Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting, 3rd August 2026 8.00pm on Zoom
Present: Anthony, Rosemary, Keith, Mark, Duncan, Sally, Paul, Phil
Attending as observer: Matthew Wright

The **minutes of the meeting 22nd June 2026** were accepted by all as a true record.

Matters arising
Paul asked about the family who had asked for staged membership payments following their beginners course. Anthony reported that we had made them the offer agreed at our last meeting, but we have had no response from them.

Indoor shooting
Anthony reported he had emailed the Yorkshire Canine Society as agreed, but had heard nothing back. Paul had asked Pat about the places she had thought of in Headingley; she had forgotten to look into them and is probably going up to Scotland soon, so we'll have to wait for now.

Rosemary reported that Cheryl had spoken with her about a place she had seen on Burley Road (recently used for axe throwing) and seemed keen to pursue it. Cheryl suggested fundraising in a number of different ways and then applying to the National Lottery good causes for a grant to enable us to rent/buy the property.

Sally said the fact that we are not a charity makes it difficult to apply for funding help, she has looked into it before and feels it is often not worth the hassle. But Cheryl is right in that we need to work out what we need, and then make a plan for how to raise the necessary money. Sally thinks the building in question is not for sale, only for renting as it is a flexible space; Duncan doubted that we could get a grant for that. Paul agreed; Sally thought the business model of renting out sheds for people to customise for their businesses was a good model, but maybe doesn't fit us. Paul commented that there would be the expense of removing and disposing of existing fixtures, as well as utility bills and monthly rental. Anthony added that there may be business rates as well.

Sally asked if we had ever sent a letter to the rugby club; Paul had drafted the letter just after our last meeting, committee members had suggested minor amendments, but we were waiting to send it until the issue of the lost arrow had been resolved. Anthony felt that if the rugby club are prepared to provide somehow for us to have a building, it would need to have a good length of lease to satisfy grant making bodies. Duncan felt it is definitely worth pursuing the rugby club, as we already shoot there and they seemed fairly positive that they could accommodate us. Anthony agreed, and said it is time now to review that email thread and contact the rugby club for clarification of what might be involved.

Update on badge payment system
Sally had looked at producing an online form and decided to keep it simple, for ordering and paying for badges only. (We could have other forms for other items as needed.) She just needs a list of all the badges that people could want to order, and confirmation of the cost, and then she will produce the form. Information including the QR code can be put up in the bunker. Anthony suggested putting a link on our website, Sally did not favour that because our site is not restricted. But she is happy to put it on our WhatsApp group.

Membership report
Rosemary commented that we gained a lot of new members last year from the 2 beginners courses, but relatively few of them have rejoined this year.

Jon + Dexter, Chris, Daniel + Cyprian + Adam, Samuel and Ayesha have not rejoined.
Wilson + Rayna missed the deadline but intend to renew membership once they are back in the country.
John H, Sarah, Richard + Hannah, Evan and Pat have all rejoined.
We have 2 new members – Calum and Faye. (They do not yet show as current members on Sport-80 because of a bug in the system, hopefully being fixed this week.)
We have 41 current members.
Paul asked Rosemary if she had heard anything from the people who are not renewing. She explained the WhatsApp contact she had had with them.
Ian Snowball's membership expires soon. He has had surgery and will be unable to shoot for several months, so he will let his membership lapse and then get in touch with the club once he is ready to return to shooting.

Jinan's Panda membership expires on 14th August, and she would then have just 3 weeks here before leaving us to move to Manchester to get married on 6th September. We agreed that it's not worth asking her to pay for such a short time; so if she takes out full membership of the club she wants to join near Manchester, then she can shoot with us as a guest for the odd 3 weeks.

Update on taster/beginner sessions
Anthony had done a taster session for 2 people on Thursday evening (30th July); those 2 had come to the field on Saturday to ask for a beginners course. Anthony has said he will run one on Thursday evenings, 5.30 – 7.30 for five weeks, starting 6th August.
Anthony also has one person coming Tuesday morning (4th Aug) for a taster, and one on Thursday evening. If these other two also want a beginners course, they can be included in the Thursday evening one. Anthony has offered this because all these people enquired fairly recently and all wanted a taster first. The taster costs £15, two people have paid by bank transfer and 2 by cash (Rosemary did a bank transfer to cover the cash payment). Anthony will explain to them that if they go on to do the full course, it will cost them a further £50 each.

