

**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 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

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 Everyone and welcome to the 2024 SCAS Conference.

I hope that you find today interesting and enjoyable. Its good to see so many of you here, so many of you willing to give up your own time to allow others to compete.”

We then went round the room and everyone introduced themselves

**24/01. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Erin Barkway, Maurice Berridge, Phil Collions, Georgina Cutts, Warwick Drew, David Hall, Tori Mill, Richard Pilkington, Graham Pink, Max Roantree, Kim Stonebridge and Siobhan Tyson

**24/02. Minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (as circulated)**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

**24/03. 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”.

Following many years a change was made in 2023

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.

Update 2024 – This was raised with AGB and they said that finding a bouncer when arriving at the target would count as suspected and thus another arrow can be shot. But you as a Judge need to make sure it is actually a bouncer, for example by the way the arrow is lying. AGB said they may issue an interpretation.

The Meeting were happy that this issue has now been resolved.

23/06 – Paperwork – there was some discussion about the Tournament paperwork, and in particular that the forms are difficult to complete electronically.

This was raised with AGB, AGB are reviewing the whole subject of the Tournament Report forms to make sure they are fit for purpose. This may include moving the forms online, for example a Google form. Or changing it so the forms only need to be completed when there is an issue. It was highlighted that it would be nice to retain the ability to do the forms offline. If they do not

move the forms online they will look at reformatting them current ones to make sure they are easier to fill out.

#### 24/04. **Correspondence**

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

Hopefully everyone is 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 the JLO know so she can raise it with AGB.

#### 24/05. **Chairman's Remarks**

"Last year was a busy one for many of you, with assessments, seminars, upgrades, and of course being out there judging and keeping the sport running. I sometimes, well most of the time, feel that archers and TOs see us as a necessary evil or hinderance, without ever appreciating the hard work and dedication that you all put in to be at the top of your game.

Being at the top of your game is important, its important for the archers and for us. One dodgy decision or a bad day for us, makes everyones next shoot so much harder. Just look at the football referees, whilst we aren't on that scale, we could have the same impact on results. Its important to know the rules, know where to find them, not to make up what you think they say, and its important to have each others backs out there. We are a team, work together and the shoot will run smoothly.

This year will see lots of rule changes, bylaws, re-wording and reprints as we will go through, you guys are ahead of the game on this now, so just check with the rest of your team at the start of the shoot that they know the current version! Yes, even the CoJ might need a nudge so don't be reluctant to check.

Your international judges were busy last year and as we go in to an Olympic year they are busy again, with representation at both the Olympics and Paralympics and numerous other events, they show the calibre of judges that this region punts out, because obviously SCAS is the better region.

From me, again, I know I say it every year, but you keep re-electing me so its your fault, Thank you. Thank you for your time, energy and passion to keep going out in the rain and get soaking wet all for a bottle of cheap Asda wine!"

Hannah Brown  
Chairman, SCAS Regional Judge Committee.

#### 24/06. **Secretary/Liaison Officers Report**

Please see attached document SCAS JUDGES CONFERENCE 2024.pdf

*There was a break of about 15 minutes for refreshments with the Meeting resuming at 11:10*

Further updates -

SCAS Events and Judge Medals – there was a very disappointing response to the invitation for the SCAM. So I am currently unable to appoint the Judges. If any one is able to Judge at the SCAM

please let me know. It is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. You don't have to do all the dates and accommodation can be provided.

Following a change last year we now present the Judge Awards for the at the Conference. The Judge badges for those Judges who were appointed to SCAS events last year were then presented by Hannah Brown.

SCAS Judge Emeritus – some of you may be aware that we have an honorary title of SCAS Judge Emeritus. It is awarded to SCAS Judges who have retired but during their career have made an extraordinary contribution to Judging, for example by serving on a judging committee, acting as a mentor etc. If you think anyone is eligible for this title, then please just raise it at an AGM.

#### Changes to the SCAS Judge Constitution

- 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 –

- Judge Grants  
Currently only Regional and National Judges can claim a grant for attending an in-person Archery GB (National) Conference, and it is claimable only once per reaccreditation period.  
The Committee would like to propose that this is changed so any Judge can claim the grant on attending an in-person Archery GB Conference, with no limit on how many times this can be claimed.  
This is because attending the AGB Judge Conferences are very valuable and a great learning event and the SCAS Committee think it is good to encourage people of all grades to attend.

The proposal was agreed by the Meeting

- The grant that can be claimed when a County, Regional or National Judge passes the Archery GB reaccreditation process (every 4 years) was missing, so this has been added.

This proposal was agreed by the Meeting

The current grants are

- i. For Candidates after attending an in-person Candidate Seminar (this is claimable only once) - £100 currently, increasing to £125 from 01/01/2024
- ii. For County Judges after attending an in-person Regional Preparation Seminar (this is claimable only once) - £100 currently, increasing to £125 from 01/01/2024
- iii. For any Judge after attending an in-person Archery GB (National) Conference - £75, no limit on the number of claims
- iv. For Candidate Judges when they qualify as a County/Youth Judge (this is claimable only once) - £100

- v. For Candidate and County Judges to cover their travel expenses to their practical assessment for each level – 40p per mile and other costs as per AGB expense policy
- vi. For County, Regional or National Judges on passing the Archery GB reaccreditation - £100
- vii. For Judges going to a World Archery Europe or World Archery Seminar for upgrade to Continental, World Archery Youth Judge or International Judge Candidate- £150 to attend and £150 if you pass

There was some discussion about the online J07 as there is currently a fault with the totals not showing correctly on the front page. This fault is being looked at. It was suggested that there should be a “delete” button, in case you put in a shoot incorrectly.

**Update – there is a Delete button. If you go to My Shoots under the My Shoots drop down there is an option next to each shoot to Edit or Delete it**

Katy Lipscomb  
SCAS Judge Liaison Officer

#### 24/07. **Elections**

- a. Nominations Received. We have received four nominations for Katy Lipscomb as Secretary/Judge Liaison Officer for a period of 3 years.

No nominations were offered from the floor so Katy Lipscomb was elected as Secretary/Judge Liaison Officer for the period 2024 – 2027.

#### 24/08. **Appointment or promotion of Judges**

- a. Regional Judge
  - i. David Hall
- b. County Judge
  - i. Adam Trott
  - ii. Aislinn O’Connell
  - iii. Siobhan Tyson
  - iv. Meera Shah
  - v. Erin Barkway

#### 24/09. **Discussion Meeting/Training**

- a. Field Rule Update – Hannah Brown

Hannah kindly gave an update on the Field and 3D changes from AGB which are coming into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and the WA changes that should be coming into effect from 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Archery GB – the changes are all detailed in the latest edition (Winter) of Archery UK. If you have any questions or comments on the changes then please contact Archery GB.

The changes are being done to bring the rules inline with World Archery where appropriate but keep the traditional requirements of AGB. Also to stream line and tidy up the rules.

The bowstyles will be updated so Recurve, Compound, Barebow and WA Longbow will reference directly the WA rules, the rest are AGB bowstyles.

The Field and 3D clothing rules will now be as per Rule 307 (so same as target). So the

requirement to wear bright colours has been removed and blue denim jeans are not allowed

There are going to be 4 pegs – white (novice), yellow (intermediate), blue and red (as per WA).

White peg	Yellow peg	Blue peg	Red peg
Novice peg	Intermediate peg	WA peg	WA peg
All U12	U15 Recurve	Un sighted	Recurve
All U14	U15 Compound	U18 Un sighted	Compound
All U15 Un sighted	U15 Compound Limited	All 50+ Un sighted	Compound Limited
	All U16 Un sighted	U16 Recurve	U18 Compound
		U16 Compound	U18 Recurve
		U16 Compound Limited	U18 Compound Limited
			50+ Recurve
			50+ Compound

There was question whether discs should be used instead of pegs for the White and Yellow pegs to avoid ranging. This is a good idea and Hannah thinks this suggestion will be included in the rules when they are published.

World Archery – The main change in Book 2 is the removal of the Pool system for Head 2 Heads. H2H ranking will now be conducted the same as in Target

There is a major change in Book 4. WA are going to allow phones to be used on the course. But only for promotion and social media and medical device monitoring. This does not apply at World Ranking Events, World Champs and Continental Champs.

If you suspect an archer of using their phone for anything else – for example ranging, checking notes or passing messages – then a Judge has the right to check the phone and if the archer has then they may be disqualified.

At WA events in the UK archers will be able to use phones as per the new rules.

There is also a change to 3D so it is now 2 arrows in all rounds.

These changes are due to come in from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

b. FoP Safety Areas – Katy Lipscomb

Katy did a quick reminder on safety areas

It is very important never to assume that the safety area at a venue is correct, even if you have been there many times before.

Safety of venue

- 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. And check the address of the certificate as it is easy for the wrong certificate to be presented to you.

As a rough rule of thumb, make sure that the venue is at least 150yds long, as nearly all events will have compounds.

There was some discussion on what to do if the TO does not agree. It was observed that whilst it should be reported on the Tournament Report, there is no way for the next COJ to see that report. Whilst every Judge should check the safety every time, sometimes this does not happen. A suggestion was made that maybe Judges can access old Tournament Reports when they become COJ. Whilst this might not be feasible with the current process, maybe if the process changes it can be done.

**JLO to contact Archery GB to propose this when AGB consider how they want to change Tournament Reports.**

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

c. Mentoring – Alex Purser

Alex kindly gave the attached presentation “Mentoring Presentation to SCAS Judging Group 2024.pdf”

He covered some information and tips for mentors and mentees.

[Some of it ties into J05s, so a copy of the presentation by Deb Horn that had been given previously was sent out with the Minutes]

d. Arrow values and score alterations – Lee Miller

Lee ran through the basics of how to do score alternations and how to give arrow values to ensure that everyone is following the same processes.

Score Alternations –

- On arriving at the call ask them to repeat all the arrow values and to indicate the arrows.
- Check what they call matches what is in the target
- Strike through the incorrect value, write in the correct value and initial the change either in the box or to the side
- If the archers have written the score down out of order – for example 9 10 8 – then you can underline the arrows that are in the correct order (so here the 9 and 10) and then initial.
- There is no penalty for getting it wrong

Arrow values –

- If you are going to use things like a dental mirror, angled mirror or a separate torch then practice with them. Likewise if you change your magnifying glass or your glasses/lens then practice before an event.
- If Indoors it is good to use a torch, either one built into the glass or separately
- Confirm that the archers are disagreeing amongst themselves on the value – if they all agree then there is nothing to check
- Get them to indicate the arrow in question, it is good practice to reconfirm the arrow by pointing at it
- Look at the arrows from both sides, getting as close as possible to the face without touching it. Don't take too long to make your decision.
- Tell the archers your decision and check it is written down
- Remove your hat, sunglasses etc to ensure you can get as close to possible to the face
- If you are worried you may knock other arrows when checking the value of the arrow you can ask the target to score the other arrows (but do not remove them from the target). This way if you do knock an arrow it has already been scored.
- Give the benefit of the doubt on the value, but do not tell the archers you are giving the benefit of the doubt.
- Choose your magnifying glass carefully. If it is too strong then it is impossible to use. A 3.5 x magnification is normally sufficient, but it depends on each Judge

Remember that these two actions are when you are interacting with the archers the most at a lot of events, so be professional and do your job to the best of your ability.

e. Calling off an event – Katy Lipscomb

In 2023 there were a large number of events which were cancelled or called off due to bad weather, so Katy lead a discussion on how to judge if the weather is bad enough to cancel an event.

