

Company of Sixty Field Archers

Welcome to the Company of Sixty Newsletter, February 2009

Club Calendar and Shoot dates for 2009/10

The following shoot dates were agreed at the Club AGM in January 2009. These dates are subject to final confirmation, but hopefully should not change. The dates will be notified to the NFAS shoots organiser in due course, and will be published on-line at the Company of Sixty website, the NFAS website, and in print in the NFAS Newsletter.

2009

Sat 21 st Feb	Friendly Shoot
Sat 28 th Feb	Work Party 11am, prep work / new course laying NO PRACTICE SHOOTING!!
Sun 1 st Mar	3-Way Club challenge at HNA's new ground.
Sun 15th Mar	Open, 3D and faces
Mon 13 th Apr	Friendly – Easter Monday
Sun 26 th Apr	SPTA St George's Day shoot
Sun 9 th May	Friendly shoot
Sat 6 th June	Work Party 11am, prep work / new course laying NO PRACTICE SHOOTING!!
Sun 14th June	Open, 3D and faces
Sun 12 th July	Club Champs – members only!
Sat 15 th Aug	Friendly shoot
Sat 29 th Aug	Work Party 11am, prep work / new course laying NO PRACTICE SHOOTING!!
Sun 13th Sept	Open, 3D and faces
Fri 23 rd Oct	Night Raccoon shoot
Sat 7 th Nov	Friendly shoot
Sat 21 st Nov	Work Party 11am, prep work / new course laying NO PRACTICE SHOOTING!!
Sun 29 th Nov	SPTA Venison Shoot (t.b.c)
Sun 6th Dec	Ron Pavitt Memorial Open Shoot, 3D and faces
Sun 20 th Dec	Mince Pie Shoot (Friendly)

2010

Fri 1 st Jan	Friendly – New Years Day
Sun 24 th Jan	Friendly

Minutes of the Company of Sixty AGM, 2009.

The Club AGM for 2009 was held at Oxshott Village Hall, on the evening of Thursday 22nd January 2009.

Apologies were received from Linda, Rex, Myrtle, Alex Smith, Andrea Beddard, and Paul Provins. There were 30 members present for the meeting. John opened the meeting at 19:30.

Chairman: John Pryke (Club Sec)
Scribe: Bob Dysart (Publicity Officer and Newsletters)

Agenda

1. Agreement of previous AGM minutes for 2008
2. Annual Reports from Committee members
3. Committee stands down
4. Committee post elections
5. Proposals from club members
6. Any Other Business

1. Agreement of previous AGM minutes for 2008

Copies of the previous minutes were distributed, and a vote taken regarding their accuracy. The vote was unanimously in favour.

2. Annual Reports from Committee members

2.a John Pryke, Club Secretary

JP reported that there had been some complaints over the year from archers from other clubs regarding the long held position of the club that no sighted classes were supported. He had looked into this question with the Crown Estates, and in the end found out that there was no actual limitation from the landlords, except for crossbows, which are still considered a poacher's weapon. So the decision was brought before the club membership in a straight vote. After a poor response from club members the vote went 21 votes to 20 in favour of allowing sighted classes to be shot at the club. This decision was notified to the NFAS, and we have seen an increase in the number of archers turning up for shoots, which has boosted shoot income. However, this decision also required a change in the club's Constitution, and this was taken under AOB. **Crossbows are now the only NFAS class which the club cannot support.**

Following other discussions regarding the ground rent for the club (see elsewhere in the Newsletter for developments), it was suggested that the club should try to get a rent reduction by means of escaping the VAT on the rent. On investigation it was found that this has been a decision by the landlord (Crown Estates), and that it was their 'election' choice to charge it. Once the 'election' is made it cannot be undone or changed.

JP had also attended an on-site meeting with Mr Derick Stickler, Chief Forester of the Crown Estates. Mr Stickler had asked for the meeting to discuss the ground rental license, and to inspect the ground. He was very impressed with the state of the ground, which was due to the hard work of all those members who had turned up for the work party the weekend before. Many thanks from the Committee to all of you for your efforts; it really made a difference on the day.

