



SEVERN VALLEY YEOMAN FORESTERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Severn Valley Yeoman Foresters Held at Ombersley Village Hall, Saturday 13th January 2024

1. Apologies

Mark Wragg, Andy McDonnell, Barry Cheadle, Richard Tranter, Valda Cane, Anthony Cooper, Nick Miles, Wendy Adams, Ron Braithwaite, Mick Anderton, Anthony Brooker, Jane Brooker, Simon Green, James Green, Penny Neavson, Toni Odell, John Hellens, Dean Brazier, Dean Fagan, Jack Kernohan

Chairman Martin Cane opened the meeting at 1.05pm with a belated happy new year and thank you to all present for making the time to come to the AGM and support the club. An excellent turnout with 65 members in attendance.

2. Minutes 2023 AGM

Minutes of the 2023 meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

3. Chairmans Report

Martin said as with the past couple of years, things hadn't gone as planned, but in true Severn Valley tradition, we have got through.

Our year started on March 14th when we actually got our planning application approved after 7 months. March 26th we had a very successful working Sunday, which is now proving to be a must throughout the year, getting quite a few numbers, seemed years since our last one.

I would like to thank Val's guides for suppling the catering equipment and also the dining shelters. Without them, the shoot just wouldn't have gone ahead. Also thanks to Roy Gerrett for staying the night with us, as the guide insurance stated that the equipment could not to be left unattended.

The shoot went very well with 164 archers coming. Thanks also go to the members who stayed till the end to pack everything up. Not the easiest of tasks.

May 7th Dug all the bases ready for our units. Again thank you to members who helped.

May 28th saw some of our members go to the Anniversary Nationals, with Mary coming 3rd TBH and Joel 2nd Jr B/B. Well done to you all.

June 24th we had our 70th anniversary pig roast which was organised by Darren. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all who came. Thank you Darren.

August 24th was our 1st attempt to get our units over. What a fiasco that was, with the stacker truck getting stuck so many times, it was decided to send him home, and store the units in the car park.

August 29th was the day we've been waiting for. Both units over and in place.

This is just an extra item. September 22nd we moved all the bosses on B side. My thanks to Steve, Paul, Roy and Pug for all there help, which just left some bosses to stake the following day. If it hadn't been for Roy, Paul and Steve coming the next day to help, the only other 3 members who came up were Dave and Irene and Janet. A bit disappointing really.

October 22nd should have been our 2nd shoot of the year, but mother nature had different ideas. Owing to flooding issues, it was decided to cancel. On a brighter note, for the members who came up on the day we cancelled, Janet came along with loaves of bread, and packs of bacon, so Darren tried out our new griddle. We had bacon sandwiches coming out of our ears. Thank you both.

With having flat roofs on the units, we decided a good investment would be to reroof with steel sheets. December 1st and 2nd were the dates to re-roof. I think it was the coldest 2 days of the year. By 15:45 on the 2nd day it was finished. Many thanks to Nigel (in charge), the two Roys and Colin for working in those conditions.

As the year is coming to an end, can I thank all members who had contributed in any way towards keeping our club going - course layers, bridge and wood maintenance, pasting faces, catering, preparing the area for our new units and members who have donated 3ds and accessories for our new units. Your input was greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank our committee, who without their dedicated work and advice, we would have severely struggled to have got where we are now. I am honoured to have had a committee who cared so much for Severn Valley.

With next year just around the corner, there will be some jobs that need doing. Painting the cladding with teak oil, definitely need some bridge work done, and of course our usual wood maintenance. Any help you can give, big jobs or small would be much appreciated. Without it, the club cannot survive.

Our two shoots next year are on April 14th and October 20th. We seem to have for the first time for years members who have offered to lay courses for our April and October shoots. When they do need help with changing the courses, please put your name forward, as it makes the work so much easier rather than relying on the usual few.

Martin apologised for the long report, but this was his 33rd report and probably his last.

4. Treasurers Report

I can only say it's been a very different year to normal with a large amount of expenditure, but we can now see some progress at last after a very stressful period.

We started the year with a bank balance of £51,523.95 (including the savings account) which, of course, included the insurance payout and other money set aside for the new accommodation.

Major items of Expenditure:

The biggest expenditure was obviously on the new huts totalling £37,632.50.

Rent, buildings and contents insurance and website rental came to £1,398.90

Insurance has naturally increased due to a claim being made and the increased value of the new huts compared to the old one.

