

# Minutes of the 45th NFAS Annual General Meeting

25th November 2017

Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall, Sherridge Rd, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcester, WR13 5DE

**1. Attendance:**

29 Full NFAS Members and 8 Members of the Committee

**2. Apologies:**

18 Members sent their apologies (See Appendix)

**3. Approval of the minutes from the 44th AGM.**

Approved by Bernie Britton and Seconded by Malcolm Arnott

**4. Matters arising from 44th AGM**

No matters reported

**5. Officers Reports**

President Report (*language deemed not suitable to print has been edited*)

Well today is my final day as NFAS President, and what a three years it has been.

When I took on the task I was told by a fellow Committee member that I would see some of the members in a whole different light. Being the naive person that I was then I said I doubt it.

But after three years of dealing with playground paddies, dummy spitting, toy throwing, and various levels of c\*\*p I can only admit he was right..... but thankfully that was only 1% of the members....

The remaining 99% are wonderful, caring, fun loving fellow archers who go out at the weekends to enjoy what is actually our hobby. To all of you that have supported me, helped me encouraged me and welcomed me when I have visited your shoot I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

On my "official" presidential tour I did not manage to make it to all the clubs that put on shoots but the handful that I have left to get to ..... i will get there as i continue my "unofficial" tour.

To all those on the committee who have been my friend and helped me through some bad times I thank you so very much.

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I look forward to meeting new friends and catching up with old ones, so all I have to say is when you go to archery stay safe, be good and have fun, but most of all LET EVERYONE ELSE HAVE FUN TOO.

### **General Secretary Report**

Thank you to all for coming to the AGM. This is the one time in the year that members can meet with the entire Committee to discuss the running of the society and talk over any issues they have, it is great to see members here for that.

This is the end of my first full year as General Secretary and I want to say that it has been a fantastic experience. When you take on a Committee role, you can't really know what it will be like. You can make your own enquiries but until you jump in, you never really know. There have been two great experiences for me as part of the NFAS, the first was laying a Champs course, and the second was joining the Committee. It is great to be able to give something back, but also in this position, I've met more members in my time as General Secretary than I have in my 10+ years as a member of the society. One thing that has really been obvious to me is how many members do appreciate the work the Committee and other volunteers put in to the running of the society and its events. I have lost count of the number of times I have been thanked by the members for the work we do, I can assure you it is appreciated.

Over the last two years we have had two long standing members of the committee stand down and are being replaced by members new to the roles. Both Richard and Mike have offered their help and support to the new members with their roles as and when required, I would like to take this opportunity thank them both for this generous offer.

We are still looking for a Newsletter Editor, if anyone feels they can do this then please contact me. Currently Trish has been gathering all the information to send to the printers to compile each edition, which is costing us extra money. It would be great if we could go back to having a committee member do this.

I think this is all I have to say for now. I'd like to say again, a big thank you to all of the Committee for their help over the year, a bigger thank you to Trish, Richard, Larry for who this is their last day as a part of the Committee and finally, to give a warm welcome Paul Harding, Paul and Juliet Harrison and Harry Boyce to the Committee.

### **Treasurers Report**

As you all know, Mike Cobban stood down as treasurer at the last AGM. As nobody came forward, I agreed to care take the position until a suitable replacement for Mike could be found. I am pleased to say that the position has now been filled. However, I will be presenting the financial report for 2016 – 2017 as I prepared the original figures.

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Our detailed report and accounts were printed in the September/October Newsletter, pages 5/10.

I will keep this brief and will only mention the significant figures, as once again we have had a successful year. For ease of understanding, all figures have been rounded. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding the reports.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2017 – The accumulated funds, which are what we are worth, have increased to £188k an increase of £26k. Net fixed assets (What we own) are £28k after depreciation. During the year we bought £3,600 of new assets including new 3D targets, new laptop and printer for Nationals Admin, new laptops for General Secretary, Field Officer and Safety Advisor. New chronographs for our championships and miscellaneous items for the National Championships. In the banks we had £221,600k which after paying outstanding bills and not counting advanced income for the next year would leave us with a liquidity position of £148k up £32k on last year.

Profit & Loss for the year ending 31st March 2017 – We achieved a surplus of £26k despite the two champs combined losses of £16.5k. Membership increased yet again up to £107k, a slight increase on last year by £2k

Membership fees will remain the same for 2017 – 2018.

The comparative figures between this year and last year are in the reports.

I would just like to wish our new treasurer Paul Harding a successful term in office.

