



Alton & Four Marks Archery Club

Newsletter

E-mail: AFMArcheryclub@live.com

www.altonarchers.co.uk

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Committee Members

John Wakelin 01420 83773
johnwakelin@ukonline.co.uk
 President

Lionel Shepherd 01420 23050
landjshepherd@btinternet.com
 Chairman

Debs Vass 01420 83633
 Treasurer & Secretary
debs.vass@talktalk.net

Liz Robertson 01420 80066
 Membership Secretary
Liz_robertson@yahoo.com

Dave How 01420 549931
 Records Officer
HOW523@hotmail.com

Jason Spencer
 Equipment Officer

Jason McCoubrey
 Fixtures Secretary
jason-mccoubrey@hotmail.co.uk

Jenny Hales 01420-562511
 Social Secretary
jenny.hales@tiscali.co.uk

Damien Koziol 01420 560688
koziolfamily@aol.co.uk
 Newsletter Editor

YOUR CLUB Includes Free Entry SPARSHOLT



15th May

Volunteers are needed to help run the annual Sparshot event. This event normally raises a good amount of money for the club so please support this worthwhile event. If you can help out please contact John Wakelin at johnwakelin@ukonline.co.uk

Spring Beginners Course

24th April, 1st May & 8th May

This beginners' course this spring is fast approaching. To make these sessions a success we need volunteers so if you are free on the dates above please let Lionel know as soon as possible. Thank you.
landjshepherd@btinternet.com



Editorial

As I have now been a club member for a grand total of 6 months so I am very much still learning the ropes. One thing that has struck me is how much the pace seems to be picking up as we approach the shift from indoor, winter shooting to the outdoor season. As far as the newsletter is concerned this shift in pace is marked by the mass of notices that have appeared. Some of these are the usual circulars but there are also some important issues for the running of the club, not least of these is the request for volunteers. Please take a look at your diaries and see where you can support the club. From my own experience I can certainly testify to how the level of support at the beginners' course made this a great event and showed the club off as a great environment for learning and fun.

We have two great articles, thanks to Dave How and Ian Banham. If you have any ideas for articles that either you would like to contribute or an idea that you think someone else could write please let me know. Many thanks.



*For Further
information
regarding
club
shooting
fixtures
please see
our web site
or contact
Jason
McCoubrey*

*jason-
mccoubrey
@hotmail.co.
uk*

COACHING

General Coaching
1st Tuesday
each month

1-on-1 Coaching
is available all other
times in addition to
general assistance,
but must be pre-
arranged

Please contact John
or Jason directly in
order to schedule a
slot

Notices

- **AGM Report**

Thank you to all the members who attended this year's AGM in February. One of the roles of the AGM is to select committee members. You can see the new list of committee members on page one together with their contact details. We welcome our new committee members and hope that they will be given all the support they need. The incoming committee and club members wish to thank our outgoing committee for all of their hard work and support to the club. Special thanks go to John Wakelin who has now been made Club President in recognition for many years of outstanding effort and support to club.

- **Membership Subs Due 1st April**

The amount payable for subs has not changed from the 2009 levels. This year's subs are:

	Juniors	Seniors
Subs	£24.00	£75.00
Equipment Hire	£20.00	£20.00 1st year £40.00 2nd + years

Subs can be paid by Standing Order over six months (April to October) to help spread the cost. If you wish to pay this way please contact Debs for further information. Cheques payable to:- Alton & Four Marks Archers

- **Sunday Shoot Weathervane**

Hopefully we will be blessed with excellent weather for our future outdoor shoots on a Sunday. However for those occasions when the weather does not look so good, Lionel has kindly agreed to be our Four Marks site weathervane. From now on each Sunday Lionel will be arriving at Four Marks at 0930. So if you want to check the weather and confirm the days shoot you can contact Lionel on 07596-994281.

- **Child Protection**

These days all clubs are subject to increasingly more stringent child protection legislation and we are no exception. For this reason, I would like to remind all parents that any children attending the club must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Thank you.

- **Beginners Course**

Of course I would like to stress that if you are free on any of the dates for the beginners' course please volunteer. Also, if you know anyone who is interested in attending the course please encourage them to fill in the form and take part. I have attached the entry form at the back of the newsletter.

- **Advanced Notification of the Annual General Meeting**

The Grand National Archery Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 17 April 2010 at Ford Hall, Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Nr Newport Shropshire. Registration will take place between 10.30 am to 11.30 am. The relevant paperwork will be sent out 21 days before the meeting.

- **The Board of Directors seek applications for Director Finance.**

The nomination period for candidates for Directors has now closed and voting will take place at the AGM on 17 April 2010. All roles except that of the Director Finance have nominees. Therefore the Board of Directors invites anyone with an interest in being part of the Board, and fulfilling a vital role should contact comments@archerygb.org, or any Board Director for further information.

- **Job Vacancies at Archery GB**

Vacancy for an Independent Chair - Performance Management Group. Closing date for this position is 23 March 2010

- **150th Anniversary News – Let's Celebrate!**

GNAS will be 150 years old in 2011, the year before the Olympics. We need your thoughts on how we can celebrate this momentous occasion. Ideas are already starting to come in but we want your views on how we can celebrate! Please keep your suggestions coming in! – 150@archerygb.org

CLUB CLOTHING

