

The Annual General Meeting of the Regional Shooting Committee was held in the Ellen Terry Suite at Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1LZ at 10am on Saturday 7th January 2023.

The Chairman, Hannah Brown, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting and thanking them for attending and for all their hard work through the year.

“Good morning everybody, welcome to our Conference this morning.

Before we start we will remember those we have lost in the last year. In particular Stephanie Pettit who whilst retired was integral in making Judging what it is today and for training many of the Judges in this room. Please take a moment for us to remember her and all those who are no longer with us.”

A minute silence was observed

We then went round and everyone introduced themselves

23/01. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Geoff Barham, Phil Collins, Georgina Cutts, Sean Fox, Tony Harris, Rachael Hurlle, Andrea Kehoe, David Leach, Tori Mill, Graham Pink, Graham Potts, Robert Potts, Arthur Scales and Siobhan Tyson

23/02. Minutes of the meeting of 8th January 2022 (as circulated)

The minutes were agreed and signed.

23/03. Matters arising

16/2 Point 6 – [This was first raised in the 2016 meeting] It was discussed on what to do if there was an unseen bouncer, as the AGB Rules of Shooting do not allow this to be claimed even if it is then verified by a Judge at the Target. It was proposed by the Meeting that one solution was to change the Rule to remove the word “seen”.

Update 2017 – Graham Potts said that the Rules Committee had not progressed this any further. It was agreed that the SCAS Judge Committee would formally contact the Rules Committee to ask them to look at it

Update 2018 – the Rules Committee have been contacted and it is now with them to look at when they can so can now be closed.

Update 2019 – Graham Potts confirmed that the Rules Committee had been contacted but had not had a chance to look at it yet.

Update 2020 – Graham Potts, as part of the Rules Committee said it was on the list of items to be looked at but they had not had a chance yet due to other more urgent issues.

Update 2021 – Graham Potts (who still advises the Rules Working Group) advised it was still pending but that careful consideration needed to be given to the wording to stop spurious claims. SCAS Judge Committee to contact the Rules Working Group to ask a progress update.

Update 2022 – Despite several emails to the Rules Working Group no response has been received. We will continue to contact them to try and get an answer.

Update 2023 – the issue is now resolved. The wording of the Archery GB bouncer rule has been amended so a bouncer only needs to be “suspected” rather than observed.

Whilst the change was welcomed as a positive step, some thought it did not go far enough as it

did not allow people to claim a bouncer which is only discovered when the archers get to the target. *The SCAS Judge Committee will contact the Rules Working Group to see if a further change is possible, however any change would have to be carefully worded to avoid false bouncer claims.*

23/04. **Correspondence**

All correspondence has been sent out during the year in the regular communications, which can also be found on the SCAS website.

Hopefully you are all receiving the regular emails from Archery GB as well. If you have not been receiving then please firstly check you are currently a member of AGB and that you are signed up to receive emails from AGB. If these are okay then let Katy know so she can raise it with AGB.

23/05. **Chairman's Remarks**

"This year has been almost normal for the most part, and I am pleased to see so many of you getting back out there doing what we do to keep the archers happy. Ish.

For those of you who are still getting used to the new normal, take your time, make sure you are comfortable with what you are doing, there is no rush, it's all about being safe.

This year on the field has seen some great work by you all on the field and off. The WAE European Youth was held in Lilleshall and so many of you gave time as judges or volunteers, I think we were the region with the biggest representation. Several of you were also involved in the Para Finals also in many guises. This goes to show that being a judge is not all about arrow calls, but the skills you have mean that you are all assets to any TO or TD. Talking of TD, Katy said I had to mention how I melted as Event Manager for the World Games in Birmingham Alabama. So, i it was hot, I melted, but it was all made better with ice cream.

Our international judges have been out and about again, Katy will give you those details, so just to say well done to you all.

For those of you who enjoyed the Youth Championships, and for those who want to get involved there will be more opportunities coming this way as AGB host more events in the coming years. Lilleshall hosts the European Grand Prix, and will need volunteers to make that work. If you want to take a trip over the Irish Sea, the World Youth is in Limerick-so good beer, and archery, the only downside is that there will be big children wherever you look.

This year for everyone, it's more of the same, get out there, do what you do best, and have fun. Each archer out there does appreciate it, even if you do call their arrow out."

Hannah Brown
Chairman, SCAS Regional Judge Committee.

23/06. **Secretary/Liaison Officers Report**

Please see attached document SCAS JUDGES CONFERENCE 2023.pdf

There was a break of about 15 minutes for refreshments with the Meeting resuming at 11:20

Further updates -

SCAS Events and Judge Medals – there was a very disappointing response to the invitation for the SCAS Clout and SCAM. Hopefully when the Junior shoots are finalised there will be more volunteers.

