

## **Scottish Archery Association**

### **Autumn announcement – October 2011**

**Hi Everyone,**

The AGM and our first inaugural year end is fast approaching, I thought I should bring you up to date on a few matters.

#### **AGM**

This will be held in Montrose this year.

I thought it a good idea to explain the Boards reasoning, behind this decision to hold this meeting in the North.

We are piloting the movement of the AGM around the areas on rotation for the next three years. We wish ALL our members to feel part of the SAA, and we hope this will be one way of addressing this. In a society promoting fairness and equality, all members should have the right to have the most important SAA meeting of the year, hosted within their area on a fair and equal basis. Next year we will choose a location and venue in the West.

Every possible date was carefully examined, it has been impossible this year to appease everyone. As the AGM has been held traditionally on a Sunday over the past few years, the Board decided this was the best possible date for everybody.

#### **PVG Scheme**

This is almost ready for launching, at the moment we are running a trial with one of our clubs, to see if the new system of protocols will work effectively. When all our systems have been checked and verified by CRBS and Children1st, we will be ready to go. An area will be established on the website, where all the information, guidelines and policies are mapped out in a simple, easy to follow guide.

#### **Sportscotland**

Our Annual Business Plan has been submitted to Sportscotland and we are currently awaiting their decision on how much, if any investment funding is available. We have produced a much more in-depth plan this year and have incorporated areas which have not been included before, such as Participation, Coaching, Disability and Development.

Submitting a much more rounded and balanced plan which encompasses the whole of the SAA from Grassroots to Performance: plus our move to Company status; the Board undertaking Governance workshops and courses; the many meetings we have held with our stakeholders and partners and the essential presence of Scottish Archery at key Sporting occasions hosted by an assortment of bodies including Holyrood, Scottish Sporting Alliance, Sportscotland, Scottish Disability Sport, Institute of Sport Scotland and ArcheryGB.

We hope that all the hard work and commitment over the past year will demonstrate to Sportscotland, we are evolving into a professional and dedicated Governing Body who are passionately engaged in creating a modern and fit for purpose organisation.

### **New Board Members**

Our three new co-opted Directors have made a huge impact since taking their seats at the Board.

Head of Participation, Maxine Dodds has in a very short space of time (three weeks), produced a creditable and well received Development plan which is ready to go very shortly, has met with key partners and is working tirelessly on her huge remit this post brings.

Head of Coaching, Iain Wilson has also met with key partners and is working on the new remit of Coaching within the SAA. The action plan will cover all areas of coaching and Iain has acquired the assistance of Iain Kennedy, Coaching Team for SportsScotland to be part of new working group, to align with the Coaching Scotland Framework. Of course there is much to be done, some of which cannot be produced overnight, coaching is the most central part of any good NGB and Iain is working hard to address this.

Head of Operations, Eddie Barrett has filled a much needed post on the board. There are many issues and areas requiring his attention. This is probably one of the most difficult roles on the Board. Eddie is currently reviewing and prioritising this remit, many ideas and solutions will be sorted out quite quickly, but other important issues will take a little longer.

Although not a Board role, our Disability Officer, Shelly Philip has seen significant changes to her original remit. Shelly has demonstrated her enthusiasm and commitment to the role, producing a plan which focuses on ensuring coaches and clubs have sufficient training to welcome and support archers with a variety of disabilities, and provide a pathway for disabled archers with the determinations, ability and commitment to work towards Paralympics status.

So in conclusion, apart from the Performance Director role to be filled, we now have an incredible and pro-active Board and I would urge all of you, our members, to use your vote at the AGM to allow these co-opted posts to be ratified at the AGM. It is quite the norm for a Board to take two or three years to settle down and get the right people in the right place at the right time, however with your support, I think we are almost there.

If you would like a seat at one of the sub-groups which operate under each Director's remit, please get in touch with them directly, via their SAA email address.

### **Vacancies**

There are a few new posts we would like to introduce. Please get in touch if you have any experience or are willing to take on a role. It has been proven over this past year, bringing in new members, previously not holding a high profile position within the SAA, does work. Fresh ideas, a passion to drive the SAA forward, coupled with the ethos of team working and encouragement, has certainly allowed some personnel to positively bloom in their new roles. So please make your-self known and try it!

**E-ZINE Editor** – The person identified for this role would be creating and producing a regular email newsletter, the time period monthly or quarterly to be decided. This would involve collecting information on Coaching Courses, Beginners Courses and Leader courses being held. Regular updates from all the Directors, as an avenue for more direct communication with the membership. Competitions, Tournaments, Club Articles and News. Governance courses available in each area for clubs officials to

renew, learn or update their skills. PVG updates and anything else that could be of benefit.

**Historian** – A person with knowledge of the SAA, collecting documents, paperwork and any articles associated with the SAA for archiving. Hardly anything has become known, in my time in office and before all our cultural history disappears, we need to address this. Also some of the stories I have heard this year have been absolutely fascinating and these need to be collected and recorded too, whether 50 years old or last week. It is important these are preserved.

**PVG Officer** – this position is still vacant, now most of the integration of the PVG Scheme into SAA has been completed, this position would not be so time consuming. My workload is ever increasing and I really need someone to step in for me, so I can concentrate on my role. You would not be alone in this, both I and Martin Symonds, Director of Membership Services, will be there to assist as when required.

**Club Member Panel** – I would like to head up this panel and ask a selection of you, from different clubs and areas, to be in direct email communication with me, so any new developments, initiatives or ideas, could be put to you for comment or amendment. This would work both ways, as I will act as board liaison and pass on your ideas, initiatives to the board for their consideration.

Ideally, a representation of club members across Scotland, grassroots archers, those club members who have only been involved in archery for a year or so and anyone else who would be prepared to be involved in open and honest discussions for the benefit of the SAA.

I look forward to meeting you at the AGM in November.

Kindest Regards,

Tracy