

THE GRAND NATIONAL ARCHERY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on 10th January 2004
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 Pam Tonkin	Chairman of National Tournament Committee
Mr Derrick Lovell	Chairman of National Field Committee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Alf Davies	President
Mr David Sherratt	Chief Executive
Mr Barry Eley	Performance Director
Mrs Ann Shepherd	Minute Taker

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Pete Pendrey.
2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - ACCURACY.
 - i. The minutes were signed as a true record by the Director of Operations - Mike Shepherd.
3. MATTERS ARISING. - None.
4. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.

Written report supplied.

 - i. Mike's report stated how disappointed he is that some of the ideas and suggestions made by the Operations Committee are not progressing due to lack of funding or the inability of the Office to accommodate the changes required. He said it was obvious that the Office requires a lot of help in terms of new computer equipment and software, and possibly also with additional staff. David Sherratt has a similar request in his report to the Board meeting.

Mike had suggested in his report that funding be diverted from International for one year to fund improvements if money could not be found from elsewhere. This was not a popular idea with Committee members but did lead to much discussion about what could be done instead. Ann Webb pointed out that in order to gain UK Sports grants for international, GNAS does have to provide a percentage of the funding themselves.

David mentioned that the Office have absorbed a vast amount of work over the past 4 years without any updating of equipment. As a lot more information is being requested and dealt with electronically, the use of outdated equipment is not helpful. Membership figures are up by 18% which not only has an effect on the time taken to process new membership applications but has a knock on effect on things like records and awards. Child protection and more activity in Coaching have both added to the work needing to be undertaken. The Office is stretched at present and David said he was not convinced that additional work could be taken on without further resources.

Nick Nicholson asked about the Society's reserves and the Finance Director's estimate of what these should be, and what the estimate would be for an Office upgrade. David said he had no

details of the cost of computer equipment generally but went on to explain that although these are fixed assets that would be paid for from a single year's budget, staffing costs are ongoing so money would be required to continue to support any changes made there.

Nick Beeson was worried that things were not being looked at as a whole in terms of requirements. He advised against updating single pieces of equipment such as printers without looking at revising the whole system in order to automate a lot of the regular tasks.

It was stressed that no criticism of the Office or the staff is implied and that, on the contrary, the Operations Committee members appreciate how well the staff work despite having to manage with an outdated system. David also pointed out that a lot of time is wasted in having to deal with paperwork coming in that has been completed incorrectly i.e. records and rose claims etc. Although this point was accepted it was felt that this was a totally different subject and should not be confused with funding requirements.

2005 will be a World Championships year for Target and a World Games year for Field and no-one was happy with the thought of cutting funds. It was agreed however, that the idea had been successful in getting the funding situation highlighted and that the Board are not sufficiently aware of the problems the Office are having and the pressure they are under.

Nick Nicholson wrote the original specification for the computer system 10 years ago. At that time it was supposed to only last for 5 years and had been accepted by the then Chief Executive with some modifications in order to cut costs. It was pointed out that the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) has downgraded Office improvements to a Black or Blue priority whereas it was unanimously felt that these should be a Gold priority. The service provided by the Office affects all the members and is a major factor in the smooth running of the Society. This needs to be stressed in no uncertain terms to the Board members.

Mike Shepherd to action.

It was suggested that Nick N and Nick B be involved in the writing of new computer specifications. Nick N said this involved a lot of work and would require discussions with Chairmen of committees and with the Office staff who will eventually need to use the system. David reported that some work was already being undertaken in conjunction with Gymnastics with regard to a membership database. Both Nicks cautioned against tagging on to someone else's system, it is no good going along with something that suits the larger party only to find that after having accepted it, it does not suit us. Nick N suggested that a steering group should have been set up by the Board to look at all this and that this should have been done months ago.

It was agreed that the Board be asked to raise the Office upgrade to a Gold Priority in the SDP and to make funds available to carry out what is necessary.

Nick B asked that the whole package of membership services be looked at and that the Committee Chairmen, as "customers" of the system, be involved in advising what is required for their particular speciality.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- a. Chairman Field Committee: Derrick Lovell.
 - i. Minutes of the November liaison meeting were sent out to all Chairmen. As a result of requesting more communication between committees all Chairmen now receive regular updates of the Field Calendar.
 - ii. Criteria for the squad and team selection is in hand to go into Archery UK, as is the All British entry form.
 - iii. The Field Committee had been asked by Dearne Valley to prepare a risk assessment document for field archery. Despite saying that the Rules of Shooting cover this, their landowners are still insisting on a separate document. The situation is currently ongoing.
 - iv. New radios are now in place and ready for use.
 - v. The Code of Conduct was mentioned with regard to giving authority to Team managers over team members causing trouble. Barry Eley has given a draft proposal to Dennis Whiteman to take to the Board meeting.
 - vi. All clubs running Record Status field shoots this year will be required to put out white pegs for younger juniors.