To avoid wastage (from tournaments being cancelled or reduced in size) the SCAS badges which are presented to the Judges will now be given out at the Judge AGM following the event. There were some outstanding badges for the last few years which were presented to those present with thanks for their work at the events.

Unfortunately there has been a few issues during 2022 and AGB have asked me just to remind you of some things

Mobile Phone usage – whilst it is great to promote shoots on social media and it is understood that we all have busy lives and want to stay in touch, there has been several “complaints” about Judges using their phones whilst they should be working – for example photos appearing on Facebook which look they have been taken by the Judge during shooting or scoring – the times when we should be paying most attention.

With photos, take them before shooting has started or during breaks – not when you should be working.

If you do need to check your phone during the competition for some reason then try to leave the field or go behind the tents (obviously before and after the event and during breaks it is different). Even if you are checking the rules all the archers see is you looking at your phone and they think you are not paying attention.

It is all about perception, if archers see you are not looking they think you are not paying attention and thus not doing your job properly.

Handing of Issues – if there is an issue then it is very important that you handle it properly. For example if there is some equipment that is incorrect then try to take the archer to one side to discuss it. 99% of the time the problems are caused by ignorance of the rules rather than the archer deliberately trying to cheat. So don't tell them off in front of everyone.

If an archer comes to you with a question then take the time to discuss the rule with them and show them it in the rule book. Part of our role is to educate people and explain the rules.

Remember that if the person in question is a Junior or you might class them as a vulnerable adult then make sure their parent or guardian is present and you talk to them.

Try to treat people as you would like to be treated if the positions were reversed

Paperwork – please make sure you complete any paperwork properly. Put in there anything that was unusual or different or you think it might cause a complaint with AGB. For example at one event several archers were disqualified and when AGB checked the Judge report it said (approximately) “Wonderful event – a lovely day”.

Don't forget you can always send a separate report directly to AGB if you wish.

There was some discussion as the online Report forms are quite hard to fill out. *The Committee will ask AGB if it is possible to get the forms updated so they can be more easily editable, for example a Word version. There was also some request that the forms could be made into online versions, however there would also need to be offline versions as well, so they could be filled out on the field, without the need to have electronic equipment present.*

Lee Miller, who is on the AGB Training Development Committee shared an update on the National Reaccreditation. There should be emails going out next week to all National Judges. The paper will be purely online and will be multiple choice, you will be able to log in and out of the paper so you

don't have to do it all in one go. On completion you should get a result nearly instantly.

- a. As circulated the SCAS Judge Committee are proposing to make some changes to the SCAS Judge Constitution and Terms of Reference. A copy of the old version, the proposed new version and an explanation document of the changes were sent out with the Agenda.

The proposed changes are –

- Amend the length of term for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary/Liaison Officer from 2 years to three years so there is one position that is elected each year. This is to stop there being two changes in a year and to help with continuity
This proposal was agreed by the Meeting
- Name Change from “National Judge Committee” to “AGB Judges Working Group” in line with the current AGB naming conventions
This proposal was agreed by the Meeting
- Change to Grants – with AGB hoping to move the Candidate Seminar, the Regional Judge Preparation and some National Conferences online for those that want the wording of the Grants should be changed so the Grant can only be claimed when a physical event has been attended as opposed to an online one.
This proposal was agreed by the Meeting

Katy Lipscomb
SCAS Judge Liaison Officer

23/07. Elections

- a. Nominations Received. We have received three nominations for Hannah Brown as Chairman and two nominations for Richard Pilkington as Vice Chairman.

No nominations were offered from the floor so Hannah Brown was elected as Chairman for the period 2023 – 2026 and Richard Pilkington was elected as Vice Chairman for the period 2023 – 2025 – as per the changes to the term period covered under 23/06.

23/08. Appointment or promotion of Judges

- a. International Judge
i. Robert Potts
- b. International Judge Candidate
i. Lee Miller
- d. County Judge
i. John Gorman

23/09. Discussion Meeting/Training

- a. Field Thing – Hannah Brown

Hannah kindly took questions from the floor about various Field issues

Barebow tabs – what is and isn't allowed – The rules say *“A separator between the fingers to prevent pinching the arrow may be used. An anchor plate or similar device attached to the finger protection (tab) for the purpose of anchoring is permitted. The stitching shall be uniform in size and colour. Marks or lines may be added directly to the tab or on a tape placed on the face of the*

tab. These marks shall be uniform in size, shape and colour and may have up to two different lengths. Additional memoranda are not permitted. On the bow hand an ordinary glove, mitten or similar item may be worn but shall not be attached to the grip of the bow.”

