

National Judges Conference

3rd March 2019

George Washington Hotel, Newcastle

Welcome

Dave Harrison welcomed everyone to the Conference on the behalf of the Northern Counties and hoped that everyone had a good Conference and enjoyed the area.

Susan Richards welcomed everyone on behalf the Judges Working Group and passed on apologies from Richard Pilkington, the Conference Co-ordinator, who is unwell and unable to attend.

Everyone was given a feed back sheet to fill in during the day showing what people found good, bad, things that made them think and the things they had learnt from.

Short Test

The morning started with a short anonymous test lasting 20 minutes.

Update from the Working Group

Susan gave an update on what the Judges Working Group had been doing and their plans following the transition from being the National Judge Committee.

She read a statement from Arran Coggan from Archery GB who is the Clubs and Facilities Manager and has responsibility for Judges.

"Good morning Conference

Unfortunately I can not be with you today but I hope that you enjoy the conference and take the opportunity to share and update your knowledge.

Last year I came and updated you on the internal structural changes to Archery GB. I am pleased to say that on the whole these have gone smoothly. The sport team continue to be advised by the strategic advisory group and the important area of judges in overseen by the judges working group.

The judges working group meets regularly in the same way the previous judges committee did but importantly it is supported by Archery GB staff. Myself from a development and training perspective and Jon Nott in regards to our national competition commitments.

We also have crossover into the competition management group which replaced the tournament and target committees. You would've also seen that we are communicating directly to judges with the new judge newsletter which is formed from the discussion points we have at the judges working group and we are grateful for the support in collating this information by Katy Lipscomb.

Today you will hear about some changes to the judges uniform. We are aware of issues that judges have had ordering kit and therefore we had to make a change. It was felt an opportune moment to update the judges shirt. We are endeavouring to keep costs as low as possible and ensuring that everything is of a suitable quality and available in a wide variety of sizes. There will also be a two year change over period so that Judges do not feel obliged to buy kit when they have suitable uniform.

A quick update on range registration. Although this has taken much longer to get 100% compliance from clubs on this issue we now have a much better understanding of the ranges up-and-down the country. Can I ask that judges continue to support clubs by ensuring that range certificates are displayed or available to hand where appropriate and crucially that one off ranges for tournaments and competitions especially record status are registered in the same way. We started the process in 2017 and said we would renew ranges every three years. At that time those ranges with an existing dispensation were granted an extra three years grace however from 2020 historical dispensations will need re-confirming and in some cases a visit from a range assessor may be needed.

Finally, we are working to provide online training options for candidate judges which will provide information prior to them attending the County course. The online training platform will also provide opportunities for existing judges to upscale their knowledge by watching videos, reading presentations and also engaging in discussion points. Further information will be made available later in 2019.

That you to the judges working group for their continued effort on your behalf and for arranging what I hope you will find an informative day. I look forward to hearing the feedback."

Other items covered in the update by Susan were

- The Working Group are meeting regularly as a Group and with Archery GB and were using technology to facilitate this and to keep costs low. The new structure is working well with the Working Group steering judging in the country with the support and back up of Archery GB.
- Record Status Booklet update
 - In order to make best use of the Archery GB offices time the Record Status booklets are being transitioned to being electronic with only the forms relevant for that competition being sent out (Target, Field, Clout etc).
 - The Judges section can either be
 - Filled in on the day using the Organisers computer or your own
 - Emailed to you by the Organiser for you to fill out and send back to the Organiser/AGB Office
 - Printed off by the Organiser, filled in by you on the day and scanned in to be sent back to the Office by the Organiser
 - Printed off by the Organiser, filled in by you and posted back by the Organiser
 - At the moment the forms cannot be filled in on an I-pad or tablet, this is being looked at.
 - There was a question on what to do as Judges cannot check the booklet to check what status has been awarded. Robert Potts confirmed that Karen (in the AGB Office) sends out an authorisation form to Organisers which details the status the tournament has been awarded and for what rounds.
 - Copies of the sections on the booklets can be found on the AGB website here – <https://www.archerygb.org/coaches-judges-volunteers/become-a-judge/judges-information/>
- Archery GB Learning Curve. This is an e-learning platform that the coaches have been using for a while and the Working Group are hoping to use for Judges, for example information from Seminars and Conferences would be on there.

