

THE GRAND NATIONAL ARCHERY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on 8th July 2006

At Lilleshall National Sports Centre

PRESENT:

Mr Mike Shepherd	Director of Operations
Mr Derrick Lovell	Chairman of Field Committee
Mrs Pam Tonkin	Chairman of National Tournaments Committee
Mr Peter Morris	Chairman of Judges Committee
Mr Nick Beeson	Chairman of Junior Committee
Mr Peter Pendrey	Chairman of Coaching Committee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Barry Eley	Performance Unit Manager
Mr Harry Healey	On behalf of the Disabled Committee
Mr David Clarke	Coaching Committee
Mrs Ann Shepherd	Minute Taker

For part of meeting only:

Mr David Sherratt	Chief Executive
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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ray Fields, Lynne Evans, Eric Jackson, John Poyner.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were signed as a true record by the Director of Operations – Mike Shepherd.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- i. (Item 3.i.) The issue surrounding the Scottish Field Archery Association (SFAA) is continuing to cause some problems. David Sherratt has already told them that it is really a local problem but it was agreed that we would be willing to speak to the SFAA about this if they wish to come to Lilleshall for a meeting.
- ii. (Item 5.g.) A new National Indoor Championships Team trophy has now been bought and will be presented for the first time at the 2007 event. The old trophy is now on official long term loan to Bingham Leisure Centre A C.
- iii. (Item 7.i.) Nick Beeson asked what happened to the discussion on the future of the Operations Committee that was supposed to take place at the A.G.M. It was reported that there had been no time at the meeting for any coverage of this topic.
- iv. (Item 9.iii.) Pam Tonkin asked about GB Team kit being worn at National Tournaments and said that she wasn't actually aware what the kit looked like for this year. Barry Eley gave a description but said that he still wanted to have the section that mentions this taken out of the Rules. He is hoping to be able to give squad and team members a jacket that they can wear instead of their GB kit.

4. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mike Shepherd.

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- i. A number of local club rounds continue to be sent in with requests that they be adopted as GNAS rounds. Mike said that the answer continues to be the same as in the past in that we do not have the facilities to handle any more rounds.
- ii. Mike read out a note that has appeared at the bottom of the Records table for some time now which says that the GNAS Target Committee may dispense with the Warwick rounds for

record purposes in due course. This issue has come to the fore recently as a Record Status application, sent in by Fakenham Bowmen, was queried by the Office. The reply that was sent, pointing out the situation, generated much correspondence, in various forms, in favour of keeping Records for the Warwick rounds. Pam Tonkin spoke of the history of the rounds in that they were initially intended for handicap and local purposes. After some discussion it was agreed that, if a club still wants to put the rounds on for Record purposes, then they should not be considered 'dead' and they should remain in the list of GNAS rounds recognised for Record Status.

- iii. The Field Records are now working well. Karen Hodgkiss is very happy with the new system and archives are also being kept. John Hartfield from the Field Committee is to be thanked for his input into this. Mike reported that he had discussed with Bob Tonkin the possibility of asking John to set up something similar for the Target Records in order that Karen and the Office staff only have one system to work with. Bob has no objections to this.
- iv. The Tournament Organiser's Handbook is now being proofread and should be available soon. One or two errors were pointed out by the Chairmen. Nick Beeson had e-mailed the Committee members with his comments prior to the meeting as he felt that some omissions had been made. He stated that handicap shoots were not mentioned and there was nothing included about juniors. He also said that there was not enough detail about accommodating disabled archers and nothing about the Burntwood rounds. Mike Shepherd asked David Sherratt how the Handbook is to be printed. David said that the intention is to put it on the website for organisers to download and if anyone specifically requests a hard copy they will print it off at the Office and supply it by post. By doing this, additions and corrections can easily be made if necessary and it will avoid large printing bills and the need to store stock.
- v. Mike asked if it was necessary to have a Target Committee page on the website as the Committee itself no longer exists. Pam Tonkin talked about having a Rules Committee but Mike said that it had been agreed that the whole of the Operations Committee now fulfils that role. David Sherratt said he was concerned that such an important subject only has one person responsible for collating the Rules and Nick Beeson said it worried him that the reshaping of the Operations Committee had not really started and that it was a mistake to start patching bits here and there. Mike suggested that, at the October meeting, reports be dealt with in the morning and that the afternoon then be devoted to a workshop on the structure and future of the Operations Committee. Nick suggested that each Chairman should put together a list of what they and their committees do at present. It was agreed that these should be sent to the minute taker to be circulated.

All Chairmen to action.