- vii. Barry mentioned that FITA are staging a 3D animal World Championships in 2004 and that someone had asked if they could represent GB at the event. This had been refused as there is no possibility of funding this, no criteria for selection and not enough shoots available in order to acquire this information. Barry asked that something be set up for the next event in 2006 with a self funded team and a paid manager. He stated that some interest had been shown that could justify this. Nick Nicholson felt there should be a policy for representing GB as a similar thing had previously happened in Flight where an archer had gone to a World Championship event and had been accepted as a representative of Great Britain even though it had just been an open entry. Mike Shepherd raised the question of upsetting the anti-hunting groups if we support this particular event but as G.N.A.S. does not condone or allow bowhunting but does have animal rounds with paper or plastic targets as an alternative this was not thought to be relevant. The matter of selection criteria was raised and other disciplines were mentioned i.e. ski-arc, clout and flight. It was agreed that selection criteria would only be deemed necessary if the discipline had a World Championship event. David stressed that no funding would be available and that any teams selected would need to be self funding. It was agreed that the Target Committee will draft a policy document for GB Team representation and Nick will e-mail the Operations Chairmen for their views.

Nick Nicholson to action.

- b. Chairman of Target Committee: Nick Nicholson.
- i. The draft edition of the Tournament Organiser's Handbook (SDP 5.1) has been formatted to be uniform with the Rules of Shooting. This has reduced the size of the document, which could reduce the publishing costs by 40%. Some further corrections and a modification to the index are still required.
 - ii. The Handicap Review (SDP 5.4) is on schedule for questionnaires to be issued in the spring.
 - iii. Very little response has been received relating to the proposed changes to the Dress Regulations (SDP 5.4). More has been received with regard to the changes in the Judges uniform.
 - iv. The Rules of Shooting (SDP 5.4) update for April 2004 is on schedule.
 - v. The proposed changes to the rules on the Portsmouth face at competitions (SDP 5.4) have also received little response.
 - vi. Peter Morris asked what response there had been to the 3 Judge Rule as he had received several comments against the Target Committee's decision to allow the 3 Judge Rule to remain at FITA tournaments in this country. Derrick Lovell reported that he had heard similar objections. These seem to be based on the fact that anyone shooting abroad would need to get used to the fact that they will get one judge's decision and that will be final. Nick said he had had a minimal response and although the international archers do not like the new one judge rule he appreciated the argument for going along with it. A retraction of the statement made in the Winter edition of Archery UK will be made in the Spring edition.
- c. Chairman of Junior Committee: Nick Beeson.
- i. Both Graham Potts and Janet Bancroft have indicated that they will be stepping down from the committee at the 2004 AGM. This will leave three spaces to fill and the search for suitable candidates is continuing. Nick said he would like to record the Committee's thanks to Graham and Janet for the hard work both have put in over many years.
 - ii. Nick met with Barry Eley and Mike Shepherd to discuss Junior archery in relation to Performance and Coaching. (SDP 7.3) It was felt that the time is right to review the international side of Junior Archery. The meeting was successful in that initial plans were laid down to provide juniors with a continuous programme and a smooth line up to senior level. These were explained by Barry Eley who will write up the whole intended process for publication in Archery UK. David Sherratt was worried about the cost implications of the scheme and Nick Nicholson pointed out that an appeals process will be required if assessment panels are to be involved.
 - iii. The July Nationals, National Rankings, November Challenge and JAWS (SDP 7.5) have all been run and results finalised. Nick is currently looking at selecting a number of archers who participated in 2002 but not in 2003 with a view to asking them why they didn't.

