

OLD BASING ARCHERS OLD BASING ARCHERS

February 2010 **NEWSLETTER** Lynn Bostock

The Old Basing Archers would like to extend a warm welcome to all new members – we look forward to you joining us for a very good season. It will be lovely to have some warmth back in the sun, instead of standing around freezing our socks off!

Speaking of freezing things off:

Some say they are brave, whilst others say they are the 'hardened few' but most say they are just plain nuts! Whatever they say here are a few pictures for you to make your own mind up. Weather is not an issue for the OBA's.



Above Gareth 'watch this' Wiseman



Geoff getting frostbite



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Geoff Machin kindly sent these pictures in of the first snow of the winter. Thanks Geoff.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to other commitments, I am unable to spend the time needed to continue as Editor for the OBA newsletter.

I have already informed the Committee that this edition of 'February's Newsletter' will be my last.

I shall also be standing down, as assistant C.P. officer and as a Member of the Committee.

All the best

Lynn

REMEMBER

**AGM Meeting 22nd of February
At the Cricket Club House**

Make sure you get the forthcoming events throughout the season booked into your diary. Check out the notice board in the equipment hut and/or the GNAS 2010 fixture list available on their website.

Good luck to everyone in this years shooting!

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The Field Shoot at Kingsclere by (Steve Meredith)

It hath rained of late. And lo there was a road that had become a causeway raised above the flooded field whereon the cars did slip and slide their perilous way across the mere to take part in the Overton Black Arrows field shoot.

We met and checked our site marks or in the case of the longbows, our guesswork, at a small range near the car park. Curiously those shooting at one target happily ignored those retrieving arrows from the target next to it. Such touching archer confidence in each other and their visitors.

The Overton guys are a nice group (not enough on this inclement day to constitute a crowd) and we were allocated our parties and off we went. The terrain is a glacial scoop out of Watership down with steep sides and bowl shaped at the inner end. With all the rain falling the only ship I could think of was Noah's Ark.

The targets are set among the scrub and stubby trees and I imagine it would be a glorious spot in good weather. However, on this wet Sunday the mossy soil has little cover and the bones of many rabbits and crows litter the hillsides. It is known as the warren and I suppose there is a lot of fox predation, disease and rough shooting in such a place. Perhaps there are other targets for bowmen when no one is looking.

Slipping and sliding on the steep, wet tussocks we lurch between targets in the blustery conditions, the rain coming from all directions. The stout woodwork and rocky soil claiming four out of the eight arrows I started with. Scores not glorious until I gave up trying to think about it and shot quickly to get the job done. This produced some consolation shots.

Our opportunity to submit scores was washed out by an incident.

It came to pass that we had to return across the causeway, which had become even wetter. The ridges between the ruts and the sides were broken by cars and vans trying to avoid grounding their sumps. You will remember the lead singer of Genesis and drummer to the Queen on her diamond Jubilee. Well he wasn't there but another bloke by the same name was, whose fame does not eclipse his more famous namesake.

In his heavy van with huge ground clearance he never the less tried to dance nimbly on the soggy ridges and slid off the causeway into the mere. If ever there was one in a group who would be certain to cock it up well clumsy thy name is Phil.

[If you want to see some pictures of the field shoot go to the Black Arrows website.](#)