It is worth noting there is a difference between unsafe conditions and unsuitable conditions. Where it is unsafe to shoot then it is the decision of the Chair of Judges to cancel or pause the event. Where it is unsuitable (for example very hot or wet) but not unsafe then the responsibility lies more with the Organiser.

Luckily with weather forecasts you can get an indication in advance on when there will be extreme weather so you can start liaising with the Organiser before arrival about options. For example if rain is forecast then you can make sure the Organiser has plenty of backing material or can print the scoresheets on waterproof paper.

Wind – if the wind is too strong or gusty then you may need to stop. This can be hard to decide and is worth talking to other judges. If the wind is so strong that there is a risk an archer will fall over whilst at full draw, then shooting needs to stop. It is worth watching archers of different sizes and different bow styles, watch to see how much their arms are moving and if they are having to move their feet whilst at full draw. For example a compound archer may say they are aiming 3 targets over and hoping they let go as they are blown past their target – this is not safe! If buttresses are being blown over then you must stop shooting.

Thunder and Lightening – when thunder and lightening is near you should always stop shooting immediately as it is dangerous to continue. Liaise with the DOS as often the decision must be taken during an end. Then work with the Organiser to ensure everyone is safe, particularly at Field and 3D events.

Fog – you need to be able to see all of the safety overshoot area, if you cannot see it due to fog then you need to wait until you can. It is worth speaking to someone from the area as they may be able to advise how long it will take for the fog to go.

Rain – normally rain is just a problem as it is hard to mark the faces and arrows are more likely to pass through the buttress, but sometimes you need to stop shooting. If the rain means you cannot see all of the safety overshoot area you need to stop. Also if the rain is so hard the target faces will not stay on then you need to stop as it is ridiculous to carry on.

Heat / sun – whilst it is each archer's responsibility to attend with appropriate clothing, sunscreen, shade etc occasionally a health warning is issued. In these cases it is best to work in advance with the Tournament Organiser to come up with a plan.

Whilst the decision on pausing shooting is with Chairman, the Chairman should consult with the Tournament Organiser, other Judges, archers, and people from the area when possible.



Luckily there are some very good Apps available now which help you know when bad weather may happen so you can hopefully plan ahead. They can also indicate if the weather will pass or if it is there to stay.

When you stop shooting make sure the archers are kept informed about what is happening and if possible, let them know when you hope to restart, the Apps can be useful here, if they show the storm will have gone in 30 minutes you can let the archers know.

In World Archery you do have the option to extend the time limit in exceptional circumstances (Article 10.2.5 and 13.4.8). For example you may consider this when it is windy but not dangerous. The change should be made between ends and must be announced to all before it happens. The 30 second amber warning should remain at 30 seconds. But this should only be done in exceedingly rare circumstances.

When you are happy you are able to restart then liaise with the Organising Team and Field crew. It is worth rechecking the field to make sure all the buttresses are secure and the faces are okay to use, also check any electrics to make sure they are working and run a test of the timing system. Give the archers advance warning of when you are about to restart so they can prepare/warm up (at least 5 minutes). Do a check against the target list to make sure that everyone is there.

If you are lucky then you were able to stop shooting between ends, but if not then remember that archers get 40 seconds an arrow. So if an archer has 6 arrows left then they get 4 minutes, but if they have 3 arrows left they get 2 minutes. The clock should be set to the longest time, all the archers go to the line and then start shooting when the clock reaches their start time. For example if some archers have 6 arrows left and others have 5, 4 or 3 arrows the clock would be set to 4 minutes (240 seconds); all the archers go to the line and when the clocks start the archers with 6 arrows left can start shooting, when the clocks reach 200 seconds the archers with 5 arrows left can start, when the clock reach 160 seconds the archers with 4 arrows left can start and when the clock reach 120 seconds the archers with 3 arrows left can start and so on. This will need to be explained carefully to the archers.

Field and 3D events have extra things to consider such as the safety of the archers as they walk around – if it is very wet or muddy and they need to go up a steep bank it may not be safe. This must be decided for each target with consultation with the Organisers. It may also be that whilst one target on a course is unsafe other targets might still be safe to shoot.

