

Coaching report

David Croskery was voted onto the board part way through the year as there were no other coaches wanting to put their hands up and at least this way the coaches in the country had a voice on the board.

David had been in contact with various coaches and archers around the country over the last few months seeking a general consensus on what to do with coaching. At present the current structure is incomplete and not working. David has contacted coaches from USA, and Australia and it appears their systems are more organised than ours but still not working correctly. A proposed level 3 examination with model answers was sent in by Bernie Fraser which looks good but it is no use having a level 3 if there is no adequate level 2.

Carole Hicks sent through a copy of the Oceania coaching system which looks easy to follow and is fairly straight forward so maybe worth further investigation, or maybe we need to look at what FITA/World Archery has to offer.

Clubs and districts are still running coaching courses which is good. At least we still have coaches being trained, these coaches are important as they are the coaches who train our new members.

On the down side the coaches around the country are mainly working independently of each other. We need to work together so that our resources can be shared and utilised efficiently.

Between the different coaches around the country we have many years experience and knowledge.

The coaching commission over the years has traditionally never functioned as it should. There are no easy fixes and really, until there is a way to have all the coaches working together in a system that is easy to follow and administer, then it never will. I am certainly keen to hear any ideas but at the end of the day it needs to be a joint effort with input from coaches from all around the country.

Coaching is a really important for the growth of our sport from introductory level to elite level. The few coaches we have are doing a really good job but many are overworked and not appreciated as they should be.

Archers' attitude to coaches needs to change. Many archers expect coaching with no thanks given to the coach. The coaches give many hours to their coaching much of it behind the scenes. The coaching commission is there for the coaches not the archers they have the athletes' commission. The coaching commission needs to be able to provide support and resources to the coaches and encourage them.

High performance

The number of skilled and available coaches in the country is decreasing. We are now down to one high performance coach when the system was set up for four. In effect this means the high performance programme is there on paper but nothing else, so what do we do?

There is no quick or easy answer to this question. We need something that will cater for all high performance archers

across the country. The expectation of the high performance archer exceeds what the high performance programme can provide. Do we divide compound and recurve and only have two coaches, one compound and one recurve?

The archers are still expecting more from the high performance programme than it can ever provide. All archers need to remember they should have their own training programme in place with their own coach (or seek assistance from the high performance coaches to help them set one). They need to put in the hard yards through training and shooting to achieve the goals they have set for themselves. A high performance coach cannot make them shoot like a champion if they only see them once a year at one training camp when there are 10-15 archers present all with different requirements.

Another option for high performance would be instead of having training weekends for the archers, wouldn't it be better to have it for the high performance archers' coaches so they can take what they learn back to the archers and help them. Many of these coaches have more than one high performance archer. When all the archers are together with one or two high performance coaches then you are limited in what you can do as you do not want to step on the archers' coaches toes, or make changes that you can't enforce when they leave.

This needs more discussion.

The Trans Tasman team is named at the end of the Nationals. I have committed to this team. There is to be a training weekend next year as well as preparing the archers in the build up for the event both psychologically and physically. This will take a lot of my spare time and quite a lot of preparation.

Summary

A new structure needs to be agreed upon by the coaches. This will take a lot of work to set up and implement and the work will have to be divided between the coaches as it will be too much for one person

Coaching is a vital part of ANZ but unless we can find a way to support our coaches and help them then we will not retain them for long

David Croskery
Coaching convenor