



Grand Western Archery Society

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE A.G.M. HELD AT 5.00 PM ON SUNDAY 21st MARCH 2021.

40 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; **Lynne Evans**, Wells City Archers; **David Furby**, Avalon Archers; **Vikki Gallop**, Bowmen of Hatch; **Ann Gillbanks**, Direct member; **Phil Gillbanks**, Direct member; **Graham Hobbs**, Supermarine Bowmen; **Kay Hobbs**, Supermarine Bowmen; **Andrew Hoyle**, Exmouth Archers; **Tim Jackson**, Bowmen of Hatch; **Richard Jones**, Cleve Archers; **Robin Leveridge**, Coastal Archers; **Anne Lewin**, Coastal Archers; **Jill Newland**, Direct member; **Tony Newland**, Direct member; **Yvonne Oakshott**, Ballands Bowmen; **Andy Parkinson**, Bowmen of the Tors; **Sandra Piper**, Bowmen of Wadebridge; **Mark Pledger**, Direct member; **John Poyner**, Hon. Life Member; **Tim Pratt**, Exmouth Archers; **Lizzy Rees**, Ballands Bowmen, (Teller); **Phillip Rees**, Exeter Co. Of Archers; **Mark Ricketts**, Kingston Archers; **Kay Smith**, Direct member; **Tony Smith**, Devizes Bowmen; **Graham Williams**, Cheltenham Archers; **Karen Williams**, Exmouth Archers; **Ralph Wood**, Bracken Co. of Archers.

1. Apologies for absence:

Kevin Plumridge, Bowmen of Ina, Jimmy Sandoe, Redruth Archers; Sally Sandoe, Redruth Archers; Malcolm Wootton, Direct member.

2. Approval of minutes of the previous AGM.

The approval of the Minutes of the 2020 AGM were put to the vote and approved as true and fair, with 39 in favour and one abstention.

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 2020 AGM minutes prior to the 2021 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 for all undertaking another video meeting and joining us today for the Virtual Grand Western AGM. I'm sure, like me, you would not have believed that we would be holding our second regional AGM virtually, though hopefully for the last time. Before moving on to my report, I'd just like to ask that we reflect on those members that have passed away since our last AGM. Please may I ask that we bow our heads for a moment's silence in remembrance.

The meeting halted and, after a respectful pause, recommenced with the Chairman's thanks.

Since our last AGM, we've experienced two further lockdowns and very limited ability to shoot. In-between, Regional Council has continued to meet regularly via the internet and tried to react to the changing environment we have found ourselves in. We've tried to think outside of the box and deliver support to the counties, clubs and our members in various ways, such as via the Covid 2020 Fund, which offers grants of up to £500 to clubs requiring financial assistance.

So far, surprisingly, there's been very limited uptake of this fund, but we expect as shooting starts to open up our clubs may find themselves needing that support and I hope they take advantage of it as we move forward into 2021.

No regional tournament has been able to go ahead, so, virtual non inter-counties event was run with a good uptake of entries. Thank you to Vikki Gallop, Tim Pratt and Andrew Hoyle for making this happen.

The second virtual event was due to be launched in place of the Grand Western indoors, with a total prize funds of £900, but due to lockdown three this could not go ahead. However, Council have agreed to carry this over and launch later on in the year when shooting has recommenced.

One opportunity that did not come to fruition was the hire of an indoor facility for all to use. Members of the Council found an exceptional facility that would not normally be available to us. However, we could not progress as the facility was taken over by the government and turned into a vaccination centre. Nevertheless, it is a venue to be kept in mind for future events.

Dunster is planned to go ahead this year and Vicki's preparations are in full swing to ensure that it's running according to current Covid-19 guidelines and any future changes that may be brought in.

Behind the scenes there's been a lot of negotiation with the National Trust and time spent working out how it can be made to work. Rounds have been changed, archer numbers have been reduced, but the essence of the event stays unchanged.

As for the other regional tournaments, these will be looked at on a one by one basis as the second half of the year opens up.

Apart from that, there has not been a lot going on., so that is all from my report on Regional Business.

Finally, as this my last meeting as your Chairman, I would like to say thanks to all those Council members for their time and contributions to our meetings.

For those that remain on Council, I wish you the best of luck. I believe the coming months are actually going to be the hardest in respect of rebuilding our archery community and are going to require the Council to come together as one positive driving force.

For those standing down, thank you for your service to the region and its members: I wish you great success and enjoyment in whatever you move on to next.

I've enjoyed my time as your Chairman and wish all the best to my successor.

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 2020 (see attached document) to the members prior to the meeting with a request that they give reasonable notice of any questions. One question had been received and this had been answered to the questioner's satisfaction.

b. My report is short and sweet this year.

I'd like to thank Council for their efforts in keeping down costs and especially thank Paul Calloway, as usual, for all his time and effort managing the affiliations for me. It is a time consuming, hard and somewhat thankless task that he undertakes, but it is essential.

The financial impact of having no Dunster event excess income has been balanced by the converse financial effects of having no excess costs from the other events we usually hold.

The loss on events over all is represented in the main by having received no in-kind sponsorship for Dunster, the monetary value of which is what is given as a surplus on the tournament accounts in the last couple of years. Other non-tournament expenses this year has been covered almost exactly by the regional affiliation fees.

