



## Grand Western Archery Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at 1.15pm.

### **26 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), Direct Member; **Vikki Gallop**, Bowmen of Hatch; **Declan Ashworth**, Cleve Archers; **Vicky Burden**, Bowmen of Lytchett; **Paul Burden**, Bowmen of Lytchett; **Robin Leveridge**, Coastal Archers; **John Poyner**, Exmouth Archers; **Jane Rees**, Ballands Bowmen; **Nick Nicholson**, South Wilts Archery Club; **Tony Newland**, Direct Member; **Ann Gillbanks**, Direct Member; **Phil Gillbanks**, Direct Member; **Paul Callaway**, Redruth Archers, **Mark Ricketts**, Kingston Archers; **Liam Goodes**, Bowmen of Ina; **Alexandra Miller**, Cleve Archers; **Adrian Wall**, Cleve Archers; **Karen & Scott Williams**, Exmouth Archers; **Andrew Parkinson**, Bowmen of the Tors; **Jim Start**, Bowmen of the Tors; **Gloria Mead**, Mere Archers; **Phillip Rees**, Exeter.

### **1. Apologies for Absence.**

Tim Pratt, Peter Brookes, Andrew Wolffsohn, Richard Jones, John Gallop, Hilary Collins, Graham & Kay Hobbs, Mike Healy, Malcolm Grant, Graham Peters, Jimmy & Sally Sandoe, Graham Williams, Linda Harlick, Rikki & Debbie Teml, Anne Lewin, Lizzy Rees, Louise Rees & Paul Atkins.

### **2. Approval of minutes of the previous AGM – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 2023.**

These were proposed by Phil Gillbanks, seconded by Nick Nicholson and the meeting were all in agreement with one abstention that the minutes were correct and signed as a true record.

### **3. Chairman's Report.**

Report from Andrew Rees :-

Welcome fellow archers.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on those of our number who have passed away in the last year and particularly of Devon and Cornwall's Mike Byrnes, who with his wife Margaret, was a regular attendee at these general meetings.

Our celebrated archery week at Dunster took place in July and brought pleasure to dozens of our members and guests, as did the indoor championship last month.

On behalf of the society, I once again offer my thanks to Vikki Gallop and Robin Leveridge for their efforts. They are people who provide some of the core ingredients of GWAS and their efforts are truly appreciated, as are those of the other Vicky – Vicky Burden who once again provided a splendid Junior Championship at Burnham.

Tournament organisers – what a service they provide. Also in that band, I must not forget Tim Pratt and his work to provide the senior intercounties, which was, for the first time I can remember, abandoned due to a Biblical downpour that left large parts of Devon flooded.

Let us hope that we have better luck this year.

I should also like to record our thanks to Burnham Company of Archers and Exmouth Archers for allowing us the use of their grounds – no range, no tournament – so we are in their debt.

My thanks must also be recorded for the efforts of our Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and our Affiliations officer – Denise, Ann and Paul – the administration of the society would be impossible without their continuing efforts.

Continuing my litany, I must thank Phil Gilbanks for his work as JLO. Our Record Status tournaments could not take place without Phil and his fellow judges- they are a most valuable, indeed essential, resource.

Thanks also to Lizzy Rees, who continued as RCO until she departed for Japan in October; I have filled in since then.

And last, but not least, thanks to Jill, our admirable President, who will, I trust, continue to set a shining example for all of us to follow.

This is a society which is maintained through the efforts of all these volunteers and many more besides – County Reps and other officers too numerous to mention. On the Society's behalf: thanks to you all.

Finally, I am stepping down as Chairman after serving for the maximum term of three years. I must thank my wife Jane for her support. Being a former Hon Treasurer and Past President, she understands what service entails and has always been supportive.

I have had a long career in archery and no little success. I have had the honour of representing both England and Great Britain, but the honour of serving this great Society ranks with the highest.

Thank you all.

#### 4. Honorary Treasurer's report.

##### a. Affiliations Secretary's Report

Report from Paul Callaway :

As some of you will be aware, I experienced problems with the hard drive on my computer from about Xmas time onwards with it not recognising the boot sector. Well, it finally gave up earlier this month, requiring a new hard drive being installed. Consequently, I lost all my documents. And I've spent the better part of the last fortnight reconstructing the **2022/23 Affiliation figures**...so, a word of warning: Back-up your computer details regularly!!!

