

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER

- **From The Chairman's Chair**

The outdoor session is now in full swing and although the weather has been rather mixed, some good scores have been posted. As the beginner's courses have come to an end, we have great pleasure in welcoming new members Jo, Jenny and Daniel K, Tom, Daniel S, James, Toby, Victor and Lynn, Nigel, Ian and Oliver, Jonathan L (James Brother) and finally Ian G.

It is always interesting to find out what inspired new 'recruits' to take up the bow.

"I had a chance to have a go at archery on holiday last summer in Majorca", said Jo. "I really enjoyed it and decided to learn properly when I got home".

Daniel had wanted to learn to shoot for several years and for him, the only 'real' archery is shooting in the long bow. Having completed his beginner's course, he is refining his shooting skills in readiness for taking up the 'bent stick'.

Whatever your reason for joining, enjoy your shooting!

- **Bowmen of Burleigh Friendly**

Some 14 members of OBA made the journey to Wokingham for the annual friendly competition against our good friends, Bowmen of Burleigh.

Shooting commenced under slightly cloudy skies which quickly cleared to leave a beautifully sunny day. As far as anyone can remember, the trophy for this competition has never left Wokingham. Both sides were without some of their best shots but OBA had breadth of quality and an air of cautious optimism pervaded the shooting line. The excellence of the Burleigh catering has become legionary and this year was no exception. With regular breaks for refreshment and weather that all archers dream about, the day was turning out to be truly memorable – but it was to become even better. Ian's proposal of awarding points to each archer for the classification they attained on the day found the favour of both sides. So it was that the eagerly awaited results were announced; Bowman of Burleigh; 27 points, Old Basing 35 points!



Secretary: Ian Braham
Editor: Robin Foster

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

- **ANDOBA FITA**

We are rapidly approaching a major event in the OBA calendar, the two day FITA which we organise jointly with Andover Archers. This year the dates are 26th and 27th July. There are jobs for everyone, but if you need more information, just ask a member of the committee.

- **Birthday Shoot**

The first Sunday in August is traditionally the club's birthday shoot. This event is intended to especially to encourage our new starters. The round is a Windsor which means that the longest distance is 60 yards. In addition, the results are calculated with your handicap allowance. So make sure that you have completed three rounds to establish a handicap rating. This is an all day shoot so bring a packed lunch; the club will supply some additional "nibbles" to keep everyone sustained. As this is a special occasion, the committee would like to encourage everyone to wear the regulation green/white. If you don't already possess a suitable top, club shirts in either green or white can be purchased from our treasurer Steve for £12.75. Come along on 3rd August and enjoy yourself!

- **Club House Frontage**

It cannot have escaped your notice that after protracted negotiations with the Parish Council, work is well underway to the area in front of the club house. Although this will improve the appearance of the area, our main concern has been the improvement of safety by eliminating the numerous trip hazards that we have endured for a considerable time. While the new grass is becoming established, it is important that the grass is not walked on. It is regrettable that this has occurred at the height of the shooting season necessitating moving the shooting line forward and restricting shooting to 80 yards maximum but I am certain that the inconvenience will be worth it in the long term.

- **JNOC**

The first weekend in July is reserved for the Junior National Outdoor Championships (JNOC) and once again we made the pilgrimage to Lilleshall as a family. The weather forecast was for gales and rain, a severe test for the new tent as well as Rachael and Richard's resolve. Saturday is for the metric rounds and saw the archers buffeted by strong winds and regular squalls. Progress was slow and painful, with both of ours struggling to find their form and keep warm. In a show of solidarity with the children I volunteered to score the target between theirs, trudging up and down in the rain trying to keep the scoresheets dry. In the tent it was just as cold, with Geraldine hanging onto the sides and resetting the pins when it calmed again. Spirits sank with the scores, leaving Rachael in 11th place and Richard in 3rd. However, being one of the few longbow competitors this still qualified Richard for a bronze medal, but meant staying on until 7pm to collect it. Luckily our guest house was only 2 minutes from the gates of Lilleshall and boasted a posh restaurant, so we retreated there to recover. Fortified by a good meal and a comfortable night's sleep we emerged on Sunday morning to find the wind had subsided but the rain was even more persistent. Our tent had stood through the night, looking quite unscathed, but apparently a good neighbour had sorted it out before we arrived. The championship rounds started with the archers huddling in their tents as the greetings were broadcast over the tannoy, with sighters and the first two dozen in the rain before a brief respite. Despite this, both Rachael and Richard started well and remained positive through the morning. At lunch time there was a great interest in the half-way positions, Rachael being in 5th and Richard in 1st place. Last year, the afternoon saw Rachael slip down the positions and Richard rise from a poor start, but this year roles were reversed. In her final championships as a junior, Rachael held her form and posted a new PB to finish in 4th place, just 10 points outside of the medals. Richard grew tired and lost his way to slip to 2nd place, but still another medal to add to his collection. These two-day events are a real test for the archers and their supporters, but it is always encouraging to see the 70 targets in use by over 250 youngsters, all competing in the best of spirits.

Andrew

Secretary: Ian Breham
Editor: Robin Foster

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



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