Going forward, we need to be aware that the major financial impact of reduced 20/21 affiliations will be felt in the 2021 financial year and it remains to be seen how the proposed end of the Covid-19 restrictions in June will affect income from affiliations. I am hopeful that numbers will rise as more clubs reopen and start beginners' courses during in the summer.

Over-all, I can confirm that our society continues to be in a strong financial position going forward.

c. The Hon. Treasurer having concluded her report, 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.

6. Affiliation subscription for 2021/22. The Regional Council propose that the annual subscription rates are as follows:

a. Fees for the remainder of the 2020/21 subscription period up to 31st September 2021; see attached schedule.

b. Fees for the subscription year 2021/22.

Club member – Junior (under 18)	£2.00
Club member – Senior (Aged 18-24)	£3.00
Club member – Senior (Aged 25 and above)	£6.00
Club member – Archers with disabilities	£ nil
University club – undergraduates and post-grads.	£3.00

- c. A technical question having been put to the meeting by Mark Pledger and resolved, and with the proposed fees having been circulated to members with the calling notice and there being no further questions, **the recommendations were put to the vote and accepted unanimously.**

7. Election of Society Officers:

The Hon. Secretary stated that following Jane Rees's decision to step down, there had been two nominations for the post of President:

Jill Newland, nominated by Jane Rees and seconded by John Poyner;

Tony Smith, nominated by Vikki Gallop and seconded by Paul Atkins.

Both nomination forms having been correctly completed and delivered within the requisite time, with both nominees giving their written consent to standing, the Hon. Secretary advised the meeting that an election should now take place.

The matter was put to the vote and, votes having been cast, the tellers agreed on the result and the **Chairman declared that Jill Newland had been duly elected.**

The Hon. Secretary advised that only one nomination for the post of Chairman and Hon. Treasurer had been received. The nominations had been received within the stipulated time and had been duly proposed and seconded.

Chairman: **Andrew Rees**, nominated by Chris Hassall, seconded by Jane Rees,

Hon. Treasurer **Ann Jackson**, nominated by Vikki Gallop, seconded by Tim Jackson.

Accordingly, the Chairman asked the meeting to vote en-bloc for the nominees.

A vote was taken and both nominees were elected unanimously to serve until the next AGM:

No nominations had been received for the Hon. Secretary's post and no nominations were forthcoming from the floor, so the position is vacant. The Chairman asked that members present actively seek a volunteer from within their clubs or counties and contact the Region if anyone is forthcoming.

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

The Hon. Secretary stated that there had written nominations for the Honorary Tournament Secretary: Vikki Gallop; Affiliation Secretary, Paul Callaway; and Communications Officer, Tim Jackson.

With a number of positions lacking written nominations, the Chairman called for nominations from the floor. Following this, there were a number of nominations accepted by members present, duly proposed by Lynne Evans and seconded by Andrew Rees, which provided the following:

- a. Hon. Tournament Secretary: **Vikki Gallop.**
- b. Equipment Officer: Vacant.
- 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.**

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

9. Amendments to the GWAS Constitution

The Hon. Secretary had included details of the proposed amendments with the calling notice for the meeting (details attached). Clause 37 and clause 38(4) amendments were read to the meeting by Lynne Evans. Mark Pledger asked if they were separate amendments within the clauses and the Hon. Secretary replied that we should be voting on the amended clauses as sent with the calling notice. There being no further questions about the proposals, the Chairman called for a vote and permitted separate votes for each clause.

With unanimous approval for the amendments to clause 37 and one vote against the amendments to clause 38, **the amendments were approved with the requisite two-thirds majority.**

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

The Hon. Secretary reported that Lizzy Rees has been elected Regional Coaching Officer. The Chairman thanked Lizzy for taking on the job again.

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

Phil Gillbanks was confirmed as Judges' Liaison Officer. The Chairman thanked Phil for his continuing service to the region.

12. To receive from each County names of representatives to Council for 2021/22.

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.

13. 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 Vikki Gallop, was put to the vote and AGREED unanimously.

14. To receive and, if necessary, vote upon recommendations from the G.W.A.S. Awards Panel for Honorary Life Membership and other awards.

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

There were no nominations for Hon. Life Membership this year, but we did receive one nomination for an annual award.

The person in question has been a coach for 12 years and has supported club, county and region during that time. In addition, this coach has done a great deal of work supporting archers with disabilities, for whom he has designed, developed and maintained a number of adapted devices which have allowed these archers to be fully included in the sport.

I have great pleasure in announcing that **Malcolm Grant** receives this year's annual award.

As Jane is standing down as President, she wished to thank all the representatives from the counties for their work on the Panel – they had been a pleasure to work with and will, no doubt, support Jill in this aspect of her new role as President.

The outgoing Chairman took the opportunity to thank Jane for all her work as President, which has included many visits to regional and county tournaments, as well as setting up and chairing the Awards Panel, which is now firmly established. Jane thanked Paul for his kind words and wished Jill every success in her new role.

The meeting concluded with general expressions of thanks to the out-going Chairman on the conclusion of his three year term of office.

All formal business being concluded, the meeting was closed at 6.00 pm.

Signed as a true record on Sunday 20th March 2022 at the GWAS AGM at West Buckland, Somerset.

GWAS Chairman

GWAS Hon. Secretary

Attachments: Financial statements; subscription information, amended clauses from the GWAS Constitution.