

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting held 10th June 2024, 8.00pm on Zoom

Present: Keith, Sally, Mandy, Anthony, Rosemary, Paul, Phil

There were no apologies for absence

The **minutes of the meeting 22nd April 2024** were proposed by Paul, seconded by Keith and accepted by all as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising

Anthony asked that under AOB we discuss funding for club members doing coach training (it had been missed off the agenda).

Pandamonium

Anthony had circulated a report on Pandamonium. The event had gone well and had made a profit of around £200. We had been very lucky with the weather.

Chris Wright Shoot and Club Championship

Everyone was happy to accept the suggestions circulated by Anthony:

Chris Wright shoot Saturday 17th August Windsor family rounds, archers choose their own distance.

Club Championship Saturday 28th September Western round for most awards, shorter rounds as requested included for awards based on handicap.

Review of Club Trophies

The Chris Wright trophy is a large cup donated by Chris's widow, it is presently at Anthony's house. Phil has the plaque that goes with it.

At the recent Pandamonium event no trophies were awarded; only medals were given out.

Anthony suggested a review of Panda trophies, as many of them now look tired and unattractive.

Mandy seconded this assessment of them.

It was agreed that the committee will meet at the bunker after shooting on Saturday 6th July (4 or 4.30-ish) to examine the trophies and decide together if we want to use them or do something different.

Paul and Mandy agreed to return the trophies that they (and Alan) hold; Anthony offered to send Mandy a list of what they hold, if that would help them.

Corporate Days

Rosemary read out the wording on Panda's website: "If your office or business is organising a day out, why not consider archery? We can tailor a day to suit your needs, including target archery, field archery and clout shooting." Rosemary had received an email from a company requesting an archery activity followed by a buffet, and a room with a screen for a presentation; she queried whether booking food and a room is our remit, or we should stick to offering just archery. (She had responded to the company that we could offer an archery activity but are not able to deal with bookings for the clubhouse facilities.)

Anthony commented that the wording on the website does suggest that we can cater in some way for a full day, we need to make it clear that we only offer archery.

Sally pointed out that a business would want just one point of contact for booking activity, food etc. They would expect to pay us for archery, food and everything else, and then we pay the rugby club. Mandy commented that communication between the rugby club and Panda is not good enough at present for this to work reliably.

Sally asked if we could go to a venue of the company's choice to provide an archery session there.

The difficulty with this would be transport, as none of us in the club have a vehicle suitable for carrying all the necessary equipment.

Mandy thought that previously people had only requested archery activities. Anthony had a feeling there had been one occasion when people came to us for archery and then went elsewhere for food.

We agreed to modify the wording on our website to make clear that we only offer archery – something along the lines of “a team building archery session”...

Rosemary will work out the new wording and send it to Mark for the website.

Pricing of Have-a-goes and similar events

Rosemary explained that Anthony had recently run a session for some girl guides; when asked what it would cost, he had plucked a figure (£50) out of the air. Rosemary felt afterwards that perhaps this had been rather cheap.

Anthony explained that the event had been at a camp and equipment had been provided. He had gone over a few days before to view the site, equipment and facilities. Then, on the morning of 8th June, he had run 2 x 1 ½ hour sessions, with 9 girls in each session. He had charged £50 for this, and the money would be coming into the Panda bank account. The activity had been registered with AGB as a club event in order for Anthony to be covered by AGB insurance.

Anthony thought that in the past, when running events at the club with our own equipment, we have charged £10 per person for a 2 hour session.

Keith felt that Anthony should have charged more, close to £100! Sally commented that if you look online, some people charge £25 per person for a have-a-go session.

Mandy felt that it depends who we're aiming at; if we're looking at kids shooting a few arrows, then £25 p.p. is a lot for parents to pay. A corporate group is a different matter, so maybe we need tiered charging. Anthony liked this idea.

Paul had previously wondered about advertising Panda in schools and workplaces; but we would need a proper pricing system first.

Anthony said he will research what other groups and organisations charge, and bring a suggestion to the next meeting.

Replacement equipment

Paul explained that one of our 2 metal detectors has died and the other one is in poor condition. Also, the red tape measure has given up the ghost. He has looked around and there is a wide variation in prices. It is hard to find tape measures with metric and imperial measurements. The cheapest that he could find in stock was £46 for a 100m/330ft tape. Paul asked how the committee felt about this.

Anthony felt that the need is not immediate but as we only have 1 usable imperial tape we will need another. Sally thought this sounded reasonable if the tape is good quality. Paul acknowledged that we get what we pay for – this applies to the metal detector as well as the tape. Anthony had suggested a cheap detector from Smyths (toy store) that might last a year or 2 for around £17.

Sally asked how easy it is to break a detector, because people are not always careful with equipment. Paul explained that is why he tends to look at cheaper stuff. Anthony queried whether a more expensive detector would last 5 or more times as long as a cheap one.

The present detector has probably been in the club for nearly 20 years now.

Mandy asked why we need 2 detectors, Paul explained that the one we have won't last much longer.

Rosemary suggested that we consider the tape and detector as an investment, we should maybe grit our teeth and shell out for them.

Keith commented that we should make members aware of the cost of items so that people will

take more care of them.

Rosemary asked if we had given Paul the go-ahead to buy the tape and detector; Paul said hold off until we have talked about the bosses...

Mandy reminded us that the container also needs repairing. So there are several items that need replacing, and repairs to be carried out. This could lead to spending a lot of money.

It was pointed out, and all agreed, that if the containers are in poor condition, then the equipment inside them will suffer too, so we moved straight to the question of...

Container maintenance

Paul said that he had climbed up on to the roof of both containers a few weeks before and had a look at the state of the roofs. He explained that when we got the newer container (the right-hand one) there was some damage to it. He and Kris Gent had done some extensive work and repairs on the containers. Part of this was fixing a leak in the roof of the left-hand container; that section of the roof is still in very good condition. However, the rest of that roof, and the roof of the other container, haven't been touched for some 10 years. There are heavy signs of rusting; this is treatable if it is done very soon.

There are 2 avenues of repair, both paint based:

1) Rust converter – you need to rub the roof down, then paint the rust converter on; it treats and protects the surface.

2) Bitumen paint – this needs better preparation work in order to get a good bond with the surface.

The rust converter costs £70 for a 5 litre tin, we would need one tin for each container.

The bitumen paint costs £32 for 5l, but we would need 5 tins.

We would also need to spend £40-50 for tools and PPE.

Mandy felt we should spend the money on the containers, it sounds like a priority. Sally agreed.

Keith favoured the rust converter; Phil agreed with him as it needed less preparation and so less time spent. A bit more expensive but would last longer. Keith reckoned we were looking at around £200, Paul agreed with this figure.

Mandy proposed that we go ahead with the roof repair, everyone agreed to this and to the use of the rust converter paint.

Paul said he would produce a proper costing and send an email out asking for volunteers for a work party.

Anthony commented that we should put other replacement equipment on hold for now.

Bosses and stands

Paul commented that our bosses are OK for now, but the stands we use do need some work on them. Part of the reason for him mentioning bosses is that different bosses need different stands; he does not want to make new stands for straw bosses if we are planning to move to foam ones. If we choose to stick with straw bosses, then we can build new stands for them.

Anthony pointed out that one consideration is the storage of bosses. The racking in the container is set up for straw bosses. Our present foam layered boss is very awkward to move around. If we change to foam, there will be a period of mixed bosses, this will be hard for storage.

Keith had looked at Paul's spreadsheet of bosses and felt that the Tell system of sectional foam bosses would be workable, but the cost is prohibitive – we would need around £5,000 for 10 bosses! They could go on our present stands, but they are much too costly. He thought we should stick with straw bosses until we have a lot more members. Keith suggested we should shell out,

make some stands and buy new straws bosses, and get people in for competitions in order to raise money.

Paul commented that we have new stands in the other container, he thought there were about 8 of them. Keith thought that would be enough for next year.

Mandy asked why are we not using them now, rather than saving them? Paul didn't know, he had thought they would be used for the Pandamonium event. It turned out that the people who set up the field either didn't know about these stands, or simply didn't think of them. They are right at the back of the right-hand container, so people don't see them.

Sally suggested that we need an audit of what's in the container. Keith said we certainly need a clear-out! Sally wondered if this could be done at the same time as the roof repairs, we agreed this was possible.

Keith felt that the problem is getting rid of the stuff from the container, getting it to the tip. People might be accused of bringing trade waste. Sally suggested that it could be split between people; club members could be asked to remove rubbish and take it to the tip, whether all in one go or a bit at a time.

Anthony summarised:

Container maintenance will go ahead as the first priority. The rust converter method will be used. Paul will ask for volunteers to help with that work.

We also need to do an inventory, work out what to throw out, and arrange disposal of rubbish.

Other equipment replacement can wait for future discussion.

We can use the newer stands if we really need to.

Sale of bows to novices

Several sets of kit have been donated to Panda over the years. Some have had items removed from them. We need to look at these and work out if we can sell them. Only the other week Anthony was given some more kit by someone who just wanted it to be used.

We need to carry out our inventory of equipment, and we have no novices ready to buy bows yet. It was therefore agreed to postpone discussion about bows until after the inventory has been done.

Horsetail weeds

Paul had recently identified this weed around the containers. Nick had applied some weedkiller but it had rained soon afterwards, so it was not entirely successful. Sally commented that it is VERY hard to get rid of, Paul confirmed this. Nick had suggested that maybe the rugby club should deal with it. After discussion, it was agreed that Rosemary will email Mike to inform him that this weed has been identified near the containers, it seems to be spreading from the ditch.

70th Anniversary

Paul had looked at commemorative badges but found they were very expensive and so not a viable option. Mandy suggested, and we all agreed, that this event should be high on the agenda for our next meeting.

Any Other Business

Reimbursement of coach training expenses

Anthony explained that a small grant is available from Yorkshire (about £30) which would cover safeguarding training. The trainee has to complete 4 online modules at £25 each, plus 2 days at

£75 each. This brings the total to £250.

The coach also has to do a certain amount of CPD over the following 3 years (the renewal cycle is 3 years). The cost of this varies but is probably less than £100.

Anthony proposed reimbursing a new coach half the cost of the training, once they have helped out at a subsequent beginners' course. Mandy proposed that we reimburse the full cost of CPD as it is for the club's benefit, not personal. Both these proposals were passed unanimously.

Charity status

Sally asked if Panda is a charity. Anthony and others said No. Had we ever applied to be one? No. Anthony said the nearest appropriate equivalent would be a Community Sports Club, which is basically a charity but not quite the same. A full charity has higher, more rigorous accounting procedures.

Sally had noticed that some archery clubs run as a charity and she wondered why we didn't. Anthony thought that Panda was not set up as a charity and the club had never got round to changing it.

At this point the Zoom session expired. Most committee members logged back in so that we could deal with the final point on the agenda...

Date of next meeting

This was provisionally agreed as Monday 22nd July 2024, at 8.00pm on Zoom.