

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER August 2005

The Beginners Guide To Alençon

Do's

1. Remember that ferry companies operate on a 24 hour clock system. When you book a ferry for 1.45 they mean in the morning not the afternoon.
2. Declare that your vehicle has weapons inside. It makes the custom officers day as he asks everyone and they all say no!
3. However bad your French is try to use some with your host family as they really appreciate the effort and if it is anything like as bad as mine they also enjoy a good laugh.
4. Remember to drive on the right and don't panic the first and every subsequent time you think traffic from the left is going to plough into the side of you.
5. Take your waterproofs. French rain is exceedingly wet and they seem to wait for it to be at its heaviest before they allow you to start shooting.

Don'ts

1. Turn up 10 hours late for your crossing asking for a slot on an earlier ferry. It makes you look very foolish!
2. Expect anything, once you arrive, to happen at the appointed time. If the people of Alençon were any more laid back they would be comatose.
3. Even try to understand the rules of the competition. They change several times during the course of the contest.
4. If our beloved chairman is on your trip, he will have taken to their way of life. So don't rely on him to be anywhere he says he will be and certainly not at the correct time. So much so that on the one occasion he arrived on time he still managed not to find us until at least 1 hour later!
5. Be surprised if you have a brilliant weekend. Our host family and all the other members of Alençon Archery Club were warmest and most hospitable people you could ask for. They even arranged for all the traffic lights in the area to have little mini sets just at George's height.

Dave & Steff

Range Safety

With the welcome increase of membership, we must not forget that the recreation ground has public access. The club has an impeccable safety record and to maintain this, we will closely follow the GNAS procedures for range safety.

a) On all occasions when shooting is taking place, it will strictly be under the control of a Field Captain. This will be one of the following experienced archers; Geoff, Terry, George, Mike, Su, Julian, Andrew, Stephen, Paul, Robin.

b) The 5 yard waiting line has been instated. When you are not actually shooting, you must step off the shooting line and retire behind the waiting line. This enables the Field Captain to have a clear view of proceedings.

c) The safety rope which is erected at the right-hand-side of the range to prevent members of the public wandering into a dangerous area will now be put up 25 yards to the right of the right hand target. On completion of shooting the safety rope must be returned to the club house so that the grounds-man can cut the grass.

Do not forget that when anyone sees a potentially dangerous situation, they will shout "Fast!" Whenever you hear this, you will immediately stop shooting. If you happen to be at full drawer, bend so that the arrow is pointing down at the ground then carefully let the bow down. Shooting will only recommence following the signal from the Field Captain.



**A soggy
Chairman en
France**

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Old Basing Fete

Well I hope you all enjoyed our brief one week of summer so far. The British weather seems to maintain its capability to provide us with our main topic of conversation. One of the really hot sunny days was the 18th June when Old Basing held it's annual fete and as usual we were running a "have a go" stall. On previous years we have ended up behind the Bouncy Castle and felt a bit left out. This year we requested a more prominent place, where we would be easily seen and hopefully attract more attention. Sue was our liaison and got us an excellent spot and it certainly worked. About a dozen OB Archers turned up, as usual our faithful coaches being the main stay. We had two groups; one collecting money and one showing the punters how to shoot their "4 Arrow for a £1". I'm not sure how much we made, but we were busy with a constant stream of all ages from 4 years to OAP's, sorry Senior Citizens from 2:00pm to 4:30. Also a group of four teenage lads who had the usual "I can do it better than my mates" approach, but even they went away happy with their efforts, although knowing how hot and bright the sun was I think they may regret later the amount of bare white flesh exposed.

So do why do we do it ??? I must admit it's not one of our major fund raisers, but it does pay for a boss or so every year and meets one of our GNAS objective to "encourage archery in all it's forms ". We do get people enquiring about archery and taking it further and some even join the club, Peter Hebdige being one club notable who join us via that route. But most importantly it shows the club as being willing to be part of the local community. Lastly it's good fun seeing all those kids and their little faces smiling as they shoot, and occasionally hit the target, and all those sticky little hands chocolate.....ice creamhamburgersmaybe next year I'll wear gloves !!!!!!!!! .

George

Dates For Your Diary

July

Sun 3rd North Hants Shield
Sat 9th "Have-a-Go" Session at Cranbourne School
Sun 17th Friendly v Bowmen of Burleigh
Sat 30th & Sun 31st ANDOBA FITA at Andover

August

Sun 6th Birthday Handicap Shoot
Mon 29th Guildford "Acorn Shoot"

September

Sun 4th Siege Shoot

October

Sun 2nd Club Championships
TBA "Have-a-Go" Session at The Vine N.T. House

Tournament Results

OBAers have been out and about on the tournament trail and achieving some excellent results.

