepherd reported that some conflict had arisen between two groups of Visually Impaired (VI) archers over their new Rules. Ann Webb explained that this had arisen because of one archer who is able to use a scope and peepsight with a compound but cannot use an ordinary sight with his recurve. Although, in theory, the original rules would have allowed him to do this within his sight category, an amendment put by BBS would have disallowed this. GNAS do not want to include this amendment as it is seen as too restrictive. Ann has liaised with Nick Nicholson and he will get the final version to Archery UK after Bob Tonkin has reworded it to fall in line with the style of the Rules of Shooting.

- ii. Mike asked that e-mails not be sent to all and sundry unless relevant or necessary. He was referring to an e-mail from one member of the Committee to another which had contained personal complaints that did not need to be broadcast to everyone.
- iii. Alf Davies had sent a letter to Mike Shepherd asking if Head to Head matches could be arranged so that group losers could compete against each other rather than just going home when they had been knocked out of the competitions. Pam Tonkin reported that the scenario described in Alf's letter would result in no tournament organiser. She felt it would be far too difficult to organise and that it would mean a lot more paperwork on the day for which there would be no time. She accepted that greater involvement is desirable and pointed out that to some extent people are now staying to cheer on others. She also mentioned that those who were knocked out early were given the opportunity to carry on shooting on the practice butts where some side competitions had occurred.
Dave Squires said the idea had been tried at the Compound Indoor Championships and, although very enjoyable, it was obvious how much extra work was required. Nick Nicholson also pointed out that the logistics of the situation means that you can only go so far with the scheme.
- iv. Alf Davies had been in touch with the Telford International Centre who have 3 halls measuring 90m x 36m. He suggested that all of the National Indoor shoots could be put on at once at this venue and that it could attract local TV and trade stands. The venue is used for a host of events throughout the year but not so many during the winter months. The charge is usually £5,000 per day but could be cheaper in winter. Pam commented that the Senior Recurve and Compound events are already held together and that the Juniors shoot a different round. She also felt that the price was much too high as her whole annual budget for National Tournaments is less than £5,000. The practicalities of the situation were also discussed, including the number of bosses needed, the vast amount of backstop netting that would be required, the fact that in separate halls two sets of lights would be required and the problem of the two sets currently at Lilleshall having the same audible sound system. There would also be a need for two separate work parties.
Pam also pointed out that venues have already been booked for next year and deposits paid. She said she was already reasonably happy with the current arrangements for the shoots. They do not generate huge waiting lists at present and she felt there was no need to look for a bigger venue until the need arose. She reported that her committee are already looking into the feasibility of regional heats going through to a National final etc. Nick Beeson also said that he would be against merging the junior shoot with the seniors.
- v. Mike Shepherd mentioned a Sport England Club Accreditation system which he was trying to find out more about. This had been spoken of at the last Board meeting and the inference is that it would enhance clubs' standings with their local councils etc.
- vi. At the Board meeting Chris Carroll had picked up on the phrase "Premier event" and said that it now had no meaning. Mike Shepherd asked Pam whether or not the phrase was still relevant and should it be used. Pam reported that it started some years ago and did give kudos to those shoots that were granted Premier status. Nick Nicholson said that he was still encouraging regions to carry on the use of the Premier event title. By having one Premier event in each region we can guarantee a good distribution of top class tournaments which everyone knows top archers will attend. Currently Premier events are helped by Target Committee in so far as they are willing to subsidise them if they fail, although so far this has not been necessary.
- vii. Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Version 5. So far, this has been distributed to members of the committee but no further.
- viii. Mike Shepherd had received a letter signed by several parents of Junior squad members who were asking for an alteration to the distribution of the money designated for the junior trips abroad. They felt it unfair that some juniors were being asked to self fund and wanted the money available to be shared equally between all those with the qualifying scores meaning that everyone would have to pay something. They also felt that shoot offs for team places put juniors under too much pressure. Mike had replied to say that the matter would be discussed at the Ops meeting and that a reply would be sent thereafter. To this end Mike had circulated the original letter and from the replies received from the various chairmen had prepared a letter which was then discussed. All felt that the reply conveyed the correct message which was that self funded places offer an opportunity for those unlikely to win medals to be able to experience high level tournaments abroad while lessening the pressure on them. Obtaining qualification scores is not enough, shoot offs for team places are a vital part of ensuring that an archer's temperament is suitable for team representation. It was stressed that getting a team place was not the end of the process, merely the beginning. The point was also made that, although these parents felt it would be fairer to spread the money, they had not considered how unfair it would be if the best of the juniors was then ruled out because they could not find the money to make up their share of any payment required.
It was noted that all the teams have the same restrictions on them and that if the system was changed for one it would need to be changed for all. GNAS needs to be seen to be spending its members' money wisely and filling up team places just because they are there is not compatible with this. Other methods of selection were discussed in general terms i.e. that used by the Field Committee which all agreed had merit and had worked well for the last few years.
It was agreed that the current system of self funding works well for all the teams and that no changes will be made.
- ix. A Head Coach has now been appointed. No other details confirmed.