2.b Carol Edwards, Membership Secretary

Carol reports that at the end of 2008 the club had 134 members. This included 35 late joiners, 86 fully paid-up members and 14x 1 parent / 1 child joint memberships. We have a 30% membership turnover of memberships, but we have so far made it to the end of the year with sufficient members to pay the rent and insurance bills. Considering the large number of late joiners each year, we will continue to allow sliding scale subscriptions for new members only.

Carol had two proposals for consideration at the AOB voting stage: 1. to put Open shoot fees for visitors up to £7 per shoot, and 2. to move the subscription year round to beginning in March to help with new memberships and matching the NFAS membership year.

2.c Linda Bennett, Events Officer

Linda sent her apologies, as she was unable to make it to the meeting. However it was reported that the Open shoots that had been held through the year had gone well. Also the club income from Open shoots had increased since the inclusion of sighted classes

2.d Paul Chenery, Treasurer

Paul presented the following set of figures for the year up to the date of the AGM:

Company Of Sixty Field Archers			Income
Outgoing			
Rent to The Crown Estates	????????????	£4,948.00	Membership fees
Insurance and fees	£453.97	£3,678.00	Shoots
Club infrastructure IE. Ethafom bosses, backstops, 3D targets, target faces, calor gas, paint, postage, keys, timber, wooden stakes and sundries.	£2,013.56	£345.00	Other
		£86.04	Bank Interest
Nfas Fees	£450.00		
Total of outgoings	£2,917.53	£9,057.04	total of income
	opening balance	£3,125.04	
	total of income	£9,057.04	
	sub total	£12,182.08	
	Total of outgoings	£2,917.53	
	closing balance		
	+	£9,264.55	

Note that the closing balance is somewhat higher than would seem necessary, since this does not include the deduction of the annual ground rent to the Crown Estates (see discussion elsewhere in this newsletter).

Paul also drew attention to the fact that due to careful management and better income from Open shoots and other sources (Corporate Days, raffles, and SPTA ground bookings), the club now has the financial capability to cover outgoings for a year, that is, a one year carry over. This brought up some discussion regarding the increase in membership fees, but Paul pointed out that this carry over ability has to be balanced against increased future costs and possibly lower shoot turnouts in the recession year to come. This status does afford the club some forward financial stability when considered with the negotiations for the ground rent over a longer 5-year period. This is a good position for the club to be in, and one which the club has been aiming towards for some time.

2.e Bob Dysart, Publicity Officer

I apologised for my low number of Newsletters through the past year, but this was mainly down to a lot of work, plus not so much to write about. I will attempt to do better for 2009, and would ask members for items to be submitted. For example it would be possible for members to advertise items wanted or for sale. Contact me at the usual email address if you wish to sell or buy something archery-related.

There are a few reminders that need to be re-iterated for all club members. Please remember that you must **ALWAYS** bring the following documents with you to the shooting grounds:

1. Club membership card – this confirms your right to be there, and insurance status for the club
2. Car parking card, which must be clearly displayed in your car.
3. NFAS membership card – insurance status for the Society.

2.f Mike Hobbs, Target Officer

Mike would like to thank the course layers who gave up time and effort during the year to set new courses for us all to enjoy. Mike would like to remind all members that the course is closed for practice on the Saturday two weekends before any OPEN shoot. This is to ensure the safety of the course layers and volunteers. **NO PRACTICE SHOOTING IS TO BE DONE WHILE THE COURSE LAYING IS ONGOING.** Anyone turning up on the course laying day will be seen as a volunteer to help out!

Course setters for the Open shoots for 2009 are as follows:

15 th March	Ron
21 st June	Karl
13 th Sept	Terry & Steve
6 th Dec	Carol

2.g Barry Newman, 3D Wrangler

Due to good incomes from Open shoots, it has been possible to bring our stock of 3D targets for our Open shoots up to 27. These targets are a great incentive for visiting archers. Barry is also looking into trying some 3D repair kits to allow our targets to have longer useable lives.

3. Committee stands down

With the committee member's reports completed, the entire committee stood down to allow the election of members to the posts.