### **Membership Secretary Report**

Welcome one and all. As you will be aware this will be the last time you will see me sat at the front at an AGM, and may possibly be the last time some of you will ever see me. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the new membership secretary Paul Harrison and in the newly appointed position of assistant membership secretary Juliet Harrison, Paul's wife. Paul will be the main contact who's details you may now be aware of, if you are not there are some new membership forms ( but not for next years renewals yet ) on the table you signed in at as you entered. Please note the new phone number, the one I use is my own and will be going with me, the email address will however remain the same. Over the past 8 years of my input to the society the membership has steadily grown year upon year, to a stage where it isn't a position that one person who has full time employment can easily do, plus I also assisted to set up and run 16 Championship events (which isn't part of the role), Quick fact point in 8 years I will have processed, enveloped up and posted approximately 45,000 items of mail. The past few years as memberships have topped 6,000 I have in effect from Jan 1st to approximately the

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middle of April been working 7 days a week, 5 for my employer and two for the NFAS processing memberships. Paul and his wife Juliet have taken the post jointly which hopefully should aid in the lightening of the workload.

I would like to thank all committee members past and present for their commitment and help and a special mention goes to Nigel Bell, who has provided me with much amusement and assistance over the years and on the odd occasion been a guiding light as the fog of despair has fallen.

So to sign off I will say a big thank you to all the members that have been polite over the years, even a little thank you can go a long way, and to those that have wronged me or tried to pull me down all I will say is the chains of office are now off. I wish the good ship NFAS calm seas and fair wind to sail her by, and hope those that try and rock the boat fall overboard.

***Lewis Chuck proposed a vote of thanks to Richard fall all his efforts bringing the society membership forward to where it is today.***

### **Safety Advisors Report**

The champs went off without a hitch thanks to the combined efforts of a great team. The only major incidents were an episode where a gentleman had to leave the course on day 1 after the hot weather, combined with his medication, made him ill. There was also a lady who fractured her ankle when her foot “turned” on a tree root. This emphasises what I say about footwear. I don’t care where it comes from, Pàramo or Aldi, but please, please make sure it’s up to the job.

The nationals as far as I have been told, went off very well. Unfortunately I was unable to attend due to family commitments but I have heard nothing untoward. I would like to say a huge thank you and well done to all the teams involved.

I would like to congratulate a couple of clubs this year. I won’t name names and embarrass anyone but these clubs have had the guts to cancel shoots, either because of the lousy weather or for other reasons beyond their control. One of these clubs has only a small membership and could do without missing the revenue in all honesty but they still felt that as their woods were still very wet and very slippery underfoot; it would not be safe for archers to attend an upcoming shoot and so they cancelled it in plenty of time. This was not only brave but also prevented archers from travelling what is often a great distance only to be disappointed. Well done.

I would say to other clubs, if you are in any doubt as to whether or not you should cancel the shoot, don’t be worried about archers having a go at you. 90% will agree that safety comes first. The other 10% aren’t worth worrying about!

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I would also like to mention that at least one club I know of has made a somewhat controversial decision with regard to some compound bow shooters. If you are found to have to raise the bow to come over the cam and your release aid fails sending an arrow way over yonder, you will not be allowed back to the club. The reasoning is that the release is part of your equipment and therefore your responsibility to maintain. If your release fails and ploughs your arrow into the ground, that's fine. If it fails and sends an arrow off into the wide blue yonder because just for a split second, you high draw to get over the cam, that is not.

Regard to health & safety matters. I would remind clubs too that I am happy to give advice to anyone with regard to health & safety matters. I am the NFAS all year round, not just for the champs. If you are concerned, worried or just stuck on something, email me, phone me and leave a message, send a pigeon. I don't care. Ask. That's what I'm here for.

### **Field Officers Report**

***Larry was unable to attend the AGM, so his report was read out by the President in his absence.***

*"I would like to thank Osmaston Park and Usk Castle for their help and assistance at this year's 3D & National Championships – Also a huge thank you to Harry Boyce, Rob Jones and Chris Holland and their teams, Hawk Archers, Mark Brookes & Marc Thompson and their team for laying all the courses this year. Both events on the whole were yet again a success. Well done to all the competitors who came along and shot them & to the medal winners.*

*Stocktake for the 3D's is still to be taken, but we have in total 164 3D Targets which are all in good condition. There will be no 3D targets for auction this year.*

*Stocktake for the Nationals has been taken, we auctioned off 4 bosses at the Champs this year, and these will be replaced for next year. So we will still have 80 bosses to cover the 2 courses. There is then 7 bosses available for the Practice range, and a few spares in case of emergencies.*

