



## MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**14 November 2017**

Location: NICVA Belfast

<b>Present:</b>	Neil Armitage	NA	Chairman
	Steven Beacom	SB	Incoming Chair
	Damien Lennon	DL	Performance Director
	Ian McAuley	IM	Membership Director
	Muriel Kirkwood	MK	Appointed Director
	Archery NI members		36 members representing 12 Clubs

Neil Armitage opened the meeting by thanking all those for coming and revealing a new independent chair had been recruited and that after the AGM, Steven Beacom would give a brief insight into his experience and hopes moving forward for the organisation.

First item discussed:

Income and Expenditure Account.

Neil asked the meeting to approve the Income and Expenditure account which he added was available to view in members' papers.

Questions were raised from the floor about stock on the accounts.

Neil said that stock was any kind of assets that have a value.

He was then asked about the number of board meetings that had been held during the year and why not all the minutes were on the website.

Neil stated that there were two board meetings in the year and that minutes of those meetings would be put on the website.

He was then quizzed on cash flow and 'why was there such a massive loan taken out?'

Neil replied that 'Archery NI was about to become insolvent because of the debts it had and it needed a loan.'

He continued: "We started broke and took the decision to incur costs on administrator costs. That situation resolved and in order than Archery NI remain solvent I authorised a grant and a loan from Archery GB to ensure that the organisation was solvent."

Neil added: "Archery NI is a small business and has to live within its means."

Questions from the floor about the openness and transparency of the organisation came next.

Neil said: "We've done our best with the situation and ultimately what we want is to get more people shooting arrows. We want to show membership where their fees are going and it is up to the Board with consultation from the membership where their money is going in the future."

A question was raised about how the membership could sign off on these accounts?

Board member Muriel said: "The accounts are true. They are the facts and that's all we can show you."

Another question from the floor: "When the settlement was made could we not have set up as a new company?"

Neil: "We could have done that but wanted to ensure the company had continuity. At the next AGM if you think there is a better way of running the board we should be looking into that."  
Neil added that we had covered Income & Expenditure and the Balance Sheet and appreciated that not all was perfect with presentation and timings.

He then moved on and asked the members to adopt Board Recommendations for Membership fees for 2018/2019 being set as per table described with no increases for this year.

A discussion on fees then took place amongst members and the board with questions raised about looking into new fees.

Muriel pointed out: "You need lots of information to set fees correctly and make an informed decision. It seems reasonable at this point to go with the status quo."

Point from the floor: "With respect you've had a year to figure out what fees should be and whether they were too expensive or cheap."

Neil: "We considered stability to be the best way forward and recommend these fees be adopted for the next 12 months."

Point from the floor: "As we are the most expensive region in the UK is it so high to cover the debts?"

Neil: "No, NI is not the most expensive in UK. That is Scotland. In terms of fees there should be a discussion about fees re family and pensioners. The new Board can do a better job with local focus."

From the floor: "That's fine as long as recommendations come back before the end of the year and can then take effect from the end of October."

Question from the floor: "Have you not had a Membership Director this year?"

Neil: "That wasn't passed on to the Membership Director."

Point from the floor: "Discussions should have taken place with Membership fees with the Membership. To have no information coming back is ridiculous. How can we agree this without having previously had discussions? We are no better off and we are worse off than we were in the past and I say that as a member of Archery NI and Archery GB."

Neil "This is not a perfect situation. It's been a real challenge. In order to have a reserve and invest in the future it is our recommendation that the fee remain stable. We have more money coming in than was coming in in previous years with low membership numbers. You can be critical that the consultation process didn't happen and in an ideal world it should have happened but you have a Board of Directors that are volunteers and I have tried to keep everything going. And I would ask for your confidence, patience and trust that we will have a consultation process on fees and the strategy of Archery NI."

Point from the floor: "This should not be all online. This should be face to face as well."

Neil: "Apologies it hasn't happened yet. This was a year of forming not storming and we have certainly done our best to form an organisation that is constituted correctly with the right governance in place. We have been on a recruitment drive for new directors."

Question from the floor: "To the outgoing Director of Membership what were the numbers we started with this year and what did we end up with it?"

Damien: "We went up in the region of 690 members to around 730 which is around 6%."

Question from floor: "What happened to meeting members over the last year?"

Neil: "That process did not take place. As I said this was a year of forming. The resources, board and momentum are there now to make it happen. We all want to grow the sport and make it as enjoyable as possible. We have to win hearts and minds back. I'm asking for one more year for this Board to engage and move it forward the way the members want it run."

Question from the floor: "When Scottish Archery got a board you say it flourished. Did you find the first year was a year of change?"

Muriel: "Scottish Archery found it hard initially to find the right people to come on board and we have been fortunate that this Company has had Neil and the Company Secretary on Board and Damien and Ian giving leadership. Scottish Archery has just begun to flourish because people with the right skills have come forward and they are working with Sport Scotland and we have to work with Sport NI. After this meeting we will have more local people on board and that will make a difference."

Point from the floor: "I think that's why people are feeling a bit left out? We all want to go forward."

Muriel: "Having strong governance in place is key."

Neil: "One of the positives that has emerged is that we have a substantial funding grant from Sport NI. We have double the amount we've ever had before. With £200,000 of government money coming into the region it gives the region an opportunity to develop talent coming through which is what we want. Sport NI gave the grant to Archery GB to administer and push down to NI. That is indicative of the talent in the region Our best medal hope in the Olympics Patrick Huston is from here and we want more talent coming through via the pathway programme."

Question from the floor: "Is that £200,000 from Sport NI coming to all of archery in NI and what's the timeframe?"

Neil: "Yes and that's over four years."

A discussion then took place about the targets that needed to be reached to guarantee the £200,000.

Neil then added the grant was for the Pathway Programme.

A discussion then took place on electronic messages to members with feedback that not all was satisfactory about this method of communication.

Neil then stated: "I would urge you to adopt the recommendation on fees for the next year and ask you for confidence and faith in the organisation going forward and to have a consultation process before the AGM in 2018."

This was agreed by those in attendance.

### Special Business

Neil: "To receive and if thought fit to pass the following resolution as a special resolution to approve the revised Articles of Association in the form produced in your pack so I can sign them off so we can operate as an efficient organisation."

After no further discussion and agreement, he added: "I will take that as approval from collective."

### Ordinary Business to elect Directors

Neil: "There are two elections uncontested for two positions..."

1) Director of Coaching: Hazel Campbell

2) Director of Performance Damien Lennon.

They can be co-opted in to the Board and I'm very grateful to both individuals for stepping forward."

Neil: "I now close the AGM."