- vi. Mike reported that he is still getting requests to change the dress regulations with regard to trouser colours with black and grey being the most common suggestions. Barry Eley suggested including trousers in the club colours scheme which could allow clubs to have full tracksuits in their chosen colours. It was felt that some testing of the water could be required and it was agreed that Ann Shepherd (as the Editor of the magazine and as the Shooting Colours Registrar) should write something on the subject for Archery UK.
- vii. A query has been received from a club asking if they can incorporate the GNAS logo into their club colours by having it embroidered on a shirt sleeve. This was discussed at some length and it was agreed that this should be allowed with the stipulation that the logo used should be a good and accurate version. Pam Tonkin has a computerised jacquard of the GNAS Medieval Archer logo which has been used to embroider the National Tournaments work party sweatshirts and it was agreed that a copy of this could be made available at a cost of £10.00 to clubs who want the logo. It will be available on application to the GNAS Office.

A further enquiry was received asking if it would be acceptable to incorporate a small Welsh flag in a similar fashion on a shirt sleeve. It was agreed that GNAS would have no objections to this but Peter Pendrey pointed out that it should not be the flag with the Prince of Wales feathers as this cannot be used without official royal permission.

- viii. Mike asked how many queries Chairmen are receiving and suggested the idea of having a dedicated information officer. He cited the fact that the Rule changes made by FITA are not

necessarily known by the Office. Barry Eley said that a lot of information goes to the Office that we do not know about and that they then distribute it to various other places i.e. a lot is going through to the Performance Unit, particularly doping control information. Pam Tonkin mentioned that changes in arrow passes from 18 to 12 were something the Office were unaware of. David Sherratt said that, in his opinion, it wasn't the Office's job to monitor Rules and this is another reason for having a Rules committee. Derrick Lovell said that information is consistently being updated on the FITA website and asked if it was sent as an information pack to the Office. It seems this doesn't happen.

- ix. Mike reported that Neil Dimmock as the new Handicap and Classification Officer is making some progress and says that by next March the new classifications will be in Archery UK.

At 11.45 a.m. a talk on the 'Strategy for Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport 2006 – 2012' was given by Steve Boocock, Director of the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit. All agreed that this was a worthwhile exercise and Steve was thanked for an interesting presentation.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

a. Chairman, Field Committee: Derrick Lovell. Written report supplied.

- i. The Committee have been working with Karen Hodgkiss to modify the Record Status application forms to make them easier for the Office to use. They have also tidied up some practices and procedures that have been causing some problems resulting in organisers not receiving information early enough. The checksheets are now all numbered and an explanatory leaflet has been written to go out with these.
- ii. The All British Field Championships, held in Northern Ireland, was a resounding success and Frank Mulligan and his team are to be congratulated despite the rain and mud, both of which were plentiful. The Championships will return to Northern Ireland in 2008 when it will be hosted by Lough Cuan Bowmen.
- iii. The Team for the World Field Championships in Sweden was selected after the All British.
- iv. The Organising Committee for the 2008 World Championships are giving regular progress reports to the Field Committee and all is going well.
- v. Field information for the JAWS Award is being looked into.

b. Chairman, Junior Committee: Nick Beeson. Written report supplied.

- i. The Committee have been asked if FITA Clout scores can be included for the JAWS Award. Those personnel involved with Clout have been asked to provide a suitable table of scores and if/when this can be done they can be included.
- ii. The Junior National Outdoor Championships has taken place and was again efficiently run by the Tournament Committee who are to be thanked for this. Nick reported that we are in danger of becoming victims of our own success with increased attendance. A small increase next year will be manageable but Nick warned that radical solutions may be required of numbers continue to grow.
A letter of congratulations has been received about the tournament and this will be printed in Archery UK.
- iii. To date, eleven archers have submitted qualifying scores for the World Championships (closing date 31st July) and a shoot off/team building day has now been scheduled for 19th August.
Several archers and parents have raised questions about the qualifying scores and Nick said he realises that the table is "unclear" and will be liaising with the Performance Unit to determine the correct levels and in particular to see if a FITA 70m/60m round is really required.
- iv. John Willson is involved in putting together the "Dream Team" system that is looking towards 2012. The Junior Committee felt it would be good to encourage archers to put themselves forward for this and initially thought that much of the same form as that used for GB Squad applications would be useful. This would mean being able to keep track of those put forward and enable them to pass information on regarding exercises, schedules etc as used by the proper squad. Liaison will continue with the Performance Unit via John.

c. Chairman, Coaching Committee: Peter Pendrey. Written report supplied.

