

Cambridge University Bowmen Committee Meeting

2020-2021 Committee

Monday 19th October 2020

Attendees

- Robert Spencer (RS)
- Liam Pattinson (LP)
- Lukas Činčikas (LC)
- Yuhang Xie (YX)
- Vicki Hodgson (VH)
- Alexander Kent (AK)
- Abi Pearce (AP)

Apologies received from Sam Kitson-Platt (SK).

Summary of action points

- LP/AK to contact Kimberley about her bow.
- VH to continue work on the new privacy policy.
- RS/VH to finalise all requested edits on the registration documents.
- AK to speak to Clickers about our beginner bow loan kits.
- YX to contact senior treasurer regarding annual dinner.
- YX to sign the Revs contract.
- YX/AP to liaise with Liz at the Pint Shop about potential deals/sponsorship.
- RS to contact experienced members about bow loans, following input from LP/AK.
- All members to brainstorm how the club may respond to a “high” alert level, and collate this info by the end of the week.
- All members to ensure they’ve sent meet-the-committee info to AP.
- AP to replace students on the beginners course.

Meeting started: 20:02 BST

Previous minutes & action points

- The previous minutes were proposed by AP and seconded by YX.
- Outstanding action points:
 - LP/AK to contact Kimberley about her bow that she hopes to sell to the club.
 - RS’s computer magic is ongoing, but no less sparkly for it.

Senior squad tryouts - RS

- Tryouts are in progress; a target day occurred Wed 14th, but additional target days will be needed to account for all those who've registered interest.
- After tryouts are finished, the panel will start selecting.
- There's been excellent uptake this year, meaning that the panel will sadly have to disappoint some people.

Registration feedback - RS

- We are on track to be fully registered with the Sports Centre this year.
- There have been some very minor issues flagged with what we submitted - accounts, child protection officer, and an eyes-only section in the squad selection document.
- The Sports Centre also have some work to do on their end.
- The main outstanding item: VH to complete the new draft of the privacy document. The good news is that they seem willing to extend the deadline for this more or less indefinitely.

New membership - RS

- We've had far more people join than we budgeted for - largely due to an unusual influx of experienced new joiners - which should help to offset some of the deficit.
- This includes a good number of recurve archers.

Beginner bow loan scheme - RS, AK, LP

- There are 9 bows out on loan, 1 has been purchased outright, and the scheme was popular enough that there are now 4 more bows being sold.
- AK raised the question of whether we will continue the scheme in future years, as Clickers have asked us about this.
- If it helps beginner retention this year, this is something that we may want to talk to Clickers about, although we don't want to make any promises to them right now.
- RS suggested AK get back to Clickers with a description of the full bow kit that we are loaning/selling to beginners, as we'd prefer to get the whole kit from them going forward (previously, we've purchased elements elsewhere as they were somewhat cheaper).

Lent term arrow hire fees

- Specifically: should beginners currently on the bow loan scheme have the bow hire fee waived if they wish to borrow arrows from the club in Lent term?
- A secondary question was also raised of whether we would be loaning equipment out next term for beginners who are not on the hire-purchase scheme, as the beginner bows will then not be needed for anything else.
- The committee decided to leave this discussion til next term.

Annual dinner - YX

- On the poll that YX is conducting, Easter term is currently more popular than the usual February date, as the hope is that a sit-down dinner will be more feasible by then.
- Varsity is currently tentatively scheduled for the 16th of May, pending agreement from St John's, the first week after Ramadan. The alternative date RS has asked about is the following weekend.
- There was strong agreement that the Annual Dinner should not be scheduled for during Ramadan, that holding the dinner too close to exams would not be ideal, and that attempting to fit it into June post-exams would clash with other club events.
- The best alternative was agreed to be end of Lent term, i.e. mid-March.
- Sidney will also be reviewing their booking policy in January; YX suggested we may also want to wait until after this before we make a firm decision.
- A note: their cancellation policy has a hefty 90 day lead time...
- LP asked about running the dinner at an external venue, but if we can get the senior treasurer onside, we would have a discount holding it at Sidney.
- RS suggested that YX find out first whether the senior treasurer is onside (and if he knows what "main organiser" means) before we decide whether we want to work around Sidney's timelines.

