

OLD BASING ARCHERS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20:00, MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2005
PARISH MEETING ROOM, OLD BASING.

Present

Geoff Machin, Steve Learwood, Debbie Campbell, Pete Hebdidge, Harry Holt, John Newman, Robin Foster, David Westbrook, Su Elliot, Terry Cootes, Paul Richards, Julian Ricketts, Robin Coady, Simon Goodwin, Ken Denyer, Chris Mossop (Treasurer), George Matthews (Chair), Andrew Hutchison (Secretary).

Apologies for absence received from: Frank Bell, Kevin Deighton.

1) Matters Arising from 2004 Minutes.

The minutes have been displayed throughout the year in the clubhouse. Matters arising: None.

2) Adoption of Minutes.

Adopting the minutes was proposed by George Matthews and seconded by Terry Cootes.

3) Chairman's Report

Good evening and thanks for turning up for the AGM.

From all points of view 2004 has continue to build on our success of 2003. Our membership continues to rise and at 59 must be one of the highest ever, certainly the highest I know off. Also our finances are in a good state, with £2.5K more in the bank.

The beginners from 2003 and 04 are setting in well and improving. We can look forward to fielding a strong team for the various summer shoots. One of the first jobs for the new committee is to set the dates for shoots so everybody can set out their year's calendar.

Our principal shoots still continue to be the FITA Star and the Siege. The FITA continues to be a major source of income for the club and the Siege is established as an enjoyable shoot. At present we continue to make the Siege invitation only, with refreshment provided at the club expense, however the income from the raffle means it breaks even.

As last year we have three coaches Terry, Mike and Andrew. Although we have not seen much of Mike lately he says he will be around more this year and also intends to go for County Coach status, which is very good for him and the club. Particularly as I believe Terry intends to surrender his County status and is looking for his continuing challenge in coaching Old Basing Archers.

As I mentioned we have held some enjoyable "Have a Goes"; the OB Carnival, a garden party at Pamber House, and the NT Vine House apple day. Although they are not major fundraisers, they do give a lot of enjoyment and raise our profile in the local environment.

So everything is looking rosy? Well not quite. Our success in attracting more members brings its own problems, especially when they all turn out on a nice sunny summer morning (a dim memory at the present). We can, and have solved it to some extent by extending the shooting line, but there are bound to be times when numbers will have to be limited. An example is Sunday afternoons, when the cricketers are playing and our shooting line has to be limited at the cricket boundary line. The problem is likely to get worse. Andrew will report we have a large number of people waiting for the beginner's course and I'm sure we will pick up some new members. So do we set a limit on the membership numbers? Or do we try and manage it? I would prefer to try to manage it, but would be interested in your comments when we open the meeting up. Certainly it's possible to absorb more on Saturday and Sunday mornings but we would need to be stricter and better managed.

The Clubhouse also needs some TLC, I did mention this last year. It certainly needs a clean up but with the weather lately it would be pointless, as a new layer of mud seems to be added every weekend. The state of the ground and the shooting line hasn't helped. The Parish Council had told us that drainage work and rebuilding the Groundsman's workshop would help solve some of the problem but so far it hasn't gone to schedule. We do need to make some positive progress on these problems this year and the fact we are in a good financial situation will help.

G E Matthews

Matters arising from the Chairman's report:

Harry Holt supported the view that additional numbers should be managed rather than constrained and pointed out that a stricter approach to timekeeping would be necessary.

4) Secretary's Report

Under increasing pressure from both work and home, I'm obliged to make this my third and, for the moment, final report as Secretary. To encourage applications I'm going to divide this report into three areas, each of which could then be taken on by a different person to help the club to thrive.

The formal role of the secretary is to be the contact with GNAS, mainly the task of renewing memberships; liase with the Parish Council and to minute the committee meetings/AGM etc. This year I completed the forms to renew 29 members and enrol 24 more. With 16 members not renewing and 4 joining with GNAS fees already paid, we now have 59 members (1 life president, 2 honorary members, 44 adults and 12 juniors).

I've attended a couple of the Parish Recreation Committee meetings to find out more about their plans to rebuild their tractor shed, improve drainage and establish new charging regimes for clubs using the rec. Most of these plans are taking longer to materialise than at first suggested, but more of this later in the meeting. I also undertook a risk assessment and completed a quality of service questionnaire for the Parish.

As tournament/events secretary I arranged for OBA to attend a friendly match with Bowmen of Burleigh, participate in a Parish Sports Day, demonstrate longbows to the Trollope society and run have-a-go sessions for the Parish Fair and National Trust. We have Dave Westbrook to thank for making two of those events possible by transporting targets to them. In addition I also persuaded over 30 archers from other clubs to join us for the Siege shoot and cooked all of you your bacon and sausages that day.

