

# Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER October 2004

## The Trollope Society

A few weeks back the club was approached by the secretary of the Trollope (Anthony not Joanna) Society who was organising a Victorian Garden Party at her house in Pamber End and wondered if a few longbow archers would go along to demonstrate. Apparently one of Trollope's books describes an archery event.

As Andrew and Frank were both unavailable, George and I decided that the chance of getting a free lunch in the grounds of a fabulous house was worth taking up! The archers, apparently, were to be the star attraction, giving a demonstration and then doing a have a go. The secretary's enthusiasm was such that we decided we'd better look vaguely proficient and so spent a very enjoyable week learning how to shoot badly and miss the target with a longbow as well as a curly one. Having said that, it was quite addictive and we've both decided to continue shooting a longbow occasionally.

Back to the Trollope Society.

We got Terry involved, Dave Westbrook provided transport for the bosses and stands and George and I set up on the Saturday morning. It was a fabulous setting in the orchard behind the formal garden and the shade made life bearable.

The guests arrived, some in Victorian dress, most in formal afternoon attire (co-ordinated from top to toe, no less.) In an effort to integrate with the Society members, I wore a hat. After a couple of conversations it was obvious that reading a Trollope novel would have been a better idea!

George gave a talk which was very interesting and Terry, as usual, demonstrated the perfect shooting style, as only he can, hitting the gold with all his arrows. How to impress people! Pity it wasn't a round when it would have counted!

I left the hands on stuff to TC and George as Babs, Coll and I had more important things to do like drink champagne, wander round the house and garden and keep an eye open for the food to be served. - Roast beef, coronation chicken, salmon, quiche, ham, puddings! Not that I'm preoccupied with food!

However, we didn't miss the sight of George addressing the bosom of an absolutely wonderful, larger than life, tall, well endowed American Hyacinth Bucket who managed to hit the boss under his tuition and proceeded to envelop him in said bosom. The camera wasn't handy at the time! (*Shame, Editor*) Terry made a comment about cleavages.....

We could have stayed for the seminar but there was a danger that the champagne loosened tongues and very little knowledge of Trollope may have let us down big time. It was a serious, intellectual debate. We cleared up and left by the back gate.

Great fun.

Su



Su demonstrates the perfect Victorian style!

## New Members

A big welcome to James Mitchell, Chris Plumber, Wendy Paxford, John Newman, Robert Coady.

We are pleased to have so many new archers joining us this year. The down-side is that sometimes the shooting line gets a little congested and you may not be able to shoot your chosen distance. Please bear with us will we try to find workable solutions to this.

Secretary: Andrew Hutchison  
Editor: Robin Foster

sec@oldbasingarchers.co.uk  
robin.f@oldbasingarchers.co.uk

## Diary Dates

### October

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Sept Andover Club Ch. (OBA as guest archers)

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> OBA Club Champs

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Indoor shooting starts

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> TC's Birthday Shoot!

### Birthday Handicap Shoot

This club shoot is an opportunity for beginners and improving members to shine. The Windsor round with its' maximum distance of 60 yards is also ideal for those not experienced in the rigors of 80 or 100 yard shooting. The weather was dry and bright but with a challenging wind and some 30 members turned out to compete. (*See the Colour Supplement on the club-house notice board*) The club gazebo was again in service as a mess tent with bacon and sausages being served at the end of the first distance. George arrived on his bike, long bow across his back determined to enjoy TC's latest selection of vino collapso to full advantage.

After the competition, the "Wand Shoot" was held. A two inch ribbon down the middle of each target representing the wand or hazel twig supposedly spilt in two by long bow archers of yore. This also gives the records officer an opportunity to calculate the Windsor aggregate scores. The runaway winner was Mazie who knocked the spots of her current handicap by exceeding her score by 200. points. Second was Mark G and Ken D was third. Dave W won the Wand Trophy.

*Editor*

### Club Champs

This year they will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and the rounds will be York, Hereford and Bristols for our juniors. Immediately following the champs, the presentation will be held in the pavilion and will include the various competitions that have been running throughout the session. This marks the end of the session so be sure to be there.

*Editor*

### Alton & Four Marks Shoot

A good day was had by all apart from the extremely windy conditions and latter on the rain and the cold.

A great result for OBA!

Debbie C	711 (First Lady)
Elaine M	709 (Second Lady & Married Couple)
Stephanie W	646 (Third Lady & Lady P prize)
Maizie B	524 (Second Junior Girl)
Jackie W	391
Derek M	675 (Married Couple)
Steve L	801 (First, High Scoring Guests)
Pete H	? (First, High Scoring Veteran)
Dave W	621
Mark G	716
Steve	

## Winter Archery

If you have just started this summer, you may be wondering what happens during the winter. Well, some archers pack-up their gear, go into toxo-hibernation and don't emerge until the following spring as they stagger blinking into the sunshine. Others carry on at the week-ends equipped with multi-layer thermal clothing and stout boots. For these hardy folk, the monthly "Frostbite" competition (3 dozen at 30 metres) adds interest – especially in the snow! Last year, the recurve Frostbite team were first in their division and medals will be awarded at the club champs to the team of; Steve Learwood, Andrew Hutchison, George Matthews, Terry Cootes, Su Elliot, Harry Holt

Another option is Indoor Shooting. Whatever the weather throws at us, from October to March, Old Basing village hall provides us with a comfortable indoor shooting venue on Wednesday evenings. The fee is just £33 for 11 sessions from 6<sup>th</sup> October to 22 December. If you don't want to commit to 3 months, you can just pay £4 each evening that you shoot. A monthly indoor postal league competition is organised and there several different rounds that can be shot indoors. If you want to shoot indoors, sign-up on the form in the club-house NOW!

*Editor*

### Acorn Shoot

A small away team sallied forth to Normandy on August Bank Holiday Monday. We didn't need our passports, as it was Normandy, Guildford rather than the French region. The occasion was the Guildford Archers fiftieth Acorn Hereford shoot. As it was also Guildford Archers fiftieth anniversary, there were lots of speeches, the Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford shoot the first end and all competitors were presented with a commemorative bottle of locally brewed ale; a nice gesture.

The tail end of hurricane Charlie seemed to hover over Normandy creating some challenging shooting conditions. This resulted in slow shooting while arrow searches were conducted and the lunch break didn't occur until 2:30. A heavy down-pour during the last dozen meant damp sandwiches. The afternoon ran more smoothly, fewer lost arrows and the sun even can out one or twice, but the wind didn't give up. The finals results were certainly not outstanding for OBA although Rachel carried off the medal for first girl in the Bristol 3, with a score of 847.

*Editor*

### Siege Shoot

More than 30 visitors joined us for a relaxing days shooting in near perfect weather conditions. (*See the Colour Supplement in the clubhouse*) I'm not sure of the scores, it hardly seemed to matter! All our visitors said that they enjoyed themselves and the finances broke even - so a good result.

*Editor*

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