Paul asked about membership discounts for people who join straight after a beginners course (we talked about this at the last meeting). Anthony does not want to introduce it this year because we have already had a couple of people join who paid the full amount, and there are a couple of others who have expressed interest in joining (maybe after holidays) and are expecting to pay the full fees. But he is happy to introduce it next year.
Keith suggested we could mention this at the AGM to tell people that we are introducing this discount to help members with their finances.

Fees for 2026-27
Rosemary had circulated a suggestion for fees for the coming year. She had basically increased each category fee by £10, this being the extra £5 that AGB are charging, and £5 for Panda to keep. It was felt that this was reasonable.
There was general agreement that for a family this is a lot to pay out, but it is going to cost a lot when AGB are taking £70 before we get anything!
There was then further discussion about possible discounts. The question was raised as to whether they would actually bring in more members. Duncan expained how we would need to get enough extra members in to cover the cost of the discounts – and preferably make a profit too. It was felt unlikely that we would get that many extra members, as it would be only a small discount. Sally suggested putting out a survey to taster and beginner course participants, to find out what would motivate them to join. Anthony commented that he always includes a breakdown of the fees in the information he gives to

participants, so they can see that Panda only keeps a relatively small part of what we are charging them.
At this point Anthony raised the question of fees for beginners courses next year. This year we have charged £65 for seniors, £45 for under-18s. (Previously it had been £60 and £35; we had intended to put it up last year but then forgot!). We agreed to put it up again, to £70 for seniors and £50 for under-18s for 2027.

Bosses
Anthony had counted bosses 2 days previously and reported: 6 bosses with no colour marking on the back (hard, basically new); 4 with yellow marks (going soft in middle but otherwise OK); and 12 with red marks (very soft middles, reasonable round the edges, would do for smaller faces at edges).

The foam boss needs a lot of maintenance; 2 weeks ago the middle section was replaced and already it is showing signs of wear and arrows are going through quite a long way. There is one section still available to put in; it is a mix of brand new and re-used foam sheets. The new ones turned out to be the wrong size, so Anthony interleaved them with the old ones, but this has proved to be not very effective.

All our members who use the foam boss (but especially the compound archers) appreciate it for the ease of pulling arrows out. Paul's concern is the level of maintenance it needs, also the high number of soft bosses we have. Sally asked if we need such a big foam boss; maybe if we had a smaller one, then the bigger one might not be used so much. Paul would be happy with a smaller one but others may not be. The next size down would be 90cm, which could take an 80cm face but not a full size one.
Keith asked if there is a problem getting hold of replacement foam layers, Paul said that last time it was not easy from Egertec, and other manufacturers don't seem to make the right size. Maintenance of the boss is becoming an issue. Alternative options in foam targets are quite limited, and brands such as Danage quickly become very costly.
Sally favoured getting a second foam boss, on the basis that if we have 2 they will last longer than just one. Duncan pointed out that the foam boss comes out every session and is a real workhorse. A smaller boss would be easier to get out; it would possibly fit on our existing A-frame stands, but not other stands. If we get another foam boss, where would we put it? Keith felt our current one is past it, Paul reckoned we've had it for 6 years now. Keith suggested getting rid of the big one and replacing it with a 90cm boss. The difficulty there is whether people would be happy shooting at a full size face pinned round a 90cm boss. Keith commented that they could always shoot at a straw boss! Paul's worry there was that we have only 6 hard bosses, and if people start shooting at them instead of the big foam one, we will soon have only soft targets left.
Anthony asked if we should buy a few more Danage squares to use as backstops with the softer targets; it would be worth looking at options for backstops (Damian had brought a 90cm foam square, it was used on Saturday). But it is hard to get the arrows out when they have gone through into the backstop, especially at shorter distances.

Sally said that we have made quite a bit of money this year from the beginners courses, so we could invest it back into the club. She suggested completely replacing the big foam boss, and getting a smaller one as well. Paul was conscious of the cost of this and felt it might not be fair to spend so much on 2 bosses. Sally suggested that she works out how much money we have made, and then we discuss it at the AGM and let our members decide how we spend it. We can present them with options, and they can vote on it.

Keith checked if we will be holding a tournament next year, because if we are, then we will need 8 good straw bosses. The 6 good ones we have at present will be less good by then, so we may need to buy another 6 straw bosses (they always seem to come with a deal for 6). That's another factor to consider. Sally felt that over the last 12 months we have been looking at costs and budgeting, and she was wanting to bring something about this to the AGM, so we can discuss it then.
Paul had sent Anthony links to look at various bosses. Anthony felt that ones with replaceable centres could be the better long term investment; the initial outlay would be expensive but then the centres would be more modest. The rate at which they would need replacing would depend on the exact material used and how much use it got. But there will always be the issue that the centres of bosses get worn out while the edges are still good!

