



## Grand Western Archery Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023, at 1.15pm.

### **18 members registered and attended:**

**Jill Newland** (G.W.A.S. President), Direct Member; **Andrew Rees** (G.W.A.S. Chairman), Ballands Bowmen; **Denise Bunce** (G.W.A.S. Hon. Secretary), Cleve Archers; **Ann Jackson** (G.W.A.S. Hon. Treasurer), Bowmen of Hatch; **Vikki Atkins**, Bowmen of Hatch; **Declan Ashworth**, Cleve Archers; **Vicky Burden**, Bowmen of Lytchett; Paul Burden, Bowmen of Lytchett; Richard Jones, Cleve Archers; Robin Leveridge, Coastal Archers; John Poyner, Exmouth Archers; Jane Rees, Ballands Bowmen; Nick Nicholson, South Wilts Archery Club; Tony Newland, Direct Member; Lizzy Rees, Ballands Bowmen; Ann Gillbank, Direct Member; Phil Gillbanks, Direct Member; Paul Callaway, Redruth Archers.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence.**

Adrian Gifkins, Malcolm Wootton, Tim Pratt, Tim Jackson, Paul Atkins, Anne Lewin, Andrew Parkinson, Lynne Evans, Alan Biles, Gloria Mead, Jimmy & Sally Sandoe, Graham & Kay Hobbs, Austin Hawkins, Linda Harlick.

#### **2. Approval of minutes of the previous AGM – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

With the amendments of PC reported on the Affiliations Secretary and the rewording on Election of Society's specialist officers and members – it was unanimously agreed that the below members are elected until the next AGM and the Hon. Tournament Secretary and Junior Representative serve on Council.

These were approved by Ann Jackson, seconded by Paul Callaway and the meeting was all in agreement that the minutes were signed as a true record.

#### **3. Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Chairman's Report.**

Report from Andrew Rees :- I would like to take a moment to reflect on those of our number who have passed away in the last year.

I recently attended two funerals of prominent archers – one a stalwart of Somerset, Grand Western and the Royal Tox, and the other a less exalted, but no less dedicated, exponent of our noble art. One was a member of AGB, the other of NFAS.

What was most striking was the enormous turnout at each man's funeral. What does this tell us? Well, it tells me that our sport is one where true friendships are formed – friendships that endure and last lifetimes – long after the thrill of competition fades and the bow is laid up.

To me, this is one, possibly the most, valuable facet of archery and I believe it is manifest in this society.

So I welcome you as archers and as friends.

As to the year passed, normality has started to return after the predations and frustrations of the pandemic.

Our archery week at Dunster took place in a slightly truncated form, but none the less brought pleasure to dozens of our fellows and guests, as did the indoor championship last month.

On behalf of the society, I offer my thanks to Vikki and Robin for their efforts. They are people who provide the core ingredients of GWAS and their efforts are truly appreciated; as are those of the other Vicky – Vicky Burden who provided a splendid Junior Championship at Burnham.

Tournament organisers – where would we be without them? And in that band, I must not forget Tim and his work to provide the intercounties, which was, as ever, a most professionally organised tournament.

My thanks must also be recorded for the efforts of our Hon. Sec, Hon. Treasurer and our affiliations officer – Denise, Ann and Paul – the administration of the society would be impossible without their continuing efforts.

Continuing my litany, I must thank Phil for his work as JLO. Many of our tournaments could not take place without Phil and his fellow judges- they are a most valuable resource.

Thanks also to Lizzy, our RCO, who has, rather remotely, maintained the administration of the coaching community and organised our first post-pandemic conference, scheduled for next weekend.

And last, but not least, thanks to Jill, our admirable President, who, in keeping with the example set by our previous president, has been conspicuous by her attendance at GWAS events.

This is a society which is maintained through the efforts of all these volunteers and many more besides – County Reps, Archery England reps and others too numerous to mention. On the Society's behalf: thanks to you all.

## 5. Honorary Treasurer's report.

### a. Affiliations Secretary's Report

Report from Paul Callaway : I have produced my usual range of charts and graphs, for your delectation. The charts have been compiled from figures supplied to me by the Archery GB Office as it is not considered necessary by the Grand Western Council to maintain our own database because of GDPR restrictions.

These Affiliation figures are for the Year Ended 30 September 2022 (and some comparatives over the last 20 years).