4. Committee post elections

The following members were proposed, seconded, and accepted for the club committee:

Post	Proposed	Proposer	Seconded	Elected
Club Secretary	John Pryke	Barry	Don	Yes
Membership Secretary	Carol Edwards	Paul	Mike	Yes
Events Officer	Linda Bennett	Carol	John Way	Yes
Treasurer	Paul Chenery	Carol	Bob	Yes
Publicity Officer	Bob Dysart	Helene Holloway	Barry	Yes
Target Officer	Mike Hobbs	Barry	John Pryke	Yes
3D Wrangler	Barry Newman	John Way	Terry Cramp	Yes

5. Proposals from club members

No formal written proposals were received before the AGM.

6. Any Other Business

a. From Alex Smith and Andrea Beddard

1. Change of AGM time to 8.00pm or even better 8.30

Response: all are welcome along to the AGM at whatever time they can make it. Having said that, the committee acknowledge that the early start is hard for some, but at the same time it is important that the meeting is over at a reasonable time.

2. If worst comes to worst and we cannot find a compromise with the Crown Estate, don't wind the club up immediately, keep it going with a nominal membership fee - say £5 - while we all try to find a new ground. We'd happily store a 3D in the garden and I'm sure other members would also be able to help with storage of club equipment. In these days of 'credit crunch' there must be farmers out there who would appreciate the additional income. Also suggest that we write to Prince Charles or Prince Philip who is Honorary President of an Archery Club [Winsor Forest Bowmen] and so should be sympathetic - you never know till you try :-)

Response: Many thanks for the suggestions. The meeting with the Crown Estates went well, as previously noted. There have been some negotiations and we have made headway with the CE, see later Newsletter information.

3. Membership renewals - will a form be posted or should we just put a cheque into the post to Carol?

Response: since we have now reached a provisional agreement with the Crown Estates, and have set the annual membership rates for 2009, Carol is taking membership forms in the usual way. You should have received one in the post, but copies of the new form will be available from Carol directly.

b. From Terry Cramp

Would it be possible to buy some Hessian faces for our friendly and open shoots? There is a company advertising as NFAS members, and these faces are hardwearing and attractive. We could even make some of our own – are there any budding artists in the club?

Response: Terry to look into costs and availability. Any artists in the club could offer to paint some faces too.

c. From Paul Chenery

Following on from earlier discussions re Open shoot fees for visitors etc., there is a suggestion to increase Open shoot fees. Friendly shoot fees to remain the same. The suggested fees will be: £7 for adult visitors, Juniors £3, Cubs free. Members shoot fees remain at £2 per adult.

Response: voted on, and agreed.

d. From John Pryke

Need to vote on a change to the club Constitution to allow the shooting of sighted classes for club members.

Response: voted on, and agreed. Document will be updated.

e. From Carol Edwards

In order to ensure that gate keys are returned to the club by leaving members Carol suggested raising the key deposit to £20. A lot of discussion ensued.

Response: voted on, proposition failed. Key deposit remains at £5 per member.

f. From Maureen Williams

Clarification regarding the use of carbon arrows in the club's woods. This is important following the acceptance of sighted archers into the club and at Open shoots.

Response: Information from committee - carbon arrows are acceptable in our woods. All archers should take home all broken arrows irrespective of their shaft composition.

g. From Helene Holloway

Dates for 6-monthly work parties to be clearly identified in advance. One to be held in the summer, and one in the winter. This will simplify cleanups and keep the woods in better shape.

Response: voted on and agreed. Committee will identify the work party Saturdays, and these will be communicated in the club Newsletter.

h. From the committee

The NFAS Newsletter does not include location information for the Company of Sixty shoots.

Response: Bob will communicate this information to the NFAS, and ensure that it is included in the next NFAS Newsletters

i. From Carol Edwards

Asked if we should push the Crown Estates for a 5-year deal, considering the success we have already had in securing a better deal for ground rent from them.

Response: voted on, and agreed. Carol and Nick Cox will take further negotiations with the Crown Estates to see if they will accept a 5-year deal.

j. From Carol Edwards

Suggested the introduction of an Associate Club Membership – allows partners to attend and be covered by club insurance.

- non shooting membership
- partners
- must be NFAS Associated members
- membership rate of £5 per annum.

