**Essex County Archery Association**

**Council Meeting**

will be held on Wednesday 06 March 2024 via Zoom commencing at 20.00hrs

**AGENDA**

**Attendees:** Sean Fortune (Chair) Jason Pretlove (Vice Chair) Dawn Tolson (VP) Kevin Juniper (Treasurer) Deb Horn (Secretary) Paul Tolson (General Member) Wilco van Kleef Bolton (Webmaster / SRO) Emma Broxholme (CCO) Chris Higgins (League Secretary) Matt Webb (Team Manager) Paul West (1440 TO) Mark Lawrence (TO target Champs) Huw Lillywhite (WEB) Stephen List (Gipping Valley)

41.24 Apologies for Absence

Dave Scorah (Mayflower), Alex Purser (Mayflower)

42.24 Additional matters for Any Other Business

Some items to add to those previously tabled.

43.24 Minutes of the Meeting of 4th January

No corrections were raised. Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting. – Proposed by Jason Pretlove, Seconded by Chris Higgins

44.24 Matters Arising

No matters arising from the previous meeting

45.24 Chairman’s Remarks

I will keep this brief; I want to thank you for attending. It is quite a daunting position to be in, following Alex, and the previous committee, who did a brilliant job. I will be sending out an introduction letter to county members via the Secretary and Webmaster. It will be good to have a new style and new opinions in the county. I also want to say thanks for stepping up and being part of the new committee, it will be good to have fresh thinking and new blood. We know that this will be a steep learning curve for all, but the opportunity is a good one. We need to work as a team and to support each other. Team work will be the mantra, not putting the pressure on an individual. I have some new ideas for tracking and accountability, which will soon be introduced.

46.24 Election of SCAS representatives

There was a call for any volunteers from the meeting. Alex Purser is already a trustee, Deb Horn is disability rep. Sean Fortune is willing to attend, Chris Higgins is willing to be an additional rep.

These reps were agreed by the meeting.

47.24 Coaching Sub-Committee Update

The indoor archer development days finished in February (the session over the Easter weekend has been cancelled as there was not a lot of interest). Attendance was strong at the beginning of the season (21 archers in October), but petered out towards the end (8 archers in February) so I will look at the structure of the sessions to see if something else would work better next time.

We are planning to hold outdoor coaching clinics at different clubs again this summer, and 4 out of 6 venues have been confirmed. We have had an offer to host from Southend, who would charge the county £100 for the day. They are the only venue to propose this, and as it would mean a departure from our normal model, I would like to bring it to the committee for discussion and a decision as to whether to take them up on their offer.

We will also be hosting the two in-person days for the Session Coach course at Gosfield School on 13th April and 11th May and are in the process of arranging a Development Coach course to take place in the second half of the year at the same venue.

There followed discussion around payment to Southend, and it was decided at the meeting that this would not be acceptable, as other clubs are not charging. We will thank Southend fot heir offer, but go with other clubs.

48.24 Leagues Update

Entries for the Windsor league are going well, there are two new teams this year. The Albion League will be the same as last year. We have a full league, and the matched are all finalised. There are only 3 matches for the Windsor league due to having 8 teams, split into 2 divisions.

The Longbow league has not had many entries. Wilco (webmaster) will send out the email again to encourage more clubs to enter.

49.24 Tournaments Update

Target Champs – judges are sorted, but we still need a Lady Paramount. We have 55 entries so far. There is space for 100 max. The shoot will make a profit. There is a possibility of some entries from SCCA. A question was raised over whether we should mention being inside ULEZ? It was agreed that we should. TO will add this to the email that is sent out with the target list.

1440 – The inter-counties match will form part of this event. Everything is good to go. We will block out 48 places for the visiting counties. We will then need to reimburse any archers who have entered individually. We need lists in advance to be able to re-sell the spaces that have double booked. Team manager will ask other counties to give 3 weeks notice, and has promised to be on top of ECAA entries so that this is not an issue. It was noted that the shoot also clashes with NT stage so we will have lots of archers missing.

Indoors – the shoot went well. Archers were happy and the results have been sent out.

50.24 County Calendar

No changes from website. The Abbey Open will be on 21st July – this is already uploaded.