- x. Derrick Lovell is due for re-election as a FITA representative. Mike Shepherd said he hoped that the Operations Committee will endorse this. Derrick has now been doing this job for some years and there had been the suggestion that if Derrick wished to step down in the future that someone should be understudying the post. Jonathan Shales had been suggested as a possible future rep and will be approached about this.
- xi. Operations Committee Terms of Reference. Mike Shepherd had produced a rough version of these which Bob Tonkin had translated into English. It was agreed that these still required further amendments.

Mike Shepherd to action.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

a. Chairman of Field Committee. Written report supplied.

- i. The GB Team for the European Field Championships was selected after the All British in May. Three junior boys are included in the team for development for the future.
- ii. To encourage more juniors to take part in Field archery, Pentref Bowmen have been putting out extra pegs for the under 12's to shoot from. This has proved very popular and other tournament organisers will be asked to include them up to the end of the year. This will then be discussed at the Field Liaison meeting with the intention that they become part of every tournament. Chris Farr has already drawn up a complete set of distances for both marked and unmarked rounds. Nick Beeson asked if there was a flourishing junior Field section as there are many points to be awarded in the JAWS Scheme for Field rounds.
- iii. Peter Morris reported that he had received a list of judges for the 2004 All British in Northern Ireland from Derrick.

b. Chairman of Target Committee: Nick Nicholson.

- i. Nick reported that he will not be able to go ahead with the Handicap review as no budget has been granted for this. It was suggested that the Director of Finance be approached about this.
- ii. After further discussions with British Blind Sport (BBS) there should be something to go into Archery UK about the rules for VI archers.
- iii. The question of club colours was again discussed. Ann Shepherd, as Archery UK Editor, volunteered to gather information from clubs with regard to their uniform colours in order that this could be supplied to all judges in the form of a simple alphabetical list of clubs with the details of their colours. Nick will supply the required text for Archery UK in order to ask for this information.
- iv. A letter had been received querying whether Beiter string nocks are acceptable on longbows. Advice has been sought from BLBS who are not in favour of allowing these. The Target Committee are in agreement with this view. They will be seeking advice from the Judges Committee but will be preparing text for Archery UK to state that Beiter string nocks are illegal on longbows. It was also pointed out at this point that some mention should be made of Magnox only being legal in the Compound Unlimited division.

Nick Nicholson to action.

- v. Currently GNAS and BLBS require longbows to have horn nocks and self nocked longbows are at present excluded. Target Committee can see no logical explanation for this but will defer a decision to allow this until they have consulted BLBS. As parity has only just been achieved with BLBS over the longbow rules they are reluctant to lose this compatibility.
- vi. Target Committee have decided, after some discussion, not to instigate a barebow class for longbow for the same reason as above, compatibility with BLBS.
- vii. **Target Committee have agreed that a separate set of score levels be put in place for Longbow Rose Awards as follows:**

White 225, Black 300, Blue 375, Red 450, Gold 525, Purple 600. All were in favour.

As there is no money currently available in the budget for this Nick will approach the Director of Finance about this.

Nick Nicholson to action.

- vii. The Tournament Organisers handbook is now nearing completion but again Nick reported that no money has been allocated to publish this.
- viii. Alf Davies pointed out that the shortage of money is due to Sport England not giving GNAS the usual grants.

c. Chairman of Junior Committee: Nick Beeson.

