

Dear All,

In case you don't know, I am the current secretary of the Somerset County Archery Association (SCAA) and Alison, my wife, is one of the vice presidents.

I am writing this because I have received criticisms of SCAA from several county archers in recent months. I found these very upsetting and insulting as I'm sure my fellow council members will. We are all volunteers who work out of a passion for archery and give our time and effort freely.

My first reaction was to resign but then I decided that perhaps some education would help. You need to understand what SCAA attempts to do and we need to appreciate what you require of SCAA.

THE CRITICISMS

The council does nothing for club archers

The council is 'cliquey'

Visitors to council meetings aren't made welcome

The council don't action requests made of them

Details of council when and where council meetings are to be held are difficult to find

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

SCAA council meets three times a year plus the Annual General Meeting when officials are elected

The minutes of all meetings are sent to your club secretary and posted on the county web site

Each club in the county has a vote at meetings

If you have an issue you would like raised with SCAA you can :-

Raise it with your club secretary and ask them to present it

Attend the meeting and present it yourself

Ask any council member to present it

Ask me to add it to the agenda (this must be at least 21 days before the meeting), you can ring me, write to me or Email me

An item raised at a meeting with no prior notice cannot be voted on at that meeting, it has to be added to the agenda of the next meeting. This is not some strange SCAA rule - it is normal committee meeting procedure. It ensures that any contentious issue gets published in time for all interested parties to comment/vote

All affiliated members have the right to attend council meetings

WHAT DUTIES DO SCAA HAVE?

Collect and process your fees to region (GWAS) and GNAS

Look after your money to earn the best interest etc.

Produce and audit year end accounts

Organise coaching and courses

Organise the County Outdoor champs, Indoor champs, Battle of Britain FITA Star, intercounty team, junior county team and the County Interclub event

Keep county records

Maintain the county web site

Maintain county trophies, awards and medals

Ensure that the counties interests are registered with GWAS and GNAS

WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

I hope you now have some idea of what the council does. I don't know however what you expect, if anything, from the council.

I am therefore asking each club to invite Alison and myself to come and visit, and shoot with you at one of your indoor evenings. We can introduce ourselves, you can put faces to names and perhaps air some of your views or ask us to raise issues at council on your behalf.

We look forward to meeting you and shooting some arrows with you

Tim and Alison Pattemore

Three Gables

Burton

Stogursey

Bridgwater

Somerset TA5 1QB Tel 01278 732018 (answer phone available)

Email either to secretary via SCAA website or puff@dragons-breath.freeserve.co.uk