GGWAS Chair report of the Society’s activities during 2020.

Now in its 6th year our little gosling of a club is starting to mature into a force in the Archery world of New Zealand. As a club, we are being recognised within Archery New Zealand as naturing a friendly club that has fun, takes part and produces high quality archers.

This has been somewhat a difficult year, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s lockdown preventing the club from operating. Multiple changes to the governance from the ANZ board with three-quarters of the board resigning including the ANZ Administrator and events manager. But on the whole the GGWAS has weathered this storm.

Over the year success has also come on the Shooting field by growing group of existing and upcoming competitive Archers.

The following has also been achieved over the past year on the competitive field: -

* Mainland Muster – Podiums for Maria (G), Lauren (G), Tony(G), Julia(S), with Sophie in 4th place in her division. Fay also took part with Colin as one of the judges (chief Judge for the Clout).
* The Tinsel trophy 2019 held in Geraldine was delayed to Jan 2020 and unfortunately, we handed the trophy back to them.
* Royal Hutton 2020 – Only 3 GGWAS Archers took part as this was held at the same time as the 2020 Nationals with a number of Archers from the GGWAS travelling to Auckland. More in this later in the AGM.
* At the New Zealand Masters Games in Dunedin in Feb, Colin (Compound) came away with a Silver Medal, while Tony shooting in the Chingford star can away with a gold. Colin was a judge at this event.
* At the ANZ Nationals 2020, Lauren gained a silver in the Target, with a quickly rebuilt bow, with Julia and Maria unhappy with their respective scores just missing out. However, Julia pulled it all together for the Match play event coming away with a well-earned Gold. Teams match play was also held, but all the GGWAS archers eliminated before the medal matches.
* South Island Outdoors 2020 – Cancelled – COVID-19
* The club Summer handicap 2020 – Cancelled – COVID-19 making it impossible to calculate a winner.
* One RMT was held over the year, an Auckland round, which we twined up the UK’s Worcester round. This had good support from the club and the visitors that took part.
* South Island Indoor 2020 – Multiply Podiums with some unexpected results. Gold medals for Colin (Longbow), Tony (Compound), Tori (S.Recurve), Lauren (Compound) and Maria (S.Recurve , yes beaten by Tori). Colin was Chief judge at this event
* National Indoor 2020 – Cancelled COVID-19 Auckland 2nd lockdown.
* The ECBOPAA Winter league as again a great success and you will hear more about this at the end of the AGM. A Winter Handicap shoot was run along the same lines and close-run competition with the winner being announced at the end of this AGM.
* In November - The club shot the ‘Hamilton’ Barebow round for the ANZ club team postal and with good scores from Julia, Maria, John and Liam we could be well placed, but the results of this are only announced at the ANZ AGM, so who knows when that will be.

**Club Membership**

At the end of December in 2019, we had a membership of 37 on the books, with 19 Juniors and 18 seniors. At the end of 2020, while we have lost a few members that have moved away from the area, I am happy to report our membership has increased to 48 with 24 juniors and 24 seniors. For the 2nd year running this is very much against the trend with only a few clubs being able to hold on to the same membership numbers let along see a 25% increase over the year, so we must be doing something right.

Since the start of the new ‘Norm’ of working in a world with COVID-19, we have asked people attending the club to sign-in (and most have). From this I can say that we are seeing a turnout of between 15 to 20 archers each and every week on the whole. This is a number larger club would be proud to manage.

As a Society, we have been and need to listen to what our membership wants the society to become and hopefully see more archers down for the day rather than just a morning or afternoon (or even just a lunchtime), so that we can plan activities and get a good turnout, be it a fun event, competitive or just social shooting.

**Coaching**

No Coach training has taken part this year and some of the planned coaching activity such as string making has not progressed due to COVID-19.

We have only held 2 formal beginner courses during the year and are pleased to have picked up a number of promising club members/archers from these. Maria working as MC-Archery in the local schools has also ‘persuaded’ a few of her students to join us to take the sport, and their enjoyment of shooting further.

**Club Equipment**

Due to COVID-19 the club has not done much with our equipment. We held a number of working bees and now have more ‘organised’ storage container Thanks to Julia’s “dumpster diving’ at the University we have some draw storage for the club.