- i. A section on Junior Archery has now been included in Version 5 of the Strategic Development Plan.
- ii. Sponsorship has been received which enables all qualifying archers to attend the European Junior Championships in Greece without the need for a shoot off.

- iii. Nick reported that he had recently had a query about whether a member of a junior club can be included in a team shooting under the name of its senior parent club. It was generally felt that this was not an issue as most junior clubs were subsidiaries of senior clubs and were usually administered and run by the senior club members.
- iv. Nick had been asked why there is nothing like the JAWS scheme and the July Nationals for senior members. He said there was no reason why schemes of this sort could not be offered to senior members and volunteered to try out something similar to the July Nationals. All agreed this would be a good idea and that it would comply with the promotion of archery within the SDP.
- v. Ann Shepherd asked if there were any plans to update the paperwork that goes out to those interested in starting the JAWS scheme. She said she had recently seen what is currently being sent out from the Office and it is still referring to News From the Centre in its text. Nick reported that this was something that required a complete revamp and three volunteers had now been recruited to help out with various items such as updating this.

d. Chairman of Coaching Committee. No report.

e. Chairman of Disabled Committee: Ann Webb.

- i. A meeting of the Disabled Archery Committee was held on 14th June at Stoke Mandeville. Selection was discussed at this meeting and the Team chosen. Ann pointed out that disabled archers should be aware that they need approval from the IPC Medical Committee, not FITA, for any drugs they may be taking.
- ii. Rob Anderson has offered the 2004 DSE Champs as an opportunity for the Paralympic Team to use as training. This will be considered.
- iii. The new rules for the Visually Impaired (VI) were looked at so that a recommendation could be put to Target Committee. All were acceptable except 1202c which it was felt would cause problems for the judges. A further two recommendations from Sandra Nesbitt were also rejected, one because it was too restrictive and would be difficult to police, the second for practical reasons.
- iv. The development squad has been a great success with some of the archers getting grants from the Fletchers.

f. Judges Committee: Peter Morris.

- i. The FITA Judges World Conference will be held at Lillehall from 24-27th February 2004. The GNAS Judges Conference will follow this from 27-29th February 2004. It is hoped that our National Judges will be able to attend the first event and that members of the FITA Judges Committee will be able to stay on for the GNAS Conference. Money had been allocated for a FITA Judges Seminar and this will now be channelled into the FITA Conference although Peter said he was not yet sure where our responsibility starts with regard to who pays for what.
- ii. The programme for the GNAS Judges Conference is nearly settled with only a few final items to decide.
- iii. Assessments for Regional and National Judges are ongoing.
- iv. Peter reported that he is hoping to be able to give Pam Tonkin a list of Judges appointments for 2004 in the next few weeks.
- v. Judges Committee are looking at ways to try to speed up the route judges need to take to qualify. There is currently a shortage of judges resulting in a heavy workload for those we have.
- vi. Nick Nicholson asked if something could be included at the Conference with regard to public speaking. He said he had recent experience of judges not preparing their speeches properly, not being able to use microphones and two way radios and not being able to address archers politely. He also asked if judges are ever downgraded if they don't come up to scratch. Peter said they could be but this had hardly ever happened. Previous minutes noted that judges could be downgraded if they failed to complete and return their renewal forms.
Pam Tonkin also asked if the Conference could include a description of the roles of judges i.e. Chairman of Judges, line Judge etc. She felt that information about most of these is passed on rather than taught and that a national standard should be aimed for.

g. Chairman of National Tournaments Committee: Pam Tonkin. Report supplied.

- i. Since April the Committee has been working on those shoots that had been scheduled for this year and no adverse comments have been received about the tournaments held. Ann Webb praised the organisation of the Premier Event and Ann Shepherd the GNAM, this event being attended by 140 archers. The Premier event was booked solid with a waiting list of 15 for the Saturday. Pam reported that the Junior National Championships also went well with around 190 juniors taking part.
- ii. The following dates for 2004 have been set subject to final confirmation:

Senior Indoor Selection Shoot	25 th January 2004	Senior Indoor Champs	20/21st March 2004
Senior Outdoor Selection Shoot	4 th April 2004	UK Masters	5/6 th June 2004
GNAM	23/24/25 June 2004	Premier Event	26/27 th June 2004
Junior National Champs	3/4 th July 2004	Clout Championship	10 th July 2004

