



Wells City Archers

General Meeting Minutes

20 April 2026, 7pm

Wells City Archers Club House

In attendance:

Paul Grinham

Matt Rowse

Mike Heyes

Mike Philliskirk

Tony Henderson

Ken Hill

Peter Whiterod

Phil Ovens

Alan Northsworthy

Dave Hudsmith

Clare Hudsmith

Mandy Thorpe

Jayson Nickholds

Jane Clulow

Mark Pearson

Andy Bartin

Graeme Gillies

Sue Matthews

Pam Rowse

Lynne Evans

George Govier

Sue Elkins

John Baker

Richard Gregory

James Fox

Chris Mitchell

Idris Feather

Steve Bassett

Connor Pinder

Dan Burnett

1. Apologies for absence

Anton Bowers; Alison Soars; Dan Pursey; Kevin Eades; Catherine Arter; Matt Dunn; Graham Norris; Sheila Pickthorne; John Bailey

2. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. President's welcome

Good evening

Thank you all for attending this evening.

In order to prepare for this meeting, I thought I would look back to the meeting held on 24th April 2024...

I could simply read part of the report I gave on that occasion! But significant steps have been made since then, not least in the successes of this club at tournaments held in the county and wider afield up to national level.

Wells City Archers is well and truly back on the map, and at the top of the Postal league Tables

Congratulations! I don't need to name names, we have the weekly newsletters from our Secretary to keep us informed – Thank you Pam! Also photos on Whats App Groups, a platform that seems to offer a wide range of news views and photos.

In 2024, I spoke of the opportunity to compete at external tournaments and just where that journey would take you; but I also mentioned other opportunities and it is on that subject I would like to highlight this evening. For those of you who have enjoyed tournaments and at those events success, new friends, new challenges and always learning about the sport.

Just a few months ago the Young Archers had a super morning with the Somerset County Judge Liaison Officer and the only Regional Judge in the County Peter. We were lucky that he had the time to come for the visit. He is booked up every week-end between now and goodness knows.... Without a Judge, without a Tournament Organiser, without a Work Party, there can be no success because without these volunteers there can be no tournament, or championship. Everyone of our somerset county tournament organisers, and judge are eager to encourage you to learn the ropes!

A week tomorrow Tuesday 28th April will be the Somerset County AGM – don't groan, why not go along! Meet the officers of the county, talk to the tournament organisers and offer to assist!

Here to dispel the myth! It won't affect your own archery prowess, if anything it will enhance your skills, not only to be a better competitor, but an archer in the true sense of the word! Put Wells City Archers on the map – not simply as competitors but as Tournament Organisers, Work Party Crew, and please County Judges!

And finally, this will be my last 'Spring' statement, in October my term as your Club President will come to an end, it's a three year appointment, I will not be standing for re-election in October.

It's been my privilege to be part of this club, and its history for over 27 years since moving from mid-Wales to Somerset and Grand Western Archery Society where my personal journey in archery began in 1962, time to step back and simply shoot my bow!

5. Chairman's report

WCA continues to be a strong and healthy club.

I would like to offer my thanks to the current committee for their hard work to keep the club running. There is a lot of administration involved in a club of this size and most of this is done behind the scenes without any fanfare or recognition so thank you Lynne who represents the club at many external events – and thank you particularly to Paul and Pam and Sheila who keep the

machinery going - each of them doing more work than most people realise, with Steve managing the IT so it works effectively.

There is also a lot of work in the practical day to day maintenance of the indoor and outdoor ranges – so that we can keep shooting in a clean, safe and well kept environment – thanks to Mandy and Jay, and Ken and Paul H for that. Thanks to Jane for organising get togethers outside of the archery as well.

All of that hard work is outside of the main reason we are here – which is to shoot. So thanks to Mike and the coaching team, John and the YA supervisors, Matt and his record keeping, and Andy as his inter club activities and Paul G with the monthly tournaments – all of whom keep us on track with the actual art of shooting.

The vast majority of these roles are not done in isolation and the post holders rely on support from other committee members and from all of the club membership. As is my normal mantra – this is not a pay and play shooting ground – this is a club. Every member is expected to play their part beyond just shooting. My thanks go to those members who do contribute and turn up to help at club events – such as last Saturday's boss refurbishment, and the regular line marking.

There are other projects in the pipeline where we will be looking to members to pitch in and help – so keep reading the informative weekly newsletters (thank you Pam) and be a contributing Wells City Archer.

And remember in six months is the AGM – so if you would like to help out on the committee, think about the role that might suit you.

6. Secretary's report

Hello! For those of you who don't know me (which is probably a lot of you), I'm Pam, the club secretary. I am actually the one non-shooting member of the club, having got involved with assorted things through my husband Matt. I'm a bit of a self-confessed "admin whizz" and it wasn't long before my skills and training became evident to certain members of the committee and... long story short, the club secretary doesn't need to be able to shoot, they need to know admin. And that's me, so here I am!

The past 6 months have been a busy time for the club, and we have collected a pleasingly large amount of bling!

In November, not only did we have the largest turn out of any club at the Somerset Indoor Championships, we brought home the biggest haul of awards with 6 individual medals as well as The Team Award.

Over the rest of the indoor season, the club was represented at several tournaments including the National Indoor championships in Lissleshall, the GWAS indoor championships in Cornwall, and county competitions in Hampshire, Middlesex and Devon.

Richard, Clare, Dave, Graeme, Connor, Sue E, Jay and Mandy did the club proud, earning numerous medals and achieving great results. It's really great to see WCA represented and competing at a high level in such a variety of competitions. I hope these successes inspire other members to get involved in competitions too.

I haven't detailed the specific people and medals as not everyone likes their achievements publicised, but I am sure those that competed can tell you more about their individual achievements. For our archers who are not so interested in formal competitions, we have actively been asking for suggestions for fun shoots and socialising, and we have a few ideas in the pipeline for later in the year.

And, as you'll *all* have seen in Friday's newsletter, we achieved a clean sweep for the 2nd year in a row in the Somerset Postals, winning both the senior and junior Portsmouth and Frostbite competitions! This is only the second time has happened in this competition, and we did it the first time too!

Many of our archers have been shooting to a very high standard over the winter season and have achieved new classifications (badges now available - please speak to Matt), with 3 of our number now shooting at Master Bowman Level.

I'm sure you'll agree this a fantastic set of achievements for a 6 month period, and all the archers deserve a huge round of applause.

Our Young Archers have been very busy too. Since the 1st November they have given out 1 Red Feather award, 2 Gold Feather, 3 White Arrow, 2 Black Arrow, 2 White Indoor and 3 Gold Indoor awards, and one 30yrd 252 which was that particular Young Archer's very first award. They've also been having fun playing with some great tech that could measure the travelling speed of arrows, and defended the club at Halloween from an invasion of spooky monsters. And just a few weeks ago, the coaches bravely let the tables be turned and put the Young Archers in charge for the day... none of the coaches gained any awards that day – maybe they need more practice!

Our Winter Series Club Tournament has been well attended – many thanks to Paul for organising this and to those who volunteered to Field Captain. Our Outdoor Summer Series has just started and enjoyed not only our freshly refurbished bosses (thanks to Paul H and gang for your hard work on Saturday), but glorious sunshine too. Let's hope this continues for the rest of the summer tournament dates.

Our monthly Club Nights on the second Tuesday of the month have seen WA18m, Worcester, Vegas, Portsmouth and L&R300 rounds all shot under competition rules in order to count towards classifications. Thanks to both Matt and Paul for organising these.

Three Beginners Courses have been completed since the AGM and a fourth is currently underway, so that's 32 new people introduced to the joys of archery, and, due to illness causing dropouts, 29 newly qualified archers. In December Kevin Eades and Steve Bassett successfully passed their next level of coaching qualifications to become development coaches. We currently have 18 qualified coaches in our membership which is a fantastic achievement for all concerned.

Two of these coaches were nominated for national awards and attended a ceremony at the Performance Archery Centre in Shropshire in November. Sue Matthews was nominated for Coach Developer/County or Regional Coaching Officer of the Year, and John Baker for Working with Young People, Club Award. While they didn't win their categories, they were both Highly Commended and are aiming for the top prize next year! Congratulations to them both!

Our membership currently stands at 100 - 99 archers, and me. My personal contribution thus far has been the introduction of a box for the fletch ends of broken arrows for upcycling, which you have hopefully all seen on top of the bookcase under the netball court windows. While breaking arrows is clearly not the aim, when it happens, they can be given a new life here in the club house, so please do donate fletch ends of any length for me to play with. These first 6 months of my tenure as secretary have passed incredibly quickly. It's been a bit of a learning curve as I've had to get to grips with regulations, procedures, documents and websites (some more user friendly than others!), but I have been fiercely supported by the committee and particularly by our Chair Sue, and treasurer Paul, and I would like to thank them for all their help. I would also like to thank to everyone at the club for their patience as I've found my feet, and I look forward to the next 6 months and all they bring.

7. Treasurer's report

I have an overview of the club's finances as of mid-April, some comments on a small number of points, and a forecast for the year end position.

As of today, Monday 20th, the club's funds, based on cleared transactions total £29,848.37. This is £1,597 up on the position as of October 1st (£28,251.72)

Income from renewing and joining members since October 1st has been £6,414 and Beginners course bookings have generated £1,933. Range hire and Easyfundraising donations have raised a further £768. Total income has

been £10,085

Our main expenditure since Oct 1st has been on electricity, £2,422. Not so much because of rising costs – we are on a fixed tariff - but because of rising usage. The number of kWh we have used is around 15% up on this time last year. The fixed term ends in December. I hope the current uncertainty over fuel prices has diminished by then allowing prices to fall.

Our other key fixed costs – the charge we pay to Wells Sports Club and our buildings insurance - have been £1,950, both up on last year.

Our key discretionary spend so far this year has £1,194 on a structural survey of the building, to help us determine what sort of roofing changes are viable.

Our usual highest spend category is archery consumables but because we carried forward a good stock of foam and faces from last year at , we haven't had to spend on this so far this year, although after this past weekend refurbishment of the outdoor bosses we might have to revisit this.

Total expenditure so far has been £8,488.51.

To recap: £10,085 of income and £8,488 of expenditure and a surplus of £1,597.

What about the forecast for the full year.?

Back in October the forecast for the full year was a surplus of £9,342. This excluded any significant projects because they simply were not defined at the point. I also have another measure of the surplus for the year, one that excludes the membership subs that we collect in September that actual fund the following year. If I exclude this, the forecast surplus was £2,407.

I'm currently forecasting a more modest surplus of £6,109 or £1,109 if next year's membership subs are excluded.

This £3,200 difference has essentially 3 aspects

- spend on the building survey
- fewer than expected membership renewals since October, only 56%
- and also a lower rate of new members than last year.

My revised forecast still assumes that the rate of renewals and of new members returns to a more familiar pattern for the rest of the year. If that doesn't happen then the surplus will be lower than forecast and, of course, any projects that the club undertakes between now and the end of the year will reduce it further. The forecast surplus of £6,100 is thus probably an optimistic view, the high end of a £3,000 to £6,000 range.

Any questions or points I need to clarify ?

8. WCA Constitution

PG explained the need to introduce item 7 in the Constitution as previously

we had no wording to explain the process of electing a new Trustee. The newly added item 7 sets out the process, and this is expanded upon in the Governance document.

This amendment was carried unanimously.

LE then introduced and thanks Graeme G for volunteering to stand as the New Trustee when the new lease is signed.

9. AOB

Health & Safety

Graeme G asked who is responsible for H&S at the club as this is currently not specified in the Governance document. He suggested that terms of reference should be written to state what each committee member is responsible for.

SM agreed this needs to be added to the Governance document, but reminded everyone that, until 2024, the club had no Governance document at all, and the one we have now was written from scratch in 2024 and is still very much a work in progress, and that everyone was very welcome to suggest further items that ought to be included in it.

IF asked to confirm who the final responsibility for all things, including H&S falls to , SM confirmed it is always the Chairperson.

Classifications

RG asked if the Master Bowman listings were correct as PR's report stated we have 3 members shooting at this level but only one is currently officially listed. MR explained that of those 3, two of them have not shot enough arrows as yet to gain the classification, but PR was correct to say that 3 people are shooting at that level.

Meeting ended at 19:34.