



OLD BASING ARCHERS' NEWSLETTER

Editor: Andrew Hutchison, 4 Birch Grove, HOOK, Hants.
RG27 9RJ, (sec@oldbasingarchers.co.uk)

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The Chairman's Letter

Well Summer is here at last, at least that's what the Telly keeps saying, and with everybody glued to Wimbledon I guess it must be. There have certainly been a lot of archers shooting on the weekends, about 20 each morning, great to see so much interest.

The club has been busy since the last newsletter, read on for the details. I particularly enjoyed Alençon this year, yes they won (again!) and we were (as usual) a bit short of archers. Mind you, if somebody had told me I would enjoy re-enacting the battle of Azincourt, in a large tent, on a wet evening, using wine corks as ammunition - well !!; anyway it was great fun. Next year they visit us and we will be looking for hosts nearer the time. It's a great way to start what could be a lasting friendship.

July is a busy month for the club with the OBA/Andover FITA as our big event on the last weekend. Thank you to those who've helped to date sorting out the bosses at Andover. We'll be following up with details on how others can help on the actual weekend.

This July is also a busy month for me personally, it's my 60th birthday and I retire at the end of the month. I intend to follow an old OBA tradition and run a "Vet's shoot". When discussing the details with the committee we can't fit it in July so we set a date of the 2nd August. I'd like to hijack a Saturday morning and lay on a "Chairman's Choice". Something like; 60 arrows on a 60 cm face at 60 yards, with drinks and nibbles. Look in the Clubhouse for details.

Regards *George*

Alençon Twinning Match

The long running annual exchange between Les Archers De Duc in Alençon and Old Basing Archers attracted 6 archers and 4 supporters for the late May Bank Holiday weekend. The twinning arrangements between Basingstoke and



Alençon fell rather flat this year, with only 4 sports represented. It meant a quieter weekend with fewer civic arrangements (just a morning reception – see photo left) and more time with our wonderful hosts.

The match was arranged for Saturday afternoon and was accompanied by typically English weather – steady drizzle punctuated by more persistent rain. The team comprised 1 lady recurve (Lesley Clarke), 3 gents recurve (George Matthews, Julian Ricketts and Andrew Hutchison) and 1 compound (Robin Foster). Loren Butt, our longbow archer, was matched with a junior from Alençon but their scores were not included. Where possible we were paired with our hosts and on individual matches we won 3 – 2. Unfortunately the trophy is awarded on total team score and we were beaten by 1748 points to 1588. We had prepared a new trophy, the previous one being forfeit after Alençon won it for the 3rd time. The new trophy will be used in perpetuity to limit the drain on club finances.



On the Sunday we visited the Chateau of Vendeuve with its garden of water surprises. On the way back we encountered hundreds of motorbikes, spectators returning from a major race in Le Mans.

As usual our hosts were very welcoming and ensured that everyone enjoyed their visit. If you are fond of France and the French consider hosting next year to make new friends and then visit them in 2005.

Beginner's Courses

The courses are now over and the club thanks all those who helped the coaches this year, in particular Stephen Learwood, Pete Hebdidge, Frances Ayling and Colin Stopher. A good number of beginner's have or will be signing up this year, so I trust the club will make them welcome and encourage them in their new sport.

The have-a-go at the Old Basing Carnival on the 20th was busy, raising £77 for the club funds. It also generated more enquiries about membership and beginner's courses.

Shooting Times

Please remember that the official times for sessions on Saturday and Sunday include half an hour for setting up. Please don't leave this task to the same crew week after week. If you do arrive late for any reason you cannot expect to disrupt the shooting line by setting out a new target, fit in where you can and help with the packing up at the end.

Sessions are: Wednesday 18:30 onwards (practice and coaching sessions), Friday 18:00 for 18:30 (practice and rounds), Saturday 9:30 for 10:00 (practice, coaching and rounds), Sunday 9:30 for 10:00 (practice and rounds), Sunday

13:30 for 14:00 (practice and rounds). Other sessions by arrangement between the archers as two must be present for the club to be insured.

Sunday afternoons are not so well supported these days, but it would be good to see them reinstated. Anyone wanting to use them can contact me to see if others have the same plan.

Membership

We have several new members to welcome, most joining from the recent beginner's classes. We trust they will enjoy their first season, get bitten by the bug and spend many more with us.

So we welcome Peter and Simon Andrews, Debbie and Mathew Campbell, Martin Davey, Ann Faikosh, Sara Mulvanny, David Roberts, Christopher Wannell and Angela Webster.

I've already started collecting photographs to update the membership list in the clubhouse.

