

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER

• Message From The Chairman

Yes, the club does have a chairman, although you may have begun to doubt it!

If I'd been at the club recently, I'd know more of what's going on but I shall be getting back into shooting during the summer and hope to meet all the new members when I start asking for volunteers to help out at the FITA. That time of year again!!

Talking of volunteers, thanks to everyone who helped out at Basing Carnival. You took over £200.00 which is a new record.

For those unfamiliar, the Andoba FITA shoot, last weekend in July, attracts archers from around Britain and beyond. It's a two day event which we run with Andover Archers. It's good fun and an opportunity to watch the best in action. We do, however, need a lot of volunteers to do the work; target moving, arrow seeking, raffle, running, etc. There is a fair bit of hanging around. I try to work things so that you don't have to spend an entire weekend on the range although several of us do just that. We put up the gazebo, take a few drinks, lots of food and generally have a good time between jobs until the judges tell us off for being too noisy and distracting the archers. Personally, I think it's because those archers having a bad day have to take it out on someone!

This year we have a new sponsor and I believe they will have a stand so you can get all those bits and pieces or even a bow.

The money raised from the FITA helps to keep our club fees down so it's something we need to support.

Su

Su submitted this article several weeks ago. The Editor apologises for its publication after the ANDOBA FITA took place.

• Basing Carnival 'Have-a-Go' Stall

A good bunch of helpers turned up to help Ian run this popular annual event. With threatening skies, 4 targets were set up near our 100yd line in the far corner of the field.

It was a good job that we had the gazebo tent, because about ten minutes before the official opening, the skies opened! Fortunately it was short lived and gave way to better weather for the afternoon.

Most of the helpers had a go at instructing our customers, which was appreciated, as it gave time for everyone to have a walk round the many carnival stalls present. The target faces of 'knights on horseback' gradually gave way to the traditional scoring rings for our customers to shoot at.



We were pleasantly surprised when one or two people, who had given up archery several years ago, after shooting said that they were considering rejoining the club. We must have been doing something right!

Many small children were amazed at their suddenly found new skill. Perhaps next time we might consider putting up a balloon for bursting with a small prize or certificate, for these youngsters? A small price for encouragement I say.

At the end of the day, everyone had a good time and all of us got in a quick half dozen during the quiet periods. I even managed to get my very first 6-gold end, even if it was only @ 15yds!

At last I think I've found my Nemesis; it's not bow, arrow, stance or style, it's ***** distance!!!!

Dave S.

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- **S.C.A.M.**

The 94th Southern Counties Archery Meeting (SCAM) was held at Winchester over four days. Starting on the 16th May with a Double two way National longbow shoot which both Terry and I attended along with over 100 other longbow archers. The weather was cool, a little breezy and with a brief light shower during the day. Shot to the BLBS rules first place is awarded to the archer with the most hits, second to the highest score (excluding the first place person) and third to the most golds (excluding 1st and 2nd placed people). The morning session interval is traditionally celebrated with a glass of sherry, whilst tea is served in the afternoon. To add to the fun there is a gold sweep (50p to join and each gold scored at longest distance gets a share of the pool) and we had one archer (on my target) who got a three gold end at 60 yards, a hat was passed down the line for him and over £15 collected. I was informed that traditionally (lots of traditions in 94 years!) each archer puts a shilling in, that's 5p to you youngsters. How did the OBA reps do, well TC came a creditable 28th out of the 88 gentlemen who completed the day, I came 11th but due to the number of golds scored I was placed 3rd.

The Thursday and Friday switched to York rounds for the gentlemen and Herefords for the ladies. OBA had two extra representatives here, Dave and Steffi who were both shooting compound bows. The drink provided at the morning break is coffee on these days and tea in the afternoons, it makes for a very pleasant competition. Also the gold sweep adds a little to the informality and fun of the days. Steff and Dave were defending champions of the married couples trophy (the Rhodes cup) and with Steff getting 3rd place and Dave 10th it was enough to secure it again for another year. There were only 7 longbows out over these days and Terry was placed 4th and I was 1st and received the 'Don Olphert Memorial trophy'. The weather was very sunny, still breezy but very nice to be out shooting with such a friendly group.

The awards are given out in the afternoon of the Saturday, so in the morning there is a handicap Long National round, this was less well attended but nice to shoot with someone else for a change. I'd recommend the competition to everyone, there was a wide range of abilities amongst those attending, it isn't just for the 'experts' and I had a lot of fun. The dates for next year are Tuesday to Friday 13th - 16th May 2008 and I'm told that unless you request a change once you are put with a group on a target you will be put back with them the next year, so it'll be nice to see familiar faces next year.

Ian B



News From North-of-the -Border

Most club members will remember George, our Welsh speaking, ex-chairman. Last year he moved to Scotland to be closer to his family and has been living in rented accommodation on a farm. He recently sent us news of his archery exploits in Scotland.

"I wanted to get some sight marks for a shoot on Sunday which I've now decided not to go to (haven't had a chance to shoot seriously for months) so I need 80 and 100 yard marks. Art (the farmer) had suggested I use the quad bike to take my stuff to a good field. I loaded up with archery bits bow, stand, large straw boss (which the cows seem to think is a new form of lunch sandwich). I drove to the lower fields down a lane/grass corridor between fields to the last gate leading into a group of 3 fields near the river, went through the end of lane gate and drove in, just arrived when 15 stirrks (young black calf's) and one big white one surrounded me. They had been, since birth, inside in a barn so they were full of energy and running round. I decided to drive to the lower field and when they followed I shouted at them and they ran off so I quickly turned round and went back up a steep slope and shut one of the gates separating the three fields. Anyway after some other bits and pieces I managed to section off one field from the others and shoot 80 and 100yds, with a large bovine audience. Clearing up was pretty much a reverse of setting up; with me doing a runner back to the quad and the lane, jumping the gate, followed by a small herd of large young curious cows."

George

Burleigh Week-End

16th and 17th June was the occasion of Burleigh Bowmen's tournaments. The Saturday was the competition for juniors with separate targets for parents. OBA were represented by Rachael and Richard with Andrew H and young George with Iain F. George F was in his first tournament, shooting a special short junior Windsor (30, 20, 15) which was provided so that younger juniors could gain tournament experience. He was 1st in his category and also picked up one of the Lady P's prizes.

Richard and Ian were the only ones to have any opposition in their categories, so it was more about the taking part than the competition. Weather was a little dicey, with a downpour just before the start and at lunch time. Another heavy shower during scoring, but all were fairly short lived. The sun, when it was out, was very hot. Burleigh, as usual, put on good hospitality and were pleased to see some OBA representatives present.

On Sunday 17th it was the turn of the grown-ups (ok, perhaps not mentally). The OBA contingent consisted of David, Iain and Robin shooting the New Western, Steffie and TC shooting the Long Western. By contrast to the previous day, the weather was dry and hot with little wind.

All went well until the 7th dozen when the equipment failure pixie put in an appearance. Steffies bow shed a limb-pocket retaining bolt and she had to switch to her spare bow. On the gent's recurve line, Tom Firth suffered a loud and spectacular limb delamination while he was at full draw; the resulting shrapnel badly grazing his bow hand. Tom installed his spare limbs and continued shooting to win the gents recurve trophy. Stephie's fortitude was rewarded by winning the ladies compound trophy and together with David, carried off the compound married couple's trophy. David shot a steady round to win second gent compound and TC got the gent long-bow medal. We bagged three raffle prizes between us (Steffi was especially pleased with her microwavable slippers!) and the catering was up to Burleigh's usual high standards. All in all, a very pleasant shoot and one that you should definitely consider for next year.

Andrew and Robin

• OBA Success at Lilleshall

Rachael and Richard have once again been in action at the National Junior competitions, achieving their best ever results. They took part in both the FITA/Metric event on the Saturday and the National Championships on the Sunday, a test of stamina for both the archers and their parents. The tournament managed to go ahead despite the recent wet weather, with only special arrangements over parking and access. On the weekend itself the weather was occasionally sunny but mostly cloudy with a moderate breeze; only in the last end on Sunday did it actually rain on the competitors.

Saturday: Rachael shot a Metric II against 10 others while Richard shot a Metric III with only one other longbow to compete with. When the scores were published at lunchtime, Rachael was in 8th place while Richard had established a good lead by shooting particularly well at 40m. On further investigation it turns out that his score of 140 for the 3 dozen at 40m is a new National Record. Both shot well in the afternoon with Rachael improving to 5th place and Richard taking home a gold medal with a final score of 458. Shooting and the prize giving were quite slow on the Saturday, so we didn't leave Lilleshall until about 8pm, tired and hungry.

Sunday: Extra archers joined in the event on the Sunday so Rachael now had 11 to compete with and Richard 4. Richard arrived full of confidence and put in good sighters, but then failed to follow them up strongly. His spirits fell further as it became clear that there were two others pushing ahead of him. He was in 3rd place after the 50 yd distance, quite a few points back from the other two, but he had been closing the gap and was starting to shoot well again. At 40yds he made good progress at closing the gap but still found himself in 3rd place by a few points at the start of the 30yds. Now he began to score brilliantly, with lots of reds and golds, but his opponents also seemed to be scoring well. His final arrow of the competition, shot in the rain, landed in the gold to salvage a middling end. They don't publish the 11 dozen and final scores, so he went to the prize giving hoping to have pulled up from 3rd to 2nd place. Rachael also made a slow start but then settled into a good pattern, finding herself in 3rd place and holding onto it until the 10 dozen interim results were published. Rachael did less well on the transition to her shortest distance, so felt she may have lost her 3rd place, but also had to wait until the prize giving to find out.

After a seemingly endless raffle draw, they finally announced the prizes starting with the youngest archers. As the Bristol III results came up, Richard moved forward to be able to collect his hoped for silver medal, only to hear his name called first for the gold! He had won by a single point, overhauling his opponents in the last dozen. He had said last year, after a bad day with the recurve, that he'd be back to win the longbow next time - and he did. On the Bristol III results it was a disappointment for Rachael, she lost the 3rd place by 10 points to finish 5th.

However, it was a return to form and Junior Bowman standard for her in a new age group and with a new bow. She still has another year at these distances to come back and win a medal, with high hopes of doing well at other tournaments later this year.

So, PBs all round, two gold medals and blue rose award for Richard, with a National Record as well. For us parents the bills for B&B, Pizza Hut and petrol to pay, but the satisfaction of seeing both kids continuing to enjoy Archery and competing at the premier junior event.

The scores:

Saturday 7th July

Rachael: Metric II, Recurve, 1013, 7 10+X, 1 X.

(Distance totals 60m:212, 50m:253, 40m:257, 30m: 291)

Richard: Metric III, Longbow, 458, 1 gold, 1 inner.

(Distances 50m: 74, 40m:140, 30m:109, 20m:135)

Sunday 8th July

Rachael: Bristol II, Recurve, 144 hits, 1040, 51 golds.

Richard: Bristol III, Longbow, 89 hits, 431, 10 golds.

Andrew

• Clubhouse Keys

The club needs to formalise its arrangements with keyholders to meet the requirements of our insurers. Consequently all existing keyholders will be required to sign to say they understand their responsibilities and will conduct sessions according to the club's safety rules. These documents are available for download from the member's information area on the website and in the clubhouse. Signatures will be collected in a book at the clubhouse. This also determines the procedure that must be followed by anyone wishing to become a keyholder, overseen by a member of the committee:

1. At least 1 year at the club since their beginner's course.
2. Familiarity with GNAS and club safety rules.
3. Practice at setting up and running a session.
4. Signing the declaration in the book.
5. Payment of a deposit to the treasurer.

<http://www.oldbasingarchers.co.uk/members/membersinfo.htm>



• AC Delco Long Bow Shoot

In the 7 and a half years I have been shooting at OBA, I have always wanted to try "proper archery". So when my dad told me he couldn't take me to archery one weekend because he was escaping to a longbow tournament, I decided I would go with him. I suppose there might also have been a bit of sibling rivalry involved... if my brother Richard can go to the nationals and become longbow champion for his age group; it can't be that hard can it?

I have to admit though, as I stood amongst the crowd of experienced and serious looking longbow archers at the AC Delco Two-Way Western, I felt like a bit of a fraud. I was shooting a bow and arrows which I had "borrowed" off my little brother when he wasn't looking, and only shot twice before. Despite that it was a very enjoyable shoot, even with the added challenge of trying to find 2 sight marks in 2 different sets of trees and remembering which way to adjust for the wind!

Although we didn't partake in the customary drink of sherry after 2 dozen, Andrew Bell (who was also at his first longbow shoot) and I were made to feel really welcome and in the end were the only two from OBA to walk away with prizes. Andrew received the green colour prize and much cheering while I won the juniors 2nd place. Between the 6 OBA members shooting we also had a petticoat competition, which Ian and I both won with 8 petticoats a piece.

Overall it was a fun day, and although returning to my recurve felt very peculiar at first, I can already tell that it has improved my loose tremendously. Therefore I would recommend the longbow to anyone as a way to improve their recurve style, or just rediscover the joy of archery!

Rachael



Smiling OBA longbow contingent

- **Birthday Shoot**

The club Birthday Shoot will be on Sunday, 5th August. The maximum distance is 60 yards so beginners are especially welcome. As the scoring is on handicap, improvers and new starters usually benefit and regularly win the competition. After the shoot, we will hold the traditional 'Wand' competition where we shoot at a one inch ribbon placed down the centre of the target. As sights are not allowed, we look to the long-bow contingent to show us how it should be done! The club barbeque will be fired-up so come and enjoy some relaxed fun.

- **New Members**

As the summer is progressing, so are our beginners courses and we are pleased to have a steady stream of beginners signing up. If you see a new face that you don't recognise, introduce yourself and make them welcome.

It is a great pleasure to welcome:
Leslie Soper-Dyer