To Maria and her work with MC Archery a big thank you. It is Maria who lends the club all it’s Bows, Arrows and all the little finger tabs, bracers and bit’s and bob’s that some of you see on the field each week. These all have to be carried to and from the car each Sunday, and sometimes some hasty repair work on a Sunday evening to that it is all good to go again by the Monday morning ready for some School group. It is a tremendous help when those that hire the equipment collect and take back the bows and bow stands that they use.

Request to those that leave early on club days, before you go, can you please ask first to see if any help is needed in moving club equipment (eg targets) next to the container. This will be a massive help to those that stay for the remainder of the day when putting club equipment away.

**Club Diversity**

We have a Society that is inclusive in more ways than one, and this is the way it should be. Regarding the type of equipment, you shoot at the GGWAS you will see Competitive Recurve, and Compounds together with Barebow and Longbow Archers. We have short /hoarse bow and even a Kyduo bow within the club. All we need is a crossbow for the full set….

We have archers that shoot multiple bow types, and shoot these to a high standard.

We also have members that come from a range of backgrounds and from the 4 corners of the world and I hope that we make you all feel welcome. If not let us know what we need to change, and how we can do so.

**Issues over the year**

The club now has a formal agreement with the school for the use of the field and for the use of a container for storage. With the announcement of the building of the new Catholic Cathedral together with a new school and priest building in the centre of the city we have approached the school to see what the future may hold. There are just as in the dark as anybody, with any school now required to have a suitable “sports” field, we will monitor this as closely as we can.

The Christchurch club has more pressing needs, with them potentially losing the lease on their grounds for over 40 years at Rawhiti Domine in June/July 2021. They will have to look for a new place to shoot, and store all of their equipment.

Can I ask all members of the club to remain vigilant with regards to safety. Mobile phones, should be on silent, or better yet turned off and remember that the wearing of ear buds or headphones is not allowed as all need to hear instructions across the field by you archer or parent or friend on or behind the shooting line. Phones can be used at the target for recording scores, but only for private use, if a club round need to be on paper at the target with arrows still in the boss.

**Looking forward to 2021**

The Society needs to follow with interest at what will happen to the actual Cathedral, and to the Christchurch club with regards to its impact on us so we can react quickly if needed.

I hope that we can bring more GGWAS members to “Competitive” readiness in 2021, so that others will see the growth and standard of the archers at the GGWAS. After all we do have the most prominent club shirts.

We will look again at starting a range of Interclub-Social type competitions such as Darts, and as already reported we will look to expand on our clubs coaching knowledge, running a number of workshops on topics such as String Making, Arrow maintenance, Sports Psychology, Goal Setting, as well as “Colin’s Coaching Tips”

**Thankyou’s**

To Close I need to say a few Thanks you’ s to some of the members of the Society for their help and support over the year.

Maria (Both as MC Archery, club Sec and Treasurer and my wife – who is just the best person that I know) to which the club could not function without the loan of equipment, for the work she does within the schools of Christchurch and surrounding area, that has introduced a number of you to our sport and Society. For the handling of club E-mails and requests over the year, doing all the unseen bits behinds the scenes such as the finances, newsletters all the printing of score sheets and documents needed that make the society function.

To our Coaches, (Maria, John, Julia, Victoria, and Tony together with Hazel now back in the UK). Excellent job team, just keep doing what you are and the club will continue to prosper.

To Tony and John, for looking after our club’s equipment and coming up with new and sometime better ways of doing stuff.

To John, for being down at the club early with Maria each Sunday helping to get the field ready for shooting to start on time, or looking after the club when the competitive archers are away

But most of all to you as Society members for making the GGWAS Archery Club what it is; the friendliest Archery club in New Zealand.

I’m sure to have missed a thank you, or to someone that has won an award, for that I’ ask for forgiveness and will amend this report if needed before storing with the club’s records.

This is a report of the society’s activities over 2020, and I am already looking forwards to see what we can achieve at the GGWAS in 2021 as let’s face it 2020 has not been a good year generally, but we have hopefully weathered the storm.

Colin Tucker

Society President 2020

Presented 13/12/2020