



## Conference Report 2018    Wyboston Lakes

### Introduction

Thanks for everyone who turned up to our first try at moving the Judges National Conference away from Lilleshall and into SCAS at Wyboston Lakes in Bedfordshire. The venue was excellent and provided a big airy room with excellent facilities and unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits.

The judges who were able to travel were welcomed with Hannah's news that the Judge Committee has been disbanded and she is moving onto the Special Advisory Group with the other Committee Chairmen.

Susan Richards is stepping into the role of Secretary of the Judges Working Group. She will call together people to perform tasks at the request of AGB personnel.

Arran Coggan, Clubs and Facilities Manager provided more information about this when he talked later on in the day.

Before the presentations there was a warm up exercise and also the judges were asked to take part in a blind tasting to vote on one of the most fundamental questions for the judges – which are the best Jelly Babies?

Results were given at the end of the day.

All the presentations are available from the Archery GB website ([www.archerygb.org](http://www.archerygb.org)) and can be found by typing Conference 2018 into the search field at the top of the home page. They are also under Coaches, Judges and Volunteers -> Judges Information -> Judges Information.



### Field presentation - Paul Clark

Paul started the presentations off with looking at what we need from judges when working at a field course and highlighted that Reputation and Integrity were paramount.

He then asked why the judges were there on the course and explained it was for safety, to protect the reputation of course officials but mainly to ensure enjoyment for all.

The attitude of judges on the field course was discussed and while a large number of people are learning and open to the discipline Paul was saying there are a number of people turning up on courses with the attitude of having to do it just to progress – yes it has to be done but go in with an open mind as you might find that you like it and it is an opportunity to learn about another aspect of archery. If you go with the attitude that you don't want to be there, then you are definitely going to have a bad day.

Paul then went through a number of tips and tricks to help set up the course and to ensure that the course is fair for all archers: left handed, right handed, tall or short, shooting compound, recurve, barebow or longbow.

He also went through a list of the equipment you need to build up to when doing field shooting – you don't need everything to start off though.

### Effective J05 Writing - Deb Horn

Deb started with a simple question – is the J05 for recording shoots or to help people get better?

She then went through a number of examples (which were entirely fictional. Any similarity to any other J05, current or historical, was entirely coincidental) where she tried to highlight that being specific, being positive and being constructive will help provide valuable feedback.

Another point was that reading the existing J05s at the start of the day will allow you as CoJ to look and see if there are any areas to be worked on. This means that just handing over a single empty sheet to be filled in is not useful so bring the whole booklet.

The other area that people need to be aware of is the Comments By Candidates – this is your chance to write what you think about the day and also about the comments which have been made in the J05.



## Working Together for a Better Tournament – Nat Merry & Kat Baier (Oxford Archers)

Nat and Kat have put on a number of very high-profile shoots, as well as being active archers, and explained what being a TO meant and why they did it.

We were asked to think about why we became judges, what keeps us going back to a shoot and what would harm our motivation. Lunch was mentioned as a good motivator and it seems that most of us got into judging because someone we respected suggested it or we were unable to continue shooting but did not want to leave the sport.

We then focussed in on why we judge, why they work so hard as Tournament Organisers and came to the conclusion that we all have a shared responsibility and are all working together in the three areas of:

Professionalism

Enjoyment

Performance

For each of these there a number of things that as judges we need to think about and raised a number of things we should all think about. Do you joke about a line call being in if the price is right? We all know it is a joke but what about a novice archer who is new to competitions? What sort of impression are we giving?

Do we realise that we are in a position of authority and what we say is taken as Archery GB gospel? This means we need to think about the impact and responsibility that goes with being in such a position. That whole section of the online presentation should be compulsory reading as it should make us all think about how we all can learn from these very valuable points which they brought out.

They also surveyed their club and other archers as to what they wanted most from a judge. Surprisingly knowledge of the rules was only second behind efficiency. This means that archers want to get on with their shooting so anything we can do to help this is a good thing.

They also discussed what they, as TOs, want from Judges. They want clear and concise communication before the tournament, if you want something, then just ask for it. On the day they want good communication from the Judges and calmness. If there is an issue then if the Judge is calm and controlled and works with them/holds their hand then everything is okay, but if the Judge starts to panic and flap that emotion is contagious and spreads. Judges are seen as the solid rock on which the TOs can rely.

They also highlighted that just before the shoot they are running on empty so be kind to them!

The presentation is available to view online here:-

<https://prezi.com/view/aEDzXd4sJSS2JWHMlzYg/>



## Governance Update / Competition Review / Range Registration – Arran Coggan

We were joined after lunch by Arran Coggan, Clubs and Facilities Manager for Archery GB who went through three separate topics and was asked some difficult questions on each of them.

### Governance Update

The first topic was an update on how the Governance of Archery GB has changed and what that means for Judges.

