

Old Basing Archers NEWSLETTER September 2008

• From The Chairman's Chair

The summer is drawing to a close and many of our younger members have been celebrating exam success.



After achieving good passes in physics, maths, computing and chemistry, Martin will off to Durham University to study computer science. Martin says that an important aspect of his decision to go to Durham was that they have an active archery club that just costs just £35 a year!

Martin, along with Amy and James have recently left their junior status behind and entered the wonderful world of 100 (and 80) yards! On the subject of membership news, it has been good to welcome back Richard A and also Stephanie. Richard used to shoot with us as a junior and is now showing an interest in studying the dark arts. We also greet new member, Steve Meredith to our eclectic club. Steve is a Longbow man and we trust that he will feel at home with fellow shooters of the 'bent stick' at OBA.

Finally, Phil has been in hospital having major surgery. Phil's condition involved a stay in the intensive care unit of the North Hampshire Hospital. We wish him well for a speedy recovery and look forward to him being able to join us on the shooting line gain.



• Youth Programme

This August, in addition to normal shooting, and in spite of awful weather, some club members were involved in a youth scheme that took place every Friday on the rec.

The "Get With . . ." programme, for 11 – 16 year olds was established in 2005 by Sentinel Housing and is supported by many local government agencies and businesses. It's a youth diversion project, targeting some vulnerable children but open to all, that offers positive activities for kids to experience in an attempt to address anti-social behaviour during the long summer holidays.

Our coaches took, or were given time off work, to provide demonstrations of different styles of bow and get the kids shooting.

It was exhausting but in the sessions, we managed to get 80 children consistently hitting a target and enjoying themselves without getting bored – no mean feat considering archery is such a safety conscious sport requiring self-discipline not usually associated with 11-16 year olds!

The kids kept score for the final dozen arrows of each session and it brought out the competitive spirit. There's nothing quite like arrows in the gold and a chance to be top dog to focus the mind!

It was great fun all round and we were pleased to hear that the archery sessions, besides being very popular, kept the kids' attention for longer than many other activities. One or two came back three weeks running. The sight of TC retrieving his whistler arrow from the end of the rec, followed by his group of acolytes hanging onto his every word of wisdom was a joy to behold!!!!

Following the outstanding success of this year's scheme, it seems highly likely that there will be a demand for a repeat next year.

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- **Indoor Shooting**

Indoor shooting is currently scheduled to start on Wednesday, 1st October at 8:30 pm in the village hall. The village hall has under gone extensive and expensive alterations to the stage area and consequently we cannot afford to have any misses. The club will be taking all reasonable precautions to protect the stage, but it is essential that anyone planning to shoot indoors has an accurate 20 yard sight mark. The cost of 12, 2-hour sessions is £4.75 per week or you can pay for the whole term for £26.00. For members who are using club equipment, it is possible to arrange to take club bows etc home and hence straight to the hall. You will need to complete an Equipment Loan Form and get it countersigned by a member of the committee.

- **Club Champs**

The Club Championships will be held on Sunday 5th October and are the pinnacle of the club year. The rounds are York, Hereford and Bristols so if you have not shot a 12 dozen round before, come along and give it a try. Don't worry if you are not able to shoot your appropriate distance (100 yards for gents, 80 yards for ladies) as we will also be fielding shorter distances. Naturally only those shooting the distance for their age and gender will be eligible for the trophies. Following the competition, the prize-giving will take place in the pavilion. This will be a good opportunity to wear your new club shirts.

- **The Wrong Trousers**

Any one who has attended a tournament where the GNAS dress code is mandatory knows what pain regulation trousers can be. Green trousers can be interpreted as the wrong green by an over zealous judge and white trousers have an unfortunate tendency towards transparency in the rain. As clubs can now register their own club colours as an alternative to green and white, we have registered black trousers as an easily obtainable and more practical alternative to either green or white trousers. Green or white tops will still be required if you attend shoots that require regulation clothing. The alternative trousers are 'legal' now and our registration can be found on page 27 of the Autumn 2008 edition of "Archery UK". It would be good if we had a smart turn out for the club champs with either green or white tops and green, white or black trousers.

- **SCAS Junior Champs**

The SCAS Junior Championships took place on Saturday 6th September at Rayleigh Town Archery Club in darkest Essex. Rachael, Richard and I got up exceptionally early, by our standards, in order to get there by 9am. The travelling was the first challenge; the weather was the second, with brisk winds and ominous clouds whipping over the field. Just under 100 juniors were competing, but only 1 other from Hampshire.

Rachael had stepped up to the Hereford, in order to contest the full SCAS Junior Ladies title, but found the 80yds difficult in the gusty conditions and couldn't equal her only previous attempt at this round. She shot better at the shorter distances to make up one place, but eventually finished just 24 points behind an Essex archer to take the silver medal. Richard, with his longbow, was the only one in his age group so only shooting against his own previous results. He achieved a good hit rate, with 90 hits in the 12 dozen, but his score didn't improve. Amazingly it didn't reduce either and Richard completed a hat-trick of identical scores this season, with 339 points for a Bristol II.

The shoot was slower than usual, partly due to boss replacement as compound arrows became stuck in the straw targets and had to be cut out. The raffle and prize giving only started at 18:30, with me picking up two raffle prizes before the kids picked up their medals. We left at 19:15 and took over 2 hours getting home on the rain-lashed M25, with Sunday and the Siege shoot just a short sleep away.

Andrew

- **A New Members Point Of View**

From a 'New member's' point of view, I would like to say that Vic and I have been really impressed with the club and the way in which we have been welcomed into it by the members.

Both of us would really like to express our Thanks to a few very special people, Steve, Geoff, T.C., Ian, Julian and Andrew, nearly all of those listed are almost always at the club without fail on the Monday and Thursday evenings and on the Saturday and Sunday mornings, ready for all archers to turn up. They are there setting up the field for the shooting practice and ready to assist us new archers.

Not forgetting to give a big 'Thanks' to Debs for the amount of time she spends on collecting and

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calculating (and correcting) the scores so we can improve on our handicap. (Which of course, doesn't take Vic and I that much to do!)

Sometimes it may appear that it's taken for granted that 'someone else' will be at the field to get things ready and to be there to advise when needed.

I think all of us should remember that no one gets paid for giving us the help and encouragement, lots of other people's time is dedicated to us all (not just the new members) to ensure we enjoy archery in a safe environment.

Everyone we have met at the club are good natured and quite good fun. Although it could be since I have been bringing in the mini muffins on a Saturday morning.

I have to say, not once have Vic or I ever received anything but a friendly response to any of the questions we have asked or to the advice we have sought.

The constant 'on tap coaching' contributes enormously in helping us to improve weekly and with luck, one never knows, we may even become competent in archery.

Lynn & Vic

• Siege Shoot

The Siege Shoot took place on 7th September and friends from several clubs turned up to shoot a Hereford under the watchful eye of field captain Andrew. Nobody got food poisoning (as far as we know!) from the bacon butties.

Andrew awarded spot prizes at various stages which everyone found most illuminating

For those who are unenlightened, the spot prizes went to:

Worst White - Debbie

Most Blues - Debbie

Best Petticoat - James

Best Gold Compound - Iain

Best Gold Recurve/Longbow - Rachael

Rainbow - George

Luckiest Linecutter - Richard A.

Most Reds - Geoff Mc.

Members shooting on the dark side put in a perfect end with everyone on the target shooting a six-gold end. Okay, so it was 50 yards and as one longbow man was heard to mutter, "We would expect no less more often", but it didn't stop four broad smiles from target 2!



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