

# Minutes of the Grand Western Archery Society Annual General Meeting held at West Buckland Village Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Present : Nick Nicholson (President), Paul Callaway (Chairman), Jane Rees (Treasurer), Andrew Rees, Kay Hobbs, Graham Hobbs, Brian Hardy, Marion Hutter, John Poyner, Janet Wootton, Malcolm Wootton, Joan Griffiths, Alastair Robinson, Ruth Robinson, Jim Start, Paul Maines, Tim Mustin Twells, Brian Keen, Doug Human, Christine Human, Mike Byrnes, Margaret Byrnes, John Harvey, Gloria Mead, Gerald Farrell, Mollie Wix, Diane Johnstone, Keith Harris, John Russell, Sally Sandoe, Jimmy Sandoe, Ann Callaway, Paul Allan, Malcolm Grant, Lynne Evans, Chris Read, Pam Tonkin, Tim Jackson, Phil Carder, Michael Vittles and Chris Hassall (taking Minutes).

## **Introduction by the Chairman - Paul Callaway**

Good Afternoon Ladies & Gentlemen and welcome to this AGM of the Grand Western Archery Society. Before we move into the agenda items, there is an important matter I wish to record; namely, the passing of our Regional Secretary, Janet Faralewski, on Thursday 30th December 2009. She peacefully passed away in the company of her son, Paul, and daughter, Nella, in Poole General Hospital.

I have taken the following from a tribute our President, Nick Nicholson, wrote for the GWAS web site and I make no apology for repeating it here because they are fine words about a fine lady.

"Janet had suffered from Multiple Sclerosis for over 40 years but this did not stop her supporting her son and eventually her husband Eddie on the archery field. Being bored with just watching she took up the post of Event Secretary and then Club Secretary of the Bowmen of Lytchett, and soon got involved at both County and Regional level. She became a Judge in the 1970's where her polite, considerate nature soon won the respect of the archers.

Janet and Eddie became a formidable team organising competitions for their Club and their County. In 1986 she became the Chairman of GWAS, and 1990 saw her in her present post as Secretary to GWAS. In 1992 Janet and Eddie took over the running of Dunster Archery Week and continued the tradition of providing an event that archers really wanted to attend.

In 1991 her MS caused Janet to need a buggy to continue judging and get around the archery fields. JAN 1 was donated by the Archers and they soon learnt to keep their bows behind the waiting line. When JAN 1's gearbox gave up the ghost, archers from across the country clubbed together to buy JAN2.

On Eddie's death in 1997, with the full support of her family, she continued with all her archery commitments. In the West Country, she was known as the font of all knowledge who was available to be contacted both day and night on anything to do with Archery. Many archers who were visitors to the West were also influenced by Janet's love of the sport and became part of her extended family.

The "Archers of the West" and the "Visitors to the West" have lost an icon of honesty, fair play and organisational skills."

Nick delivered a superb eulogy at Janet's funeral which really encapsulated her indomitable spirit and I'd like to thank you for that Nick.

Can we please stand for a moment's silence to remember Janet and other archery friends whom we've lost over this past year?

## **1 Apologies**

Chris Vitali, Shiela Sims, Barbara Williams, Tony Smith, Phil Spavins, Richard Jones, Robin Jarvis and Helen Norman.

## **2 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the 2009 AGM were accepted by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman. (Proposed by Malcolm Wootton, seconded by Nick Nicholson).

## **3 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the 2009 AGM.

## **4 Chairman's Report (Paul Callaway)**

As you may know, I have now come to the end of my second session as Grand Western Chairman. I must say, undoubtedly like most of my co-Council members, I have really enjoyed my time. I want to extend my thanks to all the Council members for their help and co-operation over the years in

achieving the business of this Society - without all your unstinting voluntary work, where would we be!

This AGM sees a number of significant changes to the composition of the Council; my proposed successor as Chairman in Lynne Evans (soon to vacate her slot as Chairman of GNAS); the proposed successor as Secretary in Janet Wooton and a new Regional Coaching Officer, Doug Human. I'm sure each of you will find the same helpful spirit from amongst your fellow Council members which will make the transition a smooth and seamless one.

I was asked the other day, "What does Grand Western do for its archers?" I could think of half a dozen important things just off the top of my head. With the help of John Poyner (Chairman of DCAS), we've come up with over a dozen and I don't think it would hurt to cover them now - just so you can see what a range of things we cover:

- 1 The Region administers affiliations from the Counties to GNAS, from which it derives a revenue stream from GNAS derived from the 5% discount of national affiliation fees which is cascaded down through County to Club for all affiliation fees paid by the commencement of the membership year.
- 2 The Region organises and stages Dunster Week.
- 3 The Regional Indoor event.
- 4 The Regional Clout event.
- 5 The Regional Field Championships.
- 6 The Junior Regional Championships.
- 7 The Junior Inter-Counties.
- 8 The Senior Inter-Counties, all of which are underwritten by the Region.
- 9 The Region provides the funding for each County to apply for one FITA Star and one Rose Award shoot each year.
- 10 Grants are also made to archers from the Region who shoot Internationally, to help offset the cost of travel, etc.
- 11 Disciplinary panels are required from time to time when a case is referred to the Region from County level or from Archery GB. The cost of this is borne by the Region.
- 12 Coaching. The Region has a Regional Coaching Organiser to review and organise coaching within the Region, to arrange coach training programmes and conferences, to maintain a full register of all coaches within the Region and ensure that all coaches are up to date with any new techniques that may have been developed. The RCO also arranges a system of courses and assessments to advance coaches to the next level. This is all funded by your Region.
- 13 Judging. In a similar set up to coaching, the Region supports all Judges within the Region through the Judging Liaison Officer and a Judging Committee.
- 14 The Region provides grants and loan to clubs, if thought applicable, to help with the development of that club.
- 15 The Region pays everyone's annual affiliation to the English Archery Federation on their behalf.

You can probably think of more (let me know, so I can add them to my list!)

Remember, all of the aforementioned are done by archers from within the Region doing voluntary jobs and I thank them most heartily for that.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of this Region's archers who have so admirably represented their Country (and us) at International Events over the past year - you have done us proud.

## **5 Honorary Treasurer's Report (Jane Rees)**

Starting on page 4 – Income & Expenditure Account.

Indoor champs were cancelled due to bad weather in Feb 2009. We were very fortunate that Hutton Moor leisure centre was willing to retain our 2009 deposit towards 2010, so costs incurred for the shoot were only some administrative expenses.

Dunster income rose by 5% over the previous year. Affiliations fees increased by 14%, details of which Chris will give you later. Sundry income consists of £1,218 boss hire and £40 boss sales where we sell on the used Dunster bosses towards the end of their useful lives. Interest received is only £29 as a result of the difficult economic times. All year, the Finance sub-Committee have continued to investigate the possibilities offered by different investments but have been unable to find anything suitable. The war loan dividend was £5 as usual for the £50 investment!

Expenditure other than shoot costs (which I will review briefly later) starts about half way down the list of expenditure, with post & telephone, travelling etc. Travel has increased but is just a product of miles travelled by GWAS officers on GWAS business and a full year of claims at 30p per mile. (The increase from 25p to 30p took place during 2008).

The purchase of trophies and medals is considerably lower in 2009 as the 2008 figure includes the cost of the many trophies which were replaced during 2008. There was no regional coaching conference in 2009, however coach training courses at level 1 and 2 have taken place, as have child protection courses, all of which accounts for the 400% increase in coach training costs. Sundry expenses include the cost of reimbursement to the Counties for the cost of 1 FITA Star & 1 Rose Award per County, web hosting costs & the costs of council members travel to meetings. It also includes the cost of grants made in the year. A £575 grant was made to EAF in respect of recurve archers in preparation for the Commonwealth Games and 4 grants of £250 each to GWAS archers representing England or Great Britain. Taxation is based on the amount of interest received and is therefore much reduced.

Over the page to the Balance Sheet:

Trophies are the same value as previous years as they are stated at historical cost with any new trophies acquired and awarded in the year appearing in the Income and Expenditure account as previously mentioned. There is a new note on page 6 about the value of trophies as requested by the AGM last year.

Targets etc at valuation is the value of bosses, stands, number boards & 3D's. Value is lower than 2008 as the 3D's are reduced in value over 5 years and none were replaced during 2009. There is also a new note about library archives to reflect the difference between the historical cost as disclosed in the balance sheet and the possible market value at 31st December 2009.

Those eagle eyed amongst you will notice that there is a category for stock this year. This was shown as part of the total under 'targets etc at valuation' in 2008 but the examiner considered that target faces and medals were more correctly disclosed as stock and so the 2008 figures have been restated to show this. The higher figure reflects the larger stocks of medals held at the year end in addition to the slightly higher cost per item.

Sundry debtors and payments in advance is made up of various costs paid in 2009 enabling the 2010 shoots to go ahead - record status and venue deposits.

The balance at bank is a healthy one of £87,220 underlining the importance of the work of the Finance sub-Committee.

The library stock creditor of £1208 is an historical balance taken over from earlier years. It does not appear to represent an actual liability and so will probably be written off to the Income & Expenditure account in 2010.

Sundry creditors and receipts in advance is made up of the EAF subs, mileage claims and examiners fees all requested after 31st December, but relating to 2009.

The individual shoots on page 7 onwards show a loss on the Indoor, Inter-Counties, Junior postal league, Junior Champs & Junior InterC ounties, Field and Clout championships totalling £(1759) and a profit on Dunster of £1477. The costs associated with the various shoots stay fairly constant apart from Dunster and the field shoot which varies due to location and availability of Judges. Dunster costs are continually rising but Janet & Nick did some forward planning late last year and based on the actual figures for 2009 to set the 2010 entry fees.

The overall result for the year is an excess of expenditure over income of £270.