It is hoped that a lot of the information delivered at Seminars could be put on there so attendees can read it before attending and the actual day can be spent on more practical learning

Videos and photos could also be loaded on there as well as a discussion forum which would only be accessible to Judges and would be a safe and private place to discuss situations and share information or issues.

It is hoped it will be ready for the October seminars

In order to help it grow overtime feedback from everyone will be needed and appreciated and also input to make sure it is relevant to all Judges.

It is hoped in the future that some on-line tests will also be one there, such as for seminars which will help make sure we all have the same information and that testing is consistent. In the end it might be that Seminars can be done completely on-line which will mean they can be held more frequently and reduce the cost for everyone.

- Lasers. Whilst lasers are very handy when checking a field course they are not always appropriate to use at Target events. This is for a variety of reasons – they cannot pick up the reflection accurately over a long distance to give an accurate reading, some of the lower quality lasers do not always have the same tolerances as we need for measuring, they cannot measure multiple distances. There has been circumstances where people have measured a venue with a laser and thought it was incorrect and asked for the field to be reset, but when the venue was rechecked with a tape it was found to be correct. From now on all lasers are BANNED at target events where the round changes distances (such as a 1440 or York) or if the laser does not meet our tolerance requirements. Lasers which meet the tolerance requirements can still be used on rounds where the targets do not move, such as Portsmouths, 18m, 50m, 70m etc. However you should still use a tape to double check and so archers can see that you have checked the venue. A question was asked about measuring wheels, it was advised that you need to be careful with these as they are not good on bumpy ground or when the ground is wet, so must always be checked with a tape measure.
- Annual Returns (J08)
Robert Potts said that so far they had received Annual returns from 177 Judges which showed over 2500 judging days, meaning an average of 15 days per judge. The split between AGB and WA is about 50/50 and whilst most tournaments are Target events the number of Field and Clout events is increasing. The statistics are being used by the Working Group to help focus training and monitor changing trends as well as demonstrating to AGB how much work Judges are actually doing. It is mandatory to send your annual returns to your JLO when they request them.
- J10 – National Judging Scheme
This is in the process of being updated. The requirement to do a Field shoot before assessment is probably going to be dropped and replaced with the requirement to Field or Clout or Flight. There will also be some minor tweaks over re-accreditation.
 - The room was asked if they preferred to get the re-accreditation paper before Christmas and return it by the end of January or get it at the beginning of January and return it by the end of January. People preferred to get the paper before Christmas so they have more time to do it as some people were busy in December and others were busy in January with work and other commitments.

Judges Uniform

As mentioned earlier there have been issues with the current supplier so a change has to be made. The Working Group have worked hard to make sure that the changes are minimal and are less likely to change in the future.

Full details are in the presentation which can be found here - <https://www.archerygb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/judges-unitform-details-March-2019.pdf>

The trousers are staying the same so there is no need for anyone to change. The outwear (coats etc) is changing slightly, for example some items are changing and some of the logos are changing, but on the whole they are staying the same and there is no need for anyone to change what they already have. The new outwear choices are – Regatta “Dover” jacket, Osaka Softshell fleece, Lance bodywarmer, Core bodywarmer, Core showerproof windcheater and Core microfleece lined waterproof.

The new supplier is “Individual Design” who specialise in small order items and aim to have a 2 week turn around. The outwear should be ordered directly from them and the order form can be found here - <https://www.archerygb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Judges-Uniform-Outerwear-Order-form.docx>

The t-shirts are the only item that are changing and there will be a two year transition period. The new shirts are all green and are cotton polo shirts. They are produced by Errea (who are also the supplier of all AGB uniform). The current shirts are too expensive to re-create and moving to a single colour will make them cheaper and if we ever need to move supplier again they will be easy to reproduce. The new shirt is currently only short sleeved, if you want to wear a white or black underlayer to cover your arms, that is fine.

Those Judges who are doing a National Tournament in 2019 will get one free shirt, these will either be sent directly to the Judge or delivered to Lilleshall, depending on the tournament.

