



OLD BASING ARCHERS' NEWSLETTER

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The Chairman's Letter

Who said "Well at least you can't complain about the weather"?! It's not been the best for Archery lately and we had a good example at the Bowmen of Burleigh shoot; a real mixture of sun, showers, and wind. Well at least that's our excuse for losing! Those who went had an enjoyable day with good company and great hospitality.

I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating Mike and Andrew on successfully completing their coaching course. This obviously puts the club in a much stronger position to help our new beginners (and the rest of us!). It also helps to spread the load and reduce Terry's burden.

As usual everything happens at once; the weekend Mike and Andrew had their assessment was also the Alençon twinning. This year the Archery group was the largest. There seems to have been some problem with the other sports, with many regulars not represented. Again, all involved enjoyed a good weekend. Unfortunately we lost for the 3rd year in a row and this means that Alençon keep the trophy. We will have to produce a new one for the return match next year. The Alençon archers were very keen to stress that, irrespective of what was happening with the other sports, they want to keep our link going.

Here's hoping our new coaches and starters can help us to get back on a winning streak!

George

Membership Fees

These were due in May, and have been trickling in since. Before I have to start naming and shaming the tardy amongst you, please get the forms to Chris Mossop.

WINTER LEAGUE RESULTS

Compounds

Geoff and Robin did us proud, turning up in all weathers; such was their loyalty to the club.

A complete waste of time unfortunately as they were in the wrong division, due to a slight miscalculation on my part! The handicap system meant that they were penalised by about 50 points every month, which is quite a lot when there are only two people in the team. OBA came last.

Indoors there was another slight problem, again with the division calculations. Their scores were between 1061 and 1095 every month, reduced to between 464 and 495 after adjustments!

We fared better though and managed to come third.

Next year hopefully the compounds will be put in the correct division!

Recurve.

As usual in November we were spoilt for choice for the frostbite team, but initial enthusiasm and determination to shoot throughout the winter soon went by the board.

Andrew H. was the only person to make it into the team every month. Brownie points for consistency and braving the weather. Credit to Terry Cootes, Pete (Just In Time) Hebdidge, Richard Ayling, Phil Lamb, George Matthews, Tom Fowler, Trevor Burgess, Nigel Wake, Daron Green and myself for also managing one or two decent scores and getting into the team.

**WE CAME TOP OF FROSTBITE
DIVISION 25!!!!!! PROMOTION NEXT
YEAR!!!**

I know Terry would much rather succeed in his quest for the perfectly shot arrow, regardless of where it ends up, but the rest of us can bask in the glory. We must also commiserate with each other because we don't actually get any medals for winning.

I don't know what happened to the indoor team. After a brilliant first couple of months, the rot set in and we didn't manage a full team.

Kevin Deighton, Pete Hebdidge and Andrew Hutchison kept the flag flying with help from Sheila Stone, Chris Mossop and Tony McLaughlin.

We managed fourth place.

Hopefully next year all you new members will shoot indoors and boost the numbers.

Su Elliot

Old Basing Fete – Archery Have a Go

Thanks to the loyal team who turned out to prepare and run this event. The England v Denmark football match may have diminished the crowds, but the weather was better than last year. We took a very creditable £64, issued one membership form and took the names of 5 people for beginner's courses.

Beginners

The second and third courses are now at an end, and we are expecting a good take-up from those who attended. It looks as though another course could be filled, so the committee will consider running a fourth.

We can already welcome the following new members to the club this year:

Ron Blomfield, Julian Ricketts, Nick Feek, Kala MacGowan, Ann & John Morley.

Making a welcome return to the club are:

Ben Chapman and Stephanie Westbrook.

I have some temporary GNAS cards I can issue to new members pending formal registration in October. You only need these if travelling away from the club to

participate in tournaments, or to shoot as a guest at another club. Anybody requiring one only has to ask.

GNAS members get a quarterly magazine "Archery UK", full of news, articles and events. Unfortunately, these don't arrive for new members until well after the October registration date. We do have some spare copies, from family groups who get one each, which have been put in the club-house. Please take one if interested.

Club Sessions

For the benefit of the new members, and to reassure others waiting to get the Wednesday evening sessions back, the regular shooting times are:

Wednesday, Improvers and Practice, 18:00 onwards.

Friday, Rounds, 18:00 for 18:30

Saturday am, Practice and Rounds, 9:30 for 10:00

Sunday am, Rounds, 9:30 for 10:00

Sunday pm, Rounds, 13:30 for 14:00

Improvers can shoot for practice on the Friday and Sunday, but please get there in plenty of time to set up a suitable target.

Friendly Match vs Bowmen of Burleigh

George has already mentioned this match, and the overall result – a loss. However, Richard and Frances Ayling did outclass their opponents to take the junior prize and preserve some pride for OBA. Burleigh have initiated a trophy for this event, so we must invite them back next year and try to win it back off them.

FITA Tournament – Andover 27 & 28th July

For the benefit of our newer members, the 2-day FITA tournament in Andover is run jointly by Andover and OBA clubs. We get a share of the profits, but we have to do our share of the work. It is a wonderful opportunity to see some of the countries' best archers in action, together with the spectacle of one of the largest shoots in the UK. It is also proving to be one of the best run and most popular in the competitive

calendar, a credit to Geoff, Su and others who help to organise it.



Su Elliot will be organising a rota of volunteers for the Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday session. Various jobs have to be done from laying out the field on the Friday afternoon/evening, fetching the scores, moving the targets, replacing faces, selling raffle tickets etc. Sunday evening finishes with a mad dash to clear the field and get into the bar to claim a drink from the organisers. With enough volunteers we can spread the load so nobody does more than one or two sessions, unless they really want to.

Last year there was a view that the club should not rely on the FITA profits (£500 last year) to subsidise the membership fees. Our commitment to the shoot was questioned, but an extraordinary general meeting voted to continue. Club fees did rise this year to ensure our costs were covered, so a profit would allow the club to invest in improving facilities. I would like to see it invested in beginner's equipment so we can enhance our ability to coach and improve new members. By improving in this area we should see numbers rise, then we can lower the fees again. The committee may have other ideas, and your suggestions will be welcome – especially from those of you who help out that weekend!

Dates for your diaries:

July Handicap (Western)	6th/7th July
Guildfor Little Acorn (Jnrs)	6th July
Berks County Ch. (Wokingham)	14th July
FITA Work Parties	26th – 28th July
Club Handicap Shoot	4th August
Guildford Acorn Shoot	26th August
OBA Siege Shoot	1st September

Editor's Footnotes

I'm running out of material for the newsletters, so anybody with a brief article in them please start writing. Alternatively, you could all go out and win a tournament or two so I can announce the results!