



SEVERN VALLEY YEOMAN FORESTERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Severn Valley Yeoman Foresters Held at Ombersley Village Hall, Saturday 18th January 2025

Chairman Darren Wilkins opened the meeting at 1.05pm and thanked all present for making the time to come to the AGM and support the club. There were 52 members in attendance.

1. Apologies

Toni Odell, Anthony Cooper, Ian Holdsworth, Roger Parker, Micheal Miles, Pete Bullock, Richard Townsend, Mick Anderton, Justin Kernohan, Horace Wilkins, Ivor Briggs, James Green, Penny Leaverson.

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM

Minutes of the 2024 meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

3. Chairmans Report

2024 was positive start to my time chairman and have enjoyed getting stuck in. I was honoured to voted in at the last AGM and to follow Martin. Having held the position for 32 years, he was always going to be a tough act to follow.

When I was voted in chairmen, I promised I would do more for the members and look to promote the club in the local community. This something that I feel very strongly about and feel like we achieved someway towards this with the changes we have implemented.

There has been a great club spirit this year which has been obvious with the higher turn outs for work days, social events and members feedback.

At the start of 2024 we had 6 members not renew their memberships but we added 9 new members join throughout the year taking us to 132 members so the membership is sill growing. With steady growth, there is no need to restrict membership numbers.

Throughout January we replaced a number of bridges.

We had our first work Sunday of the year on 25th February - over 40 members turned up to help for a very productive morning. It was great to see all the members sat together afterwards chatting with a cuppa and bacon sandwich.
Pete Vaughan sadly died in February and then Keith Mason died in March.

First taster session was held in March and led by Ian Ridsdale which resulted in 3 new members.

Our first open shoot of the year was in April. 164 archers attended and despite one small accident, the feedback was very positive.

We had a number of members enter the NFAS 3D championships. Robin Martin, Dave Wassell, Jack Kernohan, Mick Anderton and Joel all attended and enjoyed the weekend. Congratulations to Mick (3rd Gents Comp. Ltd) and Joel (2nd Junior Boy BB)

On 16th June, Elizabeth Mason (Keiths wife) and family came across to to plant a tree in the memorial wood and spend the morning at wood.

17th June - Bill, Richard and Geoff sprayed club house

Roy extended the registration office.

Lots of medals won during the July with members representing the club at various open shoots.

We had a Committee meeting in uk where we discussed the shelter, website and have a go sessions.

The new website has already proved a success. Despite only going live at the end of November, it has already processed nearly £500 worth of transactions and feedback that we have received from members and visitors has been very positive. Lots more planned for this throughout 2025 so watch this space.

Roger Whitmore had a heart attack in August but is now recovering well - the membership was kept informed by George Davies via the facebook page with regular updates. Thanks George.

Our second have a go session of the year was completed in September. Thanks to Ian for facilitating this again, with another new member resulting from the session

First invitational trip completed With 9 members from Worcester Woodland coming to shoot the course. As we have two other clubs in close proximity to us, this is something we will look to do more of.

A work Sunday was planned but then cancelled due to the weather.

David Cartwright completed and passed his NFAS coaching course in October. Congratulations David.

Steve mart learnt how to Repair 3d's and coupled with Roys painting skills, our 3D's are being repair to the highest standard.

Sarah Wilkins completed and passed Archery GB coaching certificate. This was done through the Girl Guides hence the Archery GB qualification and not the NFAS but will still add to our coaching set up at SVYF.

Our second open shoot of the year was a lower attendance that normal but there were a number of contributing factors for this. With bookings already coming in thick and fast for our April shoot, this lower attendance does appear to be a one off.

Wendy, Jane and Anthony stepped down from shoot admin after 24 years. Martin presented them with a little memento at the shoot but I would like to pass to on my thanks to them for everything

they have done. Thanks to Steve Barrett and Nigel Willis for taking the admin on from April - you've got a tough act to follow!

At the start of November, we had our return trip to Worcester Woodland. 16 members visited their woodland in Bransford and had a great day shooting.

A busy month again for members attending open shoots with more medals brought home.

Steve Kernohan suffered a stroke which was the latest episode to a year of bad health for Steve but it was great to see Steve at the AGM and wish him all the best for a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him shooting at the club again soon.

So to conclude, it's been another very positive year for SVYF as we continue to grow and rebuild from the fire.