Exbury Long Western

Waterside Archers, Sunday 5th June
Steve Learwood 2nd Gents Recurve
Debbie Campbell }
Steff Westbrook }
David Westbrook } unplaced
Jackie Westbrook }
Maizie Westbrook }

Burleigh Open Westerns

Bowmen of Burleigh Saturday, 19th June
New Western David Westbrook
Long Western Steff Westbrook - 1st Ladies Compound

Little Acorn Shoot

Guildford Archery Club, Saturday 25th June
Short Junior Western (30/20 yds)
Maizie Westbrook 3rd Place 612 92 hits 24 golds
Richard Hutchison 563 93 hits 17 golds
Junior Western (40/30)
Rachael Hutchison 1st place 790 96 hits 62 golds and
Girl's overall trophy winner (3rd year running)
Jonathan Youll 554 94 hits 18 golds
Short Western (50/40)
Andrew Bell 532 96 hits golds
Maizie reached the 6th round of the single arrow elimination competition and Rachael the 7th round (in the last 6).

Mole Valley Record Status York and Herefords

26th June
York David Westbrook } unplaced
George Matthews }
Hereford 2nd Steff Westbrook on handicap and
claimed her blue rose at her first record status shoot with a
score of 1056

Club Birthday Handicap Shoot

To avoid a conflict with the cricketers, the date for this has changed to Saturday 6th August. The rounds are Windsors (3 doz. at 60, 50 & 40 yards) and Short Windsors (3 doz. at 50, 40 & 30 yards). Do make certain that you have previously shoot three rounds and have a valid handicap.

New Members

Welcome to Connor Adam, Adam Hills, Bernando Martinez, David Tottman, Jonathan Clarke, Geoff McCann, Nigel Veitch, Richard Webb, Matthew Campbell, Patrick Zennodrojewski, Ian Boreham, Helen Ricketts and making a welcome return after a few years in the wilderness, Phil Lamb.

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A Cautionary Tale

This has been one of the worst years for lost arrows I have experienced. It seems to be a combination of a lot of growth giving us thick grass, and hard ground causing the arrows to skid along the surface under the grass. Anyway, as one of those who has spent some time looking for arrows, I'd like to tell you of my experiences and hence a warning.

I have on occasions used my Swiss army knife to "feel" for the arrow, and I do keep it rather sharp. I noticed on one arrow that I had inadvertently made two cuts in the carbon skin, near the fletching. While shooting a National with Harry in the week we were on the last end and I loosed this arrow, I had been shooting all the way through with it. There was a loud BANG and no sign of the arrow. Walking down the range, I found the fletching end, near the 30 yards and the main body about 10 yards further. It was a rather frightening experience and I would strongly recommend that if you find any problems or defects on your arrows you bin them. I know they're expensive but it's better safe than sorry.

George



ANDOBA FITA

It's that time of year again for the FITA Star tournament that is jointly organised by Andover Archers and OBA (ANDOBA). Geoff's team will be marking out the field on Friday 29th July but expect Su to ask for your assistance on Saturday and Sunday (30th and 31st)

Siege Shoot

Our Siege Shoot this year will be held on Sunday 4th September and invitations have been sent to 8 clubs. The rounds are Herefords and Windsors. We will be providing refreshments for our guests so it would be good if you could bring food to share; speak to Su or Debbie. We will also hold a raffle to help off-set the costs so raffle prizes would be appreciated.

The North Hants Shield

Well you know what it's like, it's the end of a shoot and you're not expecting any more surprises. You get what seems like an innocent question from George asking if you have an e-mail address, the next thing you know you get 'volunteered' to write a report about the days event for the newsletter, as the newest member attending the North Hants shield at Andover I should have seen it coming, but I didn't.

What can I tell you about the day? I thought I had everything I needed, but I realised as soon as I got there that a camping chair would have been extremely useful, I must remember not to make that mistake again, many thanks to Pete for the loan of one at lunch time. The weather was not very promising at the start of the shoot, rather damp and soggy to be honest, but the rain held off with the sun came out by the presentations. As this was my first competition and only my second round I was quite happy with my first three dozen at 50 yards and my last three dozen at 30 yards, but I'd prefer to forget what happened at 40 yards. Fortunately my shooting was not reflected by the rest of the team. Julian and Steph won the 'Dark Arts' class, Denise, George, Pete and Steve came third for the North Hants Shield, Rachael won the Short Windsor class and Maizie won the Junior Windsor class. The Long Bow class was won by Debbie and Andrew, with Matthew winning the Long Bow petticoat sweep stakes, a good result as he had to borrow a pound to enter the sweep stake. The Long Bow group were very well organised with a beer break after the first three dozen, I must make a mental note to see how I get on with a long bow.

Rachael won the red colour prize and Jackie won the white colour prize, although I think that her score may have suffered slightly while aiming for it. When it came to the raffle I think that we won well over half the prizes. All in all it was a good days shooting with many good results.

Geoff Mc

Club Fees

The majority of members have paid their fees for 2005 / 2006; we hope that you feel that you are getting value for money and are enjoying your shooting. If you haven't paid yet, please give your cheque to the treasurer (Steve) now. If you would prefer to pay by three instalments with post dated cheques, just have a word with Steve. Unfortunately, we cannot permit those who have not paid by the end of July to shoot. As you will be aware, a substantial part of the fees that are payable go to GNAS and provide the essential public liability insurance. So from 1st August it's a case of "no pay, no shoot"!

Club Records

Quite a lot of club records have been broken so far this year. Space has run out in this bumper edition and I have no room to include the information provided by our Records Officer, Su. Watch out for the full information in the next edition.

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