



AGM Report 2023

Chairman's Report

First of all, let me start by saying that I hope everyone is well and has been keeping safe, as Covid continues to be part of our lives, and it appears to be rearing its head again – I know a few people who have been down with it recently.

We will continue trying to “live life as normal”, though if official guidelines change, we will need to adapt accordingly.

As I am sure most of you are aware, we sadly lost Trevor Sidaway who passed away suddenly earlier this year. On behalf of the Club, we made a donation to his charity, and passed on condolences to his family on behalf of us all.

On a brighter note, we successfully ran a Beginners course this year (7 trainees) which led to some new members, and are currently running a second (6 trainees) – as well as gaining us new members, these are an excellent source of revenue for the Club and help keep our annual fees down.

We also rebuilt the steps that make up our shooting line this year (already seems like ages ago!). This was a significant effort, so I'd like to thank everyone involved in this.

Financially, we are in a healthy position. We have always tried to keep a reasonable amount of cash in the bank to “self-insure” us against unforeseen events, and this helped us during the past few years.

We have decided to keep our various charges (membership + lessons) at the same level this year, as we do not see any need to increase these at this point.

We have decided to stick with the plan for our 5 year objective to re-grow the club membership. I believe this will be a significant challenge but one that we should attempt – with that in mind, if you have any ideas for helping grow the club beyond what we are doing, and/or for improving membership retention, please don't hesitate to come forward with them.

With life more or less back to normal now, we are more likely to be on hand to help with anyone that needs assistance or coaching – please let us know if you want any help (whether it is remembering how to string the bow after a long time away, or something a bit more technical!). It is hard to judge whether someone muttering to themselves is a general mutter, or if frustrations are rising and rising... (and as a keen “mutterer” myself, I am as guilty of this as anyone). Please ask for help rather than suffer in (relative) silence!

Archery is very simple – we just make it look very hard at times – there can be many things that explain what could be going wrong (from issues with form, release, stance

through to equipment problems, clickers, wrong arrows, etc). And these can be hard to spot by yourself. If you want to, we can always arrange a separate coaching session outside of the normal club shoots – especially as sometimes it is easier in a one-to-one session to diagnose what is or isn't working. But please ask.....

At this point, we are currently without a Secretary or Treasurer. If any of you are interested in joining the Committee and taking on either of these roles, please let me know. (note: we have been coping without having any actual committee meetings since the start of Covid, as most issues can be discussed at the range...!)

On a final note, I just want to take this opportunity to welcome Dan Martin as the new Beversbrook manager. He has faced a significant task in getting Beversbrook back to running on an even keel, as the Council has had a high staff turnover in the last 18 months. But he seems to have got things under control now, and we've had conversations recently about how they can help promote the club and so on. So we are looking forward to working with him.

Treasurers' Report

2022/23 was a good year for the Club financially as we have rebuilt the finances a little, even with the costs of renovating the shooting line.

However, we are still looking for someone to audit the last couple of years accounts, so the figures in the slides are provisional only.

(if you are willing to do this, or know someone who will volunteer, please let me know!)

Membership Secretaries Report

As the slides show, the membership has fallen slightly in the last year, though in general the members we have lost are those who rarely shot, and the majority of the current membership shoot pretty regularly (we will have to wait and see if we get any new members from the second course).

We will look to hold open days (have-a-go) in Spring 2024, with a Beginners course shortly afterwards.

Proposed Annual Fees

The Committee is proposing to keep both the annual membership fees and the lesson fees unchanged. Please email calnearchers@gmail.com with your vote whether to approve or reject this proposal.

Target Days and Club Competition

In 2022, we introduced a new award scheme (the Archery GB Award scheme) to allow people an alternative to the 252 scheme (the new scheme used 80cm targets and a different scoring model). This has proved successful, and is now part of our progression path for new archers in particular, alongside the 252 scheme.

The big change over the next year will be in the Archery GB Classifications (Bowman, 1st, 2nd, 3rd classes) as Archery GB have re-worked the grades, and the scores needed to achieve these.

Classification changes

The use of these classifications will start at our club on 1st January 2024.

The reset process to the new scheme is that everyone loses their classifications and handicap scores and has to regain them against the new scheme. Only "masters" get to retain their grades for tournaments this year.

The major changes are as follows:

- 1) there are now over 50s, adult, under 21, under 18, under 16 , under 15, under 14, under 12 for Men/Women.
- 2) there are now 9 grades. Archer 3rd class, Archer 2nd Class, Archer 1st class, Bowman 3rd class, Bowman 2nd Class, Bowman 1st Class all administered at club level. Also Master Bowman, Grand Master Bowman and Elite Master Bowman claimed from Archery GB at record status competitions. The Bowman badges are meant to be done at club Competitive events.
- 3) initial classifications can be achieved at shorter distances (30m) and with lower scores. The aim being that all club members can get to at least Archer 3rd class in a couple years.
- 4) you only need to shoot two rounds to achieve an Archer level grade. But still three rounds to achieve a Bowman grade.
- 5) some metric rounds at 50m distance now use a 122cm face. But some also use 80cm.
- 6) there are a number of new metric rounds added to support grades at shorter distances.

If you want any more information on this, please don't hesitate to ask Steve....

As a consequence, we are deferring the 2024 Handicap league until the following year – to give us all time to get used to the new classifications and it's impact on handicaps. We all start from no handicap and scores in early part of the year are always much lower due to wind and rain so this will lead to very high handicap scores as we all settle in to the new system. Deferring the league until 2025 will allow us all to get handicaps established before we start the league anew.

People can still shoot their rounds and email the scores through to Steve to process. As the use of electronic scores proved so successful over the Covid restrictions, as you are all aware, we have continued with this method, and this is now the preferred option.

Election of Club Officers

The Committee is standing for election again unchanged. Please send an email to calnearchers@gmail.com to vote either in favour or against.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, please let me know.

Club Etiquette

Just a reminder, it is essential that we all pay close attention to the whistles, and ensure we are behind the waiting line when not shooting, etc, and that everyone helps keep an eye out for possible dangers – remember, anyone can shout “Hold Fast”, not just the Line Marshall. We had a couple of instances last year with footballers coming onto the range to collect footballs – and with the football season upon us again, we will all need to be a little more vigilant. Please be aware of this when shooting and make sure you do NOT shoot if anyone is on the range – all normal range rules apply.

It is vital that people count their arrows and ensure they do not leave an arrow on the range – please make sure you know how many arrows you are shooting (try to avoid carrying unused arrows in your quiver). I cannot stress enough how important this is, as it is essential that we do not leave arrows up on the range.

Also, as a top tip, if you have lost an arrow, let people know before everyone walks back to the shooting line – that way you’ll get more people helping you quicker...

AOB/Questions

The Committee try hard to meet what we think are the members requirements. But it is only our view. If people have suggestions, questions or ideas, PLEASE let us know.