- i. scUK Action Plan. The Coaching Committee requested that the following recommendation be put to the Board of Directors for endorsement:

“That the Board of the Grand National Archery Society (GNAS) confirms that the GNAS Source Group as set up by the GNAS National Coaching Committee is authorised by the Board to deliver the GNAS United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) to all of the Home Nations of the United Kingdom.”

In order to move forward with the UKCC endorsement we need to produce an “Action Plan” that is approved by scUK and it is crucial to have the Action Plan signed off in order to be able to access scUK support. One of the requirements of the Action Plan is for us to demonstrate that our coach education programme will be implemented UK wide and documented evidence (minutes) from the Board, confirming the GNAS National Source Group as the UK wide authority to deliver this, is required.

It was agreed that Mike Shepherd should ask the Board of Directors for their endorsement of the recommendation.

Mike Shepherd to action.

- ii. GNAS Coaching Manager. David Clarke currently holds the position of National Coaching Organiser (Development) and does this on a volunteer basis. Although the NCC feel that this particular role should remain as a volunteer position they are of the firm opinion that the time has come to employ a professional Coaching Manager to deal with much of the coaching development and coach education work. The amount of work being expected is now too much to be done on a purely volunteer basis and GNAS are the only National Governing Body not to employ a Coaching Manager. A list, amounting to some 19 dates, of the meetings that Coaching Committee personnel are expected to attend in just 6 months was also provided as an example of the level of work and commitment involved. Having a professional located at Lilleshall will take a lot of pressure off other Coaching Officers, Education & Leaders in particular, whilst also giving stronger support to the Coaching Administrator. Much discussion took place about the future of coaching and the need for professional input due to new initiatives and schemes that we need to sign up to. It was pointed out that if David were to retire from his role it is unlikely anyone else would be able to volunteer for such a big job. The question of finding the money to pay for a Coaching Manager was also discussed and Peter Pendrey mentioned that the Leaders Awards bring in £63,000 per year that does not go back into coaching and suggested that this could be used as the source of funding. It was agreed that Mike Shepherd should take the request to employ a professional Coaching Manager to the Board and that David Clarke should write an official proposal to support the Coaching Committee’s request.

Mike Shepherd & David Clarke to action.

- iii. The last registration for the old style Coach course is December 2006 with the exam needing to be completed by May 2008 although this may be subject to alteration if delays in Level 2 are experienced.
- iv. Peter raised the subject of the latest draft of the GNAS Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and said he was concerned that it did not include many of the things Coaching had specified that they wanted to see in it. David Clarke said that half of the information in the older version is no longer in the new one and what is included regarding coaching does not make sense and most certainly did not come from the Coaching Committee. This opened the debate to a more general discussion of the Plan with nearly all the Committee Chairmen saying that what they had sent to Eric Jackson for inclusion does not appear in the document. Several items are still outstanding from the current Plan but these do not appear in the new draft. It was suggested that the draft plan looks like a document intended for presentation to bodies outside the GNAS and Nick Beeson said that it may have been produced for the purposes of raising money. The document seems to be heavily biased towards the Olympics in 2012 and it was felt that it should be remembered that the document belongs to the membership as a whole and not to just one part of the Society.
- The general consensus of opinion was that the new draft of the SDP Plan cannot be accepted by the Operations Committee and that a formal statement to this effect be sent to the Board of Directors. This was agreed and Mike Shepherd will present the following statement to the Board:

"Following serious discussion and consideration the members of the Operations Committee agreed that Version 5.1 of the GNAS Strategic Development Plan requires substantial review and revision before it can be adopted. All members of the Committee, having been specifically requested for input regarding their specialist fields, expressed surprise and disappointment that the information they had supplied had not been included and stressed that this future revision must involve all Chairmen before being circulated to a wider audience."

Mike Shepherd to action.

d. Disabled Committee Representative: Harry Healey.

- i. Loughborough University have given us the opportunity to do tests with VI archers and sighted archers involving blindfolds although it was reported that the response from the VI archers had been disappointing. Barry Eley said he would arrange for some of the funded archers to attend.

The biomechanics department at Loughborough are also helping to design a better tactile sight. Barry pointed out that biomechanical testing could now be done at Sutherland Hall as the Performance Unit already have the equipment.

e. Chairman, Judges Committee: Peter Morris. Written report supplied.