There will be a transition of 2 years, so by April 2021 everyone must be in the new shirts, in the meantime, whilst it would be nice if everyone at a shoot was wearing the same shirt (either old or new) it is not an issue if it is mixed.

The new shirts should cost approximately £20 and are ordered directly from Archery GB, full details will follow once they are finalised.

There were several questions from the floor

- Shorts – it was asked if shorts could be worn in lower temperatures or all of the time. The Working Group will take this back to Archery GB, they will also ask about culottes or skorts for women instead of shorts.
- Sizing Charts – it was asked if sizing charts for the items could be published to help people with ordering. The Working Group will speak to the suppliers and publish these.
- Returns – it was asked what the Returns policies were for the items. The Working Group will clarify these
- Different sizes – whilst the items come in a variety of sizes what should judges do if they need sizes outside of these. The supplier of the outer wear, Individual Design, have said if anyone needs assistance with this, to contact them directly and they will help them. If anyone has concerns after doing this, then contact the Judges Working Group.

Finals Fields Roles

An increasing number of tournaments are having Final fields, such as the National Tour Finals, Disability Championship, Youth Festival and some Selection shoots. In order to help people feel more comfortable with the separate roles of Line Judge, Target Judge and DOS, Katy, Susan and Robert talked the room through the various roles and responsibilities.

The important thing to remember is that although the roles are all separate, we are all still a team and work together to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Don't be afraid to volunteer for these events as they are great fun and offer a different perspective. The Chair of Judges will talk you through everything at the event.

Approach and Attitude

Robert went through a presentation based on the new Code of Conduct for Officials a copy of which can be found here - <https://www.archerygb.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/AGB-Code-of-Conduct-A4-Full-blue.pdf>

In order to help with preparing training material Robert asked the tables to come up with examples of Attitudes and Behaviours they would like to see and those they don't want to see.

Would Like to See – Friendly, positive, attentive, focused, consistency, firmness, proactive, decisive, confident, inclusive, fair, approachable, team spirited/minded, admits errors

Would not Like to See – Dismissive, bad language, over familiarity, distracted, biased, unfair, over socialising, distracted, using phones, miserable, over confident/arrogant, lack of communication, violence, not focused.

A question was asked about the use of phones, as sometimes it is useful to use them to video high draws. It was advised that if a Judge needs to do this then they should sign the photo sign in sheet as anyone else would need to do. Also make sure you have an archers permission to share it before you share it and if you do not get permission delete it before leaving the field.

Disabled Archery

Robert gave a presentation which had been produced by Gary Bellamy, who is not only a Judge, but also a disabled archer and the Disability Liaison Officer for SCAS. The presentation can be found here - <https://www.archerygb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Conference-2019-disability-archery.pptx>

Several questions were asked, the main thing to remember is if you are not sure allow the archer to shoot, as long as they are safe, and then speak to the team at Archery GB. If an archer needs assistance then refer them to their local Disability Liaison Officer, either at a County or Regional level and also the AGB team.

A question was asked about assistance dogs. If someone has an assistance dog they should have the proper certificates and should talk to the Organiser in case the venue has any specific rules. As long as they are well behaved and do not disturb other archers it is fine.

Warm Up Test Feedback

The results and answers from the Warm Up Test in the morning were given out by Graham Potts. The quick test results were very good over all. The only question that was of any problem was the one about where electronic scoring is used with paper scorecards.

Where electronic scoring (tablets) and the paper scorecard are used together, and there is a discrepancy in the total between the two, then the arrow values are compared and, if they match, then the electronic totals are used for the final result. More detail is in the WA rule book 3 section 14.4 onwards.

Question Time

Judges were asked to submit questions in advance or on the day which were gone through.

- What's the inner ring on a Worcester face for?
 - Nothing – some archers use it for their own information and to track progress but it does not count for anything.

- I cannot understand why the tolerances of Clout distances and Clout rope radii have not been defined. I have found that extrapolation of the Target distances and radii to be fairly simple - ± 12 inches at 100yds extrapolates approximately to ± 18 inches at 180yds. If we take the target tolerance at 24 in radius of ± 1.5 mm (3mm diameter at 48 in diameter) - That gives ± 1.5 at 18in, ± 2 at 36in, ± 4 at 72in, ± 6 at 108in, ± 8 at 144in. I suggest to keep it simple (and in keeping with existing target rules). 5 ring ± 2 and 4,3,2,1rings ± 4 . Such calculations could replace “common sense when checking these dimensions and allow a sensible tolerance” and be far more consistent?
 - There are currently no tolerances on the scoring zone and the tolerances for the distances are the same as for target. This has been passed to Rules for their consideration.

