

# Report on SCAA County Conference held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at Hurtspierpoint Village Hall

## 1. Attendance

The Conference was open to all Chairmen/Chairwomen, Secretaries and Treasurers of all Sussex affiliated Clubs.

26 people attended.

## 2. Talks were given by

- Rob Anderson – on ‘Ratifying the National Coaching Framework’.  
Rob outlined the fact that funds were available to develop and help ordinary archers from a £800,000 grant over 4 years for the whole of England. This was separate from the Elite archers who had separate funding. If Sussex signed up, then funds could be available. Sussex did sign up and members will be informed on how this scheme is to be administered and ways to access it.
- Terry White – on ‘The purpose of practice is to practice with purpose’.  
Terry gave a very interesting talk on the importance of a purposeful approach to practice which included writing everything down and setting yourself targets.
- Andrew Holdsworth – on ‘The Sussex County Website – how it can help you and your Club’  
Andrew explained that it was very much easier for people to post events and notices on the new revamped website which had been created by Chris Tucknott. All you had to do was register which enabled you to use the facility to update. Entry forms and photos could also be uploaded. Andrew asked that people should try it out and any feedback for additional facilities would be most welcome.
- Les Bartlett– from the Martlets Guild on ‘What it is and how can it support my Club’  
Les explained the history of how Martlets was set up as a separate coaching organisation but was still part of the County. It trains coaches and keeps them up-to-date with continuous professional development. It also can help individual Clubs who may not have coaches or who would like help with coaching.
- Graham Devenish – from the Martlets Guild on ‘How can good coaches support my Club’  
Graham explained that a great deal of effort had been spent in raising the number of qualified coaches at every level in the County and that this resource should be used by the Clubs. The more the coaches are used the more experience is gained which can be used for the benefit of all archers throughout the County.
- Doreen Cannon – on ‘Team Selection – How it is done’  
The Team Selection criteria had been devised in 2004, and a copy would be made available on the website. Doreen stressed the importance of all scores of high first class, MB and above being sent to the County Records Officer (Terry Maskell) by the club Records Officer. However, it would probably be preferable if both the club records officer and the archer sent in information. These scores should be sent to the CRO no later than one month from achieving them.

### 3. Delegate Discussion

All delegates were invited to split into 3 groups to discuss the following issues. The meeting later reconvened to give the results of the discussions which are summarised below.

- The Way Ahead – what are your ideas on progressing archery within your Club and county?
  - Sharing Club facilities e.g. indoor or field shooting
  - Encouraging more friendly shoots between Clubs
  - Putting on Coaching Workshops within your own Club
  - More Communication – add Chairman to emails to Secretaries from County
  - Encourage Clubs to produce their own news-sheet which could include County items
- How do you improve relations between county members and the County Administration?  
Do you feel that the County Administration does enough for the membership?
  - The County communication is adequate the fault lies at Club Level. Some Secretaries are more competent than others in passing on information.
  - Ensure that Clubs update changes of secretary, email addresses promptly to the county secretary so that these can be communicated to SCAS and GNAS secretaries
  - Have an annual half-day conference
  - Ask for individual email addresses as part of renewal process to disseminate information
  - Encourage Clubs to have an assembly before a Club Session at which chosen County matters can be aired
  - Ageism – the average age of Committee members was thought to be high
- Apathy within the County to the Sport. How would you address the problem within the Clubs and County?
  - Problems identified - Younger people not getting involved due to family commitments, Expensive to become involved with travelling
  - Solutions - More open Team selection process

### 4. Feedback

- What was your overall impression of the Conference?  
All said either informative, very good, interesting, constructive or useful
- How often should the County hold these conferences, if at all?  
Responses were annually or biannually, with the majority being annual.
- What topics would you like to be covered at a future Conference?  
Updates, new info, publicity – how to increase membership and how to hold on to members.
- Any Comments on the facilities?  
Lovely facilities, lunch welcomed, very good, good, smaller room preferred as difficult to hear
- Any Further Comments?  
Speakers Good, food great, record officers should have been invited too for Team selection talk, 'National Coaching Framework' talk should be presented to coaches, help offered for future conferences.

Andrew Holdsworth

V2 27.02.09