**SOUTHERN COUNTIES ARCHERY SOCIETY**

**EXECUTIVE MEETING – Saturday 17 July 2021**

NOTES on discussion centred on latest **Development** Plan provided by Toby Andrews:

**Membership**

Regional role: facilitate recruitment/member-recovery by sharing proven good practice, via document(s) and workshop.

Difficult to plan further until AGB intentions for future membership system known.

If AGB returns to the individual-member direct route, this may discourage local recruitment efforts (*eg* those attending a ‘have-a-go’ session at one club might go off and join another).

Coaching courses: now organised centrally by AGB rather than by CCOs according to local demand. Apart from initial and final assessment sessions, all online. Non-coach-candidate archers can join individual online sessions, not necessarily in logical order (*eg* several join ‘how to coach’ before discovering ‘what to coach’).

**Communication**s

Regional coms had moved to almost wholly electronic, via zoom for meetings and email for disseminating information when necessary.

Refreshed website has been running successfully for a comparatively short time. It should be reviewed at intervals (3 years?) to check on continuing efficacy.

Social media: SCAS probably needs a Facebook page, with provisos that this requires someone to run it effectively, and that the effort involved in keeping it vibrant does not significantly exceed the resultant gain. SE commented that it is possible to connect FB to website, so that new posts on website can be automatically flagged up on FB and *vice versa*. Locating and selecting activity photos suitable for FB can be very time-consuming.

Coach renewal administration should become more automated, rather than being conducted by a lengthy succession of emails, as is already in place for Judge renewal.

**Competitions**

Questionnaire about county and regional competition frequency/format had been sent to all counties. SCAM Secretary awaits responses.

**Performance Pathway**

Attrition rate on Academy and subsequent ‘pathway’ is very high; it was felt that those archers who actually make it through in international representation would have got there regardless.

Problem of ambitious young archers facing public examinations just when they are hoping to move up the selection ‘tree’.

Archery does not need to be / should not be an early-participation sport: archers can remain competitive at top level for considerably longer than high achievers in other sports (*eg* gymnastics). Universities can be useful for recruitment due to their usually excellent facilities, although the rounds used by BUCS are not compatible with ‘modern’ competition.

Most archers aiming at international competition need to take time out from study/work, which is not always affordable. (SCAS resources certainly cannot fund this practice!)

There is a conflict in funding policies between Sport UK, which is only interested in chasing medals, and Sport England, which is interested in increasing participation in the general public.

One AGB official had lamented the introduction of Performance Pathway having effectively killed off county and regional squads which used to work well at identifying local talent and preparing them for area tournaments. However, it was felt that potential international archers would not be interested in practising at traditional squad level.

**Range Safety**:

KL reported on a hitherto ‘hidden’ requirement in AGB Insurance policy for clubs to obtain written consent from the owners of any land surrounding their ranges which fell within technical danger area. This had been revealed by Clophill AC, a very long-established club, being required by AGB insurers, in absence of such written permission, to erect a 3.5m high barrier around their ground at a cost of £8k, for which they are likely to apply for a SCAS grant.

SE pointed out that if this written permission really is required by AGB insurance, SCAS could not possibly fund similar barriers for all affected clubs, and so a precedent should not be set.

It was estimated that if this requirement is now enforced, up to a third of all clubs would be forced to close due to inability to fund such barriers. Relevant landowners may well feel reluctant to give permission in writing for fear of thereby accruing liability for any incidents on their land.

KL agreed to communicate with AGB insurance officer to elucidate further.