As beginner's course organiser I arranged a waiting list of about 50 people into 3 courses, phoning them up to fix dates and sending out course information. I also printed over 30 handouts and certificates. Of the 33 who took the course, 10 joined afterwards. This year the waiting list has 35 names on it, more than at the time of the last AGM, with enquiries regularly coming through the website.

This all adds up to a busy year for me and I'm aware that I've struggled to keep on top of it all and provide a proper service. I shall be here to make an orderly handover to my successor, or successors, and to assist with the beginners when I can.

Andrew Hutchison.

Matters arising from the Secretary's report:

Geoff Machin proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew for his contribution as secretary, with approval from the meeting.

5) Treasurer's Report.

Income for 2004 came from the same 3 sources as in previous years: Membership, Beginners and the AndOBA FITA.

Membership:	£4684.36
AndOBA FITA:	£1200
Beginners:	£925.00

A new source of income for 2004 was from the ANDOBA Junior FITA that generated £250. Thanks to all who helped with both FITA events as these generated significant revenue for us.

Thanks should also go to Andrew Hutchison, Mike Ayling and Terry Cootes and everyone who helped for their efforts in guiding the potential archers through their courses, with the significant revenue that generated.

Membership in 2004 stood at 59 shooting members; of whom 27 were new in 2004 and we had 3 members return from their inaugural year. Hopefully we shall see a number of these new archers return in 2005.

The three most significant expenses in 2004 were GNAS, Equipment and Insurance:

GNAS/SCAS/HAA	£1585.50
Insurance	£785.78
Equipment	£573.03

Other Expenses are high this year as there are a number of unusual expenses, for example fire extinguisher & alarms in order to comply with the risk assessment the Parish Council requested.

A number of Cheques were issued to the Chairman which the Treasurer has not yet received payment details. I would like to remind everyone to make sure receipts back up all expense claims and these are handed (or posted) to the Treasurer, as this makes it very difficult to account for monies otherwise.

It was nice to see that in 2004 we were able to generate a profit and whilst this not the primary objective of the club, it will stand us in good stead for any lean years to come.

Finally thanks should go to Steve Learwood for assisting with the accounts this year.

Chris Massop

Matters arising from the Treasurer's report:

Chris recommended that the club fees remain at the same level as 2004, but George asked that the matter of fees be deferred until later in the meeting.

Andrew asked about the overall reserves of the club; Chris replied that they stood at about £8,000.

It was pointed out that spending on equipment had been low this year, with only a few new bosses being purchased. The general condition of bosses was discussed with a request for a second compound stand to allow soft bosses to be used for longer. The possibility of using replacement centres to repair faces was also raised, as was the need for new centres for the indoor targets. The committee to take these items into consideration when planning equipment expenditure.

The meeting then adopted the accounts.

6) Record Officer's Report.

This report covers the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2004.

The number of scores submitted was 1,617, an increase of 428 on last year and continuing the upward trend of the last three years. Harry Holt managed to fit in 89 rounds but several other members spent a lot of time at the rec!

The following members improved their handicap by more than two points during the year:

Archer	Start h/c	End h/c	Improvement
Julian Ricketts CP	52	35	17
Ken Denyer CP	46	37	9
Rachael Hutchison	58	51	7
Harry Holt	48	41	7
Paul Richards	29	23	6
Steve Learwood	38	32	6
Debbie Campbell	51	45	6
David Bell	77	72	5
Chris Wannell	77	73	4
Andrew Hutchison I/b	66	63	3

The GNAS improvement medal goes to Julian Ricketts.

2004 saw fewer new records from the previous year, 45 in total. The following archers broke records: Jonathan Youll, David Bell, Andrew Bell, Paul Richards, Robin Foster, Chris Plumber, Julian

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Ricketts, Steve Learwood, Pete Hebdidge, Robin Coady, Frances Ayling, Rachael Hutchison, Stephanie Westbrook, Su Elliot, Kate Youll.

Some of these were for adults shooting junior rounds.
Please see the updated records sheets in the clubhouse.

Classification Badges

These are given for improvement during the year, based on start of year handicaps.

Bowman: Paul Richards, Steve Learwood

1st Class: David Bell, Debbie Campbell, Jonathan Youll, Julian Ricketts CP, Maizie Westbrook, Sue Deighton.

2nd Class: Simon Goodwin, Andrew Bell, Dave Westbrook, Derek Mitchell, Elaine Mitchell, Jennifer Deighton, Mark Gales, Richard Hutchison.

3rd Class: Chris Plumber CP, Chris Wannell, Jack Stiles, Jeff Epton, Kate Youll, Robin Coady.

Su Elliot

Matters arising from the Record Officer's report:

Julian Ricketts received the GNAS Handicap Improvers Medal and was reminded of the GNAS rule that stipulates it must be worn whenever shooting.

7) Election of Officers.

George Matthews announced that he was standing for the last time as Chairman, a role he has had for 5 out of his 10 years at the club.