A query was raised regarding the small amount of interest received from what is a substantial balance held by the Region. Jane Rees explained that the interest rate has been 0.05% for the past year and that the Finance sub-Committee has been looking for alternative investments that still gives us the required access to our funds. Nick Nicholson explained that getting better rates for Societies had proved very difficult, three year bonds were available but we didn't want to tie the Society's money up for this period of time without considerable thought. Margaret Byrnes commented that her Club were with Scottish Widows and were getting a better rate than Region; Jane explained that, with the new regulations now in force, setting up new investments was very different than continuing with an account set up some time ago. It was pointed out that the Finance sub-Committee is still looking for alternative investment opportunities.

Graham Hobbs proposed that we adopt the Accounts; this was seconded by Alastair Robinson and agreed by the Meeting.

On behalf of the Meeting, Tim Jackson thanked Jane for all her work on the Accounts over the year.

Chris Hassall handed out copies the Affiliation Figures; the Region had (at the end of the Affiliation Year 2008 / 2009) a total of 2384 senior members - an increase of 187 over the previous year.

The question was asked as to why we lose 30%. Nick told the meeting that 30% is not bad; other sports have even bigger losses as many people just want to have a go for a while and then try something else.

## **6 Affiliation Fees for 2010/2011**

The proposal from Committee was that the fees be left at their current level of £5 (Juniors £2.25). Keith Harris proposed that the Senior fee be dropped to £1 as he felt that the Region had too much money which was not being used and we should not be making more money; he also stated that he did not understand why the fees had been raised in 2006. A number of people opposed these points and expressed confidence in the way the Committee have been running the Society; it was pointed out that the

Membership had voted at the 2006 AGM to raise the fee - it was not simply a Committee decision. After some further discussion the Chairman called for a vote on the proposal that the Regional fee be reduced to £1. With only 3 votes in favour of this proposition the original proposal for the fees to remain at £5 was put to the Meeting and was carried with 3 votes against.

#### **7 Election of Officers of the Society**

President	Nick Nicholson (unopposed)
Chairman	Lynne Evans (unopposed)
Hon. Secretary	Janet Wootton (unopposed)
Hon. Treasurer	Jane Rees (unopposed)

#### **8 Election of Specialist Members of the Society**

The following were elected (all unopposed) :-

Tournament Secretary	Nick Nicholson
Equipment Officer	Chris Hassall
Junior Rep.	Brian Hardy
Field Rep.	Gloria Mead
Archivist & Librarian	Chris Hassall
GWAS Rep. to EAF	Malcolm Wootton
Affiliations Secretary	Chris Hassall
Protection Officer	Christine Human
Records Officer	Andrew Rees

Lynne Evans asked if we should be voting on the post of Web Master, the President informed the Meeting that this post was an appointment by the Committee.

#### **9 To confirm the Regional Coaching Organiser as Chairman of the Coaching Committee**

Doug Human was elected RCO at the Coaching AGM and the Meeting confirmed him as Chairman of the Coaching Committee.

#### **10 To confirm the Appointment of the Judge Liaison Officer**

John Poyner was confirmed as Judge Liaison Officer.

#### **11 To receive from each County the names of their Representatives to GWAS Council**

DCAS	Marion Hutter & Phil Spavins
DWAA	Michael Vittles & Brian Keen
GAS	Malcolm Wootton & Alastair Robinson
SCAA	Andrew Rees & Chris Hassall

#### **12 To appoint Independent Examiners for the 2009 Accounts**

It was agreed that Fletcher & Partners be retained as Independent Examiners.

At this point the Chairman asked if the incoming Chairman would like to take the Chair; Lynne replied that as she still had a few weeks to serve as Chairman of GNAS she felt that it was better if she did not in case there was a conflict of interests at any point, she explained that Paul had offered to continue to act as Chairman until this situation was resolved if it was the wish of the Meeting that this be so; following a short discussion on the legality of this Paul retained the Chair.

#### **13 To discuss any matters affecting Archery in the Region**

Doug Human said that there was already a proposed Budget for Coaching but with recent events in the Coaching world it could well be that he would be asking for more money.

The Chairman informed the Meeting that Exmouth Archers had had plans for an Indoor Range accepted by their Local Council. They have already raised about £50,000 but would be coming to the next GW Council Meeting to ask for help with the funding of this project. John Russell, the Secretary of Exmouth Archers, explained the background to this project and the progress made so far. The intention is to build a range that will be wide enough to accommodate eight targets at up to 25 metres. The building has to start before the end of the year and will only be available for archery. It was recommended that John Russell be invited to the next Council Meeting (8th May) to put their case.

Margaret Byrnes gave details of up-coming Tournaments being put on by Bowmen of the Tors.

Chris Hassall said that he had been invited by GNAS to a Meeting in Manchester to discuss the possibility of producing a short history of the Grand National Archery Society for their 150th Anniversary in 2011.

There being no other business the Meeting was declared closed at 2.25p.m.