Renewals are still due from some of our regulars, forms should accompany this newsletter or can be found in the clubhouse on the committee notice board.

One special membership announcement this time, the committee have awarded Loren Butt honorary membership. Loren first joined the club in 1977 and has continued to be a member despite moving out of the area over six years ago. He has been a passionate supporter of the Alençon exchanges since their inauguration; it has been his only real involvement with the club of late. Loren has promised to grace us with his presence from time to time, no doubt brandishing his impressive one-piece yew longbow.

Club Diary

Dates for the main club events have now been decided, please make a note of them in your diaries:

Andover FITA 26th & 27th July
George's "Chairman's Choice" – Saturday 2nd August
Club Handicap Tmt. (Birthday shoot) - 17th August

Siege – 7th September (Invitation shoot again)
Club Championships – 5th October

Other local events we usually support:

Berkshire Championships @ Burleigh – 13th July
Guildford Acorn – 25th August (Bank Holiday)

FITA Preparation

The target renovations are almost complete, with thanks to the volunteers who put in the time at Andover. The next big push will be for field party involvement over the weekend. This needs even more willing hands, with a variety of tasks to suit all comers. It is a great opportunity for new club members to see a major tournament in operation and to enjoy a day out in the fresh air.

Tournament Achievements

With apologies to anyone who's been shooting at away events without letting me know, here are some recent notable achievements:

Burleigh Junior Championship – 1st place in girls U13 to Rachael Hutchison. 2nd place in the parent's round for Andrew Hutchison.

Burleigh Open Championship – 1st place and a trophy for Richard Ayling in the Junior Gents Long Western. 3rd place in the Ladies tournament to Su Elliot and 2nd place in the Gents Long Western round for Mike Ayling.

Little Acorn Shoot (Guildford) – 1st place in girls U13 and overall girl's trophy winner was Rachael Hutchison. 1st place in boys U10 and winner of U10 trophy was Richard Hutchison, David Bell came a very close second only 6 points behind. For both Richard and David it was their first tournament and an excellent start for them.

North Hants Shield (Baughurst) – A team triumph as OBA took the trophy (well we should have but it is missing, so we await its rediscovery). The team comprised Mike Ayling, Stephen Learwood, Colin Hasler and Terry Cootes. It seems Su should have been included in the team,

having come 2nd in the ladies competition, but the administration was a bit haphazard. Richard Ayling won the junior competition and Pete Hebdidge won the veterans. Mike Ayling was third in the gent's competition.

National Junior Championships (Lilleshaw, Shropshire). Rachael was our sole representative here, making a new personal best score but not enough to feature in the medals. The competition this year seemed stronger than ever, with about 90 competitors across all ages and disciplines.

Child Protection

GNAS are making a concerted effort to introduce the best child protection practices to archery clubs. Su Elliot has volunteered to be our child protection officer and will be establishing our policies in conjunction with the committee. By 2004 the three coaches will have been on the awareness course and have been checked by the Criminal Records Bureau.

The club has a statement in its constitution about junior members (U18) left to shoot by their parents. It is acceptable provided somebody on the line agrees to act in loco-parentis. This is likely to be formalised with the parents having to sign over their child to one of the coaches or committee members (provided they have also been CRB checked). Without someone willing to accept responsibility, the parent must remain with the child throughout the session.

Burleigh Friendly Match (8th June)

On a bright, but somewhat breezy, day the Bowmen of Burleigh visited OBA for the annual challenge match. They brought with them the fine trophy they donated and kept last year, only to leave it behind in a surprise victory for Old Basing. Teams were decided on the morning to match up as many from each club as possible, the top scores in each category to count to an overall total. Su was our leading lady, beating the Burleigh lady (and you have to be careful saying that to her face) by 905 to 882. George, Terry and Andrew were the 3 gents recurves, narrowly loosing by 1773 points to 1786.

Geoff and Robin were the compound team, losing by 1693 to 1786. Last, but not least, Rachael was our leading junior beating the youth of Burleigh by 893 to 655. That final winning margin settled the match, OBA 5264 to Burleigh's 5109.

Burleigh can, of course, blame the unusual conditions; at one point the strong side wind had the cricketer's side screen balancing on two wheels over our boundary tape before settling back down.

Burleigh thanked us for our hospitality and declared it a wonderful day. Not surprising when you consider the hot bacon and sausage rolls served up by Helen Ricketts and Barbara Matthews; cake and other treats provided by Su Elliot and Frank Bell; and wine selected by Terry. The shooting conditions therefore took second place to the conspicuous consumption of the day.