

Life Membership Nominations



Annual General Meeting
September 2025

NOTE: Both nominations were presented at the 2024 AGM. They were held over until the 2025 AGM. Both nominations have been re-nominated by their respective clubs.

Pamela (Pam) Gordon

Nominated By: Dunedin Archery Club

Citation:

Having been involved with archery since the 1950's, Pam has held a number of roles at a national, regional and local level. These include Vice-President of NZAA (precursor to Archery NZ), President of South Island District Archery Association (SIDAA), and Vice President of Dunedin Archery Club (DAC).

Pam has assisted as team manager at the Seoul Olympic Games, the World Championships in Adelaide, supported Neroli Fairhall at the Australian Nationals in Melbourne and has assisted many national, regional and local tournaments.

Pam was a qualified National Judge and DoS. Pam has, and continues to, mentor and train coaches, judges and archers.

Pam contributes still at national level on selection committees, is a member of the DAC governing committee and is Patron of the same club.

Pam is passionate about the sport of archery and, in her 87th year, continues to give many hours of her time and energy sharing knowledge and her experience across many levels of this sport.

MOVED BY: Stephen Gallagher (#3967)
DAC - President

SECONDED BY: Brent Patterson (#7021)
DAC - Committee Member

Approved unanimously at the required committee meeting.
Minutes sighted by the Board of Archery NZ.

Mike Smerdon

Nominated By: Mountain Green Archery Club

Citation:

This nomination recognises Mike Smerdon's 40+ years of dedication and service to archery in New Zealand. Mike's service to archery is outstanding: he's a former world champion; a president at club and district levels; a manager for NZ's first TransTasman team and the NZ team at the World Games; he has organised indoor and outdoor nationals; he has coached young archers to international level since the 1980s; and he spent three years on the High Performance Sub Committee of Archery NZ. He is a highly valued and very active Life Member of Mountain Green Archery Club (MGAC). Our club wholeheartedly supports Mike's nomination for the accolade of Life Membership of Archery New Zealand.

OVERVIEW

Mike has made a huge contribution to archery over the last 40+ years - as a national and international archer, as an administrator, as an importer and retailer, and as a coach.

Mike started archery as a weekend bowhunter in the 1970s, joining Mountain Green in 1977 so he could shoot target archery. In that year he came third at the National Indoor Champs in Tauranga.

Mike has represented New Zealand internationally numerous times: in 1985 at the first World Games in London, and 1987 at the World Target Champs in Adelaide with team-mate (and student) Shane Switzer. He won the gold medal at the IFAA World Field Champs in 2006 in Brisbane, gold in Field at the Trans-Tasman Masters Games in Auckland, and silver in the Trans-Tasman Cup in Adelaide in 1992.

Nationally, he was Field champion in 1984, and runner up in '85 and '89; he was runner up in Target at the Nationals in New Plymouth in 1987, and he's won gold at the indoor nationals.

Coaching

Mike excels in coaching youth archers - he is calm, kind, understanding and knows how to talk to teenagers in a way that will help them be their best. He started coaching in 1984, and in 2008 renewed his interest in coaching juniors. Over the years he coached juniors and seniors to national and international level.

He is generous with his time and knowledge - he attends all the tournaments to support our archers, and he is always the first to help if someone has an equipment failure, or brain failure. He has run numerous specialist bow tuning sessions, and is always happy to help archers with their form or their gear - whether he is their coach or not. In Stephen Florence's words, "If you count just offering advice or tips to help people out Mike has probably been coaching since he first picked up a bow."

Over many years he has actively supported and been involved in the development of youth archery including inter-school team archery, school holiday club team tournaments, and high performance coaching. He also ran countless corporate events for some 20 years, teaching adults to shoot. In Brendan Gaffney's words "Mike was always up to the job - absolutely reliable and able, never a harsh word or losing his cool, empathetic, engaging...Mike could get a beginner to do fabulous archery!"

Administration

Deeply involved in administration of our sport at national, district and local levels, in the 1980s Mike was on the organising committees for the Outdoor Nationals and Indoor Nationals. He successfully brought to NZ three-times world target champion and Olympic silver medallist Rick McKinney from the USA.

In 1983 Mike helped organise and set up the indoor archery centre in Henderson, Auckland which hosted many events over 20 years at club, district and national levels.

In 1985 Mike was elected manager of the NZ team at the World Games in London and attended the FITA (World Archery) Congress representing New Zealand. He was manager of the first NZ TransTasman team at the 45th Australian National Championships in Adelaide in 1992. He is a past president of ADAA, a foundation member of Massey Archery Club, and is on Massey's Board of Trustees.

Mike's commitment to Mountain Green spans decades. In the 1980s he was president of MGAC, supplied the club with archery gear when he ran Archery Imports, and changed numerous locks on the club door when he was a locksmith. He was also involved in making MGAC butts in the traditional way - round, lightweight and made from hessian and straw. In 2012, together with Lynn Brott and president Earl Duthie, Mike started the search for an indoor venue. Earl found the basement of the Waitakere Badminton Centre, and Mike built what is now our indoor range, with help from Earl and Clive Hudson. Many members join our club specifically for the indoor range, which enables us to host many indoor events for our club and district.

He has also been heavily involved in Massey Archery Club for decades. His property insights and financial acumen enabled the club to sell their land at Massey and purchase a large facility in Kumeu which is now being developed, while also delivering an ongoing income for the club through a commercial property investment.

Mike spent three years on the Archery NZ High Performance Sub Committee. His goal was to get teams to the TransTasman and Oceania tournaments in Australia and the World Youth Champs in Ireland in 2023 - and New Zealand archers did us proud at all three.

Mike's dedication to archery at every level - as an archer, a coach, and administrator - over many decades, and his commitment to developing our youth archers is something to be celebrated and commended.

MOVED BY: Geoff Sauvarin (#3510)
 MGAC President

SECONDED BY: Kelly Atkinson (#3202)
 MGAC Committee Member

Approved unanimously at the required committee meeting.
Minutes sighted by the Board of Archery NZ.