



Chairman's Report re BAC 2021 AGM

Dear Member,

As is the case for all the sports sections at Chapel Gate, the last year has proved a difficult time for the Archery club.

The Covid outbreak has brought many operational challenges. One key impact of the virus upon our sport is that we had to totally change the way we usually ran our practise sessions. This resulted in us introducing a booking system, Eventbrite, to ensure all members that wished to shoot outdoors at CG had made an advance booking. We also had to reformat our outdoor shooting range to 8 shooting lanes of 4m width. This allows all lanes to be shared by two targets and ensures sufficient space for social distancing. In addition, we had to find an adequate number of willing Field Captains to cover all sessions and provide them with the required Covid briefings. We also appointed a Club Covid Officer, Alan Hayden, to ensure we fully comply with HMG and AGB guidance and instructions. We also produced new Operating Procedures for both outdoor and indoor shooting. In view of the need for adequate ventilation and social distancing we will be restricting the number of archers indoors to eight per session in the Gun Club range. This is based on two archers per target. Our Operating Procedures and supporting Risk Assessments have been approved by BUCB, the company that operates Chapel Gate on behalf of the Uni, and we have ensured that the Gun Club are fully informed of how we are planning to use their indoor Range.

The Covid restrictions also meant that unfortunately we were forced to make the decision to cancel our main outdoor tournament, 'The Blue Lion', held at Chapel Gate in July. This was based on the need to comply with the required social distancing restrictions resulting in the shoot not being financially viable. Another impact has been the cancellation of our major indoor tournament at Canford School in Jan next year. Again, social distancing made this competition not financially viable.

Covid also meant that we had to cancel our two very popular social events during the year – the BBQ & Fun shoot in August and the indoor Fun shoot in January. We have also decided to cancel our usual Xmas dinner in December in view of the Covid threat. Let's hope that we can start to reintroduce these next year if Covid allows!

I am very pleased to report that members have adapted well to our new procedures. We have made it very clear that the safety and health of our members is of primary importance. PPE and sanitation stations have been put in place, and frequent updates have been sent to members to advise them of changes in operating procedures since the first lockdown in March 2020. The easing of Government restrictions in July this year was very welcomed, but the Committee decided to adopt a cautious approach to try to protect the health & safety of all our members. It is clear that some of our more elderly and vulnerable members have decided to be extra cautious about shooting indoors – this is fully understandable. However, we are very fortunate that we allow members to shoot outdoors seven days a week – the only real obstacle is the weather!

We have also had to curtail our Introduction to Archery (beginners) courses due to Covid with us only able to run one course in 2020. This year we have managed to do two courses, one in June and another in Sept. We will also be running a separate course in Nov for students following a request from the Uni.

I am very pleased to report that our membership renewals both in 2020 and this year have exceeded my expectations. The renewal rate this year at 78% was very similar to 2019 and 10% better than last year. This is very encouraging and hopefully indicates that people enjoy shooting with BAC.

Another important development is that we have entered into a new Facility Hire Agreement with Bournemouth Uni which replaced the previous Service Level Agreement. This is a much more detailed and formal document which links our hire charge to our agreed new outdoor range format based on the eight lanes as mentioned above. This is then linked to the number of practice sessions we make available to members during the summer and winter periods. The new agreement also replaces the old system of members having individual membership of Bournemouth Sports Club. Whilst the new agreement included a 3% increase on the previous SLA fee, I managed to negotiate an overall fee that was slightly less than what we paid BU last year including the membership subs!

However, the new agreement led us to review our operating practices and ensure compliance with the new T&Cs. Accordingly, we arranged First Aid training for members to increase the number of available club First Aiders. This has resulted in increasing the number from three 18 months ago to now 19 – a really good improvement. This means that most of our nominated Field Captains are now trained First Aiders. We have also updated our First Aid kits to ensure we have the right supplies and equipment. This has recently been supplemented by us purchasing our own club defibrillator and David Pascoe has arranged training on using this and CPR by a local para-medic. Well done David! Initially training will be offered to all Club First Aiders and Field Captains hopefully starting in November.

Unfortunately, it also meant that we couldn't continue with solo shooting at Chapel Gate as this doesn't comply with the rules of shooting set by Archery GB, our national governing body.

However, we have established a good relationship with the Uni, and this has helped us to resolve some operational issues over the last 12-18 months. I also represent the Archery club on the Operational Support Group that allows the sports sections at Chapel Gate to raise operational issues with the Uni on a regular basis. This is based upon our ongoing membership of the Bournemouth and District Recreational Charity – the former owners of the sports club and provides us with security of tenure via the important Access & Use Agreement that was part of the sale agreement with the Uni.

Whilst it is naturally disappointing that we have not been able to run our usual tournaments due to Covid restrictions, I am very pleased to say that we are reintroducing the Chairman's Cup competition next year. It is outdoors and comprises of shooting 3 dozen arrows at 30m over 4 sessions – you have to shoot 3 sessions to be included in the tournament. The shoot is likely to start in Feb with more sessions running in March and April. Further details will be provided in due course.

Despite the impact of Covid, two of our members did achieve outstanding success at national tournaments – Alan Hayden came second in the national Disability championships, and Mike Pearce came third in the Masters tournament at Lilleshall. These are remarkable results and hopefully will encourage more members to enter local tournaments when possible.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Committee members, Club officers and the coaching team for their outstanding support during the last 12 months. Our Equipment team has also done an amazing job in maintaining our club equipment, particularly improving and repairing our foam bosses and mobile target stands. It has clearly been a challenging period for all concerned. I also want to use this opportunity to publicly thank those Club officers who have stood down during the year – Carole our former Membership Secretary, Martin our club Secretary, Phil Clarke our Merchandise Officer, and last but not least, Malcolm who is standing down as our Safeguarding Officer. They have all done a great job for the club and their contribution is very much appreciated.

Finally, I want to thank you, our members, for your willingness to adapt so well to the new operating procedures – I appreciate that it hasn't been easy!

We are all now looking forward to returning to a closer shade of normality next year.

Wishing you all happy shooting – take care.

David Williams
Chairman
23/10/21