



SOUTHERN COUNTIES ARCHERY SOCIETY



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Dear Colleagues,

Please find below some updates following the National Judge Conference on 5th March and also the JLO Meeting that was held the same weekend.

I also want to say a big thank you to the National Committee for all the hard work they put into an enjoyable and educational day. To Hannah Brown as Chairman, Richard Pilkington as the Organiser of the day and Robert Potts, Liz Garrigan, Susan Richards and Tony Goad, the rest of the Committee.

1) Archery GB

Neil Armitage, Chief Executive Officer for Archery GB, was due to attend the Judge Conference, but due to personal reasons was unable to attend. The National Judge Committee stressed that Judging was very much in the forefront of AGBs minds. They want to increase the number of active archers in the country, and so recognise that more Judges will be needed

They are actively looking into how this can happen, and are working closely with the National Judge Committee. They are also looking at how they can support Judges more, and this might mean financially (depending on funding). Archery GB know how much work all Judges put in, both on and off the tournament field and are very grateful and appreciative of our efforts.

2) Re-accreditation periods and exams

Following the success of the on-line exam for the County Re-accreditation, all future re-accreditation test will be done on-line. In extreme circumstances people will be able to get dispensation to do the exam on paper.

Moving forward the timetable for re-accreditations have been changed so the exams are not done just before Christmas. The new timetable will be that the exam is released on-line at the beginning of January and there will be about 3 weeks to do the exam. The exam will then be marked and the results issued within a week with detailed feedback. Any re-takes

will then be started a few weeks after the results are sent out, meaning all the exams and re-takes will be over by March, so are done before the National Conference. This also means the SCAS Judge Conference will be during the re-accreditation exam period so if needed we can discuss any questions at the Conference. So the National Re-accreditation will be in January 2019, Regional in January 2020 and County in 2021. At the moment the exact re-accreditation periods – in particular the years in which you need to attend a Conference at each level are not confirmed.

There was also some general feed back on the County Re-accreditation which applies to all future exams

Look at the number of marks for the question. If it is worth 5 marks they are probably looking for 5 points, likewise if it is worth 1 answer they do not want “War and Peace”

Triple Spot Scoring – make sure you include how you worked out your answer and the steps you went through

All answers need the relevant Rule Numbers and references. If you are quoting a rule, quote all of the rule, not just the first few words then ...

The on-line exams are designed so you can do a bit at a time, you can save your progress. You do not need to do it all in one sitting

Read the questions carefully and make sure you answer them completely, don't be vague!

3) Candidate Seminar and Regional Preparation Seminars

The dates have been set for some of the future Seminars. At the moment the October Candidate Seminar dates have not been set whilst funding is arranged.

20th and 21st January 2018 – Candidate Seminar

3rd March 2018 – Regional Preparation Seminar (at the same location as the National Conference)

4) Judge Emeritus Status

The Judge Emeritus Grade has now been removed, it was a purely honorary title like SCAS Judge Emeritus.

To replace this, they have introduced a new system to recognise Judges who have retired or who have consistently gone above and beyond. There is now a new J Form for the JLO to complete containing details of their service, which will then be sent to the National Judge Committee. The Committee will then review each application and decide whether the Judge is suitable for an Archery GB award, such as a plaque, and if they are they will forward it on to the Awards Committee; or consider them for an award from the National Judge Committee.

If you know of a SCAS Judge who you consider suitable for an award, then please forward me the details so I and the rest of the SCAS Judge Committee can consider them and forward them on.

5) AGB Membership

We have unfortunately had a few issues where Judges have not renewed their membership in good time and have then officiated at tournaments.

In order to avoid this the National Committee have asked that at all tournaments we check each other's memberships.

So, with **immediate** effect could the COJ check all the Judges Membership cards to make sure they are valid, and could the DOS or deputy COJ or another senior Judge please check the COJs Membership card.

If your membership card has not arrived then a copy of the receipt will be fine, likewise if you do not carry your AGB card on you (for example it is in your quiver/bow box) then a photo of the card on your phone is completely acceptable.

6) J Forms

The National Committee have undertaken an extensive piece of work to update and stream line the J Forms, as many of the old ones were out of date or were not actually administrative forms. There has also been some re-numbering of the forms. The new forms are

J00 - Application for Appointment as a Candidate Judge – this has pretty much stayed the same, but now when someone signs up as a Candidate Judge they are also signing to say they have read the J10 and agree to be bound by the Judges Disciplinary Code and the Enhanced Code of Conduct

J01 – Application for Judge Practical Assessment – this is for when a Candidate or County wants to (and is ready to) put in for their practical assessment to the next level, however it may not be arranged straight away. This is similar to the current J01 and J02, the main difference is that there is no need for your mentor to sign the form.

J02 – Practical Assessment Report – this is the same as the current Practical Assessment Form.

J03 – Application for Appoint as National Judge – this is practically the same as the current J03.

