



Exmouth Archers

Management Committee Report AGM 2023

The 2023 AGM brings to a close another busy year. Our Committee has continued to work hard to maintain and improve the facilities as well as keeping the Club running.

Currently the club stands at 133 members, of which 20 are Juniors and 20 are Social/No AGB and 3 Associates.

As last year following most meetings, the Committee have produced a newsletter to keep members informed of club activities and decisions. Communication has been an issue for a number of years now, and we have made much more use of Email this year. Members may have noticed that over the past couple of months we have upgraded the mailing system that we use from Simplelists to MailChimp to provide more interesting and graphical emails, but this also allows us to monitor how many members are reading emails and as we start to add links to articles on our website, how many members are clicking on the links. The first example being the calling notice for this meeting, sent to 122 email addresses. At time of writing, only 93 have read the email and only 43 have read the actual calling notice by clicking on the link. I guess this just shows the general lethargy in the Club? It will be the intention of the Committee to send out less emails, but more concise. Members will also be directed to documents and a calendar on the website to save repeating key dates or information and try and instil a sense of self help with the membership.

Unfortunately we have had to endure the threat of travellers taking up residence on the grounds and had to keep put gate locked at all times. Especially as they took up residence on the football pitches at one point. Thankyou to members for their patience constantly opening and closing the gate on Club sessions. We are looking at methods of securing the grounds better, which includes bollards on the drive and the ramp onto the field.

Finances

Sarah has prepared a copy of the balance sheet for the year April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023, and that was circulated to members with this report.

We have re-worked the accounts to show better how much we are spending or taking on all aspects of the Club.

Therefore the 'Maintenance' figure is largely made up of regular costs that the club has, such as the servicing of our drainage system, security shutters, utilities and fire extinguisher servicing.

Within the 'Equipment' figure are the cost of a few one-off items or improvements like replacement picnic benches, microwave, gazebos, scaffold tower, strimmer and a new metal detector.

The Car Boot Insurance is a much higher figure than we would usually have, as it includes not only the cost of insuring the sales we held in 2022, but also the insurance for the 2023 sales which had to be paid before 31st March 2023 because Easter fell right at the start of April (this obviously means that in the accounts to 31/3/24 there will not be an insurance cost element).

Just also to mention that the 'Social Events' were our fish & chip club lunch held in May 2022 and our picnic held after our outdoor club champs at the end of the summer season 2022 – both events were hugely popular and enjoyable, thanks again to those who arranged them for us.

Our net income for the year ending 31st March 2023 was a very healthy £7,995.55. The amount we receive from Members Subscriptions remains pretty constant each year, and it can be seen from the accounts that the general maintenance of the club and its facilities aren't covered by the subscriptions alone. The income we get from our other activities supplements our income from subscriptions. It should be noted that we have also been hit by energy price rises with our agreement expiring early in the year. Our electricity bill increased from £80 to £190 in August. In order to monitor electricity usage we have installed a meter in the Indoor Centre. From that we have established that running all the lights consumes over 3kW, so a reminder please, if there are only a few of you in the hall, fill up from one side and use only the lights that you need, and don't forget to turn them off when you leave!

Three Car Boot Sales were held in 2023. The takings on the gate are, of course, nearly all profit (remembering that we have to pay for public liability insurance as noted above) and brought in a good amount, as did the Have-a-Go's held in the Indoor Centre at the same time (which gave us an additional £325).

The other 'Have-a-Go' Income came from the Taster Sessions that Andrew organises plus a couple of visiting groups. Our Beginners Courses also bring in a substantial amount. Many thanks to all our Coaches and Helpers for making these possible as without these the Club cannot expand its membership.

The income from 'Facility Hire' came from the DCAS coaching sessions, plus the AGB Roadshow.

The tournaments that we run also generate a good profit, again we owe our thanks to those members who give up their time and huge amount of energy to make these happen.

Unfortunately it seems that the Santander account is still open. Although we managed to clear all standing orders into it, a further amount was paid in, in September. We need to have another go at closing the account properly.

We have invested in a card reader which has helped with taking money at events. Although the provider takes a small cut of any money taken, the amount of time that members have to spend on dealing with money is greatly reduced. We have also moved to having Beginners and Have a Go attendees paying using Stripe when they book their place. Again a great way of saving time for members although they also take a small cut. It is likely we will use this route for Tournaments going forward to save having to chase Archers for entry fees.

