



OLD BASING ARCHERS' NEWSLETTER

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From the Chairman

Firstly, my apologies for not making the AGM. Unfortunately there were problems at work. Also, my thanks for voting me as Chairman for a second term. I enjoyed my first three years, so here goes again.

It is obvious that trends we saw some years ago have continued, examples being the fact that our age profile continues upward and people have more pressure on how they use their time. So since we all want the maximum enjoyment for our leisure, the committee agreed we would only ask for support for two activities, the OB Fete and the FITA Star. The first because it is our "home ground" and we should support it; the second because it is still our major fund earner.

To "replace" the other shoots we will continue, and hopefully build on, the idea of a friendly shoot with invited clubs. These shoots to be held on the dates we hold the St George's shoot and what would have been the Siege. One we held last year at the siege date was very successful and enjoyable, with those activities we want from archery; of shooting in a friendly atmosphere with other archers where enjoyment is the main aim and the competition secondary.

I hope you will support this approach and look forward to your comments and feedback after the event. It's your club and we want to organise what you enjoy.

Your Committee

The AGM on 19th February elected the following team for 2002:

Chairman: George Matthews
chair@oldbasingarchers.co.uk

Secretary: Andrew Hutchison
sec@oldbasingarchers.co.uk

Treasurer: Chris Mossop

Life President & Coach: Terry Cootes

Records Officer: Su Elliot

Webmaster: Kevin Deighton
kevin.d@oldbasingarchers.co.uk

Robin Foster
robin.f@oldbasingarchers.co.uk

Geoff Machin

Please contact the relevant member of the committee for any queries, issues, suggestions etc. relating to the club or its activities.

Beginners

The first beginner's course will start on Monday 8th April at 6:30. We are advertising them widely at present, hopefully including some coverage in the local press. Let's give those who sign up a warm welcome and help introduce them to our sport, we want as many as possible to stay on through this season and many more.

We would be very grateful if as many experienced archers as possible could assist Terry on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 6th May, "adopting" a beginner to offer them support and encouragement.

St. George's Day Shoot

This will take place on Sunday 28th April, assemble at 10:45 for sighters at 11am.

We plan to invite guests from a couple of local clubs to swell our numbers and add an element of friendly competition.

The 9 dozen arrow rounds will be a St. George for the Gents, Albion for the Ladies and Windsor rounds for the juniors. Beginners can shoot the round which best suits them.

The emphasis will be on a relaxed and friendly shoot, with light refreshments to sustain us.

Monthly Handicap Shoots

These will take place, as usual, on the 1st Sunday of each month (May to September). There will be a recommended round each month, but any round in the handicap tables will qualify.

Handicap Ladder & Knockout

These competitions will commence from the 1st May, details to be posted nearer the time. Scoresheets are to be modified to include a box for identifying challenges, in this way we hope more members will remember to pair off before they start shooting.

FITA Star

Regulars will not have failed to notice that the club voted to continue its collaboration with Andover over the running of this tournament. The reputation of this two-day event is very high across the country, and OBA should feel proud of its contribution. In the past we have derived some financial benefit, but not much kudos, from our contribution. This year the two clubs have established better communications to share out both the work and hopefully the plaudits.

The first example was the target refurbishment, which mainly took place on the 8th, 9th & 10th of March. Many thanks to all those who turned out over the weekend to shift equipment and pack foam into the targets.

A similar effort on the weekend of 27th and 28th July should see us through another successful event. We should also encourage this year's beginners to help out on the day, as it's a good introduction to the more competitive side of the sport.

Coaching

Two assistant coaches will hopefully join Terry this season, assuming we pass the exam. Mike Ayling and myself will be taking the course in April/May. This should increase the club's ability to take beginners on the courses or during the year. It will also allow Terry to concentrate on improvers and experienced archers.

Remember, anybody in the club can ask Terry for assistance on a regular or occasional basis. Monday evenings will be for the

courses and improver sessions, Wednesday evenings for practice and coaching. We hope to include some indoor sessions on the Monday evenings to explain key aspects of the sport, including practical skills such as string making. If anybody feels they could deliver a session on a relevant topic, please let us know.

Local Tournaments

A list of forthcoming events will be posted in the clubhouse, together with entry forms or contact details. Some to put in your diary now are:

AC Delco Easter FITA
Andover Saxon Shoot 21st April
Reading Archers 12th May
SCAS Meeting Winchester 16th – 18th May

Fees

Club fees are due on May 1st for the year and were set by the AGM at £60 adults, £50 OAPs, £40 juniors. Discounts will apply to families that include juniors. For adult non-residents of Old Basing there is a small parish levy as well.

The rise in fees this year reflects the falling membership and a desire to reduce reliance on income from the FITA.

Fees for the national and regional organisations are also collected though the club, their subscription year starts in October. Last year these fees stood at £25 for adults, £14 for juniors.

Editor's Footnotes

Many thanks to Pete and his "apprentice" Colin for their efforts maintaining the clubhouse and equipment this winter.

I think OBA should be looking forward to this new season with some optimism. Amongst the committee, and I trust the wider membership, there is a positive and constructive attitude. I urge all members to renew their subscriptions and join us in the Spring sunshine to enjoy the Archery.