Paul checked if the plan is to put all this to members at the AGM – it is. Duncan commented that we will need to put all the information and options into a single document, which has to be sent out to members before the AGM. Sally said it can go out with the invitation to the meeting; this has to go out 30 days before the meeting.
Keith pointed out that if a decision is not made until November, it will likely be January before new bosses are delivered and ready for use, he wondered if our present stock of bosses will last us that long…
Anthony felt that if we move to indoor rounds (smaller faces, offset to use the edges of the bosses) in October, and put Danage squares at the back of the foam boss, then we will probably be OK to last out this summer. But we will definitely need new bosses for next year. Anthony thanked Paul for sending the links, and said that he will have another look and put together a proposal/suggestions with pricing**,** to be sent to the committee for comments/amendments, so that it can be sent to members in time for the AGM.
Keith asked Paul to send the links to the whole committee, Paul said he would do that straight after the meeting.
Anthony said that last time, we went through ebay; the chap we dealt with suggested that next time we deal directly with him, to save him the ebay fees. Paul commented that the chap had then been difficult to deal with when it came to ordering further layers!

Date for the AGM
This had previously been set for 21st November. However, as Nick Lock is always away that weekend in November, we changed the date to 14th November. Paul asked if we will book the bar again. Rosemary said she will contact Tony to book an indoor space for us to have a meeting at 3.30pm on 14th November.

Date for next committee meeting
Fixed as Monday 28th September, 8.00pm on Zoom. This should give us time to sort out anything that needs sorting in time for the AGM agenda and supporting documentation to go out in good time.

Any Other Business
Paul enquired if Rosemary would be passing on the administration of the Panda WhatsApp group when she stands down as secretary. Several of the committee assured Rosemary that this is possible, she will look at it and pass it on to Matthew in due course.

Paul was also concerned about the hedge down the side of our field, it has quite a few gaps in; currently there are some quite tall weeds growing in the gaps, but they will die back over winter. He wondered if we should contact the rugby club again to see if they have plans for planting new sections; or if we should offer to put something in?

Anthony would be reluctant for us to offer anything in case the rugby club might want us to do the whole hedge! Paul commented that at Rigwelter there is a downed willow which is sprouting, he could take some shoots for us to use and then it wouldn't cost us anything. We would have to get permission from the rugby club before doing anything. Keith commented that willow likes water, he wondered if it would die off or simply not take. Paul commented that a lot of the hedge is dying anyway. His other thought was to take some of the laurel that grows at the club, and use that. Anthony commented that he had taken some laurel cuttings 18 months or 2 years ago, they are now some 12-15 inches tall, they would take a long time to grow. Paul agreed that it will take time for anything to establish. Keith is reluctant to offer to fix their hedge, Paul is too.
Keith thought that our orange fencing was still okay; Paul felt it is passable now, with the greenery around it, but in the winter it will not really suffice. In winter there will be fewer people about at the club, but with so much of the hedge dying it is becoming a safety issue.
Keith felt it is probably worth writing a letter to the rugby club; it was agreed to write, secretary to secretary**,** to ask what the current thinking is for dealing with the hedge. Keith also commented that our other choice, if our field becomes unsafe, is to shoot on a different field – likely pitch 3. Paul commented we could get more rope and rope off the whole side of the field; Keith said there is still some of our orange netting left to use. Paul had already been thinking about using some of that to fill in some gaps up near the top of the field; they are in the overshoot area but there is still potential and we don't want to be in trouble with Archery GB.

Mark asked when the new membership fees come into effect, he felt that the information currently on our website is not very clear, as there is no actual date listed for when the fees change. Paul commented that it is not so straightforward now that AGB have a rolling membership; Anthony explained that we are going with 1st October, this is the start of the AGB year and also when a large number of our members will be renewing.
Anthony agreed to send Mark a pdf with the new fees information.

Actions to be taken:

Whole committee – review email thread about letter to rugby club re indoor provision
Paul – send Sally list of badges
send links for bosses to whole committee
Anthony – look at bosses, compile proposal and send to committee
send Mark fees pdf
Rosemary - contact Jinan about her membership
contact Tony to book AGM
write to rugby club secretary about hedge