Replacement kitchen equipment necessary for catering on shoot days came to £1,546.94.

Likewise a new generator and shed was needed at a cost of £1,234.02.

Replacement target bosses and faces destroyed in the fire and new faces for the open shoots came in at £1,599.27.

The pig roast in June for the members cost £502.50 and although I was on holiday at the time, I understand it went very well.

Due to the revised Lease Agreement we are now obliged to take out Professional Indemnity Insurance in the sum of £20,000,000.00. We did try to get this reduced but it was non-negotiable and the premium has cost us £739.11.

The remaining general expenditure and the petty cash expenditure are I believe self-explanatory.

Major items of Income:

Member's subscriptions for this year came to £3,952.30

The free "thank you" shoot put on on April was well attended and after expenses gave us a profit of £1,492.09 from donations and takings from the catering.

The raffle organised by Martin at the pig roast raised £190.00

The Autumn open shoot was unfortunately cancelled but still provided us with £1,313.44 in booking fees for the April 2024 open shoot.

Summary:

I would like to thank all the members for their contribution to the club whether it was financial, physical effort or time. We have received so much in the way of donations of cash, targets and general effort I just proves what a first rate club membership we have.

I don't wish to be a harbinger of doom and gloom but must point out that our overheads, comprising rent and insurances, will increased by 185% to an estimated £2500 for 2024.

This means that in future the proceeds from one open shoot will be used to pay for our overheads and the proceeds from the second shoot, together with members fees will be used for general running costs. As a result I think expenditure will be on what we need not what we want until things have settled down.

To summarise we currently have a total fund available of £8,707.83 to start the next financial year, which will hopefully be free of any further drama.

Denzil Langford.

5. Election of Officers

As Martin Cane was standing down after 33 years as chairman, he prepared a short speech.

Well this is it. After 33 years years of being voted in as your chairman, it's finally time to step down, and give someone else a go.

It has been a honour and privilege to attempt to try and keep this club going, but without the help of our the committees that I have worked with, I wouldn't have got through.

Some useless information - I have helped (course laying and moving bosses) with 74 open shoots (years ago we had 3 shoots a year). I have worked with - 4 secretaries, 4 treasurers and 5 amenities secretaries.

There has been good times being chairman, but also not so good times, but I've got through.

I would like to thank you all for putting up with me. I've done my best for Severn Valley, which to me is still the best club in the Midlands. Thank you so much.

As was said at the end of the TV shows The Two Ronnies, those immortal words - "It's goodnight from him, and goodnight from me, Good night".

Martin thanked Steve Kernohan and Colin Pearson who were stepping down as safety officers for all the work and assistance they have give over the years they have been on office.

Chairman: Martin Cane stood down.

There were two nominations:

1) Nigel Suthard

Proposed by: Debbie Suthard

Seconded by: Roy Binding

2) Darren Wilkins

Proposed by: Steve Mart

Seconded by: Janet Price

A ballot was taken:

Nigel Suthard: 25 Votes

Darren Wilkins: 56 Votes

Darren was elected

Club Secretary:

Sarah Wilkins was:

Proposed by: Darren Wilkins

Seconded by: Denzil Langford

Sarah was elected by a show of hands.

Treasurer: There were no other nominations received.

Denzil Langford was:

Proposed by: Darren Wilkins

Seconded by: Colin Pearson

Denzil was elected by a show of hands.

Safety Officer (1): Steve Kernohan stood down.

Roy Gerratt was:

Proposed by: Steve Kernohan

Seconded by: Colin Pearson

Roy was elected by a show of hands.

Safety Officer (2): Colin Pearson stood down.

Dave Wassell was:

Proposed by: Denzil Langford

Seconded by: Paul O'Dell

Dave was elected by a show of hands.

Supplies Officer: There were no other nominations received.

John Fidoe was:

Proposed by: Roy Gerratt

Seconded by: Roger Whitmore

John was elected by a show of hands.

Amenities Secretary: There were no other nominations received.

Janet Price was:

Proposed by: Denzil Langford

Seconded by: Darren Wilkins

Janet was elected by a show of hands.

Shoot Secretary: There were no other nominations received.

Martin Cane was:

Proposed by: Denzil Langford

Seconded by: Janet Price

Martin was elected by a show of hands.

