



Old Basing Archers Newsletter June 2011

Southern Counties Longbow day

Terry, Su, Lyn&Vic and the Chair went down to Winchester where we had a good day on the Tuesday 17th May. It is charming to see what are mostly senior people (plenty of white hair) all smart, some elegantly dressed in green waistcoats and red bow ties, shooting all day with sherry during the morning and tea served in the afternoon.

A day chiefly noted for the incredible (at least to me) feat of the scion of the longbow, Richard Powel, achieving 144 hits (100% and no greens). The OBA representatives showing modest achievements by comparison.

Old Basing House Have-a-go

Old Basing House was not what we expected. There was no promotion of the event and not many went there. We pulled out a day early having so few customers. However, Sat/Sun were nice calm afternoons in a beautiful setting with a couple of pals and actually I enjoyed it.

We took £20 and £8 respectively. I am content that we honoured our commitment and my thanks to everyone who gave their support.



Far from the madding crowds ignoble strife

We were not alone in our disappointment of great expectations. In the Tithe Barn was an authoress waiting with wine to greet her customers for a book-signing - like a bride abandoned at the altar looking round an empty reception room watching the champagne go flat which reminded me of a latter-day Miss Havisham.

Sherfield on Loddon

By contrast Julian and Helen's Rotary Have-a-go was a great success. The visiting dignitaries from the twin town of Briane L'Allend, Belgium were unsure of the 'entertainment'



lined up for them on the Saturday morning, Our team arrived and set out the targets in the grounds behind the school building and were ready by 10:30 for the 11:00 start. Julian did a short talk about the history of archery, demonstrating the different bow styles, then we proceeded to get the attendees to shoot. Skill levels and abilities varied, but in a short time everyone was able to shoot pretty accurately. A superb lunch followed during which many of the ladies decided the bright lights of the Festival place were too hard to resist and went shopping. The die hards continued and from the reports they had a very pleasant time. See their web page for more details on what they do.

<http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.asp?PgID=199539&ClubID=1523>

Thanks to Helen and Julian for organising it and we hope it may be repeated soon.

Marnel Park Have-a-go

This was a community event run by the residents of a new estate on Sunday 5th June. It was small beer but it grossed £56 – exactly double Old Basing House. My thanks to Ian B, Su E, and Nathan for their help and we got a nice thank you from Kirsten Vanden who organised it.

Bowmen of Burleigh from el Presidente des annos.



A dull drizzly day- not ideal archery weather, but- at 8.25 am the first contingent from Burleigh had arrived at the Rec and were huddled under umbrellas and "raring to go". Fortunately OBA members were soon on site getting the range set up and sorting out the target list and score sheets.

The total number of archers was about 40 (hard to be precise due to poor visibility). We had the Pavilion to look after the catering and the urn was soon steaming gently whilst Su was at home frying vast amounts of bacon. Yours truly (TC) and Lynne buttered rolls furiously in order to have bacon butties and tea etc. for cold, wet (but eager) archers.



We had hoped for an improvement in the weather but no so we started shooting at about 10.30 by which time the wind had got up and the rain was almost horizontal.

We stopped for a comfort break after 3 dozen and then pressed on until the end of the longest distance-lunchtime!!



Wet, cold, bedraggled archers crowded into the Pavilion and were treated to Geoff's chilli special and all manner of cheese, biscuits, quiche, salads crisps, savoury nibbles finishing with the famous rhubarb and strawberry pie plus other sweetmeats.

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a and cake (Steve's Mums fruitcake

great stuff- I took a slice home to make up for the absence of cheese biscuits) before going home to dry out.

The result of the contest was Weather 1 Archery lost (its a pun –geddit?). The shoot was declared a draw and hostilities will be resumed, hopefully next year. There were colour prizes won but I haven't got the details, I didn't get one, so I don't care.

The committee would like to thank all those who helped on the day (and prior preparations) and contributed so generously and imaginatively to the rather splendid catering.

Here's to the next time
TC
It was ever so wet

The Carnival Have-a-Go

Most of us know what it is like and this was much the same. It is a nice day out and on this occasion distinguished by the Baker from Bramley paying for his son's shoot with a pasty and a doughnut. The treasurer declined to bank these bartered goods and so the team ate them.

The takings were a splendid £188, which together with our other efforts total some £272 one Cornish pasty and one jam doughnut.

Coming Up

The big event of the year will be the ANDOBA FITA at Andover club ground over the last weekend in July. We will need all the support we can get. It is a reflection back to Old Basing glory days and a most splendid sight to see 90 targets and 300+ archers shooting in the most competitive environment I have ever experienced. This is an earner for the club and although we get a few competitor places it is not about the competing but about making sure that Old Basing Archers lives up to its reputation (and earns its money). T C is shooting his longbow for the club. Let's all wish him the best.

Look out for other Have-a-go events where we might ask for your support.

We are booked for a Club Weston on the 10th July – let's make it a family affair.

Club Championships are on September 4th – more on this nearer the day.