



SEVERN VALLEY YEOMAN FORESTERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Severn Valley Yeoman Foresters Held at Ombersley Village Hall, Saturday 10th January 2026

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 36 members in attendance.

1. Apologies

Sarah Wilkins, Andy McDonnell, Anthony Brooker, Jane Brooker, Stuart Laughton, Ian Holdsworth, Mick Anderton, Ian Wheeler, James Green, Shaun Mann, Wayne Giles, Justin Kernohan, James Humphries, Tony Carter, Beatrice McLachlan, Anna Skelding, Emily Hanson, Joyce Hollows, Dean Brazier, Richard Tranter, Thomas Hawkins, Richard Dunn, Phil Johnson, Mary Hargest, Irene Griffin, Toni O'Dell, Roger Parker, Frederick Davies, Phil Carter, Richard Townsend, John Corridan, John Hopkins, John Fidoe, Ernie Walker, Robin Martin, Steve Kernohan, Andy Wilkes, Alfie Wilkes

2. Minutes of 2025 AGM

Minutes of the 2025 meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

3. Chairmans Report

2025 has been a good year for the club with some positive changes now starting to take effect.

Membership numbers were good with 127 members and although 9 have not renewed for 2026, membership numbers are still strong.

We held several 'have-a-go sessions' which led on to a waiting list for when a beginners course was available. This has now put in place and we will be holding our first course at the start of March. We already have 5 confirmed bookings for this.

The beginners course and visitors including community groups coming through 2026 we generate not only income for the club but will also hopefully add to membership numbers.

The start of 2025 we built our new shelter. This has not only proved popular with members but we received a lot of positive feedback from visiting archers at our open shoots. Especially with the rain we had in October!

With the addition of the groundwork this completed work on and around the clubhouse.

Whilst there are plans for further work, this can not be completed until we have received full planning permission in 2027.

Both our open shoots were successful - 165 archers in April and 96 in October. We had 120 pre-booked for October but due to the weather, we had quite a few no shows. This is the one advantage of pre-pay as most for the archers that cancelled allowed us to keep their entry fee.

We have historically offered refunds for archers cancelling if they give us 24 hours notice. On speaking to other clubs, this period will be extended to a week's notice. Anything less and the entry fee will be forfeited.

The previous few October shoots haven't had the numbers the April shoot does. This maybe down to the cost of living and visiting archers only coming to one shoot a year or it may be down to the weather being a little unpredictable at the end of October. For our October shoot in 2027, we decided to bring it forward to the start of October, hopefully getting some better weather and slightly more day light.

I'd like to thank Nigel Willis who along with Steve Barrett took over the role of shoot admin from Anthony, Jane and Wendy. The transition was seamless and Nigel has completely redesigned the database and scoring software. Not only has it worked perfectly for both shoots, but it will be able to be utilised for a lot more in the future.

The website has been working well and has been instrumental in streamlining our open shoot booking process and visitor bookings. It has received great feedback from members and visitors.

Congratulations to all the members who attended the 3D championships and Nationals. It's great to see the club represented at these events. I have to mention Pete Bullock who came away from each championship with a gold medal - very well shot Pete.

We have held two successful work Sundays through the year which were well attended and well organised by David. Please remember our next work Sunday is on 22nd March.

After a suggestion from David, the committee we be holding a committee meeting the week after each of our open shoots. This will allow us to debrief the open shoot from the previous week, plan and set budgets for the next six months. Committee meeting minutes will be shared with the membership for a better communication line.

We have introduced an expenditure guide so all expenses need to be signed off. Depending on value, this ranges from 2 committee members to the full committee.

We have welcomed families of past members throughout the year who wished to come to the club to visit the memorial wood. It's always a privilege to welcome these guests.

We received the sad news at the beginning of October that Simon Masters had passed away. Whilst Simon hadn't been a member for too many years, he was an absolute

gentleman, extremely well liked by all that knew him and will be missed. A small number of members attended the wake to represent the club and pass on our condolences.

I'd like to pass on our thanks to you all, the members who have helped over the last twelve months whether that's course laying, bridge building, bog carrying, slashing, strimming, target repairing, the list goes on but it's made so much easier with such a good number of members willing to help.

Thanks to everyone who has helped at the open shoots - both on the course and in the kitchen.

Thank you to all the committee who have given so much of their time and continue to do so in helping with the running of the club. The committee's work can sometimes go unnoticed but I really appreciate everything you do and I know I speak to behalf of all the members in saying a massive thank you.

A reminder for your diaries, our open shoots for 2026 are April 19th and October 18th. We have course layers confirmed for the April shoot but if anyone would like to volunteer to plan half a course in October, then please let one of the committee know.

The gate code is due to change on Sunday 1st February - it will change to 1672 around midday. This new number is also printed on your 2026 membership cards.

And finally, can I remind all members that if you are inviting a visitor to the club, they must be NFAS members and should book and pre-pay for their visit through the club's website. When at the club, they need to sign in and out using the guest book.

It wasn't quite the final thing.....

There is one final thank you - and that has to go to Denzil who is standing down as Treasurer today after holding the post for 11 years. Denzil took the role on at very short notice all those years ago when Jim Kazor passed away.

But over the years, he has run a very tight ship with the club's finances and the club is far stronger for it.

This is of course no mean feat given we had the pandemic to deal with and then the fire so soon after. The way in which Denzil controlled the club finances through these two challenging periods was exceptional and we should be extremely grateful to him.

So thank you Denzil and we have a token gift to show our appreciation and if you would all join me in giving Denzil a round of applause.

