

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER May 2008

• From The Chairman's Chair

The new out door session is now well under way and many club members are waking up from their archery hibernation and rediscovering the joys of shooting in the bow. Don't forget that in addition to the Saturday and Sunday morning formal shooting sessions, it is possible to practice on a Thursday and Friday evenings. This is a good opportunity for some bow tuning or working on particular aspects of your shooting technique. Advice can be sought from our coaches, TC, Andrew, Geoff Mc or Julian provided that you agree with them in advance. Coaches enjoy shooting as well!

Following the recent show of hands, our Tournament Secretary has confirmed with Burleigh Bowmen the date of 8th June for our annual friendly competition. This year it is the turn of Burleigh to host the event which will be at their ground in Cantley Park, Wokingham. It is usually a 12 dozen round and OBA invariably loose, but the good news is that Burleigh lay on a wonderful spread so nobody goes home hungry! To ensure that Burleigh have enough strawberries and cream, let Ian B know that you intend to come.

• Magazines

We are building a growing collection of subscription archery magazines. These are in the magazine rack on the wall in the club house and are available for any members to borrow. The idea is to 'read and return' so that they can be circulated. If you find a particular magazine that you enjoy, Eclipse Archery (other archery retailers are available) stock several back issues.

• Welcome

We are most pleased to welcome new member Peter Hunton to our ranks. We have that you will enjoy your shooting at OBA.

• 28 Year Record Falls At St. George Shoot

The club longbow record for the St. George round was well and truly broken on Sunday 20th April. Ian B shot steadily throughout the day to end with a magnificent total of 325. The long-standing record was established by Don Ellis back in 1980 with a score of 318. Don was a well known OBA member and renowned longbow archer who at his prime, held several national longbow records. The rest of us, who where not on record-breaking form, still enjoyed a great days shooting as the weather improved throughout the day. An added culinary delight this year was the food provided by Debbie and Su with the pinnacle of gastronomic perfection being the hand-made sausage rolls provided by TC.

Results

Compound

Steve L	860
David W	852
Iain F	812

Recurve

Geoff McC	676
Martin A	671
Phil L	632

Longbow

Ian B	325
Debbie C	233
Terry C	135

The compound "Captain Of The Arrow" trophy was won by Julian.

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- **Hampshire Team Hat-Trick**

Hampshire put out a call for aspiring team members and the glory seeking trio of Andrew, Rachael and Richard answered it. This year the county team expects to be more active, with friendly matches and team training events to attend. To get the season started there was a selection event at AC Delco, a day long 12-dozen FITA round was planned for Sunday 13th. The team requires adults and juniors, compound, recurve, barebow and longbow shooters. There are minimum criteria for the senior compound and recurve attendees, but any junior, barebow or longbow is welcome.

The day started dull and damp, with sighters at 9:30 prompt. Rachael, suffering from a recent cycling mishap, took her pain killers and limped to the line. She made steady progress through the morning, taking a narrow lead over the other girls. Richard had a slow start, but lacking any opposition didn't have to worry too much. I also made steady progress, finding the target well at the longer distances, but well behind a leading Hampshire longbowman. However, two places were up for grabs and I was well ahead of the next contender.

Shortly after lunch the weather turned for the worst, with steady rain and gusty winds. At this the team captain took soundings along the line, should the shooting stop and use the morning's results? The longbows and barebows took this option, but the rest decided to shoot on. Rachael would have appreciated taking the weight off her sore leg, but battled on with the rest. Richard held the umbrella for her and I went to pull the slippery arrows from the target. At the final reckoning a scoring error was spotted and Rachael credited with the missing 100 points. To her surprise she had just shot a PB despite everything, her winning margin was convincing after all. My score for the morning also turned out to be a PB, hitting the newly revised Bowman standard exactly.

The following Sunday we returned to AC Delco for the match with Surrey, this time the round would be York/Bristols and the weather forecast was for more rain. However, the rain held off and the sun even came out at times as all three of us made steady progress. Rachael had no direct competition from Surrey, only from the Hampshire girls. Richard had no direct competition either, but it was a different matter for Gents longbow where our leading competitor was having an off day and despite a PB I could only come 4th. The shoot ran smoothly to its conclusion and we waited eagerly for the results. The rules for matching teams of differing composition are obscure and remain unexplained, but despite home advantage Hampshire lost both the senior and junior matches. It seems we lost it on compound scores, not having enough in the junior team and out performed on the adult team. Those scores cannot be made up on longbows and barebows alone.

As a family we did our best and got some personal high-spots, such as PBs and Richard's claim on two more county records. It was a shame to miss out on the club's St. George shoot, but we will be getting the county shirts to wear with pride.

Andrew

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