*I will be stepping down this year from been the Field Officer for this brilliant society, starting at Catton in 2014, I hope that I've delivered the membership 7 great Championships, I thank you all for intrusting me with the responsibility of finding suitable grounds, and clubs/teams to lay the courses. I have enjoyed my time been the Field Officer, and I wish Tony Burt all the best when he takes over from me, like I was told from a previous FO, Tony my phone is always on if ever you need anything.*

*That's about it from me, all I will say now is, THANKYOU and I will see you out on a shoot somewhere soon.*

*Thanks*

*Larry Hood NFAS Field Officer"*

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*Rob Jones proposed a vote of thanks to Larry for all the hard work and dedication to delivering seven NFAS Championships.*

## **Coach Trainer Report.**

Stan Bartoz was unable to attend the AGM and there was no report to read out.

## **DBS Officers Report.**

There have not been any changes to the DBS legislation in the past year. However, members are now able to sign up for the DBS update service. This service is an online service and free to volunteers, but does require renewal every year. Presentation of documents is not required each year.

## **How to register**

If you've not yet applied for a DBS check, you can register for the update service using your application reference number (the 'form ref' on your application form). DBS must receive your application form within 28 days.

If you've already applied, you can register for the update service using your DBS certificate number. You must do this within 30 days of your DBS disclosure being issued.

Each time a member renews they must inform the NFAS DBS Administrator and provide their Disclosure number.

I will write an article for the newsletter sometime in the near future.

## **Sign Off Authority**

Sign off Authority was introduced in 2014 to protect the children and vulnerable adults in our society and since it was introduced 90 members have signed up to the scheme.

New members can only be coached and signed off by an NFAS Coach, Sign Off Authority or Assistant Coach when a Coach is not available through sickness etc.

The Sign Off Authority is valid 3 years from the date of signees DBS certificate.

Clubs that do not have an NFAS Coach are allowed one sign Off Authority FOC for the first three years. Additional SOA's and renewals are charged at £25.00 per member.

## **Shoot Dates Report**

This is the 16th year that I have been the NFAS Shoots dates organiser, but it was a year that I

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had to hand the job over temporarily for three months from May due to the major surgery that I had at the Royal Derby hospital. I am happy to say that I now feel fully recovered and have taken on my roll again since August. I should like to thank our outgoing President Trish and Jo our web master for standing in for the months that I was unable to fulfil my roll.

We did experience a few hiccups primarily because the printers of the magazine used an old contact list instead of the latest version which meant quite a few clubs had their contact printed incorrectly, however I hope this has now been rectified and that the next magazine will be correct and up to date. It has not helped that we have not had a Newsletter editor for some considerable time.

I should like to thank club secretaries for helping me to try and stop geographical clashes for open shoots. I do inform clubs if another in their area is holding an open shoot the same day, but I also need input for the areas of the country that I do not know.

Unfortunately, due to my operation I missed both the 3D Champs and the Nationals this year, this being the first ones that I have missed since 1995.

I look forward to serving the NFAS for another, hopefully unbroken year in 2018.#

### **Supplies Officer Report**

Tony Burt gave a brief overview of how the NFAS shop works. He mentioned that due to the low number of orders over the year, the method set up for ordering online was working very well for him and meant it doesn't require him holding vast quantities of stock.

### **Webmaster**

Jo Cane could not make the AGM, Jo was due to attend but had to cancel last minute so didn't manage to get a report to be read out.

## **6. Election of Officers**

This year there were three new officers coming on to the Committee.

Harry Boyce was welcomed as President, Paul and Juliet Harrison as Membership Secretary and Tony Burt who was taking on the role of Field Officer while continuing with his existing position as Supplies Officer.

Trish welcomed all four of them to the Committee once the AGM was finished and wished them all the best of luck for the future.

## **7. Proposals**

An explanation was given to the room regarding the proposals The Committee had put forward for changes to the Rule Book. It was explained that there was a reprint due so all these

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changes, if passed, would be in time for the reprint. It was explained that with the exception of Motion C, all the proposed changes would not change the intent of any rule. Motion C was a necessary change to keep our rules in line with the current sign off procedures.

The room was asked if there were any queries, none came forward so Motions A to E were passed to go to vote.

Motion F. Bradley Hunt introduced his proposal to the room. As the initial proposal was not clear and robust enough to go forward for voting, Bradley had brought a revised version which had been put together from discussions on social media.

