

MOLE VALLEY BOWMEN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 7th September 2008
St. Martin's School, Dorking, Surrey at 6pm

Present: Jenny Gordon, Mark Peters, Bob Barley, John Tipping, Rob Smith, John Wright, Tony Hill, Julie Hill, Hannah Poulson, Joanne Eaton, Natalie Trussler, Louise Colville, James Suckling, Paul Grinham, Thomas Ball, Jacky Casson, Paul Day, Mark Leddin, Helen Ball.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Asheley Kibblewhite, Pat Finn, George Lee, Richard Hollamby, Jane Smith.

2. Minutes of the Last AGM

These were proposed and accepted as a true record.

Proposer: Rob Smith Secunder : Mark Peters

3. Matters Arising from the Last AGM

- After the last meeting, Hannah Poulson stepped forward as Treasurer and Jenny Gordon as Minutes Secretary.
- Two new tents had been purchased (arriving the day after the Sheila Brown shoot!!).
- An American flat bow had been purchased for the use of club members to try.
- Committee had discussed the purchase of some fold up chairs but decided it was not a priority; the issues of storage in the container had been discussed.

4. Chairman's Report (Mark Leddin)

Another summer of glorious sunshine draws to a close. Just not in the UK. This last year has seen some changes in Mole Valley Bowmen – I'm sitting here for one thing and not Tony. To start I would like to again thank Tony for all his hard work over several years. I hope that I can do the club proud in my time as Chairman for as long as that may be. Unless anyone has a burning ambition to do this I will be standing properly this time.

Any club depends on new blood and we have been pleased to welcome the following new members Asheley Kibblewhite, Peter Eaton, Natalie Meeres, Chris Abbott, Jenny Desoutter, Oliver Hopkins, David Isles, Alexander & Jamie Finn some of whom have joined via our beginners courses. Adam Palmer, Rosie Kempster, David Blewett have all rejoined after a few years absence. We have also lost some along the way – some using moving to Dubai as an excuse for not shooting. I'm also grateful that some of the newer members to the club stepped up to the plate and have taken on roles on the Committee and as we are all aware we have a new TABS editor. The last one was last seen heading for America. We can't be that bad!

The winter season saw Mole Valley Bowmen collect various medals from local competitions – the Arundown Portsmouth and Worcester shoots, the Surrey County Champs and the Guildford Fita 25m. On a high note Louise is the current Ladies County Recurve Indoor Champion. We also managed to make up two teams of four for the Sussex County Shoot down in Worthing. This was a very different event as there was no individual scores just the

combined score. Those that took part, including myself, enjoyed this and we are thinking of trying to do something like this here. Watch this space....

The summer season (what we saw of summer that is) was also dominated by Mole Valley generally doing quite well. The county shoot in July was well attended and various members did rather well including Natalie shooting in her first big shoot. It's good to see some of our junior members venturing out there. I also attended the shoot and threw some arrows down the range. No further comment. Well done to all that have shot well this season.

As most of you know we host two tournaments each summer as well as matches against local clubs. The Wand seems to have dwindled in recent years so we may run this here next year. I will decide on that over the winter. The Shelia Brown had a waiting list at the start of May so we added a target and moved the shoot up the field. This made it the largest entry we have known (over 100 archers) and the shoot ran well.

However, this does bring me to a slight grumble and this is something I want to address later in this meeting. This club relies on a few members that turn out for most events. We only had a couple of non-shooting members outside of the committee helping at the Shelia Brown which left us with a very small field party and we were run off our feet for most of the day. This is not really ideal. We also cancelled one of our away matches as only two members could make it. We will have an open debate on this later.

I hinted at some changes earlier. Another area we will discuss later is Child Protection. The committee have been working on our Child Protection Policy that is based on the GNAS Policy (or Archery GB as they seem to be called now) and we need to adopt this as a club. Hopefully this will be reflection on what we do now with a few tweaks.

Looking forward to the winter season we start indoor shooting at Ewell castle tomorrow night. A few brave souls may shoot on Thursday evening if the light is good. We have a beginners course starting next Sunday from 12 to 1:30 so please lend a hand if you can. We all had to start somewhere and everyone has something to offer. Don't forget the Frostbites, indoor postal shoots and our annual Christmas shoot organised by last year's winner Rob. The shooting program will be published in TABS but I should email this out soon.

Finally it would like to thank the committee for all their hard work over the last year. Without them we wouldn't have a club! I would also like to thank them for letting me loose as chairman.

Happy Shooting!

5. Treasurer's Report and Acceptance of Accounts for 2007/2008

Possible introduction of a Family Subscription rate to be discussed by the Committee.

6. Election of the Committee

All the members of the committee were willing to stand again. In the absence of any other volunteers, the entire committee was elected on block as follows:

President	- Gordon Jameson
Chairman	- Mark Leddin
Secretary	- Paul Day

Treasurer - Hannah Poulson
Minutes Secretary - Jenny Gordon
Equipment Officer - Mark Peters
Records Officer - Paul Grinham
Junior Rep - Natalie Trussler
Other Member - Rob Smith
Nominated by: John Wright Seconded by: Jacky Casson

7. Election of Other Officers (non committee)

All the other Officers were willing to stand again. In addition Jenny Gordon agreed to fill the vacant post of Catering Co-ordinator. The officers were elected on block as follows:

Club Captain - Rob Smith
Vice Captain - Mark Peters
Postal Co-ordinator - Paul Grinham
Inter-club Organiser - Mark Leddin
Tabs Editor - Louise Colville
Child Protection Officer – Jacky Casson
Catering Co-ordinator - Jenny Gordon
Nominated by: Jacky Casson Seconded by: Joanne Eaton

8. Any Other Business

a) 'What You Can Do for Your Club'

The Chairman outlined the issue under discussion. It is true of any club that there is a hard core of members who step up to help out at club events. However this summer for MVB it was a very small number of the same volunteers who were able to help at fundraising events eg. at the Cowpie Rally, a hot day with a lot of people wanting the 'Have-a-go', there was barely enough cover for volunteers to have a lunch or loo break; at the Sheila Brown Shoot only two non-shooting members were among the small party of volunteers who helped. Our fundraising events are essential to cover the club expenses for everything except the hire of the field at St. Martins, the cost of which is covered by membership subscriptions. The Chairman asked if members present had any ideas on how more people could be encouraged to participate in events, not just fundraising ones, but competitions and socials too. The following comments/ideas/suggestions were put forward:

- New people to the club don't really know what is required, how they can help – perhaps lists of jobs for each event could be written?
- Push Dates of major events, especially for the Summer Season – Wand, Cowpie, Sheila Brown – much earlier, and certainly before the Summer Shooting Programme is produced. People book holidays well in advance but if they know dates in advance too they could plan around them.
- The Chairman's monthly email reminder is useful but not soon enough for the major events.
- Perhaps newer members could go to the inter-club matches with more established members – it can be quite daunting to find a new location and pitch up not knowing people or quite what to expect, on one's own.
- Use the White Board in the Container to write up Dates and Forthcoming Events, and bring it out of the container with the bosses when setting up the field, so it is near the shooting line, and acts as a reminder for archers on a more regular basis.

- Email communications eg. The Chairman's monthly email seems to working ok. Paul Day commented that he is hoping to get new membership forms out to ALL club members so that contact lists can be updated.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their ideas and comments which will be taken back to the Committee for further discussion.

b) Child Protection

Jacky Casson, MVB's Child Protection Officer was asked to outline the work which she and Jenny Gordon, and Mark Leddin have undertaken recently, on aspects of Child Protection.

This is as follows:

- The Club needs to formally adopt the GNAS Child Protection Policy, for insurance reasons. It is due to be revised this autumn but MVB still needs to adopt it.
- Jacky, Jenny and Mark have drawn up draft documents – a policy/guidelines sheet for club members, and a leaflet for the parents of Junior members, based on the very comprehensive GNAS policy document – basically to formalise and put into writing the club's current good practice as regards safeguarding children and young people as well as its adult members.
- These draft documents will be discussed and hopefully accepted for use at the next Committee Meeting. It was felt that these documents were something which could be given to all club members to ensure that everyone is informed of their responsibilities, and to emphasise that the club takes the matter of Child Protection very seriously. Other club documentation such as joiners forms will also be updated to reflect this.
- As part of the process of formalising and updating our current practices, some club members will be required to undergo CRB checks. Committee members will be first to have these and then Mark will be approaching those who regularly help with beginners courses and other of our events when there are children likely to be present.

The meeting was asked to adopt the following two resolutions:

- i) That MVB adopt the GNAS Child Protection Policy.
Proposer: Hannah Poulson Seconder: Jacky Casson
- ii) That a Deputy Child Protection Officer be appointed – Jenny Gordon was willing to stand.
Proposer: Joanne Eaton Seconder: Rob Smith

c) Any Other AOB

Joanne Day proposed a vote of thanks to Paul Day for all the time he spends coaching and for running the Beginners courses.

Paul Grinham was also thanked for keeping the club records up to date so efficiently – this had been apparent prior to the meeting when the various cups, medals and awards had been handed out to members for their achievements during the year and at the Club Championships.

Helen Ball asked if there was a second hand equipment list kept where members could offer items for sale. It was noted that the Summer issue of TABS had contained some items; the Winter edition could also be used in this way. It was suggested that this type of information could perhaps be included on the whiteboard with forthcoming events information.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.50pm