We have plans throughout 2025 to introduce more have a go sessions, introduce beginner courses and invite community groups like the cubs, scouts, brownies and guides to the club. This will help the club grow, encouraging more youngsters and therefore safeguarding the future of the club. There has been a lot happening behind the scenes throughout 2024 to ensure this can happen and we still have some way to go but we are getting there so watch this space.

Work has already started on the new shelter - this will create a new area where members can sit under cover which will become the new social hub of the club.

We are looking into costs to have the main area outside the clubhouse stoned to match the vehicle track, as over the wetter months, this has become very muddy. Although we have been granted permission from estate and their agents this week, it is subject to cost so will update you all in the coming weeks.

My thanks to all the course layers throughout the year and to all the members who have given up time to help and volunteer when we have asked for assistance, and in some cases completing projects without having to be asked. It really is great to see a good number of members volunteering and the club wouldn't survive without your help so thank you.

I have to mention Steve Mart and Roy again for the excellent job they are doing on repairing the 3d's. This is saving a large chunk of money that will allow for more 3d's to be placed on the course for members to shoot. Thanks both.

And my final thank you goes to everyone on the committee. We are a small team that pull together to work towards a common goal - making SVYF the best it can be. I'm a firm believer that our club is one of the best in NFAS that is only down to the hard work from everyone involved.

Thank you.

4. Treasurers Report

I think we are now returning to some sense of normality and hopefully getting things on an even keel.

We started the year with a bank balance of £8,478 (including the savings account)

Major items of Expenditure

Rent, buildings and contents insurance and website rental came to £2,259, an increase of £850. Insurance needless to say increases every year and it now includes Public Liability Insurance for £20 million as part of our new lease agreement.

We have been concentrating on bridge repair works this year and timber required for the work has cost approximately £1,160.

Roof flashing to complete the pitched roof to the club huts cost £400 and this is now complete.

The last remaining major item was £1,395 for the purchase of materials to construct a member's shelter.

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

Major items of Income

Member's subscriptions for this year came to £4,527.

The Spring open shoot raised a total of £1,856 and the Autumn shoot raised £1,337 which I think is very good considering the abysmal weather,

Finally the Ombersley Trust gave us a one-off donation of £3,000 which I think was very generous of them.

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 just general effort.

To summarise we currently have a total fund available of £10,358.38 to start the next financial year, but we also have annual outgoings of approximately £3,500 over which we have no control.

5. Election of Officers

Chairman: There were no other nominations received.

Darren Wilkins was:
Proposed by: Robin Martin
Seconded by: Steve Mart

Darren was re-elected by a show of hands.

Club Secretary: There were no other nominations received.

Sarah Wilkins was:
Proposed by: Denzil Langford
Seconded by: Darren Wilkins

Sarah was re-elected by a show of hands.

Treasurer: There were no other nominations received.

Denzil Langford was:
Proposed by: Paul O'Dell
Seconded by: John Corridan

Denzil was re-elected by a show of hands.

Safety Officer (1): There were no other nominations received.

Roy Gerratt was:
Proposed by: Martin Cane
Seconded by: Shaun Mann

Roy was re-elected by a show of hands.

Safety Officer (2): There were no other nominations received.

Dave Wassell was:
Proposed by: Robin Martin
Seconded by: Mary Hargest

Dave was re-elected by a show of hands.

Supplies Officer: There were no other nominations received.

John Fidoe was:
Proposed by: Stuart Laughton
Seconded by: Roy Gerratt

John was re-elected by a show of hands.

Amenities Secretary: There were no other nominations received.

Janet Price was:
Proposed by: Steve Mart
Seconded by: Darren Wilkins

Janet was re-elected by a show of hands.

Shoot Secretary: There were no other nominations received.

Martin Cane was:
Proposed by: Denzil Langford
Seconded by: Steve Kernohan

Martin was re-elected by a show of hands.

6. Maintenance Officer

At last years AGM we introduced a new post within the club for a Maintenance Officer.

Last year it wasn't a committee role but we are now proposing that Maintenance Officer should be a committee role. Reasons being it was a little messy last year with having a committee facebook page and a maintenance facebook page. Messages would be sent to both but it was difficult to work it logistically.

David would be happy to join the committee.

The first proposal is to are we all in favour of making the Maintenance Officer post a Committee roll.

A vote was taken

PASSED by a show of hands.

David Cartwright was :
Proposed by Clive Turner
Seconded by Roy Gerratt

David was elected by a show of hands.