- Judges and sponsorship. Does the sponsorship of Judges (as archers) threaten to undermine the perceived integrity of the rules and independence of the Judges?
 - As Judges tend to be Judges at one event and archers at another it is not normally an issue. However the Working Group would step in and take action if it was felt a Judge had acted with bias towards an archer. It is worth remembering that if Judges are asked to judge a match where it might look like they are not impartial they can ask to be replaced or swap, for example if the Judge is sponsored by Manufacturer A and the match is between an archer from Manufacturer A and Manufacturer B. In the same way that a Judge can ask not to judge a match which involves a family member or club member.

- Given that World Archery provides rules defining the Barebow and Longbow, albeit in Field and 3D rounds, should we be using these definitions for Barebow and Longbow at WA target events rather than AGB rules?
 - Archery GB has its own rules for Barebow and Longbow which we use, where as the WA rules only cover bows for Field and 3D so are not always suitable for Target. Even in Field rounds we tend to use the AGB rules rather than the WA ones. A motion is due to be discussed at the WA Congress later

in the year to introduce Barebow into Target archery, if this is passed then AGB would look at their rules and amend as appropriate.

- There has over the last 2-3 years been a dramatic rise in the number of WA 3D events being held within the UK. Given this rise should we not be having some training for the Judges for 3D rounds? Many of us will not have had opportunity to shoot it never mind act as a Judge at one of these events. This conference would have been a prime opportunity to have some quality training given
 - This is something the Working Group will consider for the future. 3D is very similar to Field so if you can do Field you can do 3D.
- Is a weighted wrist strap on the bow arm allowed in competition?
 - Yes, as long as it does not support the wrist. It is no different to wearing a heavy watch.
- Are you allowed limb dampeners on a Barebow in Target events?
 - Yes – you are allowed dampeners fitted to the top and bottom of the limbs (WA Interpretations in April 2015 and Sept 2005). However they cannot act as stabilisers.
- Are you allowed string silencers on a Barebow in Target events?
 - No – string silencers are not allowed on recurves or on barebows.
- Someone has built a wooden cover for the weight on their barebow, it is glued on and cannot be removed and the archer has said it is there for aesthetics only. Is it legal?
 - The concern is that the cover is hiding something that is not allowed so cannot be allowed unless you are certain it is not hiding anything that can act as a dampener
- Are strings which end in a Flemish Twist allowed on Barebows?
 - (this is where a string is not “finished” and end in frayed ends) These are allowed and are not classed as string silencers (WA Interpretation in April 2015). A string silencer is classed as something that has been added to the string.
- Are washers allowed on Barebows?
 - Yes as long as they are metal or hard plastic as they do not act as dampeners. If they are soft plastic or rubber then they are not allowed. You can ask the archer to take the weight off so you can check what the washer is made of.
- Are the rubber finger protectors that can be put on strings allowed?
 - No, they are an attachment to the string and so not allowed.

- You get to a competition and the Judge in charge has not arrived to run it (and you haven't been told before), what happens? Does this differ with Non RS, UKRS and WRS events, and is it a problem if the event is a Head 2 Head?
 - You cannot cancel the event, so run it the best that you can as long as it is safe. Make sure you talk the Organiser as soon as you know and explain what will happen and tell the archers at Assembly that the event might lose its status. Make a note on the Report form and let Archery GB know and they will make a decision on what to do with any records and claims. If the event is non record status then it is not an issue.

- Who can coach on the shooting line? World Archery talks about coaches and team managers, does this have any implications if we are running events under WRS rules and not AGB, and what communication methods are allowed?
 - Coaching on the line can happen at WA events but it is one way only – the archer cannot speak to the coach and any coaching cannot disturb other archers. The person coaching must stand behind the waiting line when competition is in progress, but during practice they can approach the archer but not go in front of the shooting line. In the UK we say that anyone can act as the Coach as long as they are not on the shooting line at that moment and are not disturbing other archers.

- Should all record status shoots be conducted using timed ends?
 - Yes if it is Indoor but it is not a requirement for Outdoor events.

- Scenario – AGB shoot with 6 arrows at longer distances and 3 arrows at the shorter distances. An archer shoots 6 arrows at the first end on change to shorter distances – they miss with the first 4 arrows and score with the last 2. There is no problem with working out the score (they score the lowest 3 arrows so 3 misses), but has the archer gained an advantage by shooting the extra 3 arrows.
 - They have had the advantage of shooting 3 extra arrows and the penalty for this was scoring the lowest 3 arrows. Do not over complicate or over think the issue, their penalty was having their score amended by the Judge to be the lowest 3 arrows.

- You go to a WRS shoot, type irrespective and the faces are not licensed, what do you do and what action do you take?
 - Measure a selection of the faces to check the dimensions and make a note of what you find. Let the archers know and explain that a requirement of WRS is the faces being licensed and so records may not be accepted. Put everything in the Record Status booklet and let Archery GB know so they can make a decision on the status of the event and how to deal with any records/awards.

- You measure the faces at a UKRS or WRS event and despite being licensed they are not in tolerance. What do you do?
 - As above measure a selection of the faces to check the dimensions and make a note of what you find. Let the archers know what has happened and

that records may not be accepted. Put everything in the Record Status booklet and let Archery GB know so they can make a decision on the status of the event and how to deal with any records/awards. Normally if the faces are too small any records will be honoured, but if the faces are too big they will not, but that is AGB's decision. Also make sure you report it so that the issue can be raised with the manufacturer.

- You are at an outdoor 1440 and it is quite foggy, you can see the targets clearly but not the overshoot. You know there is a barrier at 152 yards from the shooting line. What actions do you take?
 - Wait to see if the fog will clear so you can see the overshoot clearly. If the fog does not lift then the last resort is to position spotters in safe places where they can see the overshoot area and blow a whistle to stop shooting if someone enters that area. The spotters should be positioned well away from the shooting and should wear high visibility vests and radios if possible.
- A member of the Judging team falls ill during the event and has to leave the field and go home. This means that there is no one with the relevant grade for that event, as well as reducing the number of judges below the recommended number. The shoot is about half way through and cannot be shortened to another round?
 - Carry on as best you can. Keep the archers and Organiser informed and write everything up on the Record Status booklet and let Archery GB know so they can make a decision on any records/awards.
- Judging a flight shoot what scales can be used to measure a bow weight as AGB on calibrate for 60lbs?
 - The Working Group are looking at ways to calibrate scales for different weights for Flight and or W1 Para bows (which are 45lbs).

Open Forum

Robert talked about the National Re-accreditation which is mainly complete. There are still 2 people who have been granted extensions. The Working Group were very pleased with the results with the average score being 93%. No one has been downgraded because they failed the written paper. Several Judges have taken the decision to not be re-accredited and have been down graded to Regional. This means that their wealth of knowledge and experience is still available in the sport to help other Judges and Organisers.

There was one question on the re-accreditation paper which caused confusion - *If there is a discrepancy in the total score when a paper and an electronic scorecard are being used how should the issue be resolved?*

Robert explained that if the arrow values all match and the scoresheet has been completed, all the totals completed and it has been signed then the total from the electronic scoresheet is used. This means that archers are not penalised for their bad maths if they have done everything else properly. If however the arrow values do not match then the arrow values from the paper scoresheet stand. If the scoresheet has not been totalled and signed then the ultimate punishment is disqualification, however you may want to be lenient and use the opportunity to educate the archers.

Future Conferences – the next Conference will be on the 1st March at Taunton.

A question was asked about Flight. If one archer pulls back a bow, because the string comes into contact with their body (because of their size) the weight on the scale reads higher and puts them in a different class than another archer who pulls back the same bow but it does not touch their body. How should this be dealt with. The Working Group said they would look into it and consult with some Flight specialists.

The Conference closed at 16:40 with thanks to Susan, Robert and Richard for all their hard work in putting it together.