

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER Special Edition

OLD BASING TRIUMPH AT HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CHAMPS!

Bringing Home The Medals

Sunday 25th September at AC Delco, Old Basing scooped two team prizes and a good number of trophies and medals! Rounds shot were a York for the Gents, Hereford for Ladies and Bristols for the Junior archers. Sighters were at 10am.

The weather didn't look too promising and waterproofs seemed to be a sensible idea. Julian and Paul traveled down together and got to AC Delco at 8.45am. They put up Paul's shelter next to Ian Hartfree's new shelter – big enough to hold at least 5 or 6. Ian's a very good compound archer from Burleigh and shooting as a Guest as Burleigh is in Berkshire. The OBA compound duo decided to use Ian's tent as their sitting area and Paul's as the equipment store.

Dave, Steph and Maizie turned up followed by Andrew, Rachael and Richard, making a total of eight Old Basing Archers. The weather was relatively kind for late September with a breeze and the sun was shining however, there were tricky gusts during the day to be blamed for any less than perfect performances.

Not A Good Start

Paul did not start off well, and decided fairly early on that he was out of the running for the championship and tried to concentrate on getting his shooting back into form. Shortly before the lunch break there was a shout and some swearing from Julian.

"I managed to knock the trigger on my release a little before I got to full draw" said Julian. "The result was a wayward arrow and the bow string hitting my arm just before my bracer leaving a nasty looking bruise and a cut."

Ominous Clouds

There was a relatively short 45 minutes break for lunch and then it was on with the shooting for the second

distance. The clouds were starting to look a bit ominous, and true to form, the rain came just before the end of the tenth dozen, so it was on with the wet weather gear. One of the problems of shooting a compound in the rain is the peep sight. This works wonderfully – until it gets drops of water in it, when it is almost impossible to see anything at all. Even the recurve archers were having difficulty seeing through the downpour. It was then found that the wet arrows were going almost completely through the brand new Danage Domino foam targets. One of the arrows had actually passed through, removing the fletchings and leaving a telltale cross in the 10 ring on the target face; the archer was thoroughly miffed on being told by the judge that it had to be marked as a miss. There was a fair delay as the hosts ran around finding some backings for the four Danage targets. The rain cleared as the targets were moved for the final distance, and the shoot ended in the sun

Surprise Results

Commenting on his performance, Paul said, "My final score of 1110 was well short of the 1178 I should have managed to be on handicap. Julian and I decided to leave promptly and so packed up the now soggy tent. We piled everything in the car and went to say farewell to people. I took a brief look on the score table and for some unfathomable reason my score sheet was on top, much to my surprise and despite my mediocre performance I had won the Gents Compound Trophy."

A further surprising twist was added by Andrew. "The official record may not show the junior team, as the entry arrived rather late - after another team had been awarded their medals in fact. Somewhere in the confusion of packing up, yours truly forgot to submit the team form. I jumped up at the end of the prize giving to hand in the paper and Penny Sherwood generously announced the result and awarded them medals anyway. I feel sorry for the other junior team who must still be wondering what went on".

Stephi said "Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable shoot in a friendly atmosphere. I was delighted to have shot very well and scored 1157, which is a new Personal Best".

A final comment from Andrew "As a twelve dozen round it took the full day to complete and we headed off into the gathering gloom and a queue for the M3 at about 7pm."

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Results:

Paul Richards, Gents Compound 1st place & trophy
Stephanie Westbrook, Ladies Compound 2nd place
Rachael Hutchison, Girls U16 1st place & trophy
Maizie Westbrook, Girls U16, 3rd place
Richard Hutchison, Boys U12 1st place (trophy missing?)

Compound Team: 1st place & shield: Paul, Stephanie & Julian

Junior Recurve Team: 1st place: Rachael, Richard & Maizie

Not to be left out, our Longbow archers also struck the medals.

Long Bow Team: 1st place: Su, Dave, Terry
Su, Long Bow Lady; 2nd place and highest score

Many thanks to Andrew and Paul for the information and to Andrew for the photograph.

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