



OLD BASING ARCHERS' NEWSLETTER

Editor: Andrew Hutchison, 4 Birch Grove, HOOK, Hants. RG27 9RJ

Volume No. 1 Issue No. 34 Date: August 2002

The Chairman's Letter

My thanks to all those who supported the Andover/OBA FITA. It went extremely well this year; the preparation work and the re-designed targets meant things were well managed. I certainly felt it went smoothly and Reg looked more relaxed than usual. It was OBA's turn to nominate a Patron and Geoff kindly nominated me. The main job is to hand out the prizes to the winners at the end of the shoot. I felt very proud being there on behalf of OBA in a room full of archers who had obviously enjoyed their shoot.

Moving on, as I mentioned previously we have had a good number of new beginners join this year, and I've seen some on the shooting line - but not all. Where are you?? I know it can be a bit daunting turning up in a new environment where everybody seems to know what they're doing, but if you feel that way "just ask". We were all beginners once, we understand the difficulties and are only too pleased to help (and show off our knowledge). Mind, you might not get consistent advice on your problems; we all have our own ideas.

By the time most of you read this we should be well into the Siege Shoot. It's a friendly again with some of our neighbouring clubs: Burleigh, Andover, Cody and Guildford. So I hope you'll relax and enjoy your shooting.

George

Membership Fees

The gentle reminder in the last newsletter seems to have worked, with a good renewal rate from the existing members. We have lost some long-standing members because of other commitments; let's hope they return to us in future years.

Beginners & New Joiners

Our fourth course ran on two Saturday afternoons in July and was well received. It resulted in some of the following new members, who we welcome to the club:

David Morley, Diana Drewry, Andy Nash, Matthew Jones, Barry Godfrey, Maria McCann & David Secrett.

If anybody has spare equipment at home that would be suitable for our improvers, please consider giving or loaning it to the club. They can't all buy a few weeks on Julian's old bow to get started.

Have-a-Go – Ya!

The club recently ran a have-a-go at North Foreland Lodge, a private school for young ladies, near Basingstoke. No chance of any new joiners as a result, but it proved very popular and might have won us some friends in high places. The helpers were invited to stay and listen to an exclusive appearance by "Boney M" in the evening!

Membership Survey

The renewal forms had a quick survey on the reverse to allow existing members to express their preferences on certain subjects. With thanks to those who responded, the results were:

1. Organised coaching (Yes = 10, No = 2, Maybe = 6)
2. Practical lessons (Yes = 9, No = 4, Maybe = 6)
3. Intra-club competitions (Yes = 8, No = 1, Maybe = 10)
4. Away tournaments (Yes = 10, No = 1, Maybe = 8)
5. FITA Assistance (Yes = 10, No = 5)
6. Social activities (Yes = 5, No = 2, Maybe = 10)
7. Winter indoor shooting (Yes = 6, No = 7, Maybe = 4)
8. Per-head price of annual dinner (£10-£20 = 5, £20-£25 = 9, £25-£30 = 2)

For the coaching, a schedule will be drawn up to cover the next couple of months as an experiment. Practical lessons will require experts to volunteer their services, then we can schedule some events. The club competitions continue and our dedicated band of away tournament archers will continue to uphold the honour of the club. The FITA was well supported this year, we know not everybody can commit to that weekend, but we do all benefit from the proceeds. Indoor shooting has been dwindling in recent years, unless well

supported by some of our new members it will have to stop. A price tag of around £20 per head on the annual dinner will inform our attempts to book something.

Indoor Shooting

The club has shot for many years on a Wednesday evening, from 8:30pm until 10:30pm, in Old Basing village hall. Alternative venues and times are being looked into, but it is likely we will continue with the village hall.

The cost has to be divided between the participants, and paid for a term at a time. Last year numbers dwindled to an uneconomic level, was it boredom or simply inconvenient?

We would like the evenings to cater for both improvers and regulars, with the chance to represent the OBA club in a postal league competition. Let me know if you are interested in these sessions (a form will be posted in the clubhouse).

Congratulations!!!

Firstly to Frances and Richard Ayling for winning their sections at the Little Acorn competition at Guildford on Saturday July 6th.

The following day Rachael Hutchison scored a new personal best while competing in the National Junior Championships (Girls U13 Recurve). She claimed her Black Rose award and took 6th place out of 11.

On the 14th of July OBA turned out in force at the Berkshire Championships. Being out of county we contested the visitor's medals. Richard Ayling and Pete Hebdidge came back with Gold medals, Rachael Hutchison and Su Elliot took Silver. Robin Foster claimed his White Rose award.

A special mention for John Morley, one of this year's beginners, who registered his first proper round – at the Junior Bowman level!!! Let's have a couple more of those John to establish you a handicap and classification.

Club Birthday Shoot

Sadly I missed this, being on holiday, but I'm told it went well. Frances Ayling was the clear winner, with Ron Blomfield in 2nd place and Geoff Machin 3rd.

The Wand Shoot also took place at the end, Richard Ayling taking this unusual trophy. The Wand traditionally was a stick to be

split; we improvise with a vertical ribbon on each target.

Andover and Old Basing FITA

With apologies to anybody not present for the photo, here is the Sunday work party sheltering from the sun between periods of frenetic activity.



Club Championships

These will be on 6th October, the first Sunday in October as usual. The rounds will be York, Hereford and Bristols. This is not a handicap tournament, so to win a medal or trophy you must compete at your full competition distances. Improvers can shoot any suitable round for the experience, or join us in the afternoon for the final 6 dozen as a National.

Assembly will be at 9:45 at which time we will dedicate the flagpole and raise a flag for the first time. The pavilion will be in use for refreshments and the closing ceremony. We intend to award all of the trophies and medals on the day, together with medals for other events during the year. So, could everyone bring some finger food contribution to be eaten during and after the awards. For some this will be the last major event of the year, so it would be nice to finish with a friendly get-together.

Club Dinner

With the trophies and medals awarded at the club championships, the committee has decided to explore an alternative social event. It will probably take place after Christmas and involve an alternative sport and a buffet meal. Any suggestions welcome.

Editor's Footnotes

I was told the story of the club motto "Nota Bene" recently, and it's worth repeating here for the benefit of new (and not so new) members. The badge shows a fortified keep to represent Basing House and an arrow with a scroll on it. The scroll says "Nota Bene" or "Note Well". It is said that such an arrow was shot at the start of Cromwell's Siege in 1645. It warned the garrison that the house would be taken and none spared unless they surrendered immediately. They didn't surrender and Cromwell eventually either put them to the sword or burned them in the cellars as the building was razed to the ground. By 1645 the use of the longbow in warfare was almost at an end, so it could claim some significance.

Nota Bene:

- Return any club championship trophies (polished) for October 6th.
- Sign up for the indoor shooting if it is to continue (fee between £20 and £30 per term depending on numbers).
- Practice hard for the club championships.

Dates for your diaries:

OBA Siege Shoot	1 st September
Alton & Fourmarks Open	8 th September
Hampshire Championships	29 th September
Spelthorne Novice Shoot	29 th September
Club Championships	6 th October