Facilities and Assets

All work on our facilities this year has been mainly simple maintenance. We need to thank members who helped out with work parties over the year. Without these the grounds and buildings would not be as good as they are. Tasks completed include making temporary repairs to the shed, filling holes in the car park and replacing the distance markers as well as general tidying and clearing up of the facilities.

We have spent less on Beginners equipment this year, given the work completed last year, but as you all have seen in the newsletter, we do for some reason seem to lose a lot of the smaller items. Bracers, Tabs etc, which we have had to stock up on for the current Beginners Course.

We have made little progress with replacing the shed, but the Committee have had thoughts about looking at the bigger picture. The aspirations for a shooting shelter have been re-ignited having seen something on a farm building locally. That combined with the need to replace the shed, and the fact that the Clubhouse is now 30 years old and the storage not ideal have seen plans drawn up to build new storage on the side of the Indoor Centre, to include the shooting shelter. Just replacing the wooden shed with anything other than like for like will mean applying for planning permission. Even replacement with a shipping container. This just adds weight to looking at the bigger picture.

Unfortunately we never formally sorted the grass cutting. We struggled with like for like quotes from various sources and EDDC wanted to come and cut the grass to see how long it would take them in order that they could quote – oh, and charge us for the privilege!! Instead we have managed to get by with cutting the grass ourselves, thanks mainly to Andrew. However we have now compiled a list of members willing to cut grass and we just need to organise awareness and training before we put in place a rota for next year.

As a heads up, we still plan to introduce the canvas target covers that we spoke of last year. This does mean, however, that members **will** need to get into one of the Club buildings in order to shoot as the covers will be locked.

As many will know, we had a problem with the sewage treatment plant during the larger events this year. This culminated in the plant overflowing into the car park on at least two occasions. We were unable to get hold of the company that services it, which later transpired was because they were going through a "transformation". Instead we managed to get hold of a more local company to look at it. They recommended jetting out the soakaway, as it appeared to be completely packed with waste. Having done this further recommendations are that we need to look at replacing the soakaway in its entirety because it is no longer functional and also does not comply with building regs. We are looking into this at the moment. **Please do not ask why the plant failed, we are not sure.** We suspect it was because the air pump failed in January and it took several weeks to be replaced. The plant was currently specified for the task required of it, especially Car Boot Sales and at the time, to the best of our understanding was installed correctly.

The Committee are investigating the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof, with batteries to primarily run the Indoor Centre lights, but this is slow progress.

Under the direction of Noel the Field Course has been well maintained and the facilities around the shed improved. Members will remember last year that we were told because the barrow by the car park is a scheduled ancient monument we are no longer allowed to climb it. However during the year the Journal helpfully ran an article on it and a number of other barrows in the area and positively encouraged people to visit! Even though they are on private land. We asked that a retraction could be published or the article be amended, although we don't believe that actually happened.

Events

We ran three of the four allowable car boots this year, skipping the last one as the issue with the sewage plant became apparent in the last few days leading up to the sale. We had no choice without proper toilets. We also have a number of tyre tracks across the field from one of the early sales where the ground was too wet to drive on. We need to be cautious going forward, because the tracks are hard to repair.

However we have run all of our normal tournaments, and details can be found in the Tournament Organisers report.

Additionally for the third year running we hosted the GWAS Intercounties on the football pitches in September. Sadly that was cut short because of the weather, however Jane and her crew did an excellent job with the catering. It has been decided that we will not host the Intercounties next year and have asked GWAS to look at alternative venues.

In the early part of the year Sophie and Rob organised another Archery Bring and Buy in the Indoor Centre, which was hugely successful and was recognised nationally. Another is being held this month.

We have also had a food hygiene virtual inspection by East Devon District Council, which we passed, however we expect to have a proper visit next year and have had to put in place some processes to ensure we are properly adhering to the regulations. Thankyou to Jane for dealing with this.

Coaching, Beginners and Members including New Members

We have continued with the rota for opening up on Club sessions and coaching. We are grateful for members stepping up to help out.

We have held a number of Have a Go sessions to try and narrow down the beginners course waiting list, with the first one being targeted at friends and family of existing members which has led onto two 6 week beginners courses this year, the second about to complete. It is expected that a number will join. Thankyou to Andrew for organising and the Coaches teaching the Archers to shoot.

As decided last year, we have not done any Have a Go sessions for external organisations or groups.