- Overall membership has increase by just short of 1,200 (3128 to 4324) – that's a very significant rise – given the losses sustained over the last few year.
- The Senior figures on Page 1 (2665 to 3658) show an increase of just under 1,000 on their own: The Junior figures (463 to 666) show over 200 rise – which is an incredible recovery.
- Because of the usual volatility of Junior numbers, Page 2 concentrates just on Seniors in each County. Here a recovery is matched across each of the Counties.
- My footnotes point out:
  - 2021/22 has seen a significant jump in the number of Senior archers (back to our 2018/19 level, just about). This is a definite sign of our recovery.
  - We have steadily increased the number of 'newcomers', further indicating that we're well on the road to recovery (NB: *some of these might be long lapsed ex-members*).  
2018/19 Seniors (without Uni) **535**;  
2019/20 Seniors (without Uni) **127**;

2020/21 Seniors (without Uni) **387**;

2021/22 Seniors (without Uni) **491**.

- Given the overall rise in numbers, this means that we're also improving our retention rate, with an additional 432 renewing (beyond the 2020/21 figures).
- The final page (3) summarises the Senior Affiliation changes for each County (each of whom have seen significant recovery), which I'll leave you to consider for yourselves.

There were no questions.

**b. Presentation and acceptance of the accounts for the year ending 31.12.2022.**

Ann Jackson reported that following complaints last year that people did not have enough time to review the accounts at the AGM, she has managed to get them completed and signed off by the accountants earlier this year.

The accounts were sent out with the AGM calling notice as requested and Ann asked for questions before the AGM so that she would endeavour to reply to them. No questions had been received.

AJ noted that a lot of cheques had been bouncing this year although the bank had been generous and not passing on the charges.

PC asked about the loss on tournaments and was in sustainable for the region.

The acceptance of the accounts were proposed by Robin Leveridge and seconded by Jill Newland and the meeting all agreed.

**c. Subscriptions for 2023/24**

AJ recommended that given the economic environment at the present time the Subscriptions for 2023/24 remain unchanged for the forthcoming year.

**6. Election of Society Officers.**

The meeting was advised that only one nomination for the post of President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer had been received. The nominations had been received within the stipulated time and had been duly proposed and seconded.

- a. President – Jill Newland, nominated by Andrew Rees, seconded by Anthony Newland
- b. Chairman – Andrew Rees, nominated by Denise Bunce, seconded by Jill Newland
- c. Honorary Secretary – Denise Bunce, nominated by Andrew Rees, seconded by Jane Rees
- d. Honorary Treasurer – Ann Jackson, nominated by Jane Rees, seconded by Andrew Rees

**7. Election of Society's council, specialist officers and members.**

Put to the vote, it was unanimously agreed that the following members should be elected until the next AGM:

- a. Hon. Tournament Secretary – Vikki Atkins
- b. Equipment Officer –
- c. Junior Representative – Vicky Burden
- d. Field Representative – Andrew Rees
- e. Archivist & Librarian – (Chris Hassall was not present at the meeting)
- f. GWAS Representatives to Archery England – Andrew Parkinson &
- g. Affiliations Secretary – Paul Callaway
- h. Safeguarding Officer – Paul Burden
- i. Records Officer – Declan Ashworth
- j. Communications and Web Content Officer – Declan Ashworth

**8. To confirm the election of the Regional Coaching Officer.**

The Regional Coaching conference would be held the following week where the Regional Coaching Officer would be elected.

**9. To confirm the election of the Judge's Liaison Officer.**

Phil Gillbanks was confirmed as the Judges' Liaison Officer.

**10. To receive from each County names of representatives to council for 2023/24.**

The following members' names were received by the meeting :

For Devon & Cornwall Archery Society: Dave Leader and Tim Pratt.

For Dorset & Wilts Archery Association: Paul and Vicky Burden.

For Gloucestershire Archery Society: Adrian Gifkins and Richard Jones.

For Somerset County Archery Association: Robin Leveridge and Anne Lewin.

**11. To receive and accept the Hon. Treasurer's recommendation of a suitable accountant or firm of accountants to prepare accounts under clause 9 of the G.W.A.S. Constitution.**

AJ recommended the firm Thomas Westcott should be re-engaged to prepare the accounts and the meeting agreed.

**12. To receive and, if necessary, vote upon recommendations from the G.W.A.S. Awards Panel for Honorary Life Membership and other awards.**

The President, Jill Newland, who is Chair of the Awards Panel, reported of proposal for an Honorary Life Membership for Sally Sandoe to reward her for all her contribution to archery and the meeting agreed unanimously.

All formal business being concluded, the meeting was closed at 1.45pm

**Signed as a true record on Sunday 24th March 2024 at the GWAS AGM at West Buckland, Somerset.**

**GWAS Chairman**

**GWAS Hon. Secretary**