J04 – Update of Judge Grade – this is to be completed once the practical and written exams have been passed to notify Archery GB of the upgrade. It can be completed by the Judge and then sent to the JLO or completed by the JLO.

J05 – Judge Assessment Form – this has stayed mainly the same as the current J05. The main difference is that the pages are no longer numbered, so you can just print some pages as and when needed. There is now a box in the top right hand corner so you can number the pages yourself, however you want. One suggestion is that when going for County you number C1, C2 etc, when going for Regional use, R1, R2 and when going for National use N1, N2; but use whatever system works for you. Make sure you present all your J05s at the start of the tournament to the Chair. If you already have lots of blank J05s printed, feel free to use them up before printing off the new version

J07 – Judges Annual Report – this is a new version of the Judge Annual Returns to be completed at the end of each year

J08 – JLO Summary of Judges Annual Report

J09 – Bow Scale Certification Form

J12 – Request for Award – a new form to be completed when you think a Judge worthy of consideration of an Award from the National Judge Committee

J05 Candidate to County Judge Checklist – this is a new form designed to help a new Judge keep track of how they are progressing. It is based on the requirements in the J10 and is designed to be printed by the Candidate when they first start and kept with the J05s. There are spaces to be completed when they have attended a National or Regional Conference, the Candidate Seminar and the practical assessment. There is also an area to note the J05 numbers which relate to a Target Event, Field Event and Indoor Event. Do not worry if you are already a Candidate and have done the Seminar or Conference, you can fill in those boxes yourself. The JLO may ask to see a copy of this Form when you apply for your practical assessment.

J05 County to Regional Judge Checklist – the same as above but for people going from County to Regional

J05 Regional to National Judge Checklist – the same as above but for people going from Regional to County.

The new forms should be available on the Judges section of the Archery GB website soon (<http://www.archerygb.org/support/operations/judges/index.php>) so please go in and have a look at them all when they are available. If you have any questions on them, please just ask.

7) Bow Scale Calibrations

The National Committee have asked if any technically minded Judges can come up with a better way of calibrating the bow scales. Currently someone either has to lift the 60lb with the scale by hand, or use the cumbersome system with a trolley, hook and lever. The new system has to be safe for someone to use repeatedly (so no manual lifting) and should be compact and portable for when it goes around the country. If anyone has any ideas or would like some more information, then please contact the National Committee directly.

8) Social Media

The rise of Social Media (Facebook, Twitter etc) and Internet Forums has raised some additional issues for Judges with people often turning to these platforms to vent their displeasure at decisions we make. This was discussed at the National Conference and raised some very interesting points –

We should try and post lots of positive images and comments about our Judging days to promote Judging and Judges, maybe there could be a # for it

We cannot stop people posting negative comments. It is good to remember that the post reflects more on the poster than it does on us.

If you ever feel that a post is offensive or inappropriate, make sure you raise it.

Don't comment on posts as they are often not telling the whole story.

It is best not to respond to negative posts in anyway as you will just be drawn in, even if the post was not about you.

Be careful what you post, what you think is an innocent comment to a friend might be misread by others and misinterpreted.

Remember whatever you post is there forever.

When making a decision make sure you explain to the archer(s) why you are doing it, this will hopefully promote understanding and education and stop complaints. Show them the rules in the Rule Book if it helps.

If something does happen at a Tournament which might prompt a complaint make sure you make a note of it on the Record Status Paperwork or raise it with the Target/Field/Judge Committees.

Many Counties and Clubs have Social Media Policies, it is well worth looking at these as they will give advice on what not to post and what to do if someone posts something negative about you.

9) Equipment Inspection

The formal Equipment Inspection has been in place for about a year now, so there was discussion on how we are all finding the change –

Some Judges have had issues with archers saying “that was allowed at such and such a tournament last week” or “the judge last week did not check that”. It is important to remember that if you think something is incorrect you must get the archer to correct it, regardless of what another Judge said. Quite often when archers say that another Judge allowed it they are not necessary telling the whole truth.

Sometimes it is a challenge getting all the Equipment checked in time. Some suggestions were to ask the TO to put something on the Entry Form saying there is Equipment Inspection and reminding people to arrive in good time. Maybe delay the start by a few minutes so you can get the last of the checks done for those who arrive at the last minute. If needed tell the TO that an extra Judge is needed (particularly for Indoor shoots with multiple sessions).

The Archery GB Office is reminding Tournament Organisers that there needs to be an Equipment Inspection when they send out the Record Status Paperwork.

Chair of Judges need to make sure that newer Judges know what to look for, particularly on the more complicated bows such as barebow. This may mean the Chair does not do any inspections and just supervises.

There was much discussion about what to do when a bow is possibly unsafe. It is the archers responsibility to make sure their equipment is safe and well maintained. If we spot something that might be unsafe, such as a circlip missing on a compound, we should point it out, but it is up to the archer whether it is safe to shoot. Equipment Inspection is a service to the archers when we check the equipment meets the Rule of Shooting, not that it is safe to shoot. Obviously if you come across a bow that is completely unsafe to shoot, for example if the handle has a crack in it, then you can stop the archer shooting it.

If someone’s equipment does not meet the rules, but you allow them to shoot, for example if they are wearing blue denim at a RS shoot, then make a note of it, put it in the Record Status Booklet and let the Organiser and Scoring Team know.

10) Clout Equipment

A question was raised about Clout Equipment. A barebow archer weights coming horizontally off the bottom part of the riser, there were 3 weights on each side of the bow, is this allowed? According to the rules weights are allowed on the lower part of the riser as

long as they have no shock absorbing devices, which these did not, however as this is Clout the positioning of the weights could be used for aiming so are not allowed.

This led to a discussion about writing on the bottom limbs and back of the bow for barebows. Multi-coloured risers are allowed, as are trademarks on the inside of the upper limb (this is the same for recurves). The general consensus is that manufacturers marks are okay, but anything else should be taped over, just be careful that when they tape it that they don't make more sighting points for themselves.

11) Flashlight for Line-cutters

A question was raised at the Conference from a Judge who had been told they had not assessed a line cutter Indoors correctly as they had not used a flashlight.

There is absolutely no need to use a flashlight when looking at line-cutters Indoors. If you would like to use a small flashlight Indoors and are confident using it, then please do so, but you do not have to.

But you **MUST** always use a magnifying glass and look at the arrow from both sides and then make your decision.

12) Rules Committee Update

Graham Potts, Chair of the Rules Committee, gave a quick update on what the Rules Committee are hoping to achieve in the next year.

From the 1st April the new procedures regarding registering all ranges and getting dispensation from the Range Assessors comes into force. The Rules Committee is also looking to introduce some rule changes regarding Safety. Rules regarding Safety can come into effect immediately and do not need a consultation period.

They are hoping to change the rules when there are 2 shooting lines running independently of each other, at the moment each shooting line needs its own independent safety area.

They are hoping to reduce this to one safety area between the two lines which will be a roped off "no man's land" which no one can access.

They are also hoping to change the safety areas for Clout archery, which currently is 75 yards in all directions from the flag. They are hoping to use the sideways safety area used in Target archery with the angled line extending out to 30 yards at 180 yards and then a 50 yard safety area beyond the longest flag, and the whole of this area must be visible.

Other changes they are looking at are –

Amending the tolerances on target faces to match the World Archery tolerances

Changing the rules when a change is made to a scoresheet which is not initialled by the Judge – should the archer be disqualified or just loss the value of that arrow

Allow pass throughs Outdoors under the same circumstances as Indoors

PLEASE NOTE – these are only possibilities and are not coming into force at the moment.

13) 3 Spot Scoring

The results of the County re-accreditation showed that a lot of people were still having problems with 3 Spot Scoring. It is worth remembering that the same process is used for scoring multi faces on Field rounds and when mistakes are made on single spot faces. Rob

Potts did a very clear presentation on what to do with some great examples. The presentation can be found in the Conference part of the Judge section of the AGB website soon (<http://www.archerygb.org/5090.php?folderid=2304&includeref=doclist5091>).

14) Marsh and Wells Show

Chris Marsh (Event Director for World Archery) and Chris Wells (Senior Communications Manager for World Archery) gave a very lively and entertaining talk (with flying chocolate) on Judging, in particular the ethos behind judging and how it fits into Archery at ground level and at the top level. The presentation can be found in the Conference part of the Judge section of the AGB website soon (<http://www.archerygb.org/5090.php?folderid=2304&includeref=doclist5091>).

15) Emergency Stops

At the SCAS Judge Conference we discussed Emergency Stops and that many archers did not know what it was or what to do. The National Committee will try to get something put in Archery UK but to ensure the message gets to the archers, please can you remind them of the procedure at Assembly, as they do at Field shoots with the Red Call. If this can be done at lots of tournaments, particularly when we move outdoors, then word should get around most archers. So, if an Emergency Stop is need in the future most archers will know what to do.

16) Future Conferences and JLO Meetings

Moving forward there will be a specific day long JLO Meeting each year for the JLOs and National Committee to meet and go through ideas and changes, rather than just a few hours before the Conference. This will happen in February each year so any new initiatives will be ready to be presented at the National Conference.

In 2018 the National Conference will be held in the SCAS Region. We are currently looking around the Stevenage, Luton, Milton Keynes area so it is accessible for many people. The Conference will be held on Sunday 4th March 2018. If anyone can recommend a venue in that area, please let me know as soon as you can and we will look into it.

17) Important Dates for your Diaries

Just a reminder of some important dates

6th January 2018 – SCAS Judges Conference

20th and 21st January 2018 – Candidate Seminar

3rd March 2018 – Regional Preparation Seminar

4th March 2018 – National Judge Conference in SCAS area

If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me, Graham or Hannah.

Kind regards

Katy Lipscomb