7. Visitor Fees

Darren stated that the club has charged £5 for visitors for quite sometime, going back to when the club didn't have any 3d's on the course. As one of the other items on the agenda is proposing placing more 3d's on the course, the committee felt it was time to increase the visit fee. So we feel it is the right time to increase the visitors fee from £5.00 to £8.00.

It was mentioned that Worcester Woodland charge £8 for visitors so this cost was inline with other local clubs.

Question raised by member: How many Visitors do we receive?

Darren replied, approximately twelve visitors a month. The process for visitor booking has become a lot easier with the new website and also pay online. This was one of the reasons we updated the website, to make the transnational side easier.

Denzil mentioned that the club don't get many different visitors, it tends to be the same people coming back time and time again.

Question: Is it now the visitor that pays online rather than the member

Darren replied, Yes, the visitor books on and pays.

A vote was taken.

Proposal: The visitor fee to increase from £5.00 to £8.00

PASSED by show of hands with 3 against.

8. 3D's on the course

Since the fire there was a group of members who got together and donated a lot of 3d's to the club on the understanding that they were shot by the members. Since then, the club have also added a number more to. Steve Mart mentioned that we currently have 28 on the course.

The committee have been speaking over the last few months about making the course fully 3d's as its something the majority of members have spoken about over the years. Now Steve and Roy are doing such a good job with the repairs we think it is viable. The committee are therefore proposing thats over the next 3 years, after each open shoot, to leave two more 3d's out until the course is complete.

As any 3d's start to get shot they can be repaired. The club will also be adding to the collection of new 3d targets for the open shoots.

Denzil made a suggestion that if we have short distances, we leave faces out instead. This was agreed.

Proposal: All targets on the course to become 3d's over a 3 year period.

PASSED by show of hands.

Martin Cane said It has certainly made a difference with Roy and Steve doing the repairs to 3Ds, if any one goes on to websites to see how much centres are they are between £80.00 - £100.00 each. So it makes a big difference. What ever Steve and Roy do, it does stop the arrows. Martin was dubious of them doing it themselves and whether the arrows would go straight through but they have done an excellent job and I'm pretty sure Denzil and Darren would agree it has saved the club a lot of money.

Steve Mart mentioned that the cost of foam and paint is usually less than £10 per repair.

9. 2025 Open Shoots and course layers

The dates for our 2025 open shoots are:

13th April

19th October

We have course layers for the April shoot - thanks to those that have already volunteered.

If any one wishes to set a course for the October shoot, please let a member of the committee know. If there is a group of you that would like to lay a course, you could do a quarter of a course each as its been shared in the past and does work well.

10. Club First Aiders

Wendy Cane held the relevant First Aid certificate for the open shoots and now she has stood down from the shoot admin, we need replacement first aiders as its something we really need to have on an open shoot.

Darren asked if any member has an up to date first aid qualification. Or if there was any member that who helps at the shoots that would be willing to get a qualification. The club would pay for any training.

Jo Sullivan and Simon Green mention they have both been qualified in the Passed and would be happy to redo their qualifications. Darren will be in touch with Jo and Simon in due course.

Sarah Wilkins holds a first aid certificate too.

Martin commented that the volunteer(s) needs to be someone that will be there from the beginning of set up and after the shoot has finished. Some one that is committed to staying all day. Not turning up at 9am and leaving by 11.

Darren commented we do need a first aider on site to satisfy the risk assessment. At the open shoot last April, an archer had an innocent slip and broke her ankle proving that these things do happen.

11. Any other business

Ernest Walker mentioned that the rules stated that if you were a member of SVYF but also a member elsewhere, that if you shot an an open shoot you had to shoot as an SVYF member.

Darren confirmed that this was correct.

Ernest asks if this rule rule be altered to allow members of other clubs to join SVYF but still shoot for their other clubs at open shoots.

Denzil said No.

Darren commented: The reason the rule was bought in a long time ago was because the club is very lucky to have a woodland we can use 365 days of the year and we had a lot of people join us, at one point we had 180/190 members. We had a lot of members joining that were members elsewhere that didn't have that facility and used us a practice facility.

They would then represent another club at open shoots.

Martin commented: A lot of the time people used to join Severn valley so they shot for the club they represented but just joined us for our amenities, as some clubs could only shoot weekends and they would be told to join Severn Valley because you can shoot every day.

People we know used to belong to one club and join us, when Severn Valley had a shoot they came along and shot the Severn Valley shoot in the other clubs name and when that club had a shoot, they went along and shot under our name.

