

AGM 2018 - CLUB SECRETARY'S REPORT

Having taken over from Pete Dobson at the end of April this year due to other commitments until then, I set about understanding more about what makes the Club tick and some changes in the Club structure have been made. With the agreement of the Committee, I have now taken charge of membership matters, certain external contacts on county matters and with third parties in connection with our outside events, and am now the prime contact for Tasters and Beginners Courses, as well as servicing the Committee and being a general secretarial factotum.

You will be aware that this year Archery GB have digitised the process of opening and renewing membership and this process, they say, should prove smoother than before and without too many pieces of paper flowing from us to them. Early days, we shall wait to be see how much of an improvement this is.

As the Chairman has said in his report, we have increased our membership by the end of last month to 35 members, having welcomed to our fold several new members since the last AGM. Many have joined us after completing our Beginners Courses which is an invaluable way of attracting new archers to our friendly club in its tranquil rural surroundings. We shall see what happens when current renewal time is over and we are hoping that there will be very few members who let their membership lapse, especially now that the club facilities have been improved and continue to be improved.

A measure of interest has also been generated by our Have a Go external events this year and some participants have gone on to our Taster sessions and then Beginners Courses. At the same time, these events generate useful supplements to our overall revenues (as covered in the Chair's and Treasurer's reports) but not without a lot of sustained effort by a core of members who set these up and service them on the day.

During the year, Pat Beaumont, George Hancock and I revived the development team to exchange ideas on improvements at the Club, some of which have been introduced as funds have permitted, and our suggested aim for the Club includes expanding our membership by a minimum of five members net per year. Graham has kindly offered us more space on the field if an influx of new members causes congestion on the shooting line!

Finally, among my fellow hard working Committee Members, I would like to single out a special tribute to Pete Dobson who over the past few years has combined all of the tasks I have now taken over from him with his time consuming coaching duties at the Club and at Have a Gos, Tasters and Beginners Courses - as well as holding down a challenging job in teaching. The Club owes him a big debt of gratitude and similarly to fellow coach James Ridge.

Robert Oates