



OLD BASING ARCHERS' NEWSLETTER

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Volume No. 1 Issue No. 37 Date: April 2003

The Chairman's Letter

It is said that in the UK we're obsessed with the weather, I guess you can multiply that several times if you're an archer. The past few weeks have taken us through the whole range, Summer "seemed" to have arrived about 2 or 3 weeks ago. We even saw some of our archery hedgehogs (who hibernate through the winter months) as against the hardier variety of archer, who shoot throughout the year.

However back came the cold and wind (not much rain though). So I guess it's not surprising that the St. George turnout was about average with a dozen competitors. Sue won the club St. George trophy but this year the Committee agree to add a Compound trophy, duly won by Geoff. The medals will be presented, as last year, at the Club Championships in October. One last comment on the St. George; it was nice to see some of our "newer" archers competing, and for one or two it was their first real shoot. They all did well, a sign of things to come??

So folks the Summer is coming, I look forward to seeing you on the shooting line.

Regards George

St. George's Day Shoot

Sunday 13th turned out to be a breezy and bright day that attracted fourteen of us to compete in the opening tournament of the season. A couple of our more elusive members also dropped by to wish us well, promising to return more regularly as the summer unfolds.

The English cross of St. George flew proudly from our flagpole, even though we were a couple of weeks early because of Easter.

The tournament is decided on score, between those archers shooting the full distances for their age and gender. The results for the recurve archers were:

- 1st Su Elliott
- 2nd Rachael Hutchison
- 3rd Andrew Hutchison

Su carried off the interesting trophy, depicting George slaying the dragon (no, not our George, who insisted on wearing the Welsh dragon on his shirt to make some particular point about his own origins).

Geoff Machin and Robin Foster competed for the Compound prize, with Geoff equalling his own club record to secure the newly introduced trophy, an engraved plate.

If Frank Bell and Leigh Collins have their way the longbow will again flourish at OBA, so we may have to consider another trophy for future years.

Beginner's Courses

Four courses have been arranged and the extensive waiting list has been contacted. The first course will be underway by the time you read this. Experienced archers are invited to assist whenever possible, please come along and adopt a beginner. If anyone knows of potential members looking for a course, there are still some places on the later ones.

The dates and times are:

Mondays, 18:30, April 7th, 14th, 28th, May 5th

Saturdays, 14:00, April 26th, May 3rd, 10th

Mondays, 18:30, May 12th, 19th, 26th, June 2nd

Saturdays, 14:00, May 17th, 31st, 7th

FITA Target Renovation

The FITA targets had their stuffing knocked out of them again this summer, so the job of repacking them falls to members of Andover and OBA. The foam has been delivered and arrangements are being made with Andover to share out the

work. If you are available for a few hours one afternoon or weekend, please let Geoff Machin know. Dates will be posted in the clubhouse when arranged.

Membership

We welcome Leigh Collins as our first new member of the season; Leigh is a longbow archer coming to us from an interest in re-enactment. Other new recruits are also our youngest, eager to join their siblings and fathers at the club. So we also welcome David Bell and Richard Hutchison to the sport and the club.

Membership fees fall due again on May 1st, so please renew promptly so you can continue to enjoy the facilities of the club.

New members will be asked for their details on a form. The rest of you can renew by simply handing in a cheque for the full amount or in three equal parts dated for May, June and July.

The fees remain unchanged from last year at:

Adult @ £60 each, OAPs @ £50 each, Juniors @ £40 each.

Family discounts (provided at least one child is included) are 10% for parent and child, 18% for three or more members of the same family.

Adult GNAS/SCAS/HAA fee is £31, Junior fee is £17.50.

Adults not resident, or formally resident, in Old Basing must also pay the parish levy of £5.

Logos

Why not proclaim your membership by wearing the OBA logo on your clothes. Kevin Deighton is able to provide an iron-on logo in two sizes to go on T-Shirts, Caps etc. The large logo will cost £1 each, the smaller ones 50p. Watch out for Kevin at the club or email him on kevin@oldbasingarchers.co.uk

You can also buy a green or white sweatshirt from Harlequin Designs with a cloth logo. The sweatshirt with logo costs £18.75, and your name can appear below the logo for a further £2.50. Contact Harlequin directly on 01256 811168.

Decals

It's a requirement at external competitions to have your arrows marked and numbered, usually done by applying individual transfers near the fletchings. An alternative system is now available and proving popular within the club. Visit <http://www.arrow-decals.co.uk/> for details on how to order; they have the OBA logo ready to include.

Frostbite 2002/2003

The monthly club and postal competition took place over the winter as usual, with a hardy group of regulars turning up. The winner of the club frostbite competition this year was young Andrew Bell. His father Frank came second with Colin Hasler in third place. Our team entered in the postal league did not perform well and relegation looms.

Club Diary

Dates for the main club events have now been decided, please make a note of them in your diaries:

Burleigh Friendly Match – 8th June
Andover FITA 26th & 27th July
Club Handicap Tmt. (Birthday shoot) - 17th August
Siege – 7th September (Invitation shoot again)
Club Championships – 5th October

There will be one additional fun event this season to mark a special occasion, probably in late July/early August. More details to follow when known.

Other local events we usually support:

Andover Saxon – 27th April
Reading Archers – 11th May
SCAS Meeting @ Winchester 15th-17th May
AC Delco Mixed Hereford 25th May
OB Carnival – 14th June (we think)
Burleigh Junior Open - 21st June
Burleigh Senior Open – 22th June
Little Acorn, Guildford – 28th June
North Hants Shield - 6th July
Berkshire Championships @ Burleigh – 13th July
Guildford Acorn – 25th August (Bank Holiday)

Alençon Visit – 24th & 25th May

It is not too late to sign up for this trip, but be quick. The formal twinning has been abandoned this year, so the council will not be laying on transport. Instead they will make a modest (£25) contribution to individual expenses.

This means we will not need to parade through the town, listen to mayoral speeches or attend any formal leaving do. Sounds like we will just have a good time with our French friends instead.

Thinking of joining the AA?

No, not Alcoholics Anonymous although, judging by the enthusiasm of some for the wine provided during the club shoots, it might be the next big thing.

Tony McLaughlin, long standing member and one of the cheery AA roadside assistance team, can cut OBA members a special deal. Let me know and I'll put you in touch with Tony by phone or email.