The old Committee structure's which reported through the Ops Director to the Chairman have been disbanded and the structure now has the Chairman (Mark Davies), a Chief Executive (Neil Armitage) and a Director of Sport (David Tillotson).

Arran works for the Director of Sport and has a number of direct reports including Jon Nott who is Competition and Events Manager.

What this means for Judging is that Hannah Brown (ex-Chair of the Judges Committee) along with the chairs of the other old committees has moved onto a Strategic Advisory Group who will meet with AGB twice a year and will provide steer for the Sports team in terms of their activities, plans and future direction.

There still is a need for a working group that caters for Judges, dealing with enquiries sent to Archery GB, allocations for National Tournaments and being the first point of contact about Judging.

When activities are identified by Archery GB a group will be formed together of people with relevant experience who will be tasked with performing the task. Susan Richards will lead this.

Jon Nott has the overall budgetary responsibility for National Tournaments and will work with Susan to form a group to allocate Judges and other related tasks.

Conference, reaccreditations, seminars and youth judges fall under Arran Coggan, the Club and Facilities Manager. Arran is working on supporting Judge development, working with colleagues on Youth Judges programme and ensuring that the conference and seminars continue.

The role of JLO is to continue as before providing the link between the Working Group and the Judges and managing the judges in each Region.

As Arran himself said, "clearly the way the new structure will work may experience some teething issues but I hope that this time next year, we can talk about some positives"



### Competition Review

Archery GB are running a series of workshops and surveys to look at why archers do or do not compete, what they want and what Archery GB want to do to help and encourage people to meet their aim of more people, shooting more arrows, more often.

Arran presented some of the findings from the Survey and Competition Workshops which are currently running and pointed out that Workshops are still running or if people would like to contribute to this then either complete the survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/agbcompetition>

or contact Jon Nott or Katy Cummings at [Competitionreview@archerygb.org](mailto:Competitionreview@archerygb.org) or on 01952 607961

### Range Registration

Arran's final area was an update about the Range Registration process which is ongoing and required each club who's shooting ground meets the requirements of the Rules of Shooting to self-assess online and if the ground does not then a visit from one of the 35 trained assessors is required.

This assessment is for all grounds so if a club is holding a one-off shoot in a venue they rarely use then the venue will need to be registered. Counties and Regions who have separate Venues can also complete the registration process.

Clubs get a certificate which states the ground is registered and if it required dispensation then a report will also be available detailing the dispensation given.

As judges we need to request these at the start of the shoot but it is still our responsibility to check the venue and if, in our opinion, there is a safety issue we must deal with it.

If a Venue does not have a Certificate and has not been registered then the shoot can still go ahead as long as it meets the Rules of Shooting, but make sure the Organisers know they have to get the Venue registered as soon as possible.

So far only 1 club has failed to meet the requirements and not been issued with a range certificate.



## Rules Update – Graham Potts

Graham gave us a quick update on the rule changes which are due to come in on **1<sup>st</sup> April**.

For World Archery these include some changes to locations of rounds (some moved from Book 2 to Book 5), recognition of double 70/50m rounds for records and a lot of equipment clarifications in Book 3.

The Combined WA round can now be shot in any order and the restriction on black/yellow target numbers has been lifted.

Graham also highlighted a couple of changes that World Archery are trialling at the World Cup where an archer is no longer required to shoot the last arrow if they cannot win and that for a tie if both archers shoot the 10 (or X10 for compound) then there is a re-shoot with this arrow nearest the middle.

These are only trials at the moment and we should not be implementing them in any of the shoots we officiate at.

The rules on Field archery have had a major re-write removing many anomalies and repetitions including simplifications of the rounds (only 24 targets – no 12, 16 etc), clarification of tolerances, lifting restrictions on target colours and a number of equipment definitions.

For events which are only Para events the change for timing in individual matches has been extended from 20s to 30s but these are only at Para Archery events and a Para Archer attending an open event is still subject to the usual 20s per arrow timing.

Graham also commented that the AGB Rules on Dress regulations will not be going through.



### Practical Sessions

We then had some practical sessions, covering triple spot scoring (we could not leave it out), how to read and interpret Field of Play charts and some very interesting bows for equipment inspection.

### And Finally

Thanks for everyone who came along I hope the day was interesting and I think everyone learnt something – I certainly have plenty of things I need to think about.

Next year we are heading into NCAS for the Conference and we are already looking for a suitable venue.

If there is anything you would like to be covered at the next Conference, please let the Conference Working Group know through the [judges@archerygb.org](mailto:judges@archerygb.org) email address and we will see what we can do.

And the Survey Results – Judges are connoisseurs with over 25% of the votes going for the most expensive Jelly Babies but it seems you get what you pay for with Maynard Bassett's Jelly Babies coming out as the favourites.

See you next year?

Richard Pilkington  
Conference Coordinator