GGWAS Chair report of the Society’s activities during 2021.

Now in its 7th year the little gosling of a society is really starting to mature into a force in the Archery world of New Zealand. As a society, we are recognised at the top level within Archery New Zealand as naturing a friendly club that has fun, takes part and produces high quality archers.

Like 2020, this has been a difficult year, the impact of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic with its lockdowns and traffic lights has halted the GGWAS from completing all that we planned. Continued changes to the governance from the ANZ board has divided some within the sport and some clubs have fractured a little such as our friends in Geraldine. But overall, the GGWAS has continues to weather this storm.

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

While the shooting/competitive calendar has been light both in the number of available competitions and those taking part we have had some success.

**On the Competition Field**

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

* The Hamilton Shield – Won for the first time by the society and the first time this trophy has been won outside of Auckland. While the 2021 competition date have been pushed out to March 2022, the society’s score was a marked increase on the previous year.
* Mainland Muster – Podiums for Julia (G), Maria (B) and Tony(G) started the year well.
* Royal Hutton 2021 – Had 7 GGWAS Archers took part, with Gold for Maria and Victoria a brave 4thin the senior women’s recurve, a 4th for John in the masters barebow. 4th for Tony and 8th (Last) for Colin in the master’s Compound, and a 4th for Melody as masters recurve, and 3rd place for James as male youth recurve.
* The Kenny Rodgers Memorial had both Maria and Tony on top winning golds.
* Tony was our sole competitor at the SIDAA Outdoor champs but was still top of the tree.
* Team Harrison represented the GGWAS at the 2021 Outdoor Nationals with Julia not able to hold on to her 2020 title but coming away with a pile of 4th I believe, but Tony gaining a few podiums for the club. Results missing from the ANZ WEB site, so sorry if this is incorrect.
* We had 8 members of the club together with Ryan Jones shoot the Oceania Challenge, more on this later, but the results are still not correct on the ANZ site…..
* The ANZ and SIDAA Indoor championships fell to the COVID-19 lockdown, with the SIDAA shoot to have a good turn out from the club
* The Neroli Fairhall memorial again saw Tony as our only representative but coming away with the gold.
* The Tinsel trophy 2021 held in Geraldine was a great success for the club with 11 travelling archers for the day, and despite the rain we held on to the trophy, here before you.

**Club Membership**

At the end of December in 2020, we had a membership of 48 on the books, with 24 Juniors and 24 seniors. At the end of 2021, we have lost a few members that have moved away from the area or have decided that archery was not for them. Therefore, I must report our membership has dropped back to our 2019 level of 37, made up of 13 juniors and 24 seniors & masters.

However, over the past few months we have seen a few members return to the club, just not down to the field yet, and our actual active number of archers each week has increased to a point that we see at least 50% of the members on the field over the day most Sundays. This is a figure more established clubs would be proud to get close to.

As a Society, we must 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. This improves what we can do over time, helping us to plan activities and get a good turnout, be it a fun event, competitive or just social shooting or archery workshops (Bow tuning, Sight mark setting, or a classroom activity for an hour or so on Sports Phycology and Goal setting.

The End of Day shoots for those that have taken part are a step forwards towards this, with different scoring methods being used, and passing on competition etiquette in an instructive but fun manner.

**Coaching**

We have gained 2 new junior coaches this year with both Sophie and James, helping with at least one of the few beginners courses that we ran and a few trainings session on theory etc. James especially has taken to this and has been supporting Colin and Maria on the coaching front since gaining his qualification.

Colin has continued to offer ‘light’ coaching to all on a Sunday morning, as is being helped by the other coaches to run the line safely and support when needed. Moving forward into 2022, we now need to concentrate more on those wishing to progress up to competitive archery as it’s a long way out to 70 meters for most.

We have only held 2 formal beginner courses during the year and are pleased to have picked up several promising society members from these. We have a few people that are waiting for our next course to start which will be early FEB 2022 so hopefully this will increase our membership in 2022.

**Club Equipment**

We held several working bees over the year, but these have been mostly too rotate or re-bind the existing targets onto the stands.

Once again, the Society owes a big thank you to Maria. As you know, it is Maria who lends the society all the 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 must 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 at the start and end of the day.

To those that leave early on club days, before you go, can you continue to ask if any help is needed in moving club equipment (e.g. targets) back next to the container if no one else is using them. This is 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 seen all the main types of bow shot at our club even a Kyduo bow from time to time all we need is a crossbow for the full set…. Very few clubs can say this.

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

We have several members that may have some form of special need, and I’m not always talking about my own growing amount of strapping needed to keen shoulders, wrists and anything else in place. We treat everyone as members, archers and people, to support them to enjoy what we do and hopefully our company as well.

We also have members that come from a range of backgrounds and from the 4 corners of the world, I think we need some north and south American’s now to complete the set, but no more from Yorkshire please….. . 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, and we a in talks regarding having a 2nd container sometime in the future. With the loss of the Cathedral, the school is still unsure about what will happen to the grounds the containers are on but will have to be moved its own at some point if the land is sold or passed on.

The Marion School is also moving on to a new purpose build school which will free up some space and may give us the opportunity to improve what we have, but this will come at a cost, so we must be prudent. Again, we are monitoring this.

The Christchurch club has more pressing needs, with them losing the use of their building and grounds for over 40 years at Rawhiti Domine in June 2022. They will have to look for a new place to shoot and store all their equipment. I ask all society members to be supportive to the Christchurch club in what must be a very difficult time for them and what may also have a big impact on our own society.

I ask all members of the club be vigilant with regards how we talk to others especially new members of the Society, we have lost one new member because they were not happy with how some spoke to them (There are other circumstances in this case, but this needs to be mentioned).

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 on the field. Instructions especially around safety need to be heard across the field, by archers, parents or friends behind the shooting line. Phones can be used at the target for recording scores, but only for private use, if shooting a club round record on paper first at the target with arrows still in the boss.

**Looking forward to 2022**

The Society needs to follow with interest at what will happen to the actual Cathedral grounds, 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 2022, so that others will see the growth and standard of the archers at the GGWAS. After all we do have the most prominent club shirt on the shooting line.

We will look again at starting a range of Interclub-Social type competitions such as Darts, and will look to expand on our clubs coaching knowledge, running several 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 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 now together with Sophie and James). Excellent job team, just keep doing what you are, and the society 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 and Tony, 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 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 over the year, for that I’ ask for forgiveness and will amend this report if needed before storing with the club’s records and now on the WEB site once formatted a little better!

This is a report of the society’s activities over 2021, and I am already looking forwards to see what we can achieve at the GGWAS in 2022. Like 2020, 2021 has not been a good year generally, but once again we have hopefully weathered the storm well.

Colin Tucker

Society President 2021

Presented 19/12/2021