So we were being used and that's the bottom line. The rule that Darren's talking about, we needed the new rules as we had come from previous problems so we have to change the rules. We were being used full stop.

Mary Hargest commented Ernie is only asking as we know someone that is a good member of their own club and would prefer to have membership with us as he pays as a visitor with us regularly.

Shaun Mann said we can't change rule for one person.

Darren agreed and said if the rule was to be changed it could open the floodgates to what happened previously.

David Cartwright then asked what the the problem was someone wants to come and use our wood and pay £60 a year. What's the problem if they are a member of another club, if you look at the statistics we have published not many enter the competitions any way we get 10 people doing that that's another £600 for the club.

Peter Tooke said another possibly if they are a member of our club and another club - they could shoot in. Our competitions competitively. It's in our constitution that if they belong to our club they are not allowed to enter open shoot.

George Davies concluded, if you are part of our club, you should be proud, whatever, to shoot with our name. Some of things mentioned happened 10-12 years ago. If you a member of a club you should be proud to be a member of the club. So therefore, stick with the same rule.

Chaperones

Robin Martin asked that if visitors are signed in are they to be chaperoned?

The current club rule is yes, by the inviting member(s).

Robin explained that we have currently got people going down to the wood and we don't even know they are there and not chaperoned.

They should be signing in but the visitors in question were competent archers (holding full NFAS membership) and have visited many times before. Darren will make all visitors aware that they must sign in.

Marshalls on shoot days

Robin Martin asked why the club put a limited on the number of Marshalls on the courses at the open shoots. Darren explained that we had received a complaint a year or so ago by an archer that thought there were too many stewards on the courses and it made them feel uncomfortable.

Robin suggested that we should be looking at least 8 marshals (4 for each side) but said we shouldn't really have a minimum number.

Darren said ultimately its the decision of the safety officers so they can discuss it prior to the next open shoot.

Defibrillator

Roy had mentioned about looking into the club purchasing a defibrillator. Darren said the club have looked in this but with no power over the wood unless the generator is on, there is no way of keeping one charged. Solar panels are expensive and we would be opening ourself up to have these stolen or vandalised. So although this is a good idea, its not currently viable. The committee will keep this in mind for something in the future.

Whistles

Following on from a fellow members fall while working in the woodland and unable to raise any help, Roy Gerratt suggested that members should carry whistles at all times when working on the courses. This change to be reflected in the club rules.

A vote was taken.

PASSED by a show of hands

Work Sundays

Darren spoke about the work Sundays the club had through 2024 and how is was great to have these well attended my membership willing to help.

However, after feedback received from members, more notice of these days would help.

Therefore it was proposed that we should have a work Sunday 5 weeks prior to each open shoot when help can be given to course layers and any general maintenance around the club can be completed.

A vote was taken.

PASSED by a show of hands

Dates will be communicated to members.

Tools

Martin commented that we may need extra tools to do A and B side and another trolley if we plan to change both sides together on a work Sunday. The committee will look into this.

Tool Box

Robin commented the box at the back of the clubhouse that members can get tools out of, that the tools inside are getting wet and rusty and there are not enough to use.

Committee agreed we need to give access to more variety of tools for members to use when out on course. Options will be looked into and communicated to the members.

Wasp Pegs

Several members present asked if some targets could be made slightly more challenging. Denzil advised that if people are moving pegs and targets without the safety officers agreement, it would contravene the risk assessment and invalidate insurance. Darren suggested that nothing should be done currently as the course will be changing soon anyway for the April open shoots.

Steve Mart mentioned that he will be using wasp pegs for some of the shots on B side so a suggestion was made that some, not all, targets will have wasps pegs from April. These will need to be passed and agreed by the safety officers.

Bosses

Richard Maw mentioned there are a number of bosses where compound arrows are passing through.

If you are aware of any boosters that are leaking, please let David know or put a note on the board so they can be changed on a work Sunday. Or if you are able, replace the boss with one from behind the hut.

George - we need to get a skip over the spring to clear the rubbish behind the huts. This was agreed and we'll look to get a skip in the near future.

Gate code

Darren remind all members present That the gate code and members road code will change on 2nd February. The code is on your new membership sticker and was in your membership renewal email.

Cake donations

Janet reminded members that donations of cakes for the open shoots is always appreciated.

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 2.10pm

Minutes Approved by: Sarah Wilkins, Club Secretary - January 2025

Signed: