

Old Basing Archers Newsletter December 2006

• AGM

The club AGM will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, 26th February 2007. The venue is the back room of the Bolton Arms in Old Basing and juniors are most welcome to attend although will not be able to vote. As an added incentive, a buffet will be provided for your enjoyment.

Now before you moan about boring meetings, just consider if the club is doing the things and providing the type of shoots that you want. Anyone can propose an agenda item but these must be made in writing to the club secretary Paul Richards well in advance of the meeting. Paul's e-mail address is at the foot of the Newsletter.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible joining us on 26th February.

• Web Watch

If you have time to surf the web, you will know that there are many discussion forums out there. There are even some archery forums; although most of them are US based and inevitably deal with hunting – not much use in Basingstoke! A notable exception is a site called Archery-Interchange <http://www.archery-interchange.com/>. It is a great forum, is well organised and easy to navigate.



People posting threads range from current champions to newbies wanting advice on their nearest club. The subjects range across all disciplines and from the very technical to the light hearted. So what has the cow got to do with it? It's the AIUK logo! You are encouraged to register and make your first post in a thread called "Say Hello – It's Only Polite!" This results in a flood of replies and you quickly get drawn in. AIUK is fun and educational – highly recommended!

• George

George has finally made the transition and is now on the other side. No, he has not transferred to the dark side but he is on the other side of Hadrian's Wall and living in Scotland! We won't hold it against him although if he wanted to get away from us he could have just moved to the other end of the county. George will be greatly missed; he has contributed in many ways to the running of the club and has held a number of posts including Child Protection Officer and has also been chairman for many years. Presumably he will now be learning what it is like to shoot a real Frost Bite!



• New Members

A big OBA welcome to the following new members: Chris Wilgar plus Gregory and Annie. Rejoining for winter period Steve Potts also new member Nigel Ranwell. We hope you will all enjoy shooting with us!

• Club Caps

As recommended by Trinney and Susanna (possibly). Improve your street cred (definitely). Steve has a stock of dark green (not sure if its GNAS approved!) base-ball caps with the club logo embroidered on the front. Definitely a 'must have' item and only £8:00. Bargain!!

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• How To Tell If You Are An Archer

The following were distilled from a thread on AIUK, and some of them particularly resonated with me!

How to tell if you are an archer:

- You criticise Legolas's form.
- At work, when someone says, "where's the boss?" you reply, "straw or foam?"
- You walk round the office with your arms at pre-draw.
- In your garden, all your plant stakes have 'Easton' written on them.
- When you buy clothes you ask, "Does this come in dark green or white?"
- You compare everything to the price of a set of new arrows.
- You take your bow case with you to buy a car (I actually did this, ruled out an Astra hatch-back and went for the estate)
- You use lots of dental floss, but it never reaches your teeth.
- You have fletchings on your car aerial.
- The screen on your mobile phone shows off your latest best shot!
- Your sun tan is great except for two white lines across your bow arm.
- All your friends know the difference between a "bullseye" and the "gold".

• ANDOBA Double FITA

The Andover & Old Basing Double FITA is an important event in our club calendar will take place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th July 2007 with a field party work day on the preceding Friday. Both our Geoff and Andover's Reg have now retired so we particularly pleased to announce that Iain F has volunteered to take on the role of treasurer for the event. The ANDOBA FITA has established itself as arguably the most popular tournament in the country and one of the reasons is the smooth and efficient running of the event. Let's make sure that we keep up the high standards!

• Arrows

Spinning Arrows

I think everyone in archery knows that the approx. 2deg offset on a straight fletching is designed to impart spin onto the arrow. This we know increases its stability. But, has anyone ever wondered, 'How much or how fast does it spin, say over 100yds'? Just few revolutions perhaps? Tens, hundreds or thousands of revs even?

Perhaps one of our experts already knows the answer? If not, have a go at researching and see if your answer comes up similar to mine – you might be very surprised. My findings will be in the next Newsletter.

Note. We are talking **straight fletching** only – not 'spinning vane type'

Thrown Arrows

Now it may have come to the notice of some of you that perhaps I am not 'the best shot in the club' (an

understatement if ever I made one!) but, you may be interested to know that in my younger days I was considered to be a very passable *arrow thrower* – yes darts; almost county standard. However, you will see from this little story that perhaps 'arrows may be my Nemesis after all'?

Many years ago, having just started a new job in Oxford and living in temporary digs, I decided to visit the local pub nearby for a bit of cheer. There were just two customers when I arrived and they were playing darts, very well I might add. Being a bit of a player myself I watched avidly. After watching a few games, there came the usual dart-player's challenge from one off them, "Like to take the chalks"? I duly obliged.

The winner having been decided and me given the nod, I asked the landlord if there were any pub arrows that I could borrow, mine being left at home. I was handed the usual pint mug full of old and broken darts. I have seen more feathers on a plucked chicken than they had between them. Seeing my predicament, my challenger very sportingly offered to loan me his; a rare gesture indeed, adding, "Give me a marker", as he handed me one of his very expensive tournament class darts.

I gave a grunt and a smirk of satisfaction as the well launched dart left my hand, well knowing it was going to do be very near to the Bull. Close it was, but not close enough. It hit the staple securing the bull ring wire, arched into the air and headed downwards intent on buying itself into the floor. However, the granite flag stone of this very old pub had other ideas. It promptly snapped the point shaft, cleanly off at the bottom of the barrel!

An icy silence chilled the bar as the owner stooped to pick up the remains of his pride and joy. His chum, quick to defuse an 'awkward' situation, piped up, "No problem, we can all use my set" he chirped, sportingly handing them to us. This time my opponent, fixed me with eyes of steel and growled bitterly,

"I had better show you where the Bull is and how easy it is to stick the darts into the *board*"!

His perfectly thrown arrow imbedded itself firmly into the '25' ring.

Despite the intimidation, my reply dart was good – damn good if I must say. Executing a perfect 'Robin', it split my opponent's dart from stem to stern - then glanced off into the Bull! My jaw hit the floor at the same time as the two pieces of his feathered shaft.

Realising that I now had to do something both clever and defusing, I shouted "Large whiskies all round landlord". I looked towards the bar for service, only to see 'mine host' disappearing out the bar door in disgust. I swung back quickly to the two strangers, frantically spitting words of consolation, but I was talking to myself..... There was the pub front door slowly closing and the night swallowing up two sad and embittered dart players, carrying their two sets of ruined darts, having just expensively learned about the strangers Nemesis. ...Final Result: Thrown 2 (darts that is): Lost 0; Ruined 2 (sets that is)

My lesson?Never go back to that Oxford pub!

Dave S