Revs societies deal - YX

- YX has spoken with Phoebe, our rep at Revs.
- The contract that was sent round is the final one; note that the £1 fee per inactivated card has now been dropped, supposedly because our cards are coming in late.
- SK asked about compulsory events via email; YX reported that Phoebe has said they will be very flexible with Covid, and we can substitute events if need be; there should be no penalty for not holding the required events. RS/VH then asked what "required" meant in this context, and LC expressed concerns about Revs

unexpectedly enforcing the contract. However, it appears that the contrast clause says that we are “asked” rather than required to hold certain events.

- YX proposed that we sign the contract; the committee agreed.

Pint Shop student deal - YX

- YX has also spoken with Liz at the Pint Shop about potential sponsorship/student deals.
- Monday and Tuesday already have student deals, and YX asked if we may be able to get additional deals on other days; Liz is going to ask her boss.
- They would likely ask in return that we offer them some publicity, e.g. posted pictures of socials there and tagging them; AP confirmed this is something we have done in the past.
- They may also be happy to look into sponsorship, e.g. in exchange for putting their logo on our stash, although issues with PlayerLayer over this were anticipated (and heavens knows we’ve had enough of those already).
- As there’s no exclusivity deal with Revs, YX/AP are going to continue liaising with them about the possibilities.

AOB

Equipment update - LP

- Beginner bows have been refitted and relabelled, and there are a number of spare strings around that allow us to reuse bows across sessions safely.
- There are currently 5 bows on loan to experienced members, and 6 outstanding requests.
- 10 bows have been lined up for novices, with the exception of 2 pairs of limbs that are currently mere twinkles in the postman’s eye. RS suggested phoning Clickers about these. In the meantime, beginner bows will be used for the first novice session (Tues 13th).
- The committee debated at some length to what degree the club is responsible for supplying all members with equipment, but it was agreed that due to lack of time and money, the club is simply unable to meet the huge demand this year.
- To that end, RS has offered to disappoint some of the experienced members who are behind the outstanding bow loan requests on behalf of the equipment officers, and offer them some alternatives/advice. LP/AK to give RS the names.

Tournaments - LP

- LP is being pushed for scores for the SCAS winter league. The problem is that this requires Portsmouth scores, which are nigh on impossible with our current session times. As we're not the only club struggling with this, RS suggested that we simply tell SCAS that we will be unable to participate.
- LP requested that anyone who does manage a Portsmouth, sends their score to him for submission.

Cambridge's Covid alert level - RS

- Cambridge is currently on a "medium" tier. Should it move into "high", we will no longer be able to shoot at distances of 2m with barriers, and will no longer be able to have details, meaning we drop to 5 archers in each Sports Hall session and 3 in each EWR session (provided the venues stay open). Should we move into "very high", indoor shooting is entirely banned.
- As the threshold for moving to "high" is over 100 cases per 100000, and Cambridge had 116 on the 11th, we are in the danger zone.
- RS therefore asked the committee to start brainstorming possibilities for how the club/individual portfolios might handle such an apocalypse, and be prepared to collate this info by the end of the week. However, he asked that the committee continue operating as if this will not happen for now.

Other social items - YX

- Bonfire Night, predictably, has been cancelled, as we can no longer have nice things.
- AP/VH suggested a "crying social" should the alert level be increased.

Publicity - AP

- Meet the committee posts are in progress.
- AP asked that anyone who's yet to tell her how many years they've been shooting and a fun fact, gets in touch with this info.

Novice squad and beginners course updates - AP

- Regarding the beginners course, there is a plan to make some substitutions; students have been asked to reply by Wednesday in order to avoid losing their place. From Wed, AP will start replacing people on the course.
- The first novice session is Tues 13th at EWR, which will be split into two sub-sessions. The majority of novices are being given their own bows.

Constitution and name change - RS

- RS intends to work on some significant constitutional redrafting and bring it to the committee for the next meeting.
- This includes a proposal for a change to the club's name, after which he plans to call an EGM.

Meeting concluded: 21:27 BST. Next meeting will be Monday 2nd Nov at 20:00 BST.