



Grand Western Archery Society

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE A.G.M. HELD AT 2.00 PM ON SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST 2020.

43 members registered and attended:

Jane Rees (G.W.A.S. President), *Ballands Bowmen*; **Paul Atkins** (G.W.A.S. Chairman), *Bowmen of Hatch*; **Andrew Rees** (G.W.A.S. Hon. Secretary), *Ballands Bowmen*; **Ann Jackson** (G.W.A.S. Hon. Treasurer), *Bowmen of Hatch*; **John Bennett**, *Ballands Bowmen*; **Alan Biles**, *South Wilts A.C.*; **Peter Brookes**, *Wellington Bowmen*; **Denise Bunce**, *Cleve Archers*; **Paul Burden**, *Bowmen of Lytchett*; **Vicky Burden**, *Bowmen of Lytchett*; **Paul Callaway**, *Redruth Archers*; **Hilary Collins**, *Bowmen of Ina*; **John Cunningham**, *Yeo Bowmen*; **David Furby**, *Avalon Archers*; **Vikki Gallop**, *Bowmen of Hatch*; **Adrian Gifkins**, *Cheltenham Archers*; **Ann Gillbanks**, *Direct member*; **Phil Gillbanks**, *Direct member*; **Malcolm Grant**, *Brixham Archers*; **Claire Hart**, *Redruth Archers*; **Francesca Hawker**, *Cleve Archers*; **Mike Healy**, *Bowmen of Lytchett*; **Graham Hobbs**, *Supermarine Bowmen*; **Kay Hobbs**, *Supermarine Bowmen*; **Tim Jackson**, *Bowmen of Hatch*; **Caroline Lawrence**, *Canford Magna Bowmen*; **Dave Lawrence**, *Canford Magna Bowmen*; **Stephen Lee**, *Canford Magna Bowmen*; **Robin Leveridge**, *Coastal Archers*; **Anne Lewin**, *Coastal Archers*; **Rob Morgan**, *Direct member*; **Yvonne Oakshott**, *Ballands Bowmen*; **Andy Parkinson**, *Bowmen of the Tors*; **Mark Pledger**, *Direct member, acting teller for the meeting*; **John Poyner**, *Hon. Life Member*; **Mark Ricketts**, *Kingston Archers*; **Brian Sandoe**, *Direct member*; **Sally Sandoe**, *Redruth Archers*; **Pam Tonkin**, *Bowmen of Hatch*; **Graham Williams**, *Cheltenham Archers*; **Karen Williams**, *Exmouth Archers, acting teller for the meeting*; **Ralph Wood**, *Bracken Co. of Archers*; **Malcolm Wootton**, *Tyndale Archers*.

1. Apologies for absence:

Lynne Evans, *Wells City Archers*; Chris Hassall, *Mid-Somerset Bowmen*; Paul Maines, *Gordano Valley Archers*; Lizzy Rees, *Ballands Bowmen*.

2. Approval of minutes of the previous AGM.

The approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM were put to the vote and approved as true and fair, with 40 in favour and three abstentions.

The minutes will be signed by the Hon. Secretary and the Chairman when circumstances permit.

3. Matters arising.

The Hon. Secretary had circulated the draft 2019 AGM minutes prior to the 2020 AGM and had requested that members wishing to raise matters should notify him in advance. No questions or queries have been raised.

4. Chairman's report.

Thank you all for engaging with modern technology and joining us today for this Virtual Grand Western AGM. Before moving on with my report, I'd like to ask you to reflect on those members that have passed away in the last 18 months. I've been made aware of Marjorie Yeo, formerly known as Black, who was a member for 50 years, Pam Newland (40 years membership), Dave Moss, Alex Kirby (40 years membership), Estelle Edwick, and finally, Sylvia Baskett. Please forgive me if there are others that I have not mentioned, but I have not been made aware of their passing. Please may I ask that we now bow our heads for a moment's silence in remembrance?

The assembled members observed a minutes silence and the Chairman then thanked them for the show of respect to their departed friends and fellow archers.

Who could have predicted how 2020 would have turned out and the effect COVID-19 would have on our lives? With this in mind, I would like to pay tribute to those members of GWAS, who are key workers, and especially to those members who work with the NHS and social care provision. I know that these are frustrating times for us all and not being able to shoot and socialize with each other has been difficult, to say the least. It is a positive step in the right direction that we can now return to shooting following government guidelines, but I appreciate that not all clubs have been able to do so. I thank those clubs across the region which are back shooting and have opened up their doors to allow others to use their facilities. This is a fantastic demonstration of the sense of community within our sport. I would urge all clubs to maintain regular communication with their members, particularly if you aren't back shooting yet: you need to let your members know that their club is still alive and planning for the future. Your Regional Committee has met and reacted to the COVID-19 threat. We have held virtual meetings on a regular basis so that we can be more effective and in touch with the changing environment throughout our region. We've also maintained contact with the few AGB staff who have worked throughout the crisis, which has been mutually beneficial for the exchange of ideas and information. Through this dialog, it appears that we're currently one of the most proactive regions in the UK. Following feedback from the region's clubs, we have set up the COVID 2020 fund, setting aside £20,000 to assist clubs which may encounter financial difficulties over the coming months and on into 2021. Please have a look at the GWAS website for details of this scheme. We've also supported the counties by covering the

cost of purchasing a virtual platform for each, so that they can hold meetings and continue to function in these challenging times.

We would welcome any ideas or suggestions about how we can support you over the winter months, which could prove even more challenging to shooting than this summer has been. Whilst we ran a full calendar of GWAS events up until lockdown, just about sneaking in the Regional Indoor Championships, we have had to cancel a number of our tournament since, namely, Dunster Week, the junior Regional Championships and the Intercounties, both senior and junior. Fortunately, our financial exposure on these events is minimal. However, Dunster is one of those events which usually produce a healthy profit that we're not seeing in the accounts this year. Going forward, we will, of course, review each event to see if we can run them safely within government guidelines. If we cannot, we will look at alternatives. We've already had a successful virtual 'Dunster Challenge' tournament and are planning to hold virtual events for both seniors and juniors in place of the Intercounties. My thanks go out to the tournament organizers for the considerable time and effort they put into making these physical or virtual events happen. There are some points to note since the last AGM, which is over 18 months ago. Over that period, I've taken part in online Regional Chairs meetings hosted by Neil Armitage and the AGB staff. These have been particularly interesting during lockdowns as at each meeting we received an update on the situation at the time, and what plans AGB were working on for the return of archery in the UK. All of that information has since been released at various times on the AGB website, and I can only recommend that we regularly check in for the latest information and updates. We've had some great inter-county collaboration, with Tim Pratt and Andrew Hoyle volunteering to run the lanseo scoring system at last year's 2019 GWAS indoor championships, which was a great success. This led on to a two-day training course being set up by Robin Leveridge, with 20 attendees from across the region. Tim and Andrew presented the course, which covered the operation of the lanseo scoring system for tournament organizers. I hope that this is just the start of things to come as the region wishes to support this kind of event wherever possible: we just need people to come up with suggestions and volunteers to run them.

The National Judging Conference was held in Taunton over two days in January, with judges from across the county, region and the UK and Northern Ireland in attendance. Praise needs to go to Phil Gillbanks, our regional Judge Liaison Officer for rounding-up all of the judges in the region and getting them to attend. I am informed that this is the first time this has happened in any of the regions. Tony Smith stepped down as Dorset and Wilt's president after many years of service and I'm sure his years of experience, attention to detail and sense of fun will be missed by the county. I would like to say thanks to Lizzy Rees for many years of service to the region in her role as regional coaching officer. We wish you the very best of luck in your new ventures. I'm pleased to report that Lizzy was re-elected to the AGB Board earlier in the year. Congratulations also go to Peter Brookes from Somerset, who was elected as the Archery England (formerly known as English Archery Federation) Vice-Chairman: congratulations to him. Last, but by no means least, in 2019 Pauline Burfitt of Dorset & Wilts shot a new world record for the Double 50m round: an outstanding achievement. I would like to thank the Grand Western council members for their work attending each meeting and lately joining virtual meetings with me: we may be onto something here with these meetings. Your time and commitment are much appreciated. My thanks must also go to Ann Jackson and Andrew Rees for guiding and supporting me over the last year as Chairman, a role which I find I might be getting the hang of at last. In the weeks, months and possibly years ahead we are going to face huge changes and challenges to our sport: getting back to shooting, running tournaments, attracting and retaining members is going to take hard work, volunteers, collaboration and, I firmly believe, some out of the box thinking.

Are we up for the challenge that lies ahead? I would like to think so.

Stay safe, stay healthy. That concludes my report.

5. Honorary Treasurer's report.

a. The Hon. Secretary had circulated the Grand Western Archery Society's Unaudited Financial Statements to the year ended 31 December 2019 (see attached document) to the members prior to the meeting with a request that they give reasonable notice of any questions. No questions having been received, the Chairman moved on to a vote on the acceptance of the Financial Statements.

Acceptance of Financial Statements were put to the vote and accepted unanimously.

b. Affiliations Secretary's report.

The Hon. Secretary had circulated the Affiliations Secretary's reports (see attached documents) prior to the meeting and no questions had been received.

6. Affiliation subscription for 2020/21. The Regional Council propose that the annual subscription remains unaltered.

Before a vote was taken, Ralph Wood raised a point of information: as AGB are now going into kind of four charging zones for different periods are GWAS going to follow suit or are we still keeping to the two periods, one up to April and then one from April onwards?

The Hon. Treasurer replied that under our Constitution, we can only change our affiliations be that the method, the number of categories, and the figures involved at an AGM. Therefore we will be sticking with our existing rules until our next AGM. We can't react to things that Archery GB do within the last week or 10 days, I'm afraid. Our system and our Constitution, simply does not allow us to do that. It's unfortunate, but we have to stick with our existing rules until our next AGM, which we will hope to have in our usual timeframe of next March

Mark Pledger raised a point of information: Does this mean that those charges don't come into effect until the following October. The Hon. Treasurer replied that is correct.

Ralph Wood then raised a point of order: do we have to have another proposal to align our system with AGB for 2022? The Hon. Treasurer replied that we may do but we can't have that proposal until we go for the next AGM. We cannot change a proposal, or put a proposal, onto the meeting that we're having now, because under our Constitution we have to give 21 days' notice via the AGM Calling Notice of anything that's going to be discussed. It follows that we cannot add or remove items from the AGM agenda today, because our other members, those that are not here today, will not have had the requisite notice and will therefore not have had the chance to attend if they wish to make a discussion point.

Mark Pledger then raised another point of information: what happens if Council's recommendation was voted down, does that offer an opportunity for it be raised today? The Hon. Treasurer replied that, in her view, it does not. If the recommendation is voted down then we stick with the status quo, which is the same as the proposal on the agenda.

The Chairman then asked the meeting to vote on the acceptance of the Council's recommendations on affiliation subscriptions. **The recommendations were put to the vote and accepted with 40 for, two against and one abstention.**

7. Election of Society Officers:

The Hon. Secretary stated that there had only been one nomination for each position. All nominations had been received within the stipulated time and had been duly proposed and seconded. Accordingly, the Chairman asked the meeting to vote en-bloc for the nominees.

A vote was taken and the following members were elected unanimously to serve until the next AGM:

- a. President: Jane Rees.
- b. Chairman: Paul Atkins.
- c. Honorary Secretary: Andrew Rees.
- d. Honorary Treasurer: Ann Jackson.

8. Election of Society's specialist officers and members:

The Hon. Secretary stated that there had nominations for the Honorary Tournament Secretary that strictly kind of; the Equipment officer, Chris Hassall; Field Rep., Andrew Rees; the Librarian and archivist, Chris Hassall; the Rep. to Archery England, Peter Brookes; Affiliation Secretary, Paul Callaway; Records Officer, Andrew Rees and Communications Officer, Tim Jackson.

In addition, for the junior rep's position, Vicky Burden has indicated that she will continue in post if she's asked to, as will Andy Parkinson as GWAS rep. to Archery England and Paul Burden as protection officer.

If the meeting accepts all these nominations and offers, there are no other positions to be filled. Mark Pledger proposed that all the above named should be accepted, with John Cunningham seconding.

Put to the vote, it was unanimously agreed that the following members should serve on Council until the next AGM:

- a. Hon. Tournament Secretary: Vikki Gallop.
- b. Equipment Officer: Chris Hassall.
- c. Junior Representative: Vicky Burden.
- d. Field Representative: Andrew Rees.
- e. Archivist & Librarian: Chris Hassall.
- f. GWAS representatives to EAF: Peter Brookes and Andrew Parkinson.
- g. Affiliations Secretary: Paul Callaway.
- h. Protection Officer: Paul Burden.
- i. Records Officer: Andrew Rees.
- j. Communications and Web Content Officer: Tim Jackson.

9. To confirm the election of the Regional Coaching Officer.

The Hon. Secretary reported that we have no Regional Coaching Officer elected. Of the members who were present this morning, there was no-one present who wished to do the job. In the interim, Lizzy has said that she will continue to do the paperwork until someone has found. The members present were asked to canvas all the coaches they know and ask for volunteers whose suitability could be considered at the next Council meeting.

On a point of information, the Chairman asked if it was necessary for the RCO to be a coach. The Hon. Secretary replied that there is no requirement for the RCO to be a coach, but he doubted whether the region's coaches would be comfortable with a member with no coaching knowledge or background occupying such a pivotal position.

10. To confirm the election of the Judges' Liaison Officer.

Phil Gillbanks was confirmed as Judges' Liaison Officer.

11. To receive from each County names of representatives to Council for 2020/21.

The following member's names were received by the meeting:

For the Devon & Cornwall Archery Society: John Poyner and Karen Williams.

For the Dorset & Wilts Archery Association: Mark Pledger and Ralph Wood.

For the Gloucestershire Archery Society: Denise Bunce and Adrian Gifkins.

For the Somerset County Archery Association: Robin Leveridge and Anne Lewin.

12. To receive and accept the Hon. Treasurer's recommendation of a suitable accountant or firm of accountants to prepare accounts under clause 9 of the G.W.A.S. Constitution.

Ann Jackson, Honorary Treasurer, recommended the firm of Thomas Westcott should be re-engaged to prepare accounts in accordance with Clause 9 of the GWAS Constitution.

This was proposed by Ann Jackson, seconded by Andrew Rees, was put to the vote and AGREED unanimously.

13. To receive and vote upon recommendations from the G.W.A.S. Awards Panel for Honorary Life Membership.

At this point, the Chairman handed over to the President, Jane Rees, who is Chair of the Awards Panel. Jane reported as follows:

Part of my role as GWAS President this year has been to chair the newly created Awards Panel. It is a committee of five, with a representative from each of the counties and me, by virtue of my position as President. We were tasked by Council to create an awards process, details of which is to be found explained on the GWAS website.

Funding from GWAS Council enabled the committee to commission the production of silver gilt Honorary Life Membership badges to be awarded as a token of the region's thanks for the dedicated service and outstanding commitment shown by those awarded GWAS Honorary Life Membership. The Awards Panel has presented the three existing on Honorary Life Members - Nic Nicholson, John Poyner and Helen Press - with their badges.

This brings us to this year's awards. After consideration of the nominations received, the Awards Panel have great pleasure in requesting your approval for the following individuals to be awarded Honorary Life Membership. They are:

Paul Callaway;

Chris Hassall;

Richard Jones;

Malcolm Wootton.

At this point, the President handed back to the Chairman to oversee the ratification process.

The Chairman offered his thanks to the President and her panel for the work they had done and noted his satisfaction with there being a number of worthy nominees.

The Chairman then called on the meeting to ratify the awards and this was overwhelmingly carried with one abstention and a single vote against one nominee.

At this point, the Chairman handed back to the President, who advised that in addition to the Hon. Life Membership awards, the establishment of Annual Awards for services to GWAS had been sanctioned by Council. The President was pleased to announce that the Awards Panel considered the following members worthy of an Annual Award:

Vikki Gallop;

Ann and Colin Holmes;

Ann Jackson;

Tim Pratt;

Jimmy Sandoe.

All the above have been awarded a GWAS plaque in recognition of their work on behalf of the region.

The President apologised if some of the awards had not yet been presented and hoped that the recipients would understand the logistical difficulties presented by COVID-19. A full gallery of recipients will be placed on the GWAS website as soon as possible. The President thanked all the members who had taken time to nominate individuals who served the region and reminded members that application forms for this year's awards can be found on the GWAS website. Applications for the 2021 awards should be received by 30th September and the Awards Panel look forward to receiving nominations for this year.

The Chairman observed that the Society is recognising that have done outstanding work over many years within the region. The Chairman also reminded members that the Awards Panel would be sitting before the next AGM, so if you think someone out there deserves recognition, please get those nomination forms filled in and returned to the Panel: the more we can recognise our volunteers, the more we can ask of them and others will be encouraged to join in.

All formal business being concluded, the meeting was closed at 2.47 pm.