



Grand Western Archery Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 20th March 2022, at 1.15pm.

22 members registered and attended:

Jill Newland (G.W.A.S. President), Direct member; Andrew Rees (G.W.A.S. Chairman), Ballands Bowmen; Denise Bunce (G.W.A.S. Hon. Secretary), Cleve Archers; Ann Jackson (G.W.A.S. Hon. Treasurer), Bowmen of Hatch; Paul Burden, Bowmen of Lytchett; Vicky Burden, Bowmen of Lytchett; Paul Callaway, Redruth Archers; Vikki Atkins, Bowmen of Hatch; Paul Atkins, Bowmen of Hatch; Ann Gillbanks, Direct member; Phil Gillbanks, Direct member; Richard Jones, Cleve Archers; Robin Leveridge, Coastal Archers; Anne Lewin, Coastal Archers; Tony Newland, Direct member; Jane Rees, Ballands Bowmen; Lizzy Rees, Ballands Bowmen, (Teller); Adrian Gifkins, Cheltenham Archers; Mark Ricketts, Kingston Archers; Martin Hutchings, Bitton Archers; Chris Hassall, Mid Somerset Bowmen; Nick Nicholson, South Wilts Archery Club.

1. Apologies for absence.

Tim Pratt, Alan Biles, Malcolm Wootton, Helen Press, Jimmy & Sally Sandoe, Sanjay Shah, Elaina Curran, Dougal Matthews, Tim Web, Mike Brown, Steve Lomas, Andrew Hoyle, Jane Forrow, Linda Harlick, Karen Williams, Alison Innes, Gloria Mead, Andrew Parkinson, John Poyner

2. Approval of minutes of the previous AGM – Sunday 21st March 2021.

These were approved by Paul Burden, seconded by Phil Gillbanks and the meeting was all in agreement that the minutes were signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report.

AR reported : Welcome to this long-awaited face-to-face gathering. Thank you for giving up your time on this beautiful spring day to attend to the mundane, but necessary, business of this Annual General Meeting.

We have endured another trying 12 months where COVID-19 has continued to hold sway over our lives and our archery. In addition, the shadow of war now lurks on the periphery of Europe and we must hope that the beleaguered Ukrainians are swiftly delivered from the hands of their oppressors. In such a context, archery and the affairs of this Society may seem of little import, but our duty is to carry on. So I am able to report that our primary objectives have been fulfilled, with tournaments staged and business attended to.

In June last year, Vikki somehow conjured a very decent Dunster week out of the wasteland of regulation surrounding the pandemic, with archers meeting and shooting almost as normal. In September, senior and junior inter-counties went ahead and we should offer thanks to Vicky Burden and Tim Pratt for their organisation, together with Burnham and Exmouth for generously providing their grounds. Additionally, Robin Leveridge deserves thanks for organising a socially distanced indoor championship which provided much needed indoor competition after the relative drought of the last couple of years.

Despite COVID, Council also managed to maintain a grip on the running of the Society through regular on-line meetings.

I am indebted to our Hon. Treasurer, Ann Jackson, for her seemingly effortless control of the finances and to Paul Callaway, who works away in the background to deal with the collection of affiliations from the whole region: members will glimpse the scale of his task in a few minutes time.

I am also indebted to Denise Bunce, who gamely took on the role of Honorary Secretary and has settled in for what I hope will be a long tenure.

Similarly, praise is due to all who serve the Society on Council – these people give up their time and offer their knowledge and experience to serve you and the thousands of archers in the region.

The Council does work for the region's archers: interest-free loans are given for to help clubs develop and funds have been made available, and still are available, to clubs in financial difficulties because of the pandemic. Council also supports our archers with grants when international selection is not accompanied by AGB funding.

However, more could be done. The Society has resources available for the promotion of our sport, but has often struggled to provide innovation. Those of you here are clearly committed to archery and this Society, but could you provide that most valuable commodity, ideas?

The Council has always managed the Society with care and diligence, but it cannot always be expected to provide new ideas. I would urge you all to consider ways in which GWAS can improve archery in the South-West and if you have any such ideas, please get them to Council: they will be welcomed and considered.

In the way of these reports, I have probably neglected to mention someone who has made a notable contribution to the Society: for that, I hope I shall be forgiven. But to end on a hopeful note, it appears that the recent difficulties surrounding Dorset and Wilts. may be coming to an end and I think we all look forward to their formal return to the Grand Western family – they have been missed.

5. Honorary Treasurer's report.

a. Affiliations Secretary's Report

AC reported that this is the first time of being face-to-face at a Grand Western Meeting for a couple of years. Thankfully, things with the Covid-19 pandemic seem to have settled down a bit and we can start to see a new 'normal' emerging.

