

Thoughts on the future of SCAS Tournaments

Philip Watson, Alex Purser, Carla Piper and Katy Lipscomb met to put together some thoughts on how SCAS Tournaments might be tweaked to improve them and make them easier to organise going forward.

To be clear none of this includes the SCAM. This should sit outside, but we hope there would be a close working relationship with the new TLO role and the SCAM TO.

Aim – To provide well run, but accessible to all, SCAS Championships in all the relevant disciplines which are fit for the current shooting community.

To help achieve this aim we would like to propose a new role to Council, that of SCAS Tournament Liaison Officer (TLO). This would sit above the individual shoot Tournament Organiser (TO) and be the liaison between SCAS and the TOs. They would be responsible for finding TOs and work with the TOs to ensure the events are run to the right standard and with the right branding and advertising. The TLO would also ensure the correct awards are awarded and tracked and report back to Council accordingly. This role would hopefully help ease some of the pressure on the SCAS Secretary and also on the individual TOs. For those of you familiar with International events, it would be similar to the role of Technical Delegate or Event Director. We don't see it that the TLO would have to go to every event. Just to be clear this does not include the SCAM.

Ideally all SCAS shoots should be stand-alone events and not incorporated into existing event. We see it that there will be two types of events – “Hosted by” and “Incorporating. So ideally it would be “SCAS XX Championship Hosted by xx club/county”

A “Hosted by” Championship would need to provide the TLO with a basic budget outline before being awarded the event, and basic accounts afterwards. Any surplus made by the Hosts would be theirs, and SCAS would underwrite any reasonable losses (so if the TO had the Entry fee at £1 we would not underwrite the losses). SCAS would also pay the full RS or WRS fee and provide all the awards

An “Incorporating” event would mean that SCAS provides the awards and a grant of up to 50% toward RS or WRS fees.

Only tournaments overseen by the TLO and sanctioned by Council can call themselves “SCAS” events.

Ideally we should be planning a year ahead, so in 2023 plan 2025 events to allow time to arrange a TO and venue. This also means the date can be circulated and Clubs and Counties can avoid the dates if they wish. It will also allow lots of time to publish the details and advertise. We don't see that event dates should be set in stone, that is up to the TO and TLO, but each event should have a month in which it is held. For example the Juniors being held in the summer holidays would be sensible.

For each Championship we would like a “minimum set of requirements” framework to be laid out. This is so any interested TOs know what the parameters are. Some things will apply to all events, such as the shoot being accessible for all archers, the entry fees should be similar to the current market rate, team awards should be achievable for all Counties regardless of size (so not 3 women longbow for example) and if there are “Married Couple” awards these are opened up to any couple who self declare for that category. The TO or Club should also have a proven track record of hosting similar events to a suitable standard and size.

The framework we have come up with so far is

SCAM – This is the Senior Championships. Carla, as TO, is doing a great job.

It is hoped that maybe in the future the days are moved so that some days of SCAS fall on a Saturday and Sunday and one of those can then be used to award the Senior Champions. This will open up the event to more people. It is also hoped to move the Tournament around the M25 area on a 4 yearly cycle to ensure it is accessible to all in SCAS.

Clout – Either a double AGB or a double WA Clout, should have Record Status and Tassel Status

Must be open to Adults and Juniors

Winner is decided on the score from the Double Clout

Indoor – Either a WRS 18m or a RS Portsmouth (other recognised rounds will be considered but not a H2H due to the limitation that puts on entries)

Must be open to Adults and Juniors

Winner is decided on the score from a single round.

Can be held over 2 days to allow more entries, but the winner is decided on a single round. For example Compound and Barebow on day 1 and Recurve and Longbows etc on day 2 and reverse the days the next year for fairness.

Field – A WRS Arrowhead Round

Must be open to Adults and Juniors

Either a 1 day marked round or a 2 day unmarked and marked round

3D – A WA 3D Round

At present we have only had one, Propose trialling it for a few more years to gauge interest. At the moment no awards will be given. If it takes off then SCAS Council can look at awards etc

Junior – This should only be 1 event

Either a WRS or RS round, but the round chosen should align to the AGB Junior Performance Pathway at that time. The Round should also have distances for all age groups and bowstyles.

Should be Junior focused

If introduction of the Youth Tour is a success then it should culminate in a single Finals event from which the SCAS champion is decided.

It may be worth investigating whether a Junior Inter-Counties could be held on the Saturday and then the Junior Championships on the Sunday.

If the TO wants to allow adults, they should be completely separate and have no awards from SCAS or the TO (so shooting for scores only). Space at the event should be prioritised for Juniors.

Intercounties – A WRS or RS Event

Must be open to Adults and Juniors

Any Team make up must be achievable by all Counties (e.g. not 3 longbow or compound ladies)

Winners can be decided through a combined score of the teams over a 1440 or York/Hereford. Or can be a H2H event as long as it is suitable for all (including Juniors)

Should encourage as many people as possible to attend. Ideally it should be that people only need to attend one day to keep the costs down for Teams

The TOs and TLO can then make decisions within the finalised framework without having to refer back to Council

Next Steps

This document is shared with the Council so they can approve the direction we are taking

On approval of the principle we would like to create a small working group to start to look at the details of each event and finalising the general framework for all SCAS events. Ideally the Working Group should contain people who have experience of all the different types of archery and who come from a range of Counties. Part of the role of the Working Group would be to introduce supporting documentation for example template balance sheets. Logs for trophies and a Tournament Sign Off Sheet along the lines of the one used by Carla at SCAM.

On completion of the Working Group work their final proposals should come back to Council for signoff.

Timeframe – it would be ideal to have the final proposal of the Working Group signed off in the September 2024 Council Meeting.