Non-Exec Committee Member (1): Nigel Suthard stood down. One nomination received.

Roy Binding was:

Proposed by: Nigel Suthard

Seconded by: Debbie Suthard

Non-Exec Committee Member (2):

Stuart Laughton stood down. There were no other nominations received.

With the introduction of the new NFAS approved constitution, both Non-Exec committee members posts were due to be dissolved.

There was some discussion about this and a vote was taken.

Proposal: To keep the non-exec roles.

Passed by a show of hands

On passing, Roy Binding then withdrew his nomination.

Martin asked if anyone present was willing to be nominated. There were no nominations so it was suggested that these roles would be removed but if the committee felt that they were needed in the future, they would reopen them.

6. New NFAS approved constitution and club rules

A copy of new NFAS approved constitution and club rules were circulated before the meeting. Martin mentioned that the NFAS had asked us to amend the constitution and wasn't the clubs doing. Darren mentioned that although the constitution was new, a lot of the clubs old constitution would form the clubs rules.

Robin Martin had proposed a few minor adjustments to the new constitution:

4. Membership Fees

Members joining after 1st August will pay 60% of the club's fee plus the NFAS affiliation fee.

To be changed to:

Members joining after 1st August will pay the full joining fee and then 60% of the club's fee plus the NFAS affiliation fee.

Passed

5. Officers of the club

Officers will be elected annually for the term of one year at the AGM. All officers will retire each year but will be eligible for re-election.

To be changed to:

Officers will be elected annually for the term of one year at the AGM. All officers will retire each year but will be eligible for re-election with a maximum term of 4 years.

Rejected

6. Committee

The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the club.

To be changed to:

The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the club. This does not include amendments to the clubs constitution.

Passed

9. Lone shooting and long working

Working alone for small maintenance jobs is allowed subject to the above procedure but if working alone, the use of power tools is strictly prohibited.

To be changed to:

Working alone for small maintenance jobs is allowed subject to the above procedure but if working alone, the use of power tools is strictly prohibited and high vis must be worn.

While on the course completing any small maintenance tasks, the relevant side should be closed by clearly displaying the CLOSED sign on the club notice board.

Robin Martin had proposed a few minor adjustments to the club rules.

To add two new points:

Safety:

5.7 If you need to leave the course at any point whether shooting or working, members are to follow direction arrows back to the club house with no short cuts. It is strictly prohibited to walk the course in backwards direction.

5.8 Always read any notices on the club notice board before commencing shooting as this will show any course closures or working parties.

Passed

Darren asked if members present had any other questions or amendments.

It was asked why only 5 committee members and not club officers would have voting rights in committee meetings.

Proposal: To Increase the number committee members and officers able to vote.

Passed.

A members only WhatsApp group will be set up for emergency communication only. This is mainly for when in the wood alone.

7. Membership Fees

Following on from the earlier treasurer's report, Darren spoke about the need to increase fees with the clubs overheads increasing by such a high percentage. Two scenarios were circulated before the meeting to be discussed. Scenario 1 full increase from 2024/25 renewals and Scenario 2, increase fees over a two year period.

It was passed unanimously that the fees should increase in full from 2024/25 renewals (Scenario 1)

It was then asked if any extra fees were due from renewals just paid. There is no more to pay until the new fee comes into effect when the renewals are sent out in December 2024.

Steve Mart suggested that if members would like to, they could make a small extra donation on top of their membership fee for this year.

8. Safe guarding and the new CPO role

The NFAS have requested that all clubs have a designated Child Protector Officer (CPO). Darren mentioned that Sarah works within a school and is already a deputy safe guard lead at the setting so would be an idea person to take on this role. In the absence of designated CPO the chairperson takes on the responsibility.

Darren asked if there were any other nominations. No other nominations were received so Sarah was passed by a show of hands.

9. Length of committee terms

This was discussed as part of the of the new constitution.

10. Length of time for newer members to join the committee

David Cartwright said that he though the current rule that new members had to be full members for 3 years prior to joining the committee or becoming a club officer was too long and would put newer members off wanting to get involved at this level. With the first years probation, this means members have to wait 4 years,

Proposal: Rule to be amended to: Any member over the age of 18, who has been a full member for 2 years may stand for election as a club officer or committee at the AGM.