Shooting Indoors does not mean you won't have similar problems. For example you may want to keep an eye on the weather in case there is snow due at the end of the day and speed up the last session, or at least inform the archers so they can decide if they want to leave early.

You may also have the need to evacuate the hall (for example due to a fire alarm). Whilst this is the responsibility of the Organiser, as the Judges people look to you as the voice of authority. Tell people to leave their equipment and personal belongings and to exit the hall as quickly as possible through the nearest fire exit. The Organisers and their team will be able to help direct people to the Meeting Point and they should have a target list to try and make sure everyone is there.

Don't forget there may be other rooms, such as changing rooms, toilets etc that need to be checked to make sure they are clear.

If the venue is staffed then they should have a plan to check all the rooms, but if there are not staff then the Organiser should do this.

The important thing is not to put yourself or anyone else in danger and do not try and tackle a fire yourself unless you are trained. Contact the emergency services straight away.

Every situation is different so there are no hard rules on when to stop due to weather. The most important thing is the safety of the archers and that the competition is run safely. Just remember that if the worst happens you will be the one in front of the authorities.

f. Nocking points – Hannah Brown

There has been a lot of questions and issues about nocking points, particularly on barebows. Hannah talked us through what to look for. When we say nocking point we mean nocking points, serving and serving to hold nocking points in place.

Whilst there is no size or length limit on nocking points in the Rules, we need to remember that their function is so people know where to put their arrow. So there is no need for them to be long.

If an archer is using it so they know where to put their tab/fingers or for anything else that gives them a consistent anchor or aim then it is not a nocking point. At this point you can ask them to remove it or reduce it in size.

g. Appeals at the BTC

At the 2023 British Target Championships there were some Appeals. Brian Dunlop was there as Chair of Judges and explained that these were linked to scoring issues.

It has been raised with AGB that we and Organisers need national guidance on how to handle appeals. This is something they are looking at.

In the meantime if you do get an Appeal then liaise with the Organiser as it is their job to form a Jury of 3 people. The people should be impartial and not one of the Judging team. For example if there is a Judge on the field crew they can be used, or an experienced archer who is in a different division and not involved at all.

There are some useful guidelines on the WA website here (at the bottom of the page) - <https://www.worldarchery.sport/sport/education/judging>

24/10. **Any Other Business**

None raised

24/11. **Date and Venue of next meeting**

It was agreed that the room at Stevenage would be booked again for the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Ellen Terry Room.

However, if anyone can recommend another venue in a suitable location then we could consider the meeting in 2025. 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 £400 for the room and approximately £200 for the refreshments. **Any suggestions need to be sent to the Judge Liaison Officer by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.**

The Meeting closed at 15.47 pm.

Many thanks to everyone that kindly did a presentation – Hannah Brown, Lee Miller and Alex Purser. Their time and effort was much appreciated.

Also thank you to everyone who helped out with checking the bowscales during the day.

Annual General - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Activity in the Region 2023												
Type of Event		Designation of Round		Numbers of Judges					Events by Grade			
Target	658	Archery GB	308	Judges	2021	2022	2023	Change	2021	2022	2023	Change
Field/3D	69	World Archery	461	International	4	5	5	0	109	157	152	-5
Clout	42	Training	93	Continental	2	1	1	0	38	21	27	6
Flight	0			National	14	15	14	-1	125	271	284	13
Other	93			Regional	12	11	11	0	94	158	197	39
				County	12	10	12	2	71	97	169	72
Total	862	Total	862	Candidate	9	13	16	3	23	77	33	-44
Status of Event		Level of Event										
World Record Status	394	International	130	Totals	53	55	59	4	460	781	862	81
Record Status	220	National	177	Returns From	48	46	49					
Non-Record Status	155	Regional	69	Average Days Per Judge	9.58	16.98	17.59					
Training	93	County	173									
		Club	313									
Total	862	Total	862									