

Panda Bowmen committee meeting 23rd March 2026, held 8.00pm on Zoom

Present: Anthony, Rosemary, Keith, Paul, Mark, Sally

Apologies: Phil

The **minutes of the meeting 9th February 2026** were proposed by Paul, seconded by Keith and accepted by all present as a true record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising that were not already on our agenda.

Indoor shooting venue

Anthony thanked Paul for his work in preparing a spreadsheet of the survey result, and invited comments.

Anthony felt that the numbers of members wanting to attend did not support any of the suggested sessions. Paul said the number for the Saturday morning was reasonable (12 members) but he felt that it was likely to dwindle to maybe half that, looking at the comments and questions raised in the survey. An attendance of 12 people (rather than the hoped for 18) would mean an increase of 50% on the cost, from £7.50 to £11.25 per person, to cover the cost of the session. Rosemary thought that sounded a lot; Anthony agreed, especially as we are not paying anything at present! Paul said that all the venues that had given him a price were quoting a similar hourly rate. We would need a significant number of our members to make the sessions viable financially.

Anthony suggested we do nothing for now, then check availability and re-survey in August when we might have some more members. Paul explained that the available sessions were likely to be the same, and the venue want to know Yes or No by July. Anthony felt that on our present numbers, we would have to say No to the venue.

Payment is also a potential issue. Most survey respondents were happy to pay some/all of the cost upfront, but about a third did not want that.

Sally felt that car parking was also an issue. Paul agreed, saying that in the survey, 3 people had mentioned the area, 5 had said that parking would need to be nearby, and there were 4 maybes, which risked knocking the numbers down. It had become evident that parking was a big requirement in members' minds.

Anthony felt that we should keep looking, and if we can find a new venue, then re-survey members in August, as hopefully we shall have some more members by then.

Keith checked if the 3 hour session includes setting up and taking down time – Yes, it does, so it would probably only be 2 hours actual shooting. We would also need to clean all the bits of straw from the floor. Timing is tight as there is another group straight afterwards, who would be keen to get started. Keith commented we could review our situation in July, but we can't go ahead on the numbers that we have at present. Anthony agreed, and said we need to keep looking for a new venue.

Paul offered to email Panda members to tell them that we cannot go ahead, and explain why.

Payment system for badges

Sally had circulated a link to a draft form to deal with badges. It was on Microsoft, so all could access it. Paul said the issue is how to tie up payment references with badges and with people; how to track the payments?

Sally explained that Paul or the member wanting the badge could fill in the form and indicate whether they would be paying by BACS or cash (to be put into an honesty box, or given to committee member). This information would be automatically put on to a

spreadsheet. Sally could cross-check the spreadsheet with the bank record, and would know who to chase in case of non payment! Alternatively, to avoid the need to chase, Paul could issue badges only after payment has been received; columns could be added to the spreadsheet to indicate receipt of payment and issuing of badges.

Paul commented that new members will soon be wanting to apply for bunker keys, he wondered if that could be dealt with on the same form? Anthony thought that was a good suggestion.

Sally will work on the form with Paul and share spreadsheet admin rights with him, so they can sort it out together. Anthony thought that recording payment for keys in this way is a good idea. Sally commented that it could also be used for other payments, eg sales of equipment.

This system will give traceability.

Randamonium

Disappointing level of entries so far – 3 from outside the club and 3 from within it!

Sally asked if we've contacted clubs with members who've been to us before; Anthony explained that Rosemary had contacted the YAA secretary, who had sent out our flier to all the club secretaries in the YAA. Sally commented that we have had late entries before.

We reiterated that refreshments will be just tea and coffee.

Anthony said he will take the lead in organising the field set-up, probably marking it out the night before; Keith offered to help with that. Anthony will send an email asking for people to help out at Randamonium (and also at beginners courses).

Who will keep the kettles hot for refreshments?! Sally offered to take this on, with Ellie(?), provided they are available that day. They will also look after the tombola/raffle.

Sally reminded us that we need to ask for donations for the raffle.

Paul mentioned trophies/prizes; the 3 place trophies that he had looked at had a lead time of a couple of weeks, so he wondered about a cut off date for entries, to know if the trophies would be needed. Given that we are looking at small items costing about £5 each, Sally felt it would be ok for Paul to go ahead and order them anyway. We agreed on simple trophies with just Randamonium and the year on. Sally felt that if we are only serving tea and coffee, then our outlay will be small, so there is nothing to prevent us going ahead even with just a few entrants.

Rosemary commented that we would probably get more Panda entrants nearer the time.

Paul asked if Randamonium had been advertised to members, Anthony assured him that information had been sent out (on 28th February), but he would re-advertise it to encourage more to sign up. He will email members, but space things out because if emails are too long, or a lot of them too close together, people just don't read them.

Anthony will sort out score sheets etc as he has templates from last year; in the absence of Sean Gleason, he will also act as field captain. The event is not formal enough to warrant paying another judge to come and officiate for us.

The first beginners' course starts on 11th April, so Anthony will send an email soon. The courses have relatively low numbers so far, so Anthony will contact those on the waiting list who've not responded yet, to offer the first session of each Saturday course as a taster session at a cost of £15. People would be free to choose to complete the course and pay the balance.

Paul had been approached by a recently retired couple who wanted to know more about archery, but had not found clear information on our website about contact details and what is available, so had looked at other clubs further away. Mark commented that he puts things on Facebook, so people probably see info there first. Paul felt that Facebook now

serves a niche age group (mainly older people) and that the younger generation don't really use it now.

There was discussion about what should be on our website front page. Keith wondered about mentioning taster sessions; Rosemary commented that to an outsider, taster sessions and have-a-goes might mean the same thing. It was agreed that something along the lines of "Fancy having a go at archery?" or "Wanting to try archery?" would be a good lead in to catch people's eyes. There would be links to further pages which explain what is available and how to get in touch. Mark will tweak the website to make it more eye-catching and informative.

Any Other Business

Sally raised the payment of Panda fees to the rugby club. The last couple of years it has been missed in the autumn and we have ended up paying in March/April. Given that Panda and AGB membership is now renewed at any time of the year, not just on 1st October, Sally suggested that we fix a date for a head count of members and pay on that date each year. This will then include all members regardless of when they joined/renewed with Panda.

We agreed to set 31st March as our date, as it is close to the end of the financial year. Sally will set up a payment to cover our present members, to go out on 31st March.

Paul enquired how many people have signed up for the beginners' courses so far; Anthony told him: for the first Saturday course, 6; for the second Saturday course, 4; and for the Wednesday evening course, 8. Paul suggested making some of the sessions into taster sessions to attract more people. Anthony said he is happy to make the first session of each Saturday course a taster session, but it is difficult for subsequent sessions; he is committed to the course dates for those who have already paid, and it doesn't really work to have 2 groups of people doing different things at the same time in one session. Paul mentioned again the couple who had approached him, and Anthony said it is fine to invite them to one of the taster sessions (11th April or 23rd May).

Date of next meeting

This was agreed as Monday 27th April, 8.00pm on Zoom.