

## **Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 8.00pm on Zoom**

Committee present: Anthony, Rosemary, Sally, Duncan, Keith, Paul, Mark

Guests present: Nick Lock, Richard Keegan

Apologies: Phil Wiles

The meeting welcomed Nick and Richard, who had been invited because of their interest in the On Target Club Development programme.

The **minutes of the meeting 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025** were accepted by all as an accurate record.

### **Matters arising**

A brief report on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary event had been circulated to the committee.

It seemed a successful event. Everyone had enjoyed it. We had received good feedback, people appreciated the non-competitive nature of the shoot.

Richard spoke as a new archer – he felt it had been amazing, lots of fun, accessible, good to shoot alongside more experienced archers. And the BBQ had been good!

Six new bosses had been bought, along with 50 target faces and a big batch of target pins. Forty of the faces are at Anthony's house in order to be stored flat.

The WhatsApp group was agreed in June and is now up and running, working well and, on the whole, not too many non-archery messages on it.

### **On Target Club Development Programme**

Duncan has emailed our Sport Development Officer, who has responded that there is nothing they can do as yet because they're waiting on graphics to finalise the resources that they will give us!

They are aware that we want to join this programme, but we're waiting for resources that will include check lists, tick boxes to make sure that we're doing everything as we should...

We need to be at the point of "working towards" before we can even begin to look at what specialisms we would choose.

Duncan & Sally thought it would be worth a conversation between us and the general membership, looking to the future.

The Archery UK magazine article is brief, but it's all we have so far.

The specialisms are Community; Young People; Progression; and Performance. Duncan felt that Performance would be out of the question for us as it would involve high level competition for the club that would maybe lead into national events.

Sally asked if we should send stuff out to members so it can be discussed at the AGM? Duncan thought this a good idea. We can't actually start anything anyway before November. In theory all members have a link to the AGB supplement because Duncan sent it out along with his request for helpers. We can remind members, put this on the agenda and ask for member input.

Paul asked how many people can be deputies? AGB say 2 officers must take part, but the more who are involved, the better.

Nick commented that we are a relatively small club with few resources, he wondered if there could be an option to pool with another club eg. Adel, to share resources. Duncan said the On Target programme is designed to have collaboration between clubs. It depends on whether Adel want to pursue the On Target scheme; if they do, it would be easier to collaborate than if they don't. There is no reason why we can't approach them. Even if they're not joining the scheme they may have ideas that could help us with our specialism. Deborah (from Quicks) is at Adel now.

The 2 specialisms that would seem most beneficial for our club are Community, and Young People. Richard commented that this is an opportunity to engage all club members. The many new

members are not aware of where the club has come from; they might be interested to contribute to defining the values of the club, setting out what make Panda distinct... There is something special about Panda that makes us who we are – the numbers and types of members that we have...There is a real opportunity to engage in that conversation, whether at the AGM or at the club one weekend.

Duncan said Yes, as part of the On Target scheme we need to have goals, aims, values etc defined in order to go forward on the programme.

Sally suggested we try to come up with some values that would align with our PANDA name; move away from what the name used to stand for and update the name's meaning.

Richard commented that this exercise is also an opportunity to address the etiquette of club membership, how we behave and what is expected of members. Duncan agreed; this will be part of the Welcome/Members booklet, but we need clarity about these things ourselves before we can produce the booklet.

We have Duncan, Nick, Richard willing to be involved and work on this. It is frustrating that we can't progress yet.

Anthony commented that in the Archery UK magazine it says they are expecting to launch the scheme to new clubs on 1<sup>st</sup> November, so that's probably the deadline that AGB are working towards. Duncan agreed but finds it disappointing that a re-start of something that was already in existence is taking so long.

### **Beginners' Courses 2026**

Anthony and Nick had conferred about dates and, assuming Pandamonium to be on 16<sup>th</sup> May, they agreed:

Two **Saturday morning** courses - **11<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May**; and **23<sup>rd</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> June**.

Also one evening course.

The rugby club have nothing on our field at that time of year. The clubhouse is shut Mondays (Tony's day off). Friday is not a good choice because people are tired at the end of a working week. Thursday often sees a group of existing Panda members shooting. Combining beginners and an experienced group would not really work well for either party.

It was agreed to offer a course on **Wednesday evenings** - **6<sup>th</sup> May to 10<sup>th</sup> June**.

Anthony said he will email the details to Mark to update the website, and will send application forms to enquirers. Enquiries are continuing to come in, so hopefully there will be enough people to fill the courses.

Richard asked if we will run a taster session. Anthony would prefer to try and fill the courses first. He will review the situation in February/March and consider a taster session if the courses are short of people.

### **Bunker keys**

Anthony has heard from a couple of people asking if they can have a bunker key. Practice has long been that you would complete the Spring beginners course and immediately join Panda, and then when you rejoined at the start of October you could receive a key. But with the change to 12 month membership from the date of first joining, that will no longer work.

Keith suggested allowing a key after 6 or 12 months membership; Anthony thought a year.

Paul commented that it would be easier to keep track of 12 months if it aligns with the membership date. Duncan agreed, saying that a year gives more experience, whereas if the 6 months has included a lot of bad weather, the archer might not have as much experience as needed to hold a key. Anthony added that experience needs to be not just shooting, but also setting up the field, the margins at the edge of the field, all the field captain stuff...

This information will go in the beginners/welcome book when it is produced.

Nick suggested the book specify that obtaining a key is at the equipment officer's discretion; Duncan thought expand this to include the coaching team (ie. Anthony and Nick!). It was agreed that holding a key is not an automatic right, and that after 12 months membership a member may request a key; this to be given out at the discretion of the club officers and coaches.

### **Personal belongings in the bunkers**

A club member had asked if she could leave her equipment in the bunker; she uses taxis and buses to get to archery. Sally had looked briefly at our insurance and thought it would not cover personal property in the bunker. Duncan commented that there is not much room; it's good to help members out but we couldn't do it for everybody. Sally said it would have to be on an individual basis.

Paul said we would need to set an area aside in order to protect the equipment.

It was agreed it would have to be in the bunker with the beginners' bows in, and should be labelled with the owner's name. Nick suggested welding a couple of loops to the container so that a chain could be used to secure the equipment, which would help from the insurance point of view.

We would need to look in the bunker and decide where there could be space. But in principle we were happy to help the member out in this way.

### **Winter shooting arrangements**

Paul commented that some people are shooting mornings and some afternoons at present – do we want to amalgamate the 2 groups for the winter? Keith thought Yes, otherwise you start to lose the light in the afternoon. Paul thought that last year (or the year before?) we had kept the 2 sessions. Keith thought that after the clocks change we generally have a single session, something like 10.30am to 3.00pm.

Paul commented that some members are struggling to make it for 12.00. Duncan cannot be there before 12. Sally thought we had kept the 2 sessions last year... No-one could remember for sure! It was agreed to keep the arrangements as they are for now: 9.30am for those who like being early or want a quieter session; and 12.00 noon for the others.

We can review this if necessary.

### **Certificates and badges for AGM**

Paul has started to look at the awards that members have earned over the last year. At present 27 people will be getting a classification certificate. Paul wondered if the presentation of all these would take too long and put people off coming to the AGM. We changed the time last year to encourage people to attend, but now we have so many new people, will it be a problem?

Duncan wondered about a celebratory evening, maybe in the rugby club bar, to hand out the awards... Sally thought we should keep it at the AGM, with the presentation of the club championship trophies etc, but maybe change the way we hand out certificates...

Paul mentioned badges. People have jumped up more quickly than he anticipated, he now needs to buy some more. We agreed previously to award the first badge free (some are £3 each, some more than £3, it gets quite expensive; also, some are out of stock). We are looking at spending quite a lot of money on badges.

Sally commented that we need a serious talk (especially in light of the On Target programme) about what our fees are for and what they are expected to cover. She recommended that we do the awards at the AGM, and we buy the badges because we will need them anyway. We can decide later about charging for them.

Duncan suggested we ask people to contribute to/pay for their badges.

Anthony summed up that Paul will buy badges as needed. Should members be asked to pay for

their classification badges? If people don't want to pay for them, then Paul could be left with unnecessary stocks of badges. Members can buy them for themselves anyway..

Sally recommended that we subsidise them. Anthony suggested setting the price at £2 (like the 252 badges, where people can either swap them or pay for extras to build up the set). We could do the same with the classification badges. Keith commented that for swapping, they need to be in good condition.

When asked, Richard said that he would expect to pay for badges, just as you do in other sports.

Duncan added that you generally have to pay for things if you have an upgrade. The most sustainable option for Panda is to charge for the badges. Anthony suggested that Paul email club members to ask if they would want to buy badges, so as to avoid buying too many for the club. Postage was discussed; Paul was happy to add badges to a personal order that he wants to put in to Merlin, and split the postage cost with the club.

Does the club need anything else? Sally said we should see what we need for winter (eg indoor target faces) and then put in a bulk order.

### **Membership renewals**

Rosemary reported on how renewals were going so far under the new do-it-yourself renewal system. There were 24 people with membership up for renewal. Three of them had not responded at all to renewal emails. Most of the rest had successfully negotiated the new system and renewed Panda and AGB membership. A small number of people had only made one of the two payments needed, but had told Rosemary that they would be making the other payment. One member had paid the entire fee to the club, so Rosemary had renewed her AGB membership and raised an invoice for it just as previously. A few people have set up auto-renewal. Generally speaking, everything was going very well.

Duncan commented that the website is not mobile-friendly, it is not easy to renew using your phone. Anthony told Duncan that he should report the difficulties to AGB, because if nobody tells them there's a problem, then they won't fix it!

### **Date of AGM**

The AGM is usually mid to late November in order to allow the treasurer time to complete the club accounts for the year. Sally said that it won't take long because she is doing it as she goes. We agreed to go with a Saturday afternoon after shooting. Paul suggested trying to avoid days when Tykes or West Park are playing at home. Anthony looked on the Rugby Club website but could find no details of fixtures beyond 4<sup>th</sup> October.

We need to ask the membership what they would like to talk about at the meeting, and then give 28 days notice of the meeting, with agenda. So we chose to hold the AGM on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. We need to ask Mike or Tony for a room at 3.30pm that day.

### **Date of next committee meeting**

It was agreed as Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, at 8.00pm on Zoom. This should give us time to discuss and agree the AGM agenda and send it out before the 28-day deadline.