



Wells City Archers

General Meeting Minutes

28 April 2025

Wells City Archers Club House

In attendance:

Sue Matthews

Paul Grinham

Lynne Evans

Paul Hughes

Steve Bassett

Thomas Hudson

Anthony Henderson

Alan Norsworthy

Amanda Thorpe

Jayson Nickholds

Phil Ovens

Andy Bartin

Clare Hudsmith

Dave Hudsmith

Sue Elkins

George Govier

David Mace

Sheila Pickthorne

Connor Pinder

Nicky Everett

Mike Philliskirk

Alison Soars

Graham Norris

Richard Gregory

Matt Dunn

Jane Clulow

Anton Bowers

James Fox

1. Apologies for absence

Matt Rowse; Chris Mitchell; Leigh Yates; Catherine Arter

2. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. President's welcome

Beginners Courses.....

One of the privileges of this role is to 'pop' along to the final evening of the course, when all the hard work has been done, and the washing up! To present certificates and hopefully some encouraging words for the novice archers but always to thank the coaches and support staff for giving up their evenings to coach!

I always say that the coaches should thank the 'beginners' for allowing them to talk about their favourite subject – archery!

When does a sport change from a past-time, a hobby to a commitment and possible an obsession? Is it the history, or the opportunities that under your skin? A little while ago, Mike and I were reminiscing about how we started and what happened next! Well over 120 years in the sport between us and still going strong?

On Saturday morning I joined members of Archery GB for the on-line AGM, obviously being here tonight shows that I'm a sucker for AGM's well maybe, but some-one has to do it!

The news of the sport continues to encourage, 37,000 members, just check out the web-site and see that you each of you are part of a strong and vibrant National Governing Body for Olympic, Paralympic sport supported by UK Sport, Sport England and yes Archery GB!

There was a time when my interest in administration and constitution got me elected to the Council that is now known as World Archery rising to the ranks of Vice President – why mention that? Because those of you who follow such things will see that after more than 3 decades of lobbying the next Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028 will include the discipline of Compound alongside the now traditional 'Recurve' bow re-introduced to the Olympic Programme in 1972.

OK...

So what?

In 1962 – you do the numbers with my parents I joined an archery club in Bristol, and from there to here and now is a journey I'm proud of, and there is no reason why one of you couldn't embark on a similar journey, archer, coach, judge, tournament organiser, working party crew, or why not as a spectator at the National Tour Finals.

An archer then and now!

See you on the shooting line one of these fine days!

And by the way... The Chairman of Archery GB – Mark Briegal sends his very best wishes to this club for our GM this evening!

5. Chairman and Secretary report

The club continues to go from strength to strength and so it is easy to report lots of areas of development from the last six months since the AGM.

Our membership is currently 102.

1. Building

In recognition of the amount of work required to maintain the building, the committee created a new “Building Officer” role on the committee. Mike was appointed to this role. Both Mike and Dave have continued to make improvements and maintain the building. This has included:

- a. Fitting trace heating to the water pipes in the kitchen. Over the Christmas period the pipes outside the building froze – meaning we didn’t have water for a while. But importantly they did not freeze inside and so we did not have the repeat of burst pipes that we have seen in previous years.
- b. A new digital door lock which will increase security, and save money in the long run. As members leave the club we can switch off access, rather than having to change the lock and issue new keys.
- c. The front door has also been reinforced, and both a retainer and stop fitted to stop the door swinging on the hinges and dropping.
- d. An additional security feature has been added to the fire exit. Previously the only access to the building was via the front door, and if this became blocked we would not be able to enter. So an external lock has been fitted to the fire exit.

2. Cleaning rota

A cleaning rota has been developed and we are very grateful to those members who complete the tasks. If you are not giving to the club in any other capacity – please take on a cleaning task. Every member is obliged to contribute to the running of the club. You have all signed the membership form where it says “I agree to contribute at events organised by Wells City Archers, and to the maintenance of equipment and shooting ranges”. As I keep repeating: This is a club – NOT a shooting ground.

3. Boss repairs and white lining

Each month members get involved to help repair the bosses. With so many members shooting so well, the bosses do need a lot of TLC – thank you to everyone who helps at these repair sessions.

Thank you also to the white lining team. This needs to be done regularly to keep us shooting the correct distances.

4. Socials

Meals and social gatherings at local pubs have given members a chance to socialise outside the club. The pub visits are every month and all members

are welcome to come along. The meals happen more infrequently, but the next one is an Italian meal in June.

We also had a Christmas party shoot. Games and a buffet made it a fun event. We also awarded the outdoor classification badges.

5. Coaching

The coaching team has been busy. Next Steps sessions continue to take place on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Mike ran a bow tuning afternoon. And there was a series of Informative talks on arrows, strings, bow set up and the influence of the mind.

There have been four beginners courses since the AGM. A beginners course specifically for Young Archers started on Saturday.