*“A bow of any draw-weight, but not a compound bow or crossbow, may be used. The bow may be of one-piece construction, or a 2 or 3-piece takedown. The Arrow must be shot from the bow shelf or hand, no sight, rest, or button of any description can be used. Only one nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow). No other knots or attachments in addition to the string serving (excluding silencers), that could be used for sighting or location purposes, are allowed. One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot with the index finger on the nock, be it split finger or 3 under or thumb loose. Face walking and string walking are not permitted. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted. No external stabilisers are allowed (this does not include bow quivers that attach to the side of the riser, be it by bolts or limb grippers). No form of release aid is permitted. No deliberate marks can be added to the bow or arrow that can be used for aiming. Arrows shafts must be of non-wooden and non-bamboo materials, fletched with natural feather. The handle may incorporate a cut-away of any depth to provide an arrow-shelf. The shelf, and where the shelf meets the inside of the sight window, may have a protective cover, for example, felt, fur, feather etc. Olympic recurves that have been altered to shoot from the shelf are permitted, but all attachments such as clicker screws and additional bolts/screws that are not required MUST be removed.”*

Trish asked the room for any questions.

Harry Boyce (Nemesis) Asked if they were looking to allow internal stabilisation, such as lead in the riser.

Bradley replied that they had discussed whether to exclude this in the rules, but they discounted it as it was impossible to prove without a metal detector or destroying the bow.

Andrew Booth (Safety Advisor) questioned that by allowing Bow Quivers, that this is allowing a form of external stabilisation.

Bradley and Harry both replied that they don't act as much of a stabiliser due to the weight being on one side but that they do provide some form of shock reduction. Bradley went on to

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say that if it is allowed, anyone can use one so there is no advantage.

Rob Jones (Briar Rose) added that HT are allowed Bow Quivers, so if they were disallowed than it would bring questions to this class also.

Bryan Piper (Fleet Ibex) questioned the name given to the style and that it doesn't fit.

Malcolm Arnott (General Secretary) said that this is common amongst most of the styles in NFAS. Unlimited has restrictions, Barebow allow rests and stabilisers.

Mark Barnett (Westcott) said that aluminium arrows were introduced in the 40s and hunters such as Howard Hill used aluminium arrows, as well as wooden ones, for hunting. HT could be shot using modern materials in bows and arrows so the argument that it is not "Traditional" is wrong.

Harry Boyce recommended that the rule should exclude both internal and external stabilisation.

Bradley agreed to this.

There were no more questions or reasons for it not to go to vote, so Motion F was passed for voting.

### 8. AOB

- Mark Barnett opened by offering himself to take on the Newsletter Editors role. As this role is currently vacant, it was accepted. Mark said that he is currently moving to a new house so he would not be able to do anything for the Jan/Feb issue, but that he would take over in the new year.
- Paul Provins (Hartspring) raised the subject of how we handle marshalling at events. Paul gave examples of the various incidents he has witnessed and had to deal with when marshalling. Paul explained that although he has no problem with challenging archers when he feels the need to, he is fully aware that there are people who find this difficult either because of their confidence or experience.

Paul asked if there could be a better procedure for marshals which would remove the confrontation such as a record which could be passed to the Committee to deal with.

Bernie Britton (DBS Administrator) suggested that this is something which could be included into the coaching course.

Sally Cammann (Tavistock) suggested creating some sort of guidance note for marshals.

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- Ru Lochlea (Lakeland) on the subject of marshalling asked if there could be a fee for people who give up their time to marshal at Champs events, this might encourage more people to come forward to assist.

Bernie Britton said that if the club laying the course is asking for marshals, then any fee should come from the course laying fee given to that club. However, if the Committee ask for help with any of the events, then some form of compensation should be available.

Harry Boyce said that the role of “volunteer” has changed over the years, should the committee discuss what we expect of a marshal.

Richard Dobson (Membership Secretary) suggested an addition to the club pack.

Rob Jones said how it can be intimidation to question a rule infringement and agreed that having some sort of guidance would be a benefit.

Terri Boyce (Nemesis) agreed that guidance would be a good way forward but it also needed pointing out to archers that marshals aren't just there to look for arrows etc.

Rob Jones added that there is a discrepancy between the standards of how people shoot at club level compared to at a champs and that the rules are often more lax at a club shoot.

Paul Harrison (Toad Hollow) mentioned an incident abuse to a marshal at the SW Challenge where this person was allowed to shoot at the Nationals

Trish Jones (President) said that there had been a miscommunication regarding this which is why it was not dealt with and apologised for that.

Paul continued and suggested that these incidents should be reported to the members namelessly.

Richard Dobson stated that we could not stop people from entering shoots without giving their names.