4. Treasurers Report

I think I can say we thankfully had an uneventful year for a change. We started the year with a bank balance of £10,358.38 (including the savings account).

Major items of Expenditure

Rent, insurances and website came to £2,800 an increase of £541. Insurances increase with monotonous regularity every year as does the rent which has an automatic annual increase incorporated in our lease.

As usual we have been carrying out bridge repair works together with other maintenance works. Timber required for this work and to leave some in stock has cost approximately £1,020.

The last remaining major item was £3,942 for the construction of the stone hardstanding to the front of the cabins. When you consider the sea of mud we were wading through before, I think it was money well spent.

Materials to carry out 3D repairs have cost £223. When you see how much this has saved us by not having to buy new 3D's I think Steve Mart and Roy Gerrett have done a brilliant job.

The remaining general expenditure and the petty cash expenditure I think is self-explanatory.

Major items of Income

Member's subscriptions for this year brought in £6,326.

The Spring open shoot raised a total of £2,282 and the Autumn shoot raised £1,530 which I think was brilliant considering the monsoon conditions we all endured.

Summary

We currently have a total fund available of £10,584.06 including the savings account to start the next financial year.

Finally, as you all realise by now, I am standing down as Treasurer having completed 11 years. I must say that the majority of that time has been fairly easy going with the exception of covid and the great fire of 2022. It was while watching the fire brigade damp down the remains that someone said "well, that's the end of Severn Valley". I'm pleased to say that they were completely wrong due solely to the indomitable spirit and attitude of the members.

The Committee are at the end of the day only a group of people carrying out the wishes of the members – it's the members that make the club what it is.

5. Election of Officers

Chairman: There were no other nominations received.

Darren Wilkins was:
Proposed by: Jo Sullivan
Seconded by: Paul O'Dell

Darren was re-elected by a show of hands.

Club Secretary: There were no other nominations received.

Sarah Wilkins was:
Proposed by: Colin Pearson
Seconded by: Horace Wilkins

Sarah was re-elected by a show of hands.

Treasurer: Denzil Langford stood down.

Steve Barrett was:
Proposed by: Denzil Langford
Seconded by: Steve Mart

Steve was elected by a show of hands.

Safety Officer (1): Roy Gerratt stood down.

Simon Green was:
Proposed by: Roy Gerratt
Seconded by: Walter Pinches

Simon was elected by a show of hands.

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

Dave Wassell was:

Proposed by: Roy Gerratt
Seconded by: Pug Malloy

Dave was re-elected by a show of hands.

Supplies Officer:

Post has become redundant - vote to be taken later in the meeting.

Amenities Secretary: There were no other nominations received.

Janet Price was:
Proposed by: David Cartwright
Seconded by: Denzil Langfrod

Janet was re-elected by a show of hands.

Shoot Secretary: There were no other nominations received.

Martin Cane was:
Proposed by: Roy Gerratt
Seconded by: Colin Pearson

Martin was re-elected by a show of hands.

Maintenance Officer There were no other nominations received.

David Cartwright was:
Proposed by: Dave Wassell
Seconded by: Richard Maw

David was re-elected by a show of hands.

6. Supplies Officer Committee Position

At a recent committee meeting, it was discussed that since the vote at last years AGM and subsequent passing of placing all 3D's on the course, the post of supplies officer had become redundant. The committee had discussed with John Fidoe and about dissolving this post.

A vote was taken: Should the post of Supplies Officer be dissolved.

36 For

0 Against

PASSED - Position dissolved.

7. Any other business

Visitors NFAS Number

Richard Maw mentioned about visitors signing into the club and how that at Worcester Woodland, who they sign in, the archers NFAS number should be added in signing book book.

Darren advised when visitors book their visit through the website a NFAS number needs to added to the booking,

Richard replied suggesting it was still a good idea to have this intimation in the sign in book.

The visitors signing book will be updated to allow for this.

Social WhatsApp Group

Pete Bullock asked if there was a possibility of opening up a line of communication socially. This would help newer members meet new people, allow members to arrange times to shoot with others and also arrange trips to open shoots.

After a short discussion, this was agreed to be good idea. David Cartwright said that guidelines would need to be in place for what can and can't go in the group.

A vote was taken: Should a WhatsApp group be set up for better communication.

36 For

0 Against

PASSED - Will be set up in due course.

Socials

Martin said that years ago we used to have a club Christmas dinner and social events were a good way for members to mingle and meet new people. And would anyone be interested in arranging something.

There was a discussion with Jo Sullivan mentioning that Pete had done this for a previous club and it can be a thankless task.

Darren said that Sarah has mentioned in past that she would be happy to arrange something so would be happy to arrange something. Watch this space.

Drinks facilities in members room

Roy Gerratt said that with the previous club house the locks were on a combination so anyone could gain entry and make themselves hot drinks. Where as at present, this can only be done if a key holder is present. Roy is willing to look in to setting up a stove of some sort in the members room by connecting gas bottle out the back of the room.

Darren said that whilst this was a good idea having a gas pipe into the members room that would rely on someone turning it off after use, this could prove problematic as the gas in the main club house gets let on sometimes with far fewer people going in there. And in the past when members had access and keys to the pavilion, items were disappearing so giving all members keys was not viable.

Denzil said the other option was a camping stove with just a small gas cylinder that cuts off when the stove was turned off. After an quick discussion it was decided this would be a better and safer option and give all members access to drink making facilities.

Roy will look into the costs and report back to the committee.

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 1.37pm

Minutes Approved by: Janet Price, Amenities Secretary (In the absence of Sarah Wilkins) - January 2026

Signed: