

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER June 2005

The Summer Season

The new outdoor session is now in full swing; the first tournaments of the year have already taken place and our coaches inform me that more than two dozen people are currently receiving initial instruction. We will be organising and participating in the usual range of activities so keep an eye on the notice board for details. Towards the end of the summer, there will probably be major development works at the field which will affect shooting. This will include the laying of field drains and re-building of the grounds-man's tractor shed. We will keep you informed as we receive details from the Parish Council.

Cheque Books At The Ready!

The membership application forms for this year will shortly be sent out. Please ensure that this is completed and returned with the appropriate payment to Steve Learwood (Hon Tres) before the end of June. The form includes a section on the use of photographs and on the reverse, your opportunity to vote for a potential new club badge (*see below*)

Club Badge/Logo

There has been a growing feeling within the club that we should consider changing our badge. The disadvantage with the current design is that it is difficult to reproduce particularly on clothing as it uses 5 colours and small detail. Also, the club name is reduced to the initials, OBA. Various people have been preparing possible alternative designs for consideration. These will be circulated shortly and the membership form will contain a section for you to cast your vote. Let your feelings be known!

Greens Are Good For You!

As most of us know, the 'uniform' for archers is dark green and white. If you go to an 'away' shoot, you are required to wear clothes that are all plain dark green or plain white. A mixture of green and white clothing is fine provided that they are self coloured – no patterns. The committee would like to encourage the adoption of this practice when we shoot at the 'rec'. Psychologically it helps to have special clothing for sport, so who knows, it might even help your shooting!

North Hants Shield

If you have never been to an 'away' shoot, this is the one on which to cut your teeth. The N.H.S. is a nice friendly shoot and especially good for first-timers; the green & white rule will not be enforced. The round is a Windsor (3 doz. at 60 yds, 3 doz. at 50 yds, 3 doz. at 40 yds) and Short Windors are also available. The date is 3rd July and the location is Andover Archers ground. It is a team competition so the more OBAers there are, the better our chances of success. See the information in the club house for more details.

Welcome

Welcome to Caroline Woolmer and her son Ben, David Stiles, Tim Little and Sarah Scanlan who have just joined us. We trust that you will all enjoy many years of pleasurable shooting with us.

Great Shooting

Saturday 30th April was a special day for some great shooting at the 'rec'. Jonathan broke the club record for the Junior National for boys under 14 with a score of 455. On the same day, while shooting a New National, Paul shot a six-gold-end. Before somebody says that it is too easy with a compound bow, Paul accomplished this at 100 yards. Good shooting Jonathan and Paul!

P.S. The editor would really like hear from other members with note-worthy accomplishments. Just let me know so that I can include the details in the next newsletter.



Paul's six-gold-end at 100 yds

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St. George

St George is the patron saint of England and among the most famous of Christian figures. Of the man himself, nothing is certainly known but it seems likely that he was a soldier of noble birth who was put to death under Diocletian at Nicomedia on 23 April, 303 in the fifth century. George held the rank of tribune in the Roman army and was beheaded by Diocletian for protesting against the Emperor's persecution of Christians.

George was adopted as the patron saint of soldiers after he was said to have appeared to the Crusader army at the Battle of Antioch in 1098. A widespread following developed and George became universally recognized as a saint sometime after 900. A lesser holiday in honour of St George, to be kept on 23 April, was declared by the Synod of Oxford in 1222; and St George had become acknowledged as Patron Saint of England by the end of the fourteenth century. In 1415, the year of Agincourt, Archbishop Chichele raised St George's Day to a great feast and ordered it to be observed like Christmas Day.

St George is still venerated in a large number of places, by followers of particular occupations and sufferers from certain diseases. George is the patron saint of Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany and Greece; and of Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Venice (second to St Mark). He is patron of soldiers, cavalry and chivalry; of farmers and field workers, Boy Scouts and butchers; of horses, riders and saddlers; and of sufferers from leprosy, plague and syphilis. He is particularly the patron saint of archers, which gives special point to these famous lines from Shakespeare's Henry V, Act 3, Scene 1, l. 31:

'I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:
Follow your spirit; and, upon this charge
Cry God for Harry, England and St George!'
Harry

Dates For Your Diary

June

Sun 5th Waterside Archers (Long Western)
Sun 12th Friendly v Burley Bowmen (at Old Basing)
Sat 18th Old Basing Carnival ("Have-a-Go" session, no shooting)

July

Sun 3rd North Hants Shield (see above)
Sat 9th "Have-a-Go" Session at Cranbourne School
Sat 30th & Sun 31st ANDOBA FITA at Andover

August

Sun 7th Birthday Handicap Shoot

September

Sun 4th Siege Shoot

October

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

Alençon

A contingent from OBA will be in Alençon, France from 27th to 30th May. Full report in the next newsletter.

St. George Shoot

For once the weather was kind for our St George's Day shoot. Welcome visitors from Andover Archers swelled an already impressive turnout of Old Basing Archers.

In an interesting comment on fashion, or is it dissatisfaction with form, that the number of longbow archers increased greatly over recent years. With a good turnout from the compound archers we covered all bases for the sport. Shooting over three distances is always a "proper" test of archery skill – why is it that a change of distance seems to affect form so much?

Suitably fortified with bacon butties and some vin very ordinaire the day passed very agreeably and above all dry – no mean feat in April!

The youngsters showed us all how it should be done with them taking all three top slots. The results in all their glory then:

Recurve: 1st Rachel, (new club record for Short Windsor, 838) 2nd Johnathan, 3rd David

Compound: 1st Paul, 2nd Steve Stokes, 3rd Geoff

Best Gold (Recurve): Margaret

Captain of the arrow (Compound): Stephanie

Colour Prizes

Gold: Paul
Red: Rachel
Blue: Stephanie
Black: Stephanie
White: Sam
Green: Frank
Harry

ANDOBA FITA

The Double FITA Star which we run jointly with Andover Archers is on Sat 30th and Sun 31st July. As this is after the schools have broken-up this year, please let Su know if you will be unable to help. In addition to the main effort over the week-end of the tournament, additional working parties will be arranged during June to re-build the bosses.

Rogues Gallery

Have you ever wondered who is who in the club? Last year Andrew produced a gallery of club members for display in the club house. At a time when the club is growing rapidly it was felt this was beneficial so that everyone could put names to faces. If you want to bring something to the attention of the committee, it helps if you know who the committee are! Should your own finely chiselled features not feature on the board, just let us know and we will be pleased to have them added. The images are for display on the club house notice board only and will not be used on the club web-site.

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