

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER October 2007

- **Letter from Absentee Chairman**

Well, here we are with the club championships only a week or so away, and so far this year, I've only managed to shoot about a dozen rounds!

I suppose if you have to be injured, this was the year. The weather has been absolutely horrendous with more rain in what was supposed to be 'summer' than most people can remember! At least Steffie kept smiling with her amphibious "Tramper"!



However, preparing the bacon butties and doing the catering has been quite enjoyable – with the exception of the Siege Shoot when we had to call the emergency services to help out a member of the public who wasn't feeling too well and fell asleep on the pavilion floor!

Although my visits to the rec are few and far between, I have been busy working with the cricket, tennis and bowls clubs to try and sort out issues with the parish council – a depressing task. I think it fair to say that the clubs are not flavour of the month, year, decade. The term 'recreation ground' seems to be a bit of a misnomer! Hopefully there will be some progress before the AGM!

I hope as many of you as possible will be along for the club champs on 7th October. There are medals and colour prizes to be won but it's very relaxed and one of the last opportunities for a get-together before some of us hibernate for the winter.

See you there!

Su

- **Congratulations!**

Hearty congratulations to Geoff Maccan on passing his Level 1 coaching course with flying colours. The beginners' session, which was supervised by Geoff, was scrutinised by an assessor from the Hampshire Coaching Group. The weather was challenging, with some brisk wind and less sunshine, but everyone was smiling at the end. One of the course members, James Marwood, is planning to join up for the winter session. We look forward to welcoming James to our ranks before long.

Andrew

- **News From North-of-the-Border**

George writes, "Now that we have somewhere to live (and ignoring the long list of to-do's), I have joined an archery club, Bannockburn Bowmen. Their club badge is a spider's web. They shoot on a rugby ground near Causwayhead, its half way between the Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle so the views as we shoot are spectacular, from the Wallace Monument down along the Ochil Hills. We shoot on a Tuesday and Friday night until the light goes i.e. when the lights come on at the Wallace Monument. Friday was the last outdoors, as at this time of year it's dark by 8pm.

If you're interested in the finance of other clubs, as this is a debate that comes up regularly at OBA, you might like to know that membership is £50 and we pay a shooting fee per attendance of £3. At Ayr, where I shot between October and June, they charge £300 /annum.

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Both clubs charge an indoor shooting fee of about £2 or £3. They also pay GNAS, at £57 in Scotland as the SAA have a half share in a paid secretary and the extra is for salary. Something HAA might want to consider as it does help with the organising of shoots, especially the North Hants Shield, which has been a mess for the past few years.

They have decided on club colours of royal blue and I now have a polo shirt with the club badge on. The suppliers made a mistake with the first batch and sewed the badge on the left so there was also a selection of those at half price £6. There is no club shooting at weekends but they attend organised shoots and Bannockburn is very active. I haven't shot much, as with getting the house sorted and grandparent bits it's been difficult. Unfortunately the guy who sold us the house wasn't quite as honest about the working state of bits and pieces so there has been quite a lot to sort. In particular a filled in drainage ditch that has meant I have had to hire a JCB, build a dry stone wall, plus shift 3 ton of 20mm gravel. The bow now feels quite light when I do shoot.

We went to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August the weather was warm and the street theatre very entertaining. We went to three shows (they only last about 1 hour each). Two on offer caught my eye; ***Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow***; an adventure with the hood of Merry Men as they riot and romp through Sherwood Forrest. Cheer for the chaps in tights as they trounce the sardonic sheriff of Nottingham. Its was for 6+ years olds, so without my grandsons for an excuse I skipped that and ***Robin Hood and the witness protection programme*** described as The tale of how Robin Hood finds himself running a shoe shop and how the Sheriff of Nottingham found solace in sandals and how they all learned of the dangers of fortified mead. That reminded me too much of Harry and longbow shoots especially the sandals bit, so we missed that as well. One show was a musical, great mistake, the other a political satyr during which a young lady ran around with not much on, enjoyed that, mind she was dressed for the weather believe it or not it was over 25C in the hall.

Dunblane is just on the edge of the Highlands and some friends have gone off on a round the world airline ticket, to visit all their various "family" as they are very keen on genealogy. While they are away, they have lent us their motor home to try to help us decided if it's something we want to buy.

I always wanted to explore the North of Scotland having flown over it a few times, but want somewhere better than a tent to retreat to when the weather gets wet and the midges too hungry. So we're off up the East coast today for a few days. The weather here has been great no rain for at least 4 weeks and temperature round the 20C.

That's all that I can think of for now especially on the archery front so hope your all keeping well and not suffered too much from the rain down south".

George

- **Club House Refurbishment**

During the last few weeks, the refurbishment programme to the club house has been pushing ahead. First, the old, leaky roof was removed and replaced by a new structure complete with new fascia boards and guttering.



Then the windows were repaired, the outside shelves replaced and the front given a make-over. Finally, new industrial grade flooring has been laid prior to the installation of the racks and fittings. Not only has this all cost a substantial amount of money, but several members have put in a considerable amount of time and effort to make it all possible. Now it is practically finished, we have a facility that will keep our equipment dry and in which we can take pride. Please do your bit by keeping it clean and tidy and put things away in their proper place!

Editor

- **Hampshire Championships**

On the weekend of 22nd and 23rd of September, AC Delco played host to two Hampshire Championship events. On the Saturday it was the Longbow championships, a two-way double National. Old Basing was represented by five archers, Debbie, Terry, Ian, Richard and Andrew. The shoot started at 11am and moved briskly towards the morning sherry break at 4 dozen, lunch at 6 dozen, afternoon tea at 10 dozen and its conclusion at 12 dozen. In the final reckoning at about 5pm, it was Richard who had the best day, bringing home the trophy for Junior Gent and claiming a Hampshire Record for a National with a score of 144 from the morning session. However, his was not the only rewarded effort as Terry, Ian and Andrew took the team silver medal. Debbie missed out on a medal despite a good effort, coming fourth in the Ladies championship and missing out on a team place by 2 points.

Hampshire have changed their trophy policy this year going from the silver cups, that needed engraving and returning, to small glass trophies to keep. Rachael was disappointed not to get the traditional silver cup and has kindly offered to look after it, if it's no longer needed. The mantelpiece now has two of the sparkling targets, with Rachael and Richard setting their sights on adding more next year.



Andrew

Sunday saw the main Championship and Open tournament, starting at 10 am and finishing at 7pm after the prize giving. Not to be outdone by her brother, Rachael went to AC Delco with her sights set on a trophy, as Junior Lady Recurve. After being told the tournament was full and only granted a place at the last minute, she was doubly determined to do well, and she did. A PB of 1055 in the Bristol 2 saw Rachael well out in front of her rivals and claiming her 8th first place at the championships - every year since she took up archery at the age of 9. Dad also got his longbow out again and shot a York, returning with another silver medal despite a disappointing score. There were no other participants from Old Basing this year, perhaps they knew it would end in the rain and with a slow drive home up the M3.