

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER

Inaugural, extremely late and perhaps only message from your chairman!

Thank you to all those at the AGM who, unanimously, in my absence, so I've been told, voted me in as Chairman. Your cards are marked! This is supposed to be voluntary, you know.

I'm sure everything will continue to run as smoothly as always in spite of the inappropriateness of me being elected.

The weather has been so awful for months that not many people have actually been shooting but hopefully that is about to change as the summer starts and the beginners all flock to join the ranks!

That's it! I think I'll employ Dave Stiles as ghost-writer for the next issue.

Su

Hampshire Team News

Trials for places in the Hampshire County Team were held on Sunday 2nd April at Southampton Archery Club. The trials were aptly named as the conditions were terrible. The rain mostly held off, but the wind was strong and gusting. Everyone struggled to make respectable scores, especially the longbows. A vote was taken after 3 dozen and the round reduced to a Western instead of York/Hereford etc. Finally Paul, Stephanie, Dave and Rachael were selected to shoot for the county. The first match was on April 23rd, so the team was not able to shoot at the club's St. George which was a bit of a blow.

"As I got a chance to shoot myself, I didn't take any pictures during the event." reported Andrew. "Sussex had a team photo at lunchtime, but Hampshire were too busy resetting targets etc. Sussex also had nice warm red fleeces, while Hampshire had thin t-shirts handed out that morning. I managed to catch Rachael with some rather tasty lemon cake in her hands. It had been cut into small triangles, so she had to go back for 6 of them before she was satisfied!"

As for the results, Sussex narrowly won the senior match by 20,859 to 20,391, but Hampshire emphatically won the junior match by 8,238 to 7,009.

Paul (Gents compound)	1254
Stephanie (Ladies compound)	1154
Dave W (Longbow)	423
Rachel (Junior recurve)	1163

Andrew H



"This is only my second piece of lemon cake – honest!"

Stephie's Triumph!

Stephie and Dave are really hitting the tournament trail this year and on 6th and 7th May they went to the Walsall Double FITA at Lilleshall.

"On the first day my score as well short of 1200 which I was trying for" said Stephie.

"Then, to save money, Dave and I camped on site. So having spent the night under canvas, I was not full of optimism for the second day!"

In spite of this, Stephie went on to achieve a score of 1211 on the second day and so claim her 1200 FITA Star. Congratulations Steph!

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Ode to St. George's Shoot

St George's Shoot dawned once more
Amidst the gloom and rain,
But Basing Archers good and true
Toed the line again.

St. George's trophy was the prize
It should be made of gold,
But now it's only tarnished brass,
George 'nicked' the gold we're told.

The winners score sheet we could see
So big 'twas borne on stretcher,
A hearty cheer rose from the crowd
For mighty - Ian Fletcher.

Ken Denyer took the Compound prize
Some said they knew he'd land it,
"Well done Ken", most did cry
While others shouted "Bandit"!

Julian 'picked' among the snacks
With appetite of sparrow,
No indigestion did he get
Winning, 'Captain of Arrow'.

But there was one so young of years
Both 'shaker and a mover',
A 'gong' sticks proudly on his chest
'Jonathan; Handicap Improver'.

Field Captain gave her orders fair
One fault has our dear Sue,
Next year please - no b****y rain
Just order skies of blue!

To Debbie & Sue we give our thanks
For food and dare I risk it?
For snacks so fair - beyond compare
Colleen just 'takes the biscuit'.

Steward of Wine was our T.C.
But some were heard to say,
His measures small they all recall
The rest he 'put away'!

And so good archers good and true
Our arrows help us forge,
To hone our skills in good accord
And shoot for our St. George!

Dave S.

Club Subs

Every club member will now have their membership forms and club fees are due now. Our treasurer reports, "I am receiving a steady stream of completed forms and cheques. Please make sure that you pay promptly and certainly before the end of May."

Alençon Visit

Our friends from Basingstoke's twin town, Alençon in France, will be visiting from Friday 2nd June to Monday 5th June. We will be staging the archery tournament on the morning of Sunday 4^h June and there will be nibbles afterwards. The mayor of Basingstoke should be coming to present the trophy so it promises to be great occasion. Do come and support the club at this fun event (who said it was fun? It's deadly serious!)

New Member

A warm, OBA welcome to Tanya Bowles. Tanya is returning to archery after a 19 year break and is currently on a refresher course under Andrew's guidance. "I had forgotten just how relaxing shooting in a bow can be" said Tanya. We look forward to Tanya swelling the ranks of our lady archers in the near future.

Dates For Your Diary

Shoots at Basing

Sun, 4th June – Alençon friendly competition
Sun, 11th June – Burleigh Bowman friendly shoot (provisionally)
Sun 2nd July – North Hants Shield
Sat 29th & Sun 30th July – ANDOBA Double FITA Star
Sun 3rd. Sept – Siege Shoot
Sun 1st. Oct – Club Champs

Dates For Your Diary

Other Shoots

Sun 21st May Laleham FITA (friendly non record status shoot - ideal 1st FITA)
Wed 14th June Guildford
St. George / Albion / Windsors
Sat 17th June Bowmwn of Burleigh
Junior Champs
Sun 18th June Bowmen of Burleigh
New Western / Long Western / Western
Sun 25th June Mole Valley Bowmen
York / Hereford
Sun 25th June Yateley Archers
Windsors/ Junior Windsors

If anyone has any queries what-so-ever about entering any completions please contact me at david.westbrook1@ntlworld.com or speak to me or any member of the committee.

David W

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How? and Why ?

I read Dave's article in the February issue with interest and a big smile. I have been in archery at all levels for nearly 50 years.

The first thing new-comers are taught are the safety rules and a very close second are the excuses on why the arrow missed the target. I am sure some of us long term archers could write an encyclopaedia of excuses.

If you take the average human body with all its strengths & weaknesses, the mechanics of the modern day equipment, both recurve & compound, you will find that on average you will miss the target at the longest distance. Add to that the archers mental ability to concentrate on the job in hand, the pressure to hit the target (let alone the gold), the weather, etc. etc. and you start to understand why you should be surprised if you hit the target not worry about missing.

To put this into prospective, if the archer, the weather & the equipment were in perfect harmony and the sun was shining, the arrow will fly higher than if it were overcast.

We put fletching on arrows to straighten them up quickly. The larger the fletching the slower the arrow and the more the wind has an effect. It is possible to hit the target at 100yards without fletching. Maybe the fletchings were put on originally so the archer could identify who had killed the enemy but now it's so we can find them in the grass.

If you take a straight line from the shooting line to the very centre of the target, placed an arrow down that line with no other influence, then it would hit the target where the line touched the target. Now take the same setup with a 27" arrow and move the **point** of the arrow 3mm (around half the arrow width) and set the arrow on its course then it would be 16" out at 100yard or 13" out at 80 yards. Still need convincing how good you are? If you need any excuse, think about these;

1) Evolution made us humans the way we are today. As our ancestors invented the bow & arrow you would have thought they could have done a better job of implanting the skills/ knowledge in our brains.

2) The bow was designed to kill. First to kill for food then to kill the enemy, in both cases the target was moving so maybe we can do better if our target is moving.

3) When in battle the enemy were en-mass. Why are we not allowed to place the targets close together and take the score on any target you hit at the time.

In the meantime don't worry, just enjoy the companionship, the shooting is just a distraction.

Phil