

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER June 2004

Chairman's Report

A comment made to me earlier in the year was that the Newsletter was extremely informative but a bit lacking in humour and wit. So at this year's AGM I tried to make it a bit light hearted, even witty. Judging by the comments (or lack of) I probably got half way on the second objective but missed the first. Ah! Well never mind, as long as we enjoy the shooting.

Unfortunately however, the reality of the outside world continues to rear its head. There have been two topics that have been occupying the committee's time and you will see the results shortly.

The first is the Child Protection Act. GNAS has been taking the requirements of the act very seriously and requires clubs to nominate a Child Protection Officer i.e. somebody accountable in the Club, to act as a focal point for Child Protection issues. I'm pleased to say the Mike, who was nominated to the Committee this year (with special responsibilities for beginners) has agreed to take on the role. The Club has to set up procedures, including new forms which have to be signed by the both the Club and Parent, setting out the various responsibilities of each. This also means that those individuals, especially the coaches, who are the main contact with juniors, have to be vetted by the CPA. Fortunately in OBA, most of our juniors have parents who are active shooting members of the club, hence simplifying things. Interestingly we have heard that some clubs are finding the requirements of the act rather onerous and are considering closing their junior sections. OBA is committed to supporting our juniors, and I'm pleased to say they did use proud at the AC Delco shoot last weekend collecting 4 medals between them. More details in the Newsletter.

The second was a letter from the OB Parish council asking for our Fire Risk Assessment for the Club House. Robin and Andrew have conducted the assessment and as a result of that we have to "minimise some fire risks". An example is no naked flames in the clubhouse i.e. smoking, cooking, or gas heating. Hence there will be some notices going up, please obey them.

So I'm afraid that a few more restrictions have appeared but hopefully you now know why. Whether you regard this as "more Nanny State" or sensible risk reduction in our increasingly risk minimising world depends on your point of view, I leave that to you.

Regards George

Old Basing Parish Sports Day

On the May 3rd Bank Holiday the club turned out in strength to run a have-a-go competition for the youngsters of the area. Despite the continual Bank Holiday rain this did attract some visitors, perhaps as many as 40. Apparently kids as young as 6 are watching Lord of the Rings and dreaming of picking up a bow. They didn't seem to mind only having static targets to aim at or even the rain. We packed up early as the numbers dwindled, thankful that we had the foresight to buy a gazebo last year under which to shelter.

Many thanks to the hardy band who volunteered to help; we showed them the true spirit of archery - union (teamwork), trueheart (fortitude) and courtesie (a warm welcome despite the weather).

Andrew

A C Delco Shoot

On 30th May, a dozen members headed south, down the M3 to Eastleigh. All sections of the club were represented; gents, ladies, juniors, longbow, recurve and compound. Rapid and constant changing weather conditions turned us into quick-change artists (panto bookings now being taken!). Wet-suits, tee-shirts and sweaters were on and off all day. The results were very satisfying with OBA featuring among the medals winners. In the Bristol 3, Rachael was 1st girl and Andrew B 3rd boy while in the Bristol 4 Richard was 2nd in boys under 14 and David B 3rd boy under 12. Our accurate recurve archers (Su, George, Steve and Andrew) even took the third place team award. Julian bagged the best gold and we even got a couple of raffle prizes! *Editor*



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Diary Dates

July

Sat 3rd & Sun 4th Junior National Champs, Andover.
19th Old Basing Carnival (no shooting on Friday evening or Saturday)
Sat 24th & Sun 25th OBA & Andover FITA (see Geoff for latest information)

August

Sun 8th OBA Birthday Handicap Shoot

October

Sun 3rd OBA Club Champs
Wed 6th Indoor shooting starts
Sun 10th TC's Birthday Shoot!

A Plea From Our Records Officer!

Recently there have been rather a lot of score sheets that have not been correctly filled in or correctly added up!

Please can everyone check that they always include name and initial as we now have a two Andrews, two Davids and several variations on Robin!

The date and round shot must also be recorded. It's not enough to put the distances.

Some weekends we are now shooting between forty and fifty rounds. Although the computer does the handicap and classification calculations, I also have to keep a hand written record of every round shot.

For the handicap ladder competition there are also allowances which have to be checked and added to scores.

It gets busy in the summer so I'd be really grateful if everyone could make sure their score sheets are filled in correctly.

For new members, the following is really useful when number crunching for the imperial rounds which we do most weeks.

If you have an even number of hits, your score (for the dozen or total) should also be even. If you have an odd number of hits, the score will be an odd number. The odds and evens rule is a quick indication of whether or not there's a problem!

If anyone needs help with scoring, please let me know and I'll go through it.

Many thanks,

Su

New Club Records

Girls Under 16

Short Windsor	675	101	25-Apr-2004	Rachael
Short National	516	72	23-Apr-2004	Rachael
Short Metric	431	67	29-Apr-2004	Rachael
Bristol 3	923	139	30-May-2004	Rachael

Su

Où Étaient Les Archers Français?

As most members will realise, the visit from our French archer friends didn't materialise. Rumours that Andrew's and Frank's prowess with their long bows had frightened them off proved groundless. Somehow the archers places on the sporting exchange trip were re-allocated to the Alençon horticulture society. Next year, it is our turn to visit Alençon. It would be great if we could send a large team; they can accommodate as many as would like to go.

Editor

OBA/Andover FITA

For those new to the club, Andover Archers and OBA organise and run one of the largest international FITA shoots in the UK at Andover's ground.

This year it's on July 24/25th.

There are usually 50 targets and some of the country's top archers attend. The Andover FITA is renowned for its organisation and efficiency. - Last year we cleared the field on the Sunday evening BEFORE the presentation ceremony was over!!!

Not bad going for two relatively small clubs!

However, we need help.

We need a working party to refurbish the bosses and stands and set out the field on the Friday (23rd). Geoff is usually in charge of this.

The work over the two days involves helping find lost arrows, repairing and replacing faces when required, selling raffle tickets, collecting scores after each dozen arrows so that the leader board is up to date, etc.

On the Sunday evening we need strong men to help clear the field.

Generally the weather is brilliant and we set up our OBA gazebo and have a relaxing time in between bouts of activity.

I shall soon be starting my volunteer list! This does NOT commit anyone to two days solid work. Some of us spend both days there because it's good fun and you can always wander along the shooting line watching the best.

For those who have other commitments, a couple of hours or a morning or afternoon would be great. I try to arrange things so that no-one is wandering around jobless.

Sunday afternoon from about 4pm is when I need the most people.

Over the next couple of weeks, I'll try to speak to everyone.

Thanks,

Su

Shooting Times

Sunday afternoon shooting (13:30 for 14:00) was once a traditional weekly session that we are trying to reinstate.

There has been some success over the last few weeks, but watch out for clashes with tournaments when we may be thin on the ground. The committee would also like to encourage Sunday, morning and afternoon, to be more of a formal outing. Please wear as much of the traditional green and white as you can to put yourselves fully in the mood. Anyone thinking of taking up competitive archery will need to conform to the GNAS dress code anyway.

Andrew

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Junior Nationals

This year the Junior National comes to Andover. This event tours the country on a yearly basis and the organisers are always looking for good venues – range, facilities, parking, access and helpers. The powers that be are so impressed by the organisation of the Andover & Old Basing FITA that they asked us to host the 2004 Event. This is actually the second time this has happened - they know that get a good event from us!

The shooting takes place on the 3rd & 4th July – the first weekend of the month. The youngsters shoot Imperial Rounds on the first day and Metric on the second. The ‘full Monty’ is a Bristol and a full FITA (distances according to age group) but it’s not necessary to sign up to everything, they can do one-day and ½ - day rounds too. Visit the GNAS website or talk to Andrew who has experience of the event for info.

I need help in laying out the field on Friday please – George will be looking for volunteers.

On a purely voluntary basis a team of helpers is needed over the weekend to move targets, and keep the hardware of the shoot properly maintained. Additionally there is the job of clearing up on Sunday night – the equipment doesn’t walk itself into the storage location! Please give a thought to our sport and in particular the need to encourage our youngsters. If that touches a nerve please volunteer to help for some of the time over the weekend – especially Sunday afternoon / evening.

Geoff

Fire Risk Assessment

World Record broken by Old Basing Archer!

Well, not quite but now I have your attention, carry on reading, don’t skip this paragraph! Boring I know but . . .

We were asked to conduct a Fire Risk Assessment by the Parish Council at the request of their insurers. Although the club-house did not score too badly, certain areas for improvement were identified. As a result, the whole club-house is now a ‘no smoking’ area. Smoke detectors are being installed together with Fire Exit signs. In addition, modifications will be made to the second (generally unused) door to enable it to be unlocked from the inside. This will provide an alternative escape route should the exit via the main club-house door be blocked by fire. Finally fire extinguishers will be installed as an additional safety measure. This may sound like over-reaction but we will be able to report back to the Parish Council that we have rectified the deficiencies and are now taking all reasonable precautions. All club members have a responsibility to see that fire danger is minimised and observe these simple measures.

Editor

Welcome

We are most pleased to welcome to following new starters and old hands returning to swell our ranks:

Andy Gaylor, Simon Goodwin, Derek and Elaine Mitchell, Mark Gale, Rob McLaine, Gary Warnell, Ken Denyer

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