

## **Part 2 - ANI Officers and Board start-of-year meeting:**

### Invitees:

Performance Academy – Cait Leach (AGB)  
Tournament Officer – Robert Hall  
Records officer (field) – Michael Ferguson  
Records officer (target) – Jennifer McCormick  
Inclusion/Disability Committee – John Ranson  
Safeguarding – Rachael McComb – not present  
Judges – John Gibson  
Calendar & website – Seamus Fitzpatrick – not present

### **1. Welcome and Introductions (MSc)**

(MSc) completed the welcomes and introductions of those who had called in to the meeting. He then asked those attending to identify the current challenges and key issues, as a means to open up the conversation. Discussion continued for around one hour. Some, but not all, comments captured below:-

### **2. Comments from the officers**

Performance Academy (CL) – newly taken over the job, difficult at the moment with lockdown and no/little activity as an academy, but lot of virtual exercise being used, but not the same.

Tournaments (RH) – how do we get archers to come to shoots? Generally poor attendance in recent years. Many only shoot their home competitions and do not travel elsewhere. (NA) asked why? Need to ask them, get the data to find out what needs to change. Ianseo now set up as a phone app.. Remote/virtual competition is possible – maybe something can be set up for end of indoor season.

Calendar & Website – (SF) not present.

Records, target (JMCC) - lot of archers like to shoot just for the social aspect and are not interested in competitions. Inter Club Comp. organized by LCAC and EBAC is a good example of a 'fun' shoot for archers of all abilities. Some beginners are frightened of longer distance shooting. Not enough events like this. Too many shoots, nearly every weekend. Ianseo is a good system for record keeping of scores. Archers need to realise that they have to apply for records themselves, and apply in good time.

Records, field (MF) - need a clear process to claim a record; there are too many categories, many age groups/styles that are not recognized by AGB/WA. Some difficulty in getting the record certificates to the archers.

Judges (JG) – appeal to ANI to encourage all clubs to try to put forward some new candidate judges. More judges are needed ( but how many are needed, asked NA) ).

Average age is currently over 50 yrs old and walking the field course is hard work!  
Need younger legs. (EW) asked how judges might be recognized/rewarded for their time and efforts.

Safeguarding - (RMcC) not present.

Inclusion (JR) – suggested that the board needs to lead communication with the membership, not ask the membership how ANI should communicate. Disabled archers choose not to declare their disability as they feel disadvantaged against able-bodied archers. Need to encourage them to declare, and make accommodations for them.

Finally, around the table (MSc) asked what is good and a positive note to end on.....

(MH) – lots of talent in N.I., need to give them support.

(JG) – 5x County judge recertifications, 1x County to Regional, 3x Candidate to County expected this year.

(HC) – great to see so many people around the table.

(JR) – good to make contacts outside of the sport.

(JMCC) – archery is a great family activity.

(EW) – good to see additional members on the board.

(CL) – there are so many opportunities.

(KP) – new member directors; the membership is taking over control of the organization. Next challenge is to engage the general membership and the clubs to be more participative.

(MF) – have learned new technology; Zoom and Teams for virtual meetings and coaching sessions.

(RH) – talented youngsters coming through, like SB, KM, JS and the LCB youngsters.

(NA) – we should all expect to be ‘greyhounds out of the starting gate’ when the pandemic restrictions are lifted. Now is the time to prepare to be ready to go.

### **3. Closing remarks (MSc)**

(MSc) thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 21.01pm