So the stitching on the tab (normally put during manufacture must be the same size and colour. However an archer can add a tape with their own markings or their own markings to the tab. And whilst these must also be the same size, shape and colour there can be up to two different lengths, so a long line then a short line. There is nothing to say that the gap between the marks must be the same, so you could have a long line, then 1mm below that a short line, then 3mm below that a long line.

They cannot have anything to help them remember what the different marks mean though. These lines are used to help people with string walking so they know where to put their hand on the string.

Hannah reminded us that during equipment inspection you must always be vigilant for anything that has been added to help with ranging.

Sight tapes – archers are allowed two sight tapes, the manufacturers and their own. However watch out for extra marks, such as dots on the them, as they can be used to help with ranging (for example if the sight is on that mark then a target at 20m will fill the sight).

Sight window – the bow/sight window must be clear of marks according to the rules. For example WinAndWin put their name down the back of the riser in the window, so this needs to be taped over.

Some new bows have a very short bow window and the laminate of the limbs can be seen above and below the sight window when at full draw.

However as they do not end in the sight window then we are not concerned with it.

Field Judging – the benefits of judging field were discussed and everyone was encouraged to try it if they can.

It was asked how many Judges you normally need for a field event – normally 2/3 is required, but trying to run it on 2 can be hard work

There were concerns as the main field check is done on a Friday and people cannot always get there for it. Whilst it is good to be there on a Friday it is not the end of the world if you cannot be as the field also needs to be checked on each morning of the competition.

Longbows – no rubber band is allowed in field (unlike in target) on either marked or unmarked rounds due to ranging

Barebow – in target the serving of the string cannot end in the line of sight of the archer, this does not apply in field, as whilst it might line up for one shot, it won't for the next one

In Target you need to remember to check for the serving at all the different distances of a multi-distance event.

b. Hearing Impaired Archers – Deb Horn

Deb kindly shared some of her knowledge on assisting and enabling archers with hearing impairments.

Many people with hearing impairments find accessing sport difficult so we should do what we can to accommodate their needs and to help them enjoy the sport, the same as we would any archer

It is important to note that not all deaf people use sign language and on the flip side for many deaf people English is not their “first language” as sign language is. Sign language is a very different language and is constantly evolving.

People with hearing impairments are much more comfortable with being touched to get their attention. If at all possible approach the person from the front so they can see you, but if not touch their shoulder, arm, elbow or wave to get their attention.

Generic signs, like holding up your hands for “stop”, are very useful and generally understood by all. When talking to them, talk naturally and do not shout as this makes it more difficult to lip read. Talk slowly, but not very slowly, and do not over announce, as these also make it more difficult for them to read lips.

If you need to then write things down, but remember that English might not be their first language, so keep it simple.

Some archers will have someone with them, if they do then include them in any conversations to try and avoid any miscommunications.

If appropriate include the other archers on the target in conversations so they know how to support the deaf archer. It is well worth working out a way to communicate an emergency situation, such as stopping shooting. For example their target companion can tap them on the shoulder or make a signal to them so they know to stop shooting.

If you know someone on the field has a hearing impairment then speak to them and introduce yourselves and see if they need anything from you. The same way that you would with any archer that might need additional support.

The most important thing is to remember that they are just people, they want to enjoy their sport and have a good day. As Judges it is our job to help with that. They know what help and support they need and will ask if they need anything, but make yourself available in case they are nervous. Deb kindly provided two documents “BSL Archery Booklet - for coaches etc.pdf” and “BSL Archery leaflet - for competitions.pdf” to be sent to everyone and these have also been added to the SCAS Website under the Judges section.

There was a break of about 45 minutes for lunch with the Meeting resuming at 1:30pm

c. 3m Line Issues, FoP Safety Areas and fooling the bowscales – Lee Miller

Lee kindly covered several issues

Fooling the bowscales – Lee showed a video of an archer demonstrating how they can affect the weight showing on a bowscale during equipment inspection. By titling the bowscale (in the video it was an electronic scale, but it applies to all scales) at an angle, the reading was dramatically altered.

When weighing bows make sure the archer pulls back the bowscale level so they are not putting more pressure on one side than the other. To do this you may need to move round so you are watching the draw hand.

It was also commented on to make sure that your bowscales are in good condition to try and avoid them breaking in use. Also that if an archer is unable to use the scales themselves they can get another archer to do this for them.

3m Line – Lee laid out some examples of arrows on or near the 3m line to demonstrate how you decide whether an arrow is “shot” or “not shot”. The rule is *“The arrow falls from the bow or is mis-shot and a part of the arrow shaft lies within the zone between the shooting line and the 3m line, and provided the arrow has not rebounded”* so if part of the shaft is within the 3m line then it is considered not to be shot and a replacement can be shot. If only a nock or a fletch is inside the 3m area and it is not attached to the shaft then this is considered “shot”.