- iv. The JAWS booklet (SDP 7.5) is being examined with a view to redesigning it in time for the 2004 issue.
 - v. Applications have been invited for Sports Aid Grants (SDP 7.5) and have been assessed. There has also been a scheme, the TASS, announced by Sport England which will replace these grants for the over 16's. Nick and David attended an initial meeting on this.
 - vi. Nick reported that the opportunity for juniors and cadets to shoot head to heads etc. are in short supply. He said he would like to propose that all Premier Shoots be asked to keep places available for these juniors to shoot. He is looking for this to happen in 2005, which would give some time for this to be considered. Nick also asked if a similar arrangement would be possible at FITA Stars and even extended to all Record status tournaments. It was pointed out that most organisers can fill shoots with senior entries so there is no incentive to provide junior rounds. Nick suggested that the provision of junior rounds could become a requirement of Record status. This was left for the Committee members to think about.
- d. Chairman of Coaching Committee: Pete Pendrey. Noreport.
- e. Chairman of Disabled Committee: Ann Webb.
- i. Ann Webb reported that the issues relating to the definition of a disabled person and a disabled club have been discussed and that a position statement has been written. This will go to the Board of Directors to be adopted as definition or policy.
 - ii. Ann said she was pleased to report that Ray Fields is now able to take on the Chairmanship of the Disabled Committee.
- f. Chairman of Judges Committee: Peter Morris.
- i. Three National Judge assessments have taken place, the successful candidates being Katie Barham, Anthony Ikel and Eric Jackson.
 - ii. Everything is in hand for the GNAS Judges Conference. Invitations have gone out to Judges of all levels and replies are being received.
 - iii. An updated Judges list has gone out to all Judges. Nick Nicholson asked if this could also be supplied electronically so that people could adjust it to the order they find most useful.
 - iv. The World Judges Conference is taking some time to organise. 70 rooms are booked at Lilleshall and 63 judges are expected so far. Judges are being asked, where possible, to fly in to Birmingham or Manchester and transport will be arranged from these airports to Lilleshall and back again.
 - v. Peter reported that he has personally carried out three safety checks on shooting grounds and knows that several others have been done around the country. Northern Counties' intention to circulate details to all their clubs, and have all grounds in their region registered by the end of the year, was reported.
- g. Chairman of National Tournament Committee: Pam Tonkin.
- i. The Tournament Committee would like to finalise the format of the Masters in the light of the suggestion from the Target Committee regarding practice, following discussions with Barry Eley and others. The format should be as follows: Inspection of equipment – 30 minutes, Assembly – approximately 15 minutes, then there should be a maximum of 3 ends of practice arrows which is followed immediately by the start of shooting. This will ensure that the aspiring and elite archers, shooting at such events, will replicate the tournament conditions found when shooting internationally. Everyone was happy with the suggestion and the same format will be applied to the Premier Shoots.
 - ii. A request has been made by Disabled Team Manager, David Hilton, to allow all members of the disabled squad to shoot at the Masters. Pam reported that there is a problem in that one archer has not represented GB in the past year and so does not fulfil the criteria. Barry Eley stated that the archer in question will be shooting for the GB team in April, which makes qualification possible.
 - iii. The 2003 Junior Indoor Championships were again a success enjoyed by all who attended. The 2004 event will be held at Ryton on Dunsmore but after that GNAS must either book that venue again or decide on a change. Although the current venue is good with regard to location it is somewhat tatty. Lilleshall is another alternative but it would mean reducing the number of bosses by one. Making it a 2-day event is another option. Mike Shepherd suggested the split venue idea

that is being used for the Indoor Barebow Championships but Nick Beeson felt that the juniors liked to congregate together and that this was half the fun of the shoot. The shoot is currently held as 3 sessions over 1 day and it was suggested that by having 4 sessions over 2 days there would be no loss of places. Nick will go back to the Junior Committee to discuss the alternatives, as there is time available. Pam will approach Lilleshall to check the availability of dates.

Nick Beeson and Pam Tonkin to action.

- h. Performance Director: Barry Eley.
- i. The WCPP archers have been reviewed by UK Sport and GNAS and this has resulted in two members having their funding category reduced from B to C.
- ii. Head Coach, Sergey Rodionov, is now established in the GNAS Office. He has visited various outside bodies in connection with his role, has revamped the archers' training programmes and is looking at the selection programme.
- iii. Simon Needham and Alison Williamson both attended an event in Brazil where Simon took Silver and Alison took Gold.
- iv. No communication has been possible with Sport England, as they still do not seem to have organised themselves.
- v. The new GB tracksuits have proved a great success.
- vi. A Junior Team Manager is currently being sought to take over from Tom Williamson.
- vii. International budgets are now all agreed and Barry produced a copy of the details for those present.
- viii. A visit to the Olympic Village in Greece unfortunately clashes with the European Target Championships. Jan Eley will attend and report back.

At this point a Coaching presentation was given to the Operations Committee by David Clarke. The subjects were the Coaching Taskforce and the National Coaching Certificate.

- 6. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN Version 5. Nothing to report.
- 7. BUDGETS
 - i. It was felt there was little to report except that the Chairmen have not yet received reports of their budgets.
- 8. SELF FUNDING ARCHERS. Nothing to report.
- 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
 - i. Nick Nicholson returned to the subject of space for juniors at Record Status shoots previously discussed in Item 5c.vi. He felt that that it would definitely not be a popular move with organisers and may not even be possible at some shoots. Ann Shepherd cited the Cheshire Weekend (FITA & York/Hereford), which has an almost constitutional rule that juniors will shoot the senior rounds of their sex. Ann Webb and Derrick Lovell both felt it would be extremely difficult to make it compulsory. Organisers are allowed to make their own decisions as to what rounds they want to host and it was thought that they would not take kindly to being told which rounds to put on. The general view was to possibly try the idea at FITA tournaments where only a separate distance for Cadet Girls would be required. As it is not intended to do anything about this for 2004 Nick Beeson will take the idea back to his committee for discussion.

The meeting closed at 4p.m.

- 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next Operations Committee meeting will take place on 3rd April 2004.

Future dates for Operations meetings will be:

10th July 2004, 9th October 2004, 8th January 2005, 2nd April 2005.