

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER December 2005

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Monday 20th February 2006 at 8:00pm in the Parish Meeting Room. This is an important date in the club calendar. The committee attempts to run the club for the benefit of all its members and provide an environment where everyone can enjoy their archery, be they compound or longbow, grumpy old blokes or sprightly young females. So don't be afraid to turn up and express your opinions. Nobody is going to force you to take on a responsibility that you don't want.

We need nominations for the committee. These should be made in writing to the Secretary Paul (email address at foot of page). The current committee is:

Chairman – *George, will not be standing for re-election*

Secretary – *Paul, is willing to stand again*

Treasurer – *Steve, is willing to stand again*

Records Officer – *Su, will not be standing for re-election*

Tournament Secy. – *John, is willing to stand again*

Equipment Officer – *Simon, is willing to stand again*

Andover/Old Basing FITA Treasurer – *Geoff, will not continue next year*

Web Master – *Kevin, is willing to stand again*

Newsletter editor- *Robin, is willing to continue*

So, who would you nominate? There may be members who have skills and experience that would benefit the club. Like most things in life, the more you put into something, the more you get out.

Boxing Day Shoot

Although this has been a tradition at OBA, it has fallen away over recent years. El Presidente has nobly volunteered to run the event. He has promised that it will be fun and sightings will be at 10:00am. You need to tell TC that you will be there; he is not going to take the time to organise a shoot if nobody is going to turn up. So come along, get some fresh air and support TC.

OBA History

A new section has been added to our club website, 'In The Beginning, The History of OBA'. Kevin, our webmaster, is keen to make this as comprehensive as possible. "If any members have old press cuttings that are not all ready featured", reported Kevin, "I would really like to hear from you".

Secretary: Paul Richards
Editor: Robin Foster

Age Old Archery or Archery and Old Age?

*"I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where"*

Those immortal words of Longfellow (1845) from his, '*The Arrow and the Song*', just about sums up my present expertise in this fine, but exasperating sport.

They say, 'You're never too old to learn', to which, I might equally reply;

'You can't teach an old dog new tricks'!

So what have I learned so far about this age old skill? Not much, judging by the way I am shooting lately, but 'Hope springs eternal' and 'Never, say die'!

So how did I get mixed up with a sport like this at my time of life? I should be spending more time 'watching the grass grow', rather than searching it for my arrows! Of course I have young Jack to thank for all this. After a year of watching and listening to all his training some bright spark in the club said,

"Dave, stop *talking* a 'good arrow' *at* Jack, come and put your money where your mouth is and *show* him"! Boy! Did ever I walk into that one!

So getting back to where I came in, what has this old dog learned so far? Well, for a start there is a whole new language to cope with. Words that I thought only had one meaning, in archery actually mean something else.

For instance; I thought that a 'butt' was either the end of a joke or something to throw away? That a 'string and bow' were parts of a violin and 'to tune' was to adjust a note; a '(k)nock' – was at the door; 'cock and hen feathers' were always found on a farm, and a 'tab' was run up in a restaurant. 'Fletcher was a character in T.V's 'Porridge'; a 'shaft', is where a lift went; 'draw' was to use a pencil and an 'anchor' a part of a boat. 'Gold' should be expensive but here it's hardly worth the paper it's printed on, and a 'wand' doesn't always weave magic. Even the word 'toxophily', sounds like something you wouldn't want to catch. And so this new language goes on and on, but most disappointing of all was to find that 'fast & loose', was not the lady members ready to 'party'!

However, I do appreciate that the English language of today has pinched most of the above words *from* archery, so you see guys I am starting to learn.

Then of course there is all this 'physical' stuff – like instructors trying to get me to use muscles that I retired 40 years ago when I gave up football. However, there has been one bit of success. Terry has discovered and shown me, which of my chins I'm to stick the anchor in! Now the only thing I have to do is to get it out again in time with all this other 'multi-tasking' stuff that I'm expected to do - simultaneously!

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One thing about archery that I have discovered is that has no upper age limit (mores the pity in my case). I have read recently in the *Archery U.K.* magazine that a guy has just celebrated his 86th birthday and that he began archery, and I quote; ‘at the ideal age of 70 years’. Sadly, I have missed that boat by a few years – I should have joined earlier! One little record that Jack and I might qualify for is the; ‘youngest and oldest family combination in the club’? However, one advantage of my dotage is that I now have an excuse to practice that old adage; ‘If at first you don’t succeed – then give up, you’re too late’! (Not really, I do try)
As a ‘fresh pair of eyes’ coming into the sport (even if now dimming somewhat), can I spot anything which might improve ‘our lot’, you might ask? You bet!

1. Retrieving target butts on electric motor driven wires – cuts out all that walking in the winter mud and speeds up shooting.
2. A moving target that ‘swings past’ – so that I can demonstrate and practice my clay pigeon shooting ‘lead’ at the same time.
3. A heated undercover shooting line – prevents catching winter chills, thus improving attendance.
4. I – Pods with scoring programs – would save all that confusing arithmetic.
5. A sight that has a ‘senile compensator adjustment’. (Note: currently working on a design – but it still has a ‘screw loose’!)
6. Last but not least, and especially for George, Terry and myself –
 - a mobile heated commode and blanket, preferably pushed by Kate!

On a more serious note, possibly one of the nicest things that I have discovered about archery is the friendliness of its members. Someone once told me; ‘that people who shoot – are generally nice people’. This is certainly true of the gun fraternity, to which I belong, and I have found it to be equally true with archery. It’s all to do with the strict discipline that both sports demand which, is vital in character building, especially for the young. I think this club is well blessed with great bunch of kids, in whom and for whom, I have much time and respect.

Well, good people it’s time to stop my ramblings take the medication. Jack and I look forward to many more seasons of, ‘confounded confusion and frustration’, trying to learn all the intricacies of this ancient and noble sport’. Jack will discover it long before me, that’s for sure. I know that I have a 3rd class somewhere in this new fangled bow that I have acquired if I look hard enough, but probably not with me pulling its string!

Finally, don’t forget; should you see an old gentleman bent over and appearing to be confused and distressed on the range, please don’t worry and rush to assist – it’s only ole’ Dave, still searching for his ‘greens’!

See you all on the ‘Ockey – Oops’ sorry, shooting line!

Dave S.

Club Champs

For once the sun shone on our championships. The early morning dew quickly evaporated and even the famous Old Basing wind co-operated – for most of the time.

Results (Who Won What)

Gents Recurve	1 st	Phil Lamb
	2 nd	Andrew Hutchison
	3 rd	Iain Fletcher
Ladies Recurve	1 st	Denise Burgess
	2 nd	Margaret Holt
Gents Compound	1 st	Geoff Machin
	2 nd	Robin Foster
Lady Compound	1 st	Steph Westbrook
Juniors	1 st	Rachael Hutchison

OBA Personalities – Phil Lamb

A high-light of this years Club Champs was the Six Gold End shot by Phil.

“I started archery when I was 16 and this is the first time I have never managed to achieve a six-gold-end at 80 yards”, said Phil, “In my youth I shot at the club based at the old Park Prewitt Hospital. Then I wanted to get a bit more serious and go in for competitions I joined Basingstoke Bowmen on Down Grange”.

After the Basingstoke club folded, Phil joined OBA. Phil has had a few breaks from the sport since then and rejoined OBA last year and has been steadily rediscovering his previous form which brought him several county championships. Phil also has the distinction of having shot at the very first World Record Status indoor shoot to be held in Britain.

“It was held at Bracknell”, said Phil. “The organisers were naturally keen to stick to all the FITA regulations including the no advertising rule. When I turned up with my sandwiches in a Sainsbury’s bag, I was told that I couldn’t come in!” Phil turned the bag inside-out and went on to win the competition!



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Winter competitions.

During the winter we have four on-going competitions, two at club level and two in the British Archer Postal League.

The outdoor Frostbite is held on the first Saturday of the month from November to March and is three dozen arrows at 30m, using metric scoring.

The top five recurve scores and top two compound scores make up the teams for the Postal competition.

I then add handicap allowances to find the club winners. All archers are eligible for the club competition regardless of bow style.

The indoor Portsmouth round is held on the first Wednesday of the months November – March. This can be shot at either the Village hall or Andover.

The same rules apply as per the Frostbite.

Each month, I put a result sheet for the club competitions on the notice board at the club.

The postal competitions involve a lot of paperwork so I'm not too good at keeping everyone informed but I shall try harder this year to let you know who makes the teams each month.!

Su

Winter Competitions, Results 2005-2006

November Portsmouth

Name	Score	Points
George Matthews	1467	5
Geoff McCann	1465	4
Phil Lamb	1444	3
Margaret Holt	1440	2
Dave Westbrook	1425	1

Frostbite

Geoff McCann	381	5
Andrew Bell	376	4
Dave Stiles	370	3
Connor Adam	368	2
Phil Lamb	366	1