

Old Basing Archers August 2004 NEWSLETTER

Andy Gaylor

Most of you will know of the sad news of Andy Gaylor's death on Thursday 15 July, after a stroke earlier in the week. Many of our newer members will have only met Andy over the last few months, as he had returned to archery after a two-year break. Both Andy and his wife, Heather, were injured in a car accident. Andy damaged his shoulder preventing him from shooting. He'd returned this season determined to regain his shooting form and was well on the way, achieving his third First Class score on the 11 July putting him firmly back as a First Class Archer.

Andy joined OBA in 1992, although he had had his first taste of archery in 1972, shooting at his father's social club at BP. Unfortunately his gear was stolen and not wanting to make a fuss at his father's club he stopped shooting. Andy was a regular and shot most weekends. I must admit that he was one of the several "hedgehog" archers we have, hibernating through the cold wet winter, emerging in the spring with his impish grin and dry sense of humour, ready for another season. He was a keen supporter of Club activities especially the FITA and Alençon exchange visits.

It is in Alençon, especially the away visits, I have my fondest memories of Andy. Both he and Heather made firm friends with Dominique and Patrick, visiting them regularly, not just at the shoots. My wife and I can remember at least four enjoyable "away visits", sitting with Andy and Heather, enjoying hectic French hospitality while Heather acted as our "translator". The memories tend to blur (mainly due to the quantity of wine and calvados) but include; a school hall that Alençon had hired to entertain us to an evening reception, typically French with lots of food, wine and people, (whole families), talking, chattering, eating and drinking. This theme went through several years, including one French home where Heather successfully translated my jokes to a French audience. The most recent was last year, 2003 when Alençon held an evening reception in a marquee on their shooting range. Unfortunately it was a rather wet chilly evening, but the wine and company kept us warm, fuelling an "English- French" cork battle, with Andy a major participant.

I know I will miss that dry humour and impish grin.

George



Andrew David Gaylor
27 June 1956 - 15 July 2004

Generous Donations

The club has recently benefited from the generosity of a member and an ex-member. Mark Gales has just donated to the club his trainer bow. At 30lb draw weight it will make a useful addition for others coming off the beginner's course and needing something more to practice with. Secondly, former member Rita Ellis has handed in two ladies recurve bows (one a Hoyt the other a Yamaha) for club use.

Andrew

Little Acorn Shoot 26-June-04

The weather was dull and drizzling most of the day, but spirits remained high with many young archers in bizarre costumes and lots of prizes to be won. Maizie won a colour prize and David a raffle prize.

Results

Junior Western (40yards & 30 yards)

Andrew B 581 score, 94 hits, 23 golds

Rachael 718 score, 96 hits, 43 golds (1st place & Girl's overall winner - retaining her trophy)

Short Junior Western (30 yards & 20 yards)

Maizie 376 score, 78 hits 10 golds

David 533 score, 87 hits 18 golds

Andrew

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Diary Dates

August

Sun 8th OBA Birthday Handicap Shoot

Mon 30th Acorn Shoot, Guildford (Hereford & Bristols)

October

Sun 3rd OBA Club Champs

Wed 6th Indoor shooting starts

Sun 10th TC's Birthday Shoot!

El Preseidente Reminiscences

An occasional series of jottings from our Life President and Senior Coach

For a number of years I have been regaled with tales of how special the Southern Counties Archery Meeting (SCAM) was. But it was a week-day event over four days which would have meant using precious holidays just for archery (I'm quoting my wife here of course). So I had to wait until I retired. The meeting starts with a Double National round on Wednesday, a Double York on Thursday and Friday, culminating with a Long National on Saturday. Four days of archery is rather too much for me now so I settled for just two days – the Double York. What I had not realised was that I had been proposed and accepted for a place on the End Target. This is either an honour or an insult depending on how you view archery meetings with a strong social content. What is special about SCAM is that once you have been accepted, you stay on the same target with the same shooting companions for as long as you attend. The End target is where the elderly and social archers are put so as to be a minimum distraction to the more serious archers.

The shooting day for us old 'uns starts with the ceremonial erection of the End Target gonfalon followed by a toast to absent and departed friends. At this stage we usually have a few visitors – judges, organisers, coaches and old friends who enjoy a short snifter to kick-start the day. After three dozen arrows are shot there is break for refreshment – coffee and biscuits on a tray collected from the canteen. Lunch is served after six dozen for those that want it, for the rest of us it's a picnic as usual whilst we admire the beautiful backdrop of St. Cross and the Greenjacket ground.

On the End Target we maintain a very relaxed attitude to the shoot enjoying the badinage and banter that usually accompany awful shooting (by me at least) – I blame my indifferent performance on the frequent visit of friends (that's my story anyway). Tea and biscuits are served midway through the afternoon by which time; age, infirmity and the odd snifter have taken their toll. However we still manage to recover in time to do it all again the following day – note, it does help if you can persuade a friend to chauffeur you to and from the shoot. I'm looking forward to next year already!

TC

Parish Matters

Andrew and George attended a meeting of the OBPC (Old Basing Parish Council) on 20th July. Agenda items of interest to us were drainage and the grounds-man's tractor shed.

The plan for improving the draining to the field involve about two or three weeks of trenching across both the football and rugby pitches, followed by a period of repair and re-seeding. No precise dates as yet, but tentatively planned for the Autumn. The run-off will be collected into a large pipe running roughly along our shooting line, into the hedge and around behind the clubhouse to drain into the moat in Oliver's Battery. As more information becomes available, everyone will be informed

The replacement grounds-man's building now has a high priority. Recent break-ins have resulted in a secure container being placed behind the current building. It is hoped that the main doors for the replacement tractor shed will open onto the car-park rather than the shooting range.

George and Andrew raised the concerns of OBA members about poor parking practice such as parking on the double yellow lines, straddling bays, using the disabled bays, etc. OBPC will look into this.

The need for improved communications between the different users of the Rec. will be high-lighted to OBPC. This results from a recent Wednesday evening practice session having to be cancelled due to another event on the field and the Wella hospitality tent being practically on our shooting line. OBA were not provided with any advanced warning of this.

Editor

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our ranks; Jackie Westbrook, Paul Gregory, Robert Coady, Christopher Plumber.

Editor

Junior Nationals

The Junior National Championship was held at Andover Archer's ground this year. Rachael competed in a strong field of 17 and although she didn't match the leaders, achieved an excellent performance:

Bristol 3, 1034 scored, 144 hits, 50 golds

A new Personal Best, club record and a Blue Rose claimed!

Andrew

Setting Up The Range

A white board will be prominently displayed in the club house. As soon as you arrive at the field, request the initial distance at which you wish to shoot on the white board. The list will close 15 minutes before sighters to enable the field to be set-up.

TC has had another clear-up in the club house. Let's help him by keeping the place tidy. Everything has a home, if you use something, just return it to the same place. Easy – job done!

Editor

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