Over the last year, I've only had two requests for affiliation information: one from a member of Council and one from a member asking for details about their own County. From this I've concluded that most people are not really that interested in the affiliation statistics, so I've restricted my feedback this year to the bare numbers of archers affiliating, without the graphs and comparisons over the last 20 years. These can be compiled but they take a lot of time.

- 2022/23 total membership was 4766 – almost back to the 2017/18 levels (after several years of decline and resurgence).
- Our Senior figures (3153) compare very favourably with the 2017/18 level (3191).
- I've noticed a significant rise in Direct members (117 compared to just 52 in 2017/18). These numbers jumped hugely in 2021/22 (120) from the previous year's figure (44) – I think largely as a hold-over from Covid-19, when a number of Clubs passed by the wayside.
- Junior numbers still struggle but with a noticeable resurgence.
- Overall, a large proportion of our membership is new/newish, with around 1/3rd having less than a year's experience...that's a bit higher than recent years; probably because we're now catching up with waiting lists for Beginners' Courses.

I haven't been nominated to continue in this role, so if someone else wants to take over, you're welcome.

**b. Presentation and acceptance of the accounts for the year ending 31.12.2023.**

Ann Jackson reported that the accounts had been sent out with the AGM Calling Notice. Robin Leveridge proposed the accounts and Vikki Gallop seconded, this was accepted unanimously.

**c. Subscriptions for 2024/25**

AJ recommended that the subscriptions be increased by £2 for senior membership and pro rata for the other memberships.

Paul Callaway asked why the price increase as the region had money in the bank but Ann Jackson said that as a prudent Treasurer she advised that we should sustain our costs within each year and not use the reserves.

Ann Jackson proposed the £2 increase, Vikki Gallop seconded the proposal, the meeting voted with 18 in favour, 2 abstentions and 6 against.

**5. 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.

- a. President – Jill Newland, nominated by Denise Bunce, seconded by Andrew Rees
- b. Chairman – Tim Pratt, nominated by Denise Bunce, seconded by Jill Newland
- c. Honorary Secretary – Denise Bunce, nominated by Andrew Rees, seconded by Ann Jackson
- d. Honorary Treasurer – Ann Jackson, nominated by Denise Bunce, seconded by Andrew Rees

**6. Election of Society's council, specialist officers and members.**

Put to the vote, it was unanimously agreed that the following members should be elected until the next AGM:

- a. Hon. Tournament Secretary – Vikki Atkins
- b. Equipment Officer –
- c. Junior Representative –
- d. Field Representative – Gloria Mead
- e. Archivist & Librarian – (Chris Hassall was not present at the meeting)
- f. GWAS Representatives to Archery England – Adrian Wall & Karen Williams
- g. Affiliations Secretary – Paul Callaway
- h. Safeguarding Officer – Paul Burden
- i. Records Officer – Declan Ashworth
- j. Communications and Web Content Officer – Declan Ashworth

**7. To confirm the election of the Regional Coaching Officer.**

The Regional Coaching meeting held before the AGM elected Andrew Rees as the Regional Coaching Officer for 2024 / 25.

**8. To confirm the election of the Judge's Liaison Officer.**

Phil Gillbanks was confirmed as the Judges' Liaison Officer.

**9. To receive from each County names of representatives to council for 2024/25.**

The following members' names were received by the meeting :

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

For Dorset & Wilts Archery Association: Paul Burden & Gloria Mead.

For Gloucestershire Archery Society: Graham Peters & Adrian Wall.

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

**10. 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 Thomas Westcott should be re-engaged to prepare the accounts and the meeting agreed.

**11. 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, asked the meeting to agree to two awards, a Recognition Award for Jane Rees to reward her for all her work in the Region and an Honorary Life Membership for Ann Jackson to reward her for all her hard work in the Region and as present Treasurer, the meeting agreed unanimously.

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

**Signed as a true record on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 at the GWAS AGM at West Buckland, Somerset.**

**GWAS Chairman**

**GWAS Hon. Secretary**