

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting 12th January 2026, 8.00pm on Zoom

Present: Anthony, Rosemary, Duncan, Sally, Phil, Paul

NB. Anthony & Rosemary's microphone did not work, so they could not contribute to the discussion at the meeting.

Apologies: Nick Lock, John Haywood, Mark Fletcher.

Keith Harrison had also sent apologies, but Rosemary did not see his email until after the meeting.

Minutes of meeting 20th October 2025

These were proposed by Duncan, seconded by Paul and agreed by all present as a true record of the meeting.

There were no **matters arising**.

OnTarget

Duncan said that he had emailed Alex (our Sport Development Officer) but had heard nothing back, so he was still awaiting further information. He felt that if AGB are not responding to us, maybe it is not worth pursuing!

Paul commented that he had sent an email on 31st December and received a reply on the day of our meeting (12th January). Duncan felt that Sport England should be faster than that, Paul commented that they are dealing with every club in the country.

In view of the lack of progress from AGB, those present thanked Duncan for all his efforts to date, and agreed to take OnTarget off our agenda until we receive any further information.

Pandamonium 2026

Sally asked if we should contact the rugby club to check availability of fields on 16th May; it was agreed that Rosemary would get in touch and check this, particularly whether or not we can use pitch 3, as this will determine the possible number of entrants.

Indoor Shooting

There was some concern about whether we have enough members interested to make it viable. Sally commented that once we start shooting indoors, we have the potential to grow in numbers, as other users of the sports venue would see us and could become interested in archery.

Paul said that 18 people had expressed interest; the cost of hire split between them would be around £6.50 per head.

Sally asked if Paul had looked at the venue, he said not yet. We would certainly need a viewing before agreeing to anything with the venue; there is not time for that this season, so we are looking at next winter.

Wilson had asked about fees, whether they would be payable en bloc or as you go (cash on the day); also, whether it would be only Saturdays or could be other days as well.

Duncan said that paying on the day is not a good idea because it opens up the possibility of only a few people turning up and the club then having to subsidise the session.

Stuart had asked if a fee might be charged up front to those who have expressed an interest, to ensure payment; this raised the question of what happens if people pay up front and then can't attend the session?

Duncan said the fees would have to be non-refundable. Paul said we need to make the fees realistic to encourage attendance.

Sally suggested we could have varied club fees – outdoor only, or outdoor + indoor membership. Paul said other clubs have tried that and found they need to keep a very close eye on who attends when and where, it is hard to keep up with all of that.

Sally said we must find a minimum number to sign up to make the sessions viable, and payment in full is the way to go.

Paul asked how often we should run sessions – this will determine the monthly cost per household.

Sally said we should visit the site first, because if it is no good, then setting fees is irrelevant! Paul asked if anyone had looked at the venue on Streetview – Phil had, and he felt that parking would be an issue. It looks like on street parking. Paul shared Phil's concern, and commented that to get the minimum number of archers there would entail quite a few vehicles.

Sally said we should investigate the logistics of parking; if that looks ok, then we look inside the venue; if that is ok too, then we bring the proposal to members.

Paul asked Duncan what he thought of the division barrier between the different sport areas; Duncan had not specifically looked at that, but would do so.

Paul also wondered how we would transport our equipment to the venue. Previously Tim Mahony has kindly helped out, but he is no longer a member of Panda.

There is also the question of mess from the bosses; at our previous indoor venue we had to sweep the stage after shooting, to remove the bits of straw. It could be difficult to clean a deep pile 2G surface. Duncan commented that if the surface gets damaged, it would be costly to repair.

It was agreed that Phil would drive past the venue on his way to our field, in order to get an idea of the parking situation. Paul will arrange a viewing – Phil, Duncan and Sally said they would be happy to view it with Paul. Paul will liaise with the venue.

Any Other Business

John Haywood had sent an email to Rosemary and Paul expressing his disappointment that shooting could not take place on the morning of Saturday 10th January because no key holders were available to open the bunker and attend the session. He asked the committee to discuss the situation, and also enquired what the official shooting times are for both summer and winter. Paul had emailed a holding response to John.

At our meeting, Paul commented that this is a difficult area; he didn't like to say "that's tough luck", but actually that was the case!

The Panda constitution does not specify what day(s) of the week we shoot.

Sally suggested that we go back to John with the standard manager response - "The club is run by volunteers who cannot always be available...."

Duncan said it would be irresponsible to give keys to novices.

Phil asked if they will get keys next season anyway? Paul said Yes.

Sally commented that the field will not be available Saturday mornings anyway during the beginners' courses; Anthony commented (through the chat facility) that another field could potentially be available.

Sally said that we need to explain what the rules are and the reasons for them.

Paul commented that we are not insured for shooting on the car park.

Date of next meeting

The Zoom session ran out before this could be discussed, so it will have to be decided by email.