- ii. Alf Davies mentioned that the Board of Directors meeting had suggested that the National Tournaments be looked at to determine if they are fulfilling what we actually require. For example he cited the Masters being used to invite foreign competitors. Nick Nicholson related the history of this tournament saying that it was originally an invitation only tournament for those archers who had achieved MB and GMB status. It is only in recent years that it has been used for international trials. As it is the only shoot specifically for Master and Grand Master Bowmen he felt they should not be deprived of it.
The discussion then turned to whether the FITA 70m round could be included as a round used to gain MB or GMB. Nick will take this suggestion back to the Target Committee.

h. **Performance Director. No report.**

6. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Version 5.

- i. Nick Nicholson asked about the role of the “Facilitators” mentioned in the Plan. Having had experience of this role in his working environment he explained that the role was to draw together all relevant persons, the decision makers and the people affected by the decisions, and to assist/encourage them to identify the problems and to produce solutions. He felt that the Facilitators should be approaching the various committees to talk about the items mentioned in the SDP and to arrange focus groups but this didn’t seem to be happening. He also said that their role needs to be explained at the beginning of the document and also some explanation was required as to how we are to progress through the stages required in the Plan. The facilitators should also be some way removed from the part of the Plan that they are to facilitate i.e. Field Committee should not be the facilitators for Field Archery.
- ii. Nick Beeson commented that although the reference numbers in the new edition were helpful it is impossible to easily see the changes in the new edition without reading it alongside Version 4. It was suggested that any new changes in future be printed in italics to make them more obvious.
- iii. Some disappointment was expressed that no progress has yet been made on the situation regarding England as a Home Nation within the context of the Plan. Others felt that little progress had been made generally since Version 4 and that, although it was agreed that the SDP document was important, implementation was not quite as good as had been hoped.

7. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE.

Previously discussed in Item 4xi.

8. AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF SHOOTING.

- i. Nick Nicholson said he thought there had been some recent changes to the FITA Field Rules which would require GNAS to amend the Rules of Shooting for that section. It was agreed that Field Committee identify those rules which require amendment.

Derrick Lovell to action.

- ii. **Nick Beeson proposed that an asterisk be put against the FITA 900 round in column 2 of table 3-3 on pages 3-10 of the Rules of Shooting dated April 2002. This will allow the shooting of a Double FITA 900 for National Record purposes bringing it in line with its Imperial equivalent. Ann Shepherd pointed out that Double FITA 900 Records have already been supplied from the GNAS Office and published in Archery UK. It was agreed that this proposal will have no adverse effects on those Records already claimed and there were no objections to it.**
- iii. Nick Beeson reported that the Junior Committee have drawn up a proposal to change the rules (SAP 6 Para 2(d)) for the Rose Awards. The effect of the proposed changes will allow those who wish to claim Rose Awards for levels they have missed to do so, as long as they have a separate score in the relevant band. It will also give more opportunities for Juniors to complete their collection of Junior Rose Awards.
Some discussion followed regarding the practical elements of allowing claims for back awards and the cost of such a change. Nick Nicholson said he would like to see all archers being charged for their Rose awards. Pam Tonkin said she would also be in favour of this but would still need to charge tournament organisers the £60 for Rose status. When asked how this would be justified she said that £30 goes towards Office administration plus the UK advert and what is left does not cover current costs. All were in favour of the theory of this idea but the cost of the awards will need to be decided and liaison with the Office staff about how the system will work will be required. Notification will be put into Archery UK and Bob Tonkin will be asked to draft wording for Rules of Shooting.

9. REPLY TO LETTER FROM JUNIORS’ PARENTS.

Previously discussed in Item 4viii.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- i. Pam Tonkin said that she would like to see some changes to the way the Office hold the National Tournaments Diary information. Ann Shepherd said the Rose and Record Diaries that she receives for inclusion in Archery UK both have more detail than the National Tournaments Diary and that it would be helpful for this information to be in that same format as the others. Nick Nicholson supported both these views.

Nick Nicholson to action with Office.

The meeting closed at 4.15p.m.

The next Operations Committee meeting will take place on 18th October 2003.