- i. Peter reported that there will be a need to increase Judge's numbers next year as there have been numerous withdrawals from various tournaments this year. He thanked the Tournament Committee for working closing with the Judges on this to overcome the problems that have arisen.
- ii. Negotiations are taking place with regard to the price of the FITA arrow and bow gauge and if these are successful then all Judges will be supplied with one.
- iii. There has been a reasonable response from Judges with ideas for subjects they would like to see covered by the next Judges Conference. These will all be considered and a programme drawn up. Peter confirmed that the subject of Head to Heads would definitely be included. Minutes from the last Conference have now been sent out to every Judge in the country.
- iv. The Committee are continuing with National assessments and are being invited to sit in on Regional assessments.
- v. Pam Tonkin raised the subject of the new FITA Rule which says that archers can correct their own scorecards when mistakes are made. She said this is a mess, open to abuse and the archers don't like it. It was pointed out that this system has been used successfully in Field archery for many years where it may not be easy to call a judge but at a target tournament this should not be a problem. Derrick Lovell said there is also a problem with the new rule that says that line cutters can be decided on by the archers on a target as a group. It was agreed that the best plan would be to try to get these two FITA Byelaws revoked. We will need to ensure that the correct procedure is used and Derrick will investigate this with the intention of setting this in motion.

Derrick Lovell to action.

It was agreed that Peter Morris should write something on this subject for the next edition of Archery UK stating that GNAS still requires judges to correct mistakes made on scorecards.

Peter Morris to action.

f. Chairman, National Tournaments Committee: Pam Tonkin. Written report supplied.

- i. At the January 2006 meeting Pam reported that John Poyner had suggested that no entry fees be charged for the Masters in 2007. Pam said this still requires some discussion as the tournament costs are around £5,000 and she could not see how free entry would be possible. David Sherratt is looking at the budgets and said that it does seem likely that this will be impossible for 2007.
- ii. The date of the National Clout Championships has had to be altered to Saturday 21st October. Pam said that the change does mean that this shoot is now on the same weekend as the

Leicester & Rutland Clout shoot but the clash shouldn't be a problem as this tournament is on the Sunday and archers will travel between the shoots.

- iii. The Senior Outdoor Selection shoot was held in May in conjunction with the Performance Unit (PU). The original number of archers was increased just before the event which resulted in having to bring in an extra judge from the small work party. Talks are now ongoing with the PU and the Judges Committee to sort this out for the 2007 selection shoots.
- iv. June was a very busy month with the National Tournaments Committee running the UK Masters, the GNAM and the Premier Event. The Junior National Championships then followed on the first weekend in July. Entries to all events were high with the Premier Event being full eight weeks before the closing date. There were over 270 entrants for the Junior Championships and three weeks before the event the decision was taken to have six archers to a target. This worked well despite some people's initial reservations.
- v. Eighty new target numbers have been made by Richard Custance and Michael Lark to replace those made some years ago by Fred Dillow. Pam requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Richard and Mark for this.

David Sherratt to action.

- vi. The response has been such that it has been agreed to run the new Team Event and the date for this will be 21st January 2007. It is hoped to attract 57 teams of 4 archers and the cost of entry will be £50 per team. The ranking round will be the first half of a FITA 18 and although this means it will be non-record status it will be run to WRS standards. The timings for the Head to Heads will be altered to accommodate the extra archer.
- vii. A change of date for the 2007 National Indoor Championships has had to be made and the event will now take place on 17th & 18th February 2007.
- viii. Pam explained the reason for the change of date for the GNAM, as mentioned in the previous minutes, and said that it had been changed because the Premier Event was added on to the weekend following the GNAM and this year this would have gone into July and clashed with the Junior Championships.
- ix. Mike Shepherd reported that he had received little response so far to the question of all-carbon arrows.

g. Performance Unit Manager: Barry Eley. Two written reports supplied.

- i. Barry said that both reports could be published in Archery UK.
- ii. The Performance Unit (PU) have taken over all items related to anti doping and all aspects of international performance with the exception of records.
- iii. If Visually Impaired (VI) archers want to shoot internationally they need to shoot to IPC Rules.
- iv. Barry reported that a shed is due to be built on the side of the rugby field at Lilleshall to enable the squads to train outside in winter.
- v. The PU are looking to run a seminar on November 4th & 5th for all those coaches and volunteers who have helped the squads this year. It is recognised that some things have not run smoothly and it is the intention to get everyone together to sort out future programmes.
- vi. Letters have gone out to all the Home Countries about the Commonwealth Cup. Although no funding will be available, the PU has offered practical help in arranging travel.
- vii. Selection shoots will in future be arranged by the PU not by the Head Coach.
- viii. Barry said he had been experiencing some problems with his e-mail addresses and will be looking into this.

Meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Operations meeting will take place on 7th October 2006.

Future dates for Operations meetings will be:
6th January 2007, 31st March 2007.