Response: voted on, and agreed. Member's partners can now join for a much reduced rate, and be considered club members.

k. From Alan Bull

What can we do about unexpected visitors being in or around the course? People from the Queen Elizabeth College and Tyrwhitt House have been found wandering around the course, as have some school kids. What can we do about them?

Response from committee: we cannot stop people from entering the course area, even though we have and pay for exclusive use of the woods. We have a duty of care to vocally warn unexpected visitors, put up warning signs and ensure that paths are well signposted and taped off if necessary. We all have to be careful when shooting, but we are covered by the NFAS and club insurance in case of accidents.

1. From Karl

There are a lot of now unused tree trunk protection tubes littering the woods, and they are very unsightly. What should we do about them when tidying the ground?

Response: Mr Stickler from the Crown Estates had already answered this one – they will take them away if we stack them somewhere close to pathways in piles. If you find them loose around the ground, please bring them back to the hut area for collection.

The AGM meeting was closed by John at 21:35.

End of AGM Minutes.

Sunday Workparty / Ground cleanup – Sunday 11th January 2009 – THANKS !

The work done by everyone who turned up was fantastic, and the committee would like to thank everyone who gave up their time, effort and cakes! It was a really great day with huge amounts of rubbish being cleared up and taken away. As can be seen in the AGM minutes, it was agreed that we should do this kind of thing twice a year, once in the summer (maybe with a BBQ), and once in the winter. Dates for these tidy-up days will be announced in due course.

Renegotiation of the Club's ground rent with The Crown Estate.

John Pryke (Club Secretary) met again with the Crown Estates Head Forester the day before the AGM. It was a good meeting, since the woods were very tidy and cleaned up. Some points were discussed, and negotiations have continued since. So far the Crown Estates have moved somewhat in our favour, and Carol and Nick have managed to bring in a 5 year agreement (subject to final agreement and first payment) which will give the club some financial stability. So although membership rates have gone up a little, they might not have to go up again in the next few years.

We cannot comment on the final settlement until it has all been signed, sealed and delivered, but the situation for the club is looking a lot better than it did in November/December.

In order to mitigate the rent increase that will come in any event, it was agreed at the recent committee meeting / EGM to increase the Club's annual membership fees as follows, effective 1st January 2009:

Annual Family membership:	£100
Annual Adult membership:	£50
Annual Junior membership:	Unchanged
Annual Cub membership:	Unchanged

We understand that this is not a popular change, given the economic circumstances that we all find ourselves in, but the club would be certain to fold if we cannot cover the costs for ground rent and insurance. We also need to have a bit of a membership drive, in chasing up any lapsed members, other interested archers, or others interested in becoming members, in order to bring in as many membership fees as reasonably possible for the next year. If you know anyone who could be interested in joining, please have them contact Carol.

Company of Sixty on the Internet!

As you may or may not be aware, the Company of Sixty has a presence on the internet, found at:

<http://www.co60.co.uk/>

I also maintain an email distribution list for sending out computer copies of these newsletters, and for emergency notifications, other club news etc. This saves the club money for postage, and the environment. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, and have a working email address, please send an email to me at:

Robert.Dysart@ericsson.com (NB: That is Robert 'dot' Dysart.....)

Finally, there is of course the NFAS Webboard. This is not a Company of Sixty-specific resource, but you may find most of the information and comments on there of interest. Many members of our club post on there regularly. The forum is very easy to join, and I have used it in the past to inform Company of Sixty members of date changes etc. The forum can be found at <http://www.nfas.net/forum/>

Lapsed members

Any member not rejoining this year should ensure that their padlock key is returned to Carol. You will then receive your deposit back.

Company of Sixty Field Archers Ltd, registered as a non-profit making company 2/4/2004

Company Contacts:

Director:	Michael Hobbs	01483 429272
Secretary:	Carol Edwards	01932 865181

The Club Officers are:

Secretary	John Pryke 01372 720627	Events Officer	Linda Bennett 0208 874 6538
Treasurer	Paul Chenery 07931 521504	Publicity	Bob Dysart 01483 305182
Membership	Carol Edwards 01932 865181	3D Wrangler	Barry Newman 01932222769
Target Officer	Mike Hobbs 01483 429272		

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