

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting held Monday 4th March 2024, 8.00pm on Zoom

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

(There were no apologies for absence)

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2024

These were accepted without comment as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising

Keith noted that two outstanding matters were not on the agenda – the Panda bank account, and the 70th anniversary celebration.

Sally explained that NatWest are not allowing any more community accounts to go online at present as they are oversubscribed. Mark asked if this is a temporary thing. Sally said she thinks it is, she will keep an eye on things and keep badgering the bank.

Anthony explained, the 70th Anniversary celebration is not listed for discussion because Rosemary thought the agenda already looked long. Keith suggested we leave discussing the anniversary until after the tournament has taken place, as we will be focussing on that first.

Classification badges

Anthony had circulated a suggestion for the number and types of badges to be bought. He clarified how he had arrived at the numbers (enough for people's current classifications, plus extras ready for archers to improve, and also some for new members later on). The committee were happy with Anthony's figures, and so he will purchase the badges and give the receipt to Sally for reimbursement.

Summer shooting times

Shooting times will have to change after the end of March because the Beginners' course will be starting on Saturday 6th April and will run 9.00-12.00. So the afternoon people will have to arrive at 12-ish, to set up the field and be ready for sighters at 1.00pm.

Mark checked if these times will continue after the beginners' course has finished, the answer was Yes. So an email will need to go out a week or two beforehand, to advise members of the change. Details will also need to be amended on the website.

Support for beginners/additional courses

Paul was thinking ahead and wondered if we would need another course or two later in the year to reduce Anthony's lengthy waiting list. Anthony explained that although he has a long list, and has been sending out reminders, only 7 people have actually registered for the upcoming course. So at present there is no need to organise a second course. But if enquiries come in once the course has started, he will make a new waiting list.

Mark asked if we need to publicise it more widely; it is on the club Facebook page but he doesn't know how many people look at that. We agreed that more publicity would be good.

Mandy suggested putting a poster up in the clubhouse, as people do sometimes ask about archery when they are there, and even the groundsman sometimes gets enquiries!

Anthony offered to produce a poster of some sort, big enough to be seen and read from outside the building.

Paul asked about registering courses on CMS, Mark and Anthony both felt that it was best to register each course separately, to avoid confusion over dates.

Update on Pandamonium

Mandy reported that the entry form is up on the YAA website and on our own website.

Sally reported that she has only received 9 entries so far. Anthony asked Mandy if she still has contact details for people who have attended our previous shoots, she thought that probably the people she might have details for are the ones who have sent in entries anyway. Sally read out the names of the entrants so far.

Keith suggested that we could email club secretaries in Yorkshire asking them to pass the information on. Sally wondered if there were longbow societies, Keith said there are very few of them.

Sally had anticipated more entries by now. Mandy felt that some people would probably book at relatively short notice, considering the weather and their other commitments.

We will need time to make arrangements – check the state of the sherry(!), do baking, get raffle prizes... We certainly need to decide at our next meeting if Pandamonium can go ahead or not. Sally asked if we know when the new archery shop is opening; Mandy and Paul explained that technically it is open now, but it is not properly functioning yet and so it is not worth trying to advertise in there.

We will review the situation at our next committee meeting because we do not want to start spending a lot of money for only a small number of people. We really need at least 20 entrants, and even that does not bring in much income for the club.

Update on layered foam boss

Paul has been in touch with Egertec, who supplied our foam boss. They do not really want to deal with small orders, but did put Paul in touch with the manufacturers of the target who are happy to supply the sets of foam necessary to effect a repair. Paul checked with the committee, and we agreed that he should go ahead with the order and arrange the repair.

Paul had circulated a spreadsheet with information about different bosses and suppliers. This is for us to look to the future, as a number of our present bosses are not in good condition.

Anthony felt that we should repair the foam one for now and leave any decision about other targets. We have no shortage of bosses at present.

Keith asked if we have 6 good bosses for the longbow shoot, Paul thought we have 10 of them.

Paul reckoned that we have 1 boss fit only for the skip; 3 marked for indoors because they are so soft; 6 marked with red because they have soft centres but are hard round the edge; that leaves us with 8 or 9 straw bosses in reasonable condition, plus the foam boss once it is repaired. We are likely to be getting rid of about 10 in the near future, but we still have plenty for our current number of members.

Mandy suggested that the red-centre bosses could be used with a nappy on the back at certain distances, poundages etc. Paul felt this could potentially be the case but people would need to be careful what bowstyle and poundage they used. Lower poundage bows, longbows and beginners would not have a problem with the softer bosses.

Mandy also suggested sending a general communication to members explaining the colour coding system of the bosses, and what sort of bows (style, draw weight...) are suitable for which bosses. Keith commented we could email the cost of bosses as well – around £180 for a basic straw boss, and the foam target we have cost around £300.

Keith thought the foam boss could last longer, with being able to shuffle the foam layers around to extend its life. Paul felt that may be possible, but club members have different skill sets; some people don't have a problem with carrying out a repair, but others find it very awkward to do. Different styles of target all have pros and cons; the cons are mostly the cost involved! That is why Paul sent his spreadsheet out to us now, to give us time to consider our options.

Mandy felt that, because we spent so long shooting under Covid conditions and restrictions, maybe not all members are familiar with club rules and etiquette. It would be good to send out a reminder with guidance about arriving on time and all helping to set up the field and pack up afterwards.

It was agreed that Rosemary will send an email to members explaining about different bosses and bows, and also asking people to arrive promptly. From 6th April this will mean members arriving at around 12.00 to set up the field and then have time to set up their own equipment in a relaxed manner and also eat lunch. Sighters will be at 1.00pm.

Anthony clarified that the beginners' course sessions will finish at 12.00 and the beginners will help to put equipment away every time. From session 2 onwards they will help to set up as well.

Safeguarding

Mandy explained that AGB are checking up on the training and qualifications of club Safeguarding/Welfare Officers, and sending out reminders to ensure that everything is up to date. Mandy has had DBS checks and done safeguarding training but not through AGB, and so this is not recorded on Sport-80. AGB contacted Mandy, and the outcome of the conversation is that AGB will organise and pay for a DBS check that will satisfy their requirements.

Mandy has a certificate of safeguarding training which she hopes will satisfy AGB. If it doesn't, then she will do the AGB safeguarding training for coaches, as this is all that they offer.

So everything is in hand and will soon be properly recorded on Sport-80.

Any Other Business

There was none.

Date of next meeting

This was agreed as Monday 22nd April 2024, at 8.00pm on Zoom. This should give us time to decide on the viability of Pandamonium.