You need to remember that the 3m line is measured from the middle of the shooting line to the furthest edge of the 3m line, it also extends upwards.

During normal competition, if an archer has an arrow within the 3m line they can either make the decision themselves whether it is “shot” or “not shot” or if they are not sure they can stop shooting and call a Judge. In that case when that end has finished the line should be held and the Judge should go to the 3m line and make a decision. If they decide it is “not shot” then the archer can shoot another arrow under the timing in place at that event.

During matchplay (and World Ranking Events) then the archer cannot stop and ask the Judge, they must make the decision themselves. However when the shooting of that end is finished the Judge should go to the shooting line and look as if they were the archer (this may involve making yourself shorter or standing on tiptoes) and make a decision. If from that angle it looks in then the matter is done. If however it looks out then you can walk to the 3m line and make a final decision. If the arrow is considered to be “shot” but the archer shot a replacement then they would have shot 7 arrows and it should be dealt with appropriately.

Safety of venue – Lee ran the various aspects of checking a field for safety

- i) Checking the overshoot area for size and to ensure that the whole area is visible, particularly in bad weather. The target rules in 302 (b) are (there are different rules for Clout)

Overshoot Distances.

(i) Overshoot Line. The overshoot line is a line parallel to the shooting line positioned at the required distance behind the targets and extending to the width of the side safety areas.

(ii) Bows shot off the fingers.

a. At target distances up to 60 yards/metres the overshoot line shall be at least 110yds from the shooting line.

b. At target distances over 60 yards/metres the overshoot line shall be at least 50 yards from the target line.

(iii) Bows shot with Mechanical Release Aids. At all target distances the overshoot line shall be at least 150 yards from the shooting line.

(c) Side Safety Areas. Each side safety area is the area in front of the shooting line and to the side of the range (including the overshoot area) enclosed by a line from a point 10yds to the side of the shooting line, to a point 20yds to the side of the range at 100yds from the shooting line, and continuing on that straight line to the overshoot line.

Note: If the overshoot line is 150yds from the shooting line, the side safety area at

that distance will extend 25yds to the side of the range

- ii) Checking for access such as gates to ensure they are secured with appropriate signs etc
- iii) Checking for rights of way and making sure they are properly secured and with appropriate signs etc
- iv) Indoors checking for entrances in front of the shooting line, particularly behind the safety nets and that there is nothing behind the nets that an arrow going through the net could then easily go through. Particularly attention must be paid to fire doors as there are rules about them being accessible at all times.
- v) Check the Range certificate. If the venue has been given dispensation because it does not meet the rules then details of the dispensation will be on the certificate.

d. Scoring – Gareth Beeby

Gareth kindly gave the attached presentation “Scoring - Gareth Beeby.pdf”

He covered the fundamentals of how to resolve scoring issues, including single spots and multi-spot indoors and outdoors. The presentation also includes some excellent examples.

The sequence to be used in case of an issue is

- i) Deal with too many arrows shot into 1 spot
- ii) Deal with too many arrows shot in total
- iii) Deal with arrows shot out of time

e. Clout – Richard Pilkington

Richard kindly gave the attached presentation “Clout - SCAS Judges - Richard Pilkington.pdf”

He covered the basics of Clout archery including some of the more unusual sighting equipment that archers might use and the correct scoring procedures.

f. Defibs and CPR – Paul Clark

Paul kindly talked the Conference through the basics of CPR and using the defibs that can be accessed by the public. He also demonstrated some of the techniques to be used for us. Some of the details can be found in the attached presentation “DEFIBRILATORS - Paul Clark.pdf”

For those interested in more information there are many YouTube videos available and there are also various organisations that run first aid training courses. More information on defibrillators can be found with St John’s Ambulance and the British Heart Foundation and on

<https://www.defibmachines.co.uk/cardiac-arrest-in-the-uk/>

23/10. **Any Other Business**

None

23/11. Date and Venue of next meeting

It was agreed that the room at Stevenage would be booked again for the 6th January 2024 in the Ellen Terry Room.

However, if anyone can recommend another venue in a suitable location then we could consider the meeting in 2024. The venue needs to be in a central location with good transport links and be able to hold approximately 65 people. The current venue costs £300 for the room and approximately £150 for the refreshments. **Any suggestions need to be sent to the Judge Liaison Officer by the 31st March 2023.**

The Meeting closed at 16.15pm.

Many thanks to everyone that kindly did a presentation – Hannah Brown, Richard Pilkington, Gareth Beeby, Lee Miller, Deb Horn and Paul Clark. Their time and effort was much appreciated. Also thank you to the team of Alex Purser, Paul Clark, Deb Horn and Richard Pilkington who checked the bowscales during the day.

