

Annual Report to Shropshire Coaches – April 2023

I am sorry for the late circulation of this report but since the year end on 28 February I have been out to Switzerland twice to run courses for World Archery and have been very busy with assessments on the last ever Senior Coach Course.

I have attached the latest set of accounts for the coaching group. These look quite complicated as during covid I was passing Bowbrook's beginners fees via the account to keep it active (Barclays Bank at the time were trying to steal the money as it was showing in their records as a dormant account) and I have been using the account to manage the Senior Coach course money. I have stopped using the account for Bowbrook's beginners' fees and the Senior Coach course will finish in December of this year. All the funds will be out the account by the end of this year and things will return to normal. We are getting an admin fee for the usage of the account but as all the income came at the start of the course and during this current year most of it will go out again, the accounts at the end of this year will show a massive loss. To try and mitigate this I have stripped out the Senior Coach money in the figures.

On that basis we did make a small loss in respect of the coaching funds. This was down to me subsidising the county junior squad slightly and a small subsidy put into the Safeguarding course I organised.

I am still having problems with the Bank, and they are once again threatening to close the account because of their Know your Customer requirements. I have submitted the bulk of the information they require, and I hope this will be sufficient. Part of the problem is the group does not seem to have a current constitution. If it did have one, it has become lost over time and will need redoing.

Overall, 2023/23 has been a very busy year for me with the work I have been doing for AGB and World Archery which has impacted badly on the time I have been able to devote to county matters. The Senior Coach course is winding down now but I have been booked for a lot more work by World Archery and AGB which seems to be filling every weekend between now and the end of the year. I am hopeful matters will improve from January 2024, but I thought that would be the case this year and my workload got heavier. I have one more year to do before I am up for re-election and I am looking to step down. If anybody fancies having a go at being CCO please let me know.

A big thanks to Tony and Megan Costall who helped me with the Junior Squad training over the winter. I set up 5 sessions and was then only able to make 3 of them. The aim of these sessions was to help the youngsters get used to shooting with each other, to practice or learn how to train, how to take responsibility for their equipment and some basic competition skills. I was trying not to tread on the toes of other coaches by engaging in technical coaching with individual athletes, but it did become a little apparent that some of the archers were not getting much coaching in their clubs. I am sure that is not your perception of what coaching they are receiving so perhaps it is an opportunity to reflect on your coaching provision.

I am not sure if I will be able to run junior squad training sessions this winter. I am already booked to be in Switzerland for large parts of October and November and potentially next February and March. There is also a hint I might be asked to go back to Israel at the end of the year so I just do not want to commit to a programme I cannot guarantee delivering. If somebody wants to have a go at managing it please let me know and I will try and set up a series of sessions. I did think that perhaps it would be nice to rotate around all the clubs this time with each club hosting a training event. This might encourage more junior archers to get involved.

Similarly, I have done nothing in respect of senior squad training. This has not just been down to a lack of time but also down to reservations about the level of demand. I did ask for a volunteer to take this on but did not get anybody coming forward. The situation will be the same this winter. Without a willing volunteer this is not going to happen. I am happy to handle the money and the admin, but I am not able to turn up on the day and coach. There are plenty of good coaches in the county that could do it and if people were prepared to pay significant sums for workshops, we could probably engage either Nicky Hunt or Stuart Taylor to run a day's coaching session for the county.

Unfortunately, the WMAS coaching conference did not happen. The RCO resigned and as far as I am aware we are still looking for a new RCO. Lloyd did talk to me about getting a National Coaching Conference up and running again but I declined to get involved. I did 8 of these when I was Chair of the Coaching committee and I do not want the stress.

I was hoping to do some on-line CPD sessions this winter. I attended the World Archery Coaching Conference last November and was promised a copy of the presenters slides but they were not forthcoming, and my plans fell apart. I will try and find some speakers and topics for this winter as I am conscious people are going to need renewal points soon. If anybody has any ideas for topics, speakers or better still wants to present a session please let me know.

I have a feeling that in future the renewals process will be completely automated, and you will have to do all your CPD via sessions on Sport80 so the computer will know what you have been up too. Technically I do not think AGB are able to implement this yet, but this is the direction of travel. Currently, the panel system continues so please get your renewals in in good time. I am finding some issues with records not being updated correctly so please also regularly check your Sport80 profile. Once you drop off the AGB data base as a coach you become invisible to me so I cannot chase you for a renewal. To be honest I should not have to do that. If you let your coaching certificate lapse but carry on coaching, you are putting yourself in a vulnerable position. If you give up coaching, please actually give up coaching.

I am running another Shropshire Session Coach course at the moment. If anybody wants to do a Development Coach course or you know of people who want to do a session coach course, please let me know. It requires eight people before AGB will register a course which makes it hard to find enough people to make a course viable. I have no idea where we are with the County Coach Course replacement. Lloyd said he was going to pilot it by the end of April, but I have heard nothing which makes me think it is not yet available to run. In any event it would need to be run on a regional basis to even hope to be viable and I would expect the RCO to take the lead on organising this one. Given we do not have an RCO I suspect nothing will happen this year.

I have only had one club coaching plan returned so far. Thank you Teme. Until I get more responses from clubs I will put the project on ice. I have had no enthusiasm from Bowbrook either, so I am in the same boat.

This is all I want to say but I am going to hold a Zoom chat on the evening of 10 May to enable people to ask questions and for us to have a general coaching conversation if you want one. There is no compulsion to attend, and I will not be offended if nobody turns up. The weather is so horrible at the moment, if it is a nice evening, I can understand that people would like to shoot.

Tim Swane

CCO