There has been a small number of established Archers transferring from old Clubs etc this year.

We are again hiring out our facilities to DCAS for Coaching over the Autumn and Winter, for both Seniors and Juniors.

If anyone has any ideas on further club events or meals, than please do approach any member of the Committee. We are always after good ideas!

In the early part of the year the Committee revisited the decision to review members with 24 x 7 access and their contribution to the Club as we had intended before Covid hit us. A small number of members were asked to help more this year to keep their privilege and most did so with one or two returning their keys.

Exmouth Field Archers

Following on from the work that Steve Glover started, we formally put in place and registered the NFAS club. In order to do this we had to put in a caretaker committee. Sophie led this work with the NFAS as well as organising evaluation sessions which led to 13 members joining. We hold details in the main club spreadsheet so that we can

administer the AGM for this club during the main AGM as you will see from the agenda and the separate calling notice.

It is planned to grow membership as well as considering hosting NFAS tournaments and Noel is investigating the purchase a set of 3D animals to increase the type of tournament we can host as well as different courses for members to shoot.

Note that the club does not have any separate bank account as such any finance will be dealt with by and through the main club account.

Achievements

Tournaments have continued through the year and we have been well represented at many of them. Dunster, the County Championships at Redruth and National competitions such as the British Target Championships, The UK Masters and the Grand National Archery Meeting as well as many more.

A number of Club members also represented DCAS at the Senior and Junior GWAS Intercounties for which DCAS won both events!

Several members won awards. Too many to list individually here.

Well done to all those who competed or improved on their classifications or personal bests throughout the year.

Tournaments

As noted above, we ran all of our normal competitions throughout the year.

In May we held our Open Shoot, this year being a 19 target 50m and 70m with 62 Archers shooting.

In July we held the joint DCAS and Exmouth Double 1440. We were able to host 19 targets, with a spread of nearly 70 Archers from both in County and further away. We invited Steve and Gillian Glover to be Lord and Lady P for this shoot as a thank you for all the work that they had put into the Club and Archery generally.

In August we held our Head to Head event, which included the County Championships. Again we opted not to hold this on the football pitches right from the off. 21 targets with 85 Archers which was good.

We also invested in trophies for Barebow Archers for some of the shoots, following feedback last year.

In October our Field shoot brought in more Archers than last year. 60, but annoyingly Essex also decided to run a field shoot on the same day so we lost a handful of Archers that way. Not good form in Field circles! Even though the shoot was given the status of the English Field Archery Championships. Again the course was well received and several good comments were forthcoming.

Special thanks to Noel as he had only a small amount of help from other members in the prep leading up to the weekend. Through a chance question, we obtained a large gas griddle from Cleve Archers, for no cost which worked really well for the catering, managed by Andrew.

And finally our Indoor shoot and fun Head to Head just a few weeks ago. We filled both sessions, with the Round Robin Head to Head proving very popular with the 9 Archers who remained on.

Copies of the accounts were circulated separately and are also noted below. These have brought a profit of £5500 into the Club.

Thanks go to the few members who have helped stage the competitions this year. Unfortunately support for setting up and running the tournaments has been practically non-existent. The sign up sheets have been very light on names. There have been two or three occasions where we have had no help at all. For this reason, Tim, has decided to step down as tournament organiser. When help is not forthcoming it becomes very stressful as you cant just walk away with 80 odd Archers turning up in the morning. Also having to deal with complaints from the members that are helping asking why there are others that are not.

Therefore, unless someone else wants to pickup the baton, the Westcountry will be losing 8 days of competition next season. This is a shame, given our facilities and standing in the Archery Community. Our competitive Exmouth Archers will have to travel further afield to get qualifying scores and will lose the benefit of shooting on their home ground.

Unless the Club want to turn this around, in which case we need to take seriously the proposals being put forward by the committee. As noted elsewhere in any eventuality, GWAS have been told that we won't be hosting the Intercounties for the foreseeable future.

Conclusion

This brings another unusual year of the Club to a close.

Most committee members have put themselves forward for re-election and at the time of writing. All roles are uncontended, but there are a couple for which we have received no nominations. Hopefully we can fill those from the floor.

Finally, thanks to all the outgoing Committee for 2022/2023 who have helped steer the Club through another year of operation so we can all enjoy our facilities and be able to shoot.

Exmouth Archers Committee
November 2023