Over the last couple of years, the Society's affiliations have suffered from successive lock-downs and necessary reluctance to get too close to others – “socially distanced” emerged as a new phrase, which archers never used to be.

I have circulated the Affiliation figures for the Year Ended 30 September 2021 (and some comparatives over the last 20 years).

- Overall membership has declined by 939 (4067 to 3128) – that's a 23% decline and follows an 8% decline the previous year and 7% in the year before that.
- Much of the sharp rise in the figures is down to lack of recruitment (of which more later) and the notable decline in Uni student numbers (455 to 183) and Junior numbers (610 to 463).

- Let's look at the Senior figures on Page 1 (2732 to 2261): That represents a 17% decline – still horrendous but a little more manageable.
- Within these globalised figures, some Counties have fared worse than others. I'll not attempt to analyse that here but it's something your Counties might wish to do later.
- Because of the usual volatility of Junior numbers, Page 2 concentrates just on Seniors in each County. Here a decline of just under 23% (3457 to 2665) – in part, explained by the decline in Uni figures this year.
- But look at the noticeable decline in DCAS Senior numbers (1171 to 744) – that's over 36%.
- Having hit a high for Senior numbers in 2016/17 (4020), we've had a steady decline in each year since then – and a rapid decline this last year (to 2665)
- Nationally, we were in lockdown, on & off, from 24 March 2020 and onward through summer 2021, so that meant that teaching of newcomers was curtailed.
- However, we have a steady increase in the number of 'newcomers' – some of whom might be long-lapsed former members: 2018/19 Seniors (without Uni) 535, 2019/20 Seniors (without Uni) 127, 2020/21 Seniors (without Uni) 387.
- So, this indicates that we're on the road to recovery.
- The final page (3) summarises the Senior Affiliation changes for each County, which I'll leave you to consider for yourselves.

b. Presentation and acceptance of the accounts for the year ending 31.12.2021.

AJ thanked Paul Callaway for all his time and effort managing the affiliations. It is a time consuming, hard and somewhat thankless task that he undertakes, but it is essential.

Dunster made a significant loss this year and will not make a profit in the future because of the loss of sponsorship and the extra expenditure going forward.

The audited Grand Western Archery Society's accounts for the year ending 31.12.2021 were presented to the meeting.

The acceptance of the accounts were proposed by Ann Gillbanks and seconded by Vikki Atkins and the meeting all agreed.

c. Subscriptions for 2022/23

AJ recommended that the Subscriptions for 2022/23 remain unchanged for the forthcoming year.

6. Election of Society Officers.

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

- President – Jill Newland, nominated by Denise Bunce, seconded by Ann Jackson
- Chairman – Andrew Rees, nominated by Denise Bunce, seconded by Ann Jackson
- Honorary Secretary – Denise Bunce, nominated Jill Newland, seconded by Ann Jackson
- Honorary Treasurer – Ann Jackson, nominated by Denise Bunce, seconded by Jill Newland

7. Election of Society's specialist officers and members.

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

- a. Hon. Tournament Secretary – Vikki Atkins
- b. Equipment Officer - VACANT
- c. Junior Representative – Vicky Burden
- d. Field Representative – Andrew Rees
- e. Archivist & Librarian – Chris Hassall
- f. GWAS representatives to Archery England – Andrew Parkinson & a VACANT position
- g. Affiliations Secretary – Paul Callaway
- h. Protection Officer – Paul Burden
- i. Records Officer – Andrew Rees
- j. Communications and Web Content Officer - VACANT

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

Lizzy Rees was confirmed as the Regional Coaching Officer.

9. To confirm the election of the Judge's Liaison Officer.

Phil Gillbanks was confirmed as the Judge's Liaison Officer.

10. To receive from each County names of representatives to Council for 2022/23.

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

For the Devon & Cornwall Archery Society: Karen Williams and Tim Pratt.

For the Dorset & Wilts Archery Association: Paul & Vicky Burden.

For the Gloucestershire Archery Society: Adrian Gifkins and Elaina Curran.

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

11. 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.

AJ recommended the firm of Thomas Westcott should be re-engaged to prepare the accounts and the meeting agreed.

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

The President, Jill Newland, who is Chair of the Awards Panel, reported that there was one nomination for Hon. Life Membership this year and it was her pleasure to award this to Vikki Atkins. The meeting applauded in agreement.

All formal business being concluded, the meeting was closed at 1.50pm

Signed as a true record on Sunday 12th March 2023 at the GWAS AGM at West Buckland, Somerset.