Over the summer Wells will be hosting an Archery GB Session Coach course. There are several Wells City Archers on that course, so by the AGM we should be doubling the number of club coaches.

6. Young Archers

Our junior section has requested that they now be referred to as Young Archers. Numbers have grown, and we are grateful to John and Dave for managing the archers and the team of Supervisors – who we also thank.

John has also introduced a Young Archers Progression Scheme where skill and knowledge are rewarded by badges. The young archers also shoot a tournament each month.

7. External shooting

A large number of members attended the Somerset Indoor Championships in Weston in November. Individual members have also represented Wells in several other tournaments – often returning with bling!

External tournaments are listed in the newsletter, so book in if you are interested.

8. Club tournaments

We continue to run monthly tournaments.

We have a programme for the outdoor season and encourage all archers to participate. These events will enable members to achieve their outdoor classifications.

In addition we have introduced the official club night on the second Tuesday of each month which will give members another opportunity to gain their classifications. Criteria was set out in the newsletter.

Over the winter it was wonderful to see so many members taking part in the Portsmouth and Frostbite tournaments and we had so many members that we had to run a double session for the last event. Thanks to Paul for organising them all, and to those archers who volunteered as Field Captain. Lots of archers have achieved indoor classifications.

And also, I am so proud that Wells City Archers performed a clean sweep of the Somerset County Postal Leagues. We are champions of all four leagues – the first time this has ever been achieved by a club. Well done everyone!!

6. Treasurer report

I will be giving an overview of the club's finances as of late April as well as providing a forecast for the year end position.

Our main sources of income in the current financial year have been the membership fees of 12 renewing and 18 new members since October 1st, and 33 beginners course places. Together these two items have generated revenue of £6,245.

Other revenue has come from the kit-sale box (£230), bulk buy discounts on clothing and mugs (£50) and vending (£30)

One of our main expenditures have been, as ever, our shooting consumables with £850 spent on foam and faces. A further £850 has been spent on capital items : power tools for boss maintenance, tables and the window decals, and £365 has been spent on the outside range, covering timber and grass cutting.

Our so called fixed costs – covering utilities, WSC funding and insurance - have been £2,600. This includes an unexpected 26% increase in our insurance costs.

We have also had to record affiliation fees of £800 in this financial year where the corresponding revenue was include in last year's accounts but such is the nature of cash based book keeping.

The club's accounts show a balance of £9,856 in the current account and £16,196 in the savings account, a total of £26,052 .

These figures mean we have a slender improvement over the half- year of £260. This might not sound significant but I believe it is actually a good position to be in. It means that our 'running costs' are being met from the

revenue generated within the year and I see no reason why that will not broadly continue until our year end on Sept 30th. Come September 1st when the renewal period opens, all renewals made by the 30th will be reported in the current FY and, based on last year's renewal uptake, I believe that we should see a year-end surplus of around £9k - £10k.

7. Classification awards

Indoor classification awards were made to archers.

8. WCA Club Governance changes

We have been unable to find any record of the criteria required for a member to claim disability membership of the club. Therefore we are using the HMRC guidelines as our reference and these have been added to the WCA Club Governance document. In order to claim disability membership in the future, members will be required to meet the HMRC criteria and provide documentary proof.

Questions were raised about the reasons behind this decision and the security of the information provided as proof.

Chair reported that this has been introduced to ensure the club meets the needs of its members and to provide equity across the membership.

9. WCA Roof

It has been known for some time that work needs to be carried out on the club building roof to make it watertight and safe. The suggestion in the past has been a total roof replacement at an estimated cost of around £70,000. An alternative solution has been found, and whilst still expensive, it is considerably cheaper than the full replacement. The committee is not required to ask members for approval for capital spend, but as it is a large sum of money, the committee would like sanction from the membership before proceeding.

Buildings officer outlined that there is the option to clean and seal the roof from the outside. Quotes are being sought, but it looks like it will cost £10 - £12k.

In subsequent years we can then coat the inside of the roof at a similar cost.

Members voted unanimously to proceed with this option.

10. WCA committee

One of the purposes of the committee is to manage the affairs of the club. We have recently audited all the functions of the club that need managing and have discovered that there are some areas where no one on the committee has overall responsibility.

In order that all facets of club life fall under the responsibility of a committee member we have a proposal for a new range of roles for the committee. One person can have more than one role. Whilst these cannot be official roles until incumbents are voted in at the AGM, if any member would like to take on one of these new proposed additional roles now, they can become advisers to the committee and then stand for nomination in October.

The roles are:

Current

- President
- Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Safeguarding
- Equipment
- Coaching
- Records

Proposed additional roles

- Building
- Outdoor
- Housekeeping
- Social
- Publicity
- Membership secretary
- Tournaments
- Young Archers

There was discussion about the viability of such a large committee membership.

11. AOB

Geoge Govier raised the issue of finding an alternative site for compound shooting. The search continues.

Meeting ended at 8.37pm.