Stuart Dingley (North Somerset FA) suggested these people are given a temporary suspension, card removed, while under investigation so that they can't shoot.

Andrew Booth added that this could fail because there are still clubs not asking to see membership cards.

Lewis Chuck (Duvette) said that this must be stopped, it has been in place for a number of years now, there is no reason for clubs not to be asking to see archers membership cards.

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Bernie Britton added that there are potential insurance issues with this if people don't comply.

- Rob Jones asked the Treasurer is there was any limit to the number of back stop nets the society has available at the champs and if not, could we order some more? Rob mentioned that when they layed a course for the 3Ds, that they were limited to how many they could use. Rob said that the nets aren't always needed to make a shot safe but are useful for screening other archers on the course from the shooters view.

Paul Harding (Treasurer) didn't see any reason not to get more if that was what the course layers need.

- Rob Jones also mentioned about the "Sharps Bin" they provided at the 3Ds and how well it had been received by the archers. He wondered if it could be considered as a requirement for future champs courses.
- Sharon Jones (Briar Rose) asked if the Committee were aware of the change to the data protection act which happened in March called the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and that it might be useful for the General Secretary to look into this. It may also need passed down to club secretaries.

Malcolm Arnott said that he was not aware of it but will look in to it and asked if Sharon could help with any information regarding the matter.

- Tony Boone (Delamere) Tony asked the room what the feeling would be regarding setting a minimum age for attendance at a Champs.

Tony explained that he was in no way "anti-child" and that he has organised many events for youths in his time and that he is totally committed to youths in archery but that this had come from the number of times he has heard of archers having champs ruined by misbehaving or tired children. Tony asked if the Committee would discuss this and suggested a minimum age of 10 years.

Tricia Seaman (CPA) asked Tony why/how he came to the age limit of 10 years.

Tony replied that he feels it is an age where most children are well behaved but admitted that he has no evidence to support this, it is just a general feeling.

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Harry Boyce said he had a couple of points on this. This had been considered around 9 years ago by the committee and the society was dead against it then. The society has introduced an under 9s peg since then.

Harry also said that he has had days which have been ruined by adults, not children. He also said that there is such a variety in the behaviour and ability of children at similar ages, so this matter is something which should be controlled by marshalling.

Richard Dobson added that the NFAS has become more family orientated and that 12% of the membership is now youths.

Tony Burt added that he takes his grand daughter shooting and has not had one complaint and that you rarely here compliments about children, only the complaints. Tony said he would be extremely upset if his grand daughter was penalised because of the misbehaved children.

Scott Dingley asked if memberships for kids should be sent out with a specific paper explaining the responsibilities.

Bernie Britton replied that you agree to abide by the rules and the person signing off should be making the guardian aware of their responsibilities.

Paul Provins stated that he has shot for many years, been upset by loads of kids but that you come up against other problems such as slow archers, bad weather, etc. You should just get over it.

Tony Boone gave an example where a child would not move off the red peg then while an archer was shooting, the child started hanging off his tassel.

Scott Dingley said that this is down to parenting to sort

Tricia Seaman said in a case like this where the child poses a danger/hazard, they should be removed.

Rob Jones said a lot has been discussed about kids, dogs etc. It's down to the behaviour of people at shoots and the responsibilities of people to report it so perhaps a guidance/etiquette should be included in future newsletters etc.

Harry Boyce said we are discussing things which have been discussed in the past. We dealt with the issues on their own merit.

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Lewis Chuck recalled a complaint at Gaddesdon regarding an adult that needed reprimanded for their use of foul language in proximity to children, so it is not always a child which causes the problem.

- Martin Cane asked if we could revisit the use of the points system regarding the severity of the terrain on a Champs course. It was something which was used a few years ago but it has stopped now.

Tony Burt said he would look in to it for future Champs.

### 9. **Presidents Trophy**

Trish Jones announced that her choice for this years Presidents Trophy would go to Richard Dobson. This was in recognition of all the years of service he has given the Society both in his role as Membership Secretary and with his help at the Championship Events.

There were also two nominations for members to receive Honorary Life Membership, these went to Richard Dobson and Bernie Britton.

Richard Dobson received HLM for his 8 years of service

Bernie Britton received it for his 8 years of service covering a variety of positions. Bernie has lead the improvements to the coaching course, carried out the DBS (formally CRB) role for sign off authority and has recently stood in as Caretaker Treasurer. Bernie has also been vital to the smooth running of the Champs events for a number of years and has on a number of occasions helped to lay the courses.

The AGM was formally closed by Trish who thanked those who came for their time.