51.24 Any Other Business

 51.24a Windsor League Rules.

Can we run this as a handicap system? It would level the playing field. This has been communicated to the teams. No feedback has been received from anyone. We assume therefore that all teams are happy with this.

There was discussion around how we assess the handicap for the team? We can use the AGB handicap for the round, divided by the number of times they shot. If they didn’t shoot last season, use the first match of the season to give them a handicap which changes as they shoot more rounds. The results sheet now has a handicap section on it. The main idea is to allow people to shoot even if they are not as good, to encourage them to shoot. It was agreed to try it this year and see how it goes. We need to ensure that the submissions form is simple, so that it doesn’t put too much work on league secretary. Chris Higgins is happy to take it on. We could possibly get clubs to submit their handicap?

 51.24b Compound Albion League

We have had an offer from Andy Reeve to run this this year. We are happy to resurrect the league.

51.24c Trophies

We need a current list of trophies we have, and decide what we want to with them. We need to be aware that we can’t repurpose the trophy if the donor is alive without asking them. This remains unresolved.

Secondly, with trophies at shoots, do we keep them and charge winners for engraving? Some of them need to be insured. Some of the trophies are in a terrible state. This includes some of the ones which have been awarded. Information is in the trophy books. Matt Webb will speak to Wendie King about collecting this information.

51.24d Rankings

This needed to be decided today, due to the need to commence on April 1st for the beginning of the outdoor season. The following decisions were taken.

Archers need to submit their own scores. They need to be responsible for their own scores. Matt Webb raised a concern over whether this would skew the results. It possibly will, but if archers don’t want to submit, they don’t submit. We need to educate people on how to submit and where. This will be done via emails, which go to all archers, so they will all have the opportunity to enter.

We will use the top 5 scores over the year. Scores must be submitted within a fixed time of being shot in order to prevent archers from waiting until the end of the season and submitting everything.

A concern was raised over the rankings being elitist. It was pointed out that this is the purpose of rankings. It was agreed that the rankings will run, and that we will launch a further initiative to focus on those archers who are not at this point in their archery journey.

Deb Horn will create a document to explain the new system, which will be sent out this week.

51.24e Proposal of Laura Purser as a non-shooting member

Agreed

51.24f 50+ records

Chris Higgins - This is a new age category, and is being treated differently by different counties. AGB currently has a limited number of rounds eligible. Should we allow all rounds eligible for 50+ records? Including senior rounds? We need to add it to the form. We allow juniors to shoot up, so we should do the same for 50+. Agreed to allow all eligible rounds.

51.24g Funding for county representation

Jason Pretlove - Should we give a subsidy for the archers who represent their county? Especially if they are going to Lilleshall.

Previously, the agreement was that county paid the entry fee. This was considered the ‘reward’. This was countered with the fact that the archer would never pay the entry fee anyway, so this shouldn’t count. We just need to be clear on what we are doing.

Suggestion is that the driver (nominated) get the fuel cost. Need to cap it somewhere. Could end up being in the region of £1000 if each archer claims the fees. Do we ask for a claim, or do we give a donation to fuel costs. Do we ask archers to share transport? Should we therefore give archers a donation to shoot for England. No, because we are not asking them to shoot for us. County, we are asking them to represent us. Could we give entries to county shoots instead as an incentive? We need qualifying criteria.

No decisions were taken on this proposal this evening. We will return to the discussion.

51.24h Funding for international representation

Kev Juniper - Can we have a matrix for how much we will give, based on the costs to the archer, so that people know what they can apply for. This is not clear at the moment, and we tend to give the same amount, no matter the cost of the trip. Could we do this as a percentage of the overall cost?

No decisions were taken on this proposal this evening. We will return to the discussion.

51.24i data management

Sean Fortune - We need to make the committee more visible. We have broken down some barriers in communication, but we need to work on this further. Information about committee members will be send out with he newsletter, which will be launched this month.

The website does not function well on mobile. We need to look into this.

51.24j committee

Sean Fortune - All committee members to send a photo of themselves, along with a bio, to Sean and Wilco to do a ‘meet your committee’ mail shot.

Meeting ended at 22:06

Date of Next Meeting  **3rd May 2023**