Chris Mossop stood down as Treasurer, as announced last year. George proposed Stephen Learwood as Treasurer, seconded by Geoff Machin and approved by the meeting.

Andrew Hutchison stood down as Secretary and, with no prior volunteers, George canvassed the meeting for a replacement. Paul Richards put himself forward to the approval of the meeting. George also obtained three other volunteers to join the committee; Julian Ricketts, Simon Goodwin and John Newman.

The rest of the committee were content to stand again in the coming year.

The committee was therefore unanimously re-elected for the coming year as George Matthews (Chairman), Stephen Learwood (Treasurer), Paul Richards (Secretary), Su Elliott (Records Officer), Mike Ayling (Child Protection Officer), Terry Cootes, Kevin Deighton, Geoff Machin, Robin Foster, Julian Ricketts, Simon Goodwin and John Newman.

8) Approval of Club Fees

Before considering the level of fees for the club, George called on Terry Cootes to outline discussions with the Parish Council that could have a bearing on expenditure in the coming year.

Terry gave an account of a recent meeting with the Recreation Committee. Shooting line refurbishment was discussed. No hardstanding is possible because of the proximity to the football pitch, rolling out a surface would prove difficult because of the weight of the material and it rapidly becoming muddy. Returfing of our shooting line is a possibility that the groundsman is investigating. We have discussed moving our shooting line during the summer to give the grass a rest or turf time to settle in, this is acceptable when the cricketers are not playing.

The Parish have plans to demolish the groundsman's tractor shed, building a new shed with the same footprint. In doing so access for the tractor will be moved, taking it away from our line and waiting area so reducing the damage. The new shed will have a water supply, so we have requested that it be extended to our clubhouse with some simple drainage to allow washing up to be done.

Terry also proposed to the Council that a storage facility be reinstated between the groundsman's shed and our building. It would be of a triangular shape and provide storage for additional bosses, stands and our trolleys, reducing the congestion in the clubhouse. The Parish have asked for sketches of what could be proposed and an indication of the funds available from the club to get it built.

George proposed that there be no change to the club fees for this year, but if the plans warrant it an EGM could be held to revise this position. Geoff seconded this proposal. George asked for suggestions from the membership on ways of raising funding for any developments.

9) Adoption of Revised Constitution

Andrew summarised the changes to the revised constitution, circulated to the membership with the AGM Calling notice. It is essentially a tidying up of the rules to incorporate the latest requirements from GNAS, sort out terminology and align with examples from other clubs.

No comments were received prior to the meeting. Harry Holt queried the inclusion of Non Shooting Associate members in points 4 and 13, there having been no such members in recent times. The meeting agreed that such a category was unnecessary and should be removed.

The revised constitution was unanimously accepted by the meeting on provision that the wording of clauses 4 and 13 be modified to remove this membership category.

10) Presentation of FITA Accounts

Geoff reported on the continuing success of the AndOBA Fita and, this year only, the Junior Nationals. GNAS are keen to see the Junior Nationals repeated at Andover again soon, but the view is we should not take it again for several years.

The question over OBA members shooting at the event should be resolved this year, with a proposed buddy system. By pairing off over the two days, an archer may shoot one day and help the other. If their buddy does not turn up to help the archer must stand down from the competition and help instead. This should ensure the right level of support while allowing participation on one day.

Geoff thanked all of the members who contributed to the two events this year.

Matters arising from the Geoff's report: None.

11) Club Logo and GNAS Club Colour Scheme

George asked the meeting whether the club should join the latest GNAS scheme to register club colours. There was some interest but also a concern that specialised clothing could prove expensive. It was pointed out that members progressing to competitive archery often had to buy white or green clothing anyway. The meeting decided that the committee should consider the GNAS rules and propose something suitable, for registration this year and use the following year.

The club logo was also reviewed, the words "Nota Bene" stand out more than the "O.B.A" which is itself an acronym rather than the club name. The use of gold in the colour scheme makes it a difficult badge to reproduce in stitching. Nobody at the meeting felt they had the graphics skills to design a new one, but Simon Godwin was willing to ask a friend for advice and relay this to the committee.

12) Alençon Exchange Visit

George described the twinning arrangement with Alençon and asked for an indication of interest from the meeting. This year OBA will be

visiting Alençon and the council is likely to contribute to our travelling expenses, as they are not arranging a full exchange this year. Robin will call for further interest in the newsletter.

13) AOB

Geoff mentioned the Hampshire Archery Association AGM, taking place on Thursday 10th March at Andover. Geoff is willing to be the Hampshire contact for the club, but can't make it to this meeting. He felt it was important that NE Hampshire had good representation. Terry Cootes and Paul Richards volunteered to attend for OBA.

Terry Cootes reinforced earlier comments about making a timely arrival for shooting, particularly on busy days. The Newsletter should carry a regular reminder about this basic rule.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21:40 hrs.

Andrew Hutchison, Outgoing Secretary OBA.