Passed by a show of hands

11. Signing in and out of the club

Darren explained that the NFAS have requested that all clubs operating a signing in and out system. He said whilst he knew this wouldn't be too popular, it's something that the club needs to adhere to. A signing in book will be placed in the members room in the club house.

Phil Johnson asked if this could be done through an app but due to expense and high a number of members who may find this challenge, it was decided a book was the best option.

Signage will be put in place to remind members to sign in and out.

12. Any other business

Password on members only page of the website

Peter Tooke asked if the password could be shared around the members again as he had experienced some difficulty logging in. Darren explained that if the password is copied and pasted, this does not always work. The password will always be shared on the relevant post or email when there is information and/or documents to be viewed.

Thanks to Martin Cane

Pug Malloy expressed his thanks to Martin for everything he had done during his 33 years as chairman and suggested that Martin be offered honorary life membership. Pug was unaware this is something that Martin already had.

Course Layers for 2024

Martin said course layers for both open shoots in 2024 are already in place. This is the first time this has ever been done so early. Thanks to Steve Mart, Pug Malloy, Dave Wassell, Mary Hargest, Robin Martin, Steve Kernohan, Colin Pearson, David Cartwright and his team.

When course layers need any help, this will be communicated to the members and any help you can give will be appreciated.

Maintenance around the club

There was a discussion about introducing a maintenance officer at the club. It was suggested that this shouldn't be a committee post but someone who would collate a list of all required maintenance and communicate this to the committee. This would be a help when it came to working Sundays as a thorough list could be sent out prior to the day so members knew what needed doing.

Amanda Fischer proposed that Nigel Suthard would be in a good option to do this given his experience and knowledge of the club and asked if he would consider this. Nigel declined. Martin asked those present for a volunteer. David Cartwright volunteered and will take the lead on this.

Storage

Robin Martin mentioned that bosses and materials were starting to be stacked up against the new club house and this provided a risk. Therefore suggested that items or not stored against the club house. This was agreed.

Tree Planting

Roy Binding asked if the estate would be in agreement for him to plant some trees around the woodland as he had several at home he would like to bring. Martin said he would check with the estate but Denzil interjected as in past correspondence, the estate have said they are happy for us to do so.

Faces on back stops

Nigel Suthard said recently, some faces have been found on back stops. Please refrain from this, these bosses are a safety boss and are there to stop arrows that have missed the target and not for faces.

There was no other business so before Chairman, Martin Cane closed the meeting Darren read some words sent by Wendy Adams, Martins daughter.

Dad.

For 33 years of your life, you have been Chairman of Severn Valley.

That's 82.5% of my life!

I very much doubt anyone has ever been as dedicated or stupid, please delete as appropriate, to a club or society as you.

Years of not being allowed to touch the written out score cards, or be on the internet within a month of the shoot when we were still on dial up.

You all know what he's like - try living with it!

I'll never forget how cross you were with me when I got my car locked in a car park overnight, the night before the shoot meaning at midnight you had to come and collect me.

Or telling you I was pregnant by saying I would not be able to do registration for a shoot because I would likely be in labour.

Nothing has ever stood in the way of the club. It is as much a part of the Cane family as those that have joined our name since.

I am super proud to be your daughter. I am always in awe of how hard you still work – I get exhausted just watching you.

On behalf of my Mum, brother and our families we can't say thank you enough to all the members that have supported Dad over the years.

Sadly lots no longer with us and some left to go onto other hobbies but names that still stay with us. From Steve Georgii and Dave Oakes being in our house every Saturday night, Roy, Paul, Horace, Denzil, Bernie, Nigel and so many more of you. You all mean so much to the man that has always tried his hardest for the name of the club.

You will never truly be able to understand how much you all mean to the man sat in front of you and in turn to those of us who are behind him.

The welcome Mum, my kids and I receive when we come over to the wood is nothing to do with us, it is you and an extension of the love shown for you Dad. I am proud to be the longest serving First Daughter of Severn Valley.

To your successor I wish the biggest amount of luck. You have him behind you watching, not watching from above so really good luck!

So can I please ask for you all to be upstanding if able and applaud the man who given absolutely everything to this fantastic club for over 3 decades. And who will no doubt continue to do so.

End.

All members stood and there were several minutes of applause for Martin.

Darren presented Martin with a water colour painting of the old club house, painted by Horace Wilkins.

Meeting closed at 2.40pm

Minutes Approved by: Sarah Wilkins, Club Secretary - January 2024

Signed: