

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting, held 30th June 2025 on Zoom

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

The **minutes of the meeting 12th May 2025** were proposed by Phil, seconded by Paul, and agreed by all as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

The Pandamonium shoot went ahead, with 14 visitors and 3 Panda members shooting. All the archers enjoyed the day, and were happy to receive prizes rather than trophies. Quite a few of them have signed up for the 70th anniversary event.

This year's profit was only £88. This was partly due to the cost of the prizes, and partly because we had 8 fewer participants. We probably lost some people because they only have BLBS membership and are not covered by insurance at an AGB one way longbow shoot.

We may consider trying a two way shoot next year if we have enough bosses, stands etc.

70th Anniversary Event

Summary so far: 27 signed up to shoot – 16 Panda members and 11 visitors. 3 people want BBQ but will probably not shoot. Judge for the day is Sean Gleeson.

A raffle/tombola usually generates income, **Rosemary will put out a request for prizes**. Make a decision on the day if we have enough for raffle to go ahead; if not, can save prizes for another occasion (depending on what they are).

Assembly at 10.00am; visitors may arrive from 9.00, so workparty needs to be there 8.00am to start setting up.

So far, we have 3 barebows, 2 flatbows, 3 compounds, 11 recurves and 8 longbows signed up, so a good mix.

We agreed for **Sally to look at hot water flasks** and purchase as necessary to help with the hot drinks. **Anthony said he will buy more gas** to boil the kettles.

Prizes – we will use some little panda brooches, with certificates. Keith suggested also giving bottle of beer/chocolate/sweets (eg. liquorice allsorts – black and white like pandas!). One set of prizes, unrelated to bowstyle; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, plus spot prizes...

Paul will organise the scoring slips, removing some standard GNAS scoring ones and replacing with unconventional ones for more interest.

Sean will be asked to announce scoring method following each end shot.

Gazebo – we will use the Coleman shelters, as the blue gazebo is damaged and will not go high enough.

State of the club bosses – most are in a poor state. We have only a couple of properly hard ones now. Anthony was thinking of trying to cut an old, soft boss up, to use the pieces as backing to support the centres of the soft bosses (like the foam blocks); not sure how well they would hold together or how to attach them. An alternative would be to double-boss the targets.

At present we have 19 straw bosses and 1 foam boss. We have 6 A-frame stands, 1 square frame stand and timber to build 5 more stands. We would prefer to stick with straw bosses for the anniversary event.

A further possibility is to buy 6 new bosses before the competition. Delivery time could be a problem. Sally suggested that our guests could finish off the old bosses for us, and we could buy new ones subsequently!

A look at Quicks website showed a price of £995 for 6 bosses, but no delivery timescale given. Paul looked on Ebay at the Egertec shop, and found 6 bosses, 50 faces and 200 pins for £1,075, with 2-3 day free delivery. We thought this a very good offer. The problem with buying new bosses is

disposing of the old ones. We haven't space for new bosses unless we get rid of old ones at the same time.

It was suggested that we could sacrifice 6 old bosses to be cut up to make supporting centres, and this would create space for 6 new bosses.

Have we enough funds for new bosses? Sally thinks our balance is healthy at present. Anthony pointed out that we must take into account our liabilities – AGB fees and Rugby Club fees that have been received from new members and not passed on yet. Sally thought it would still be OK.

Anthony will test out cutting a boss and using the pieces the day after our meeting, so that he can make a decision very soon.

How many targets do we need out? For 27 archers we'd need 8 or 9 targets.

Anthony has arranged a stand-building session for the afternoon of Tuesday 1st July, with another session in the morning on Saturday 5th if necessary.

Rosemary suggested decorating the gazebos/tables with balloons, this was approved, Rosemary will buy some balloons.

The BBQ is only supplying food, there has been no mention of drinks. Our entry form says that tea and coffee will be available. Anthony & Rosemary said they will bring tea, coffee, milk, sugar etc.

Beginners' Course update

We have run 2 courses so far this year, the first had 13 participants, the second had 9. Some of those beginners have joined, some have expressed interest in joining but are not ready to do it yet. Anthony continues to receive enquiries. he has pencilled in a third course (Saturday mornings 19th July to 16th August); he needs at least 6 bookings to make it worthwhile.

Mark asked about putting it on the website, Anthony thought it would be helpful; **he will amend the booking form** to show only the appropriate dates and then **send it to Mark. Anthony & Rosemary will register the course on Sport-80**, this is now needed for course insurance cover.

Nick has completed his training and has his session coach qualification; he has been helping at the 2 courses run so far this year. Duncan enquired about DBS checks, Anthony confirmed that Nick has been checked through AGB; he will need to renew that just before his coach qualification expires in 3 years time.

All-club communication group

Rosemary had emailed all members to suggest a club WhatsApp group. 16 people had responded in favour of this, no-one had responded negatively or suggested any alternative.

Duncan emphasised that members must give their explicit consent to be in the group, as it displays people's phone numbers. We would need to set a minimum age limit, he suggested 16 or 18. He also commented that in the group description we should say that people can report any concerns/abuse/language... to the welfare officer.

We need to amend the membership application form to include consent (or not) to being in the WhatsApp group. We also need to amend our GDPR information on the website to include mention of the group.

It was agreed that Rosemary, as club secretary, will set up a "Panda Members" WhatsApp group, adding members after receiving their explicit consent. It will be for senior members, and for parents of juniors (including parents who are not club members). If anyone is not on WhatsApp, doesn't want to be in the group, or doesn't have a smartphone, we will address that issue on a case by case basis.

Fees for 2025-26

AGB fees are increasing for the coming year; also, the YAA and NCAS fees. Rosemary had prepared a suggestion verbally for club fees, but committee members need to see it in writing. Rosemary

will circulate her suggestion to the committee, so that we can either discuss it at our next meeting, or agree the fees by email if everyone is happy with them.

Membership renewal

Rosemary asked if we can wait until September to collect fees for the coming year, Sally felt that would work well, so we agreed to it.

There then followed a discussion about the method of renewal, given AGB's push for members to renew their own membership individually:

Anthony thought that the renewal window will open for each member one month before expiry.

Rosemary said that AGB will contact each member 30 days before expiry and send several further reminders during the 30 days if necessary.

For the 2024-25 year Rosemary, as secretary, was able to renew all memberships. This was going to be the last year with this option. But AGB have given a further year (or 2?) when this is possible, because many clubs gave negative feedback about the new process, or are simply not ready for the coming changes.

It was felt that when people have to make 2 payments – one to AGB; and another to Panda to cover Panda, YAA, NCAS and Rugby Club fees – then it will be more complicated to keep track of things. The club secretary will have to keep checking on Sport-80 to see whose membership has been successfully renewed.

Sally asked how many members have joined since October? We think around 12-14, so there are quite a few staggered memberships.

Rosemary had originally thought that it would be hard work keeping track, but Anthony has recently shown her how to view the list of members on Sport-80 in a way that shows membership expiry dates and allows email to be sent to a selection of members as necessary. There will still be a lot of checking to do, but it seems less daunting now.

Paul felt that as the oversight of the membership rests with the secretary, we should go with the option that will be easiest for Rosemary. He suggested that she look further into Sport-80, have a play around with it, and then we decide at our next meeting how to move forward with renewals.

Chris Wright and Club Championship shoots

The Chris Wright shoot is on 16th August this year. It needs to be an outdoor round because our newer members do not yet have an indoor handicap. We agreed to go with a Windsor/Albion/St George family round. If people are shooting an appropriate distance for their ability, we shouldn't have to spend too much time looking for lost arrows.

The Club Championship shoot is on 27th September, we agreed to shoot a Western family round, which can be cut down to a National if necessary.

Club shirts

Duncan had enquired about club shirts. Anthony said he can provide details of the most recent supplier, design references etc, if someone else would take on the admin involved. Duncan offered to organise the ordering and buying of the shirts.

Any Other Business

No shooting on Thursday 24th July because of annual Council-run Breeze event at the rugby club.

Date of next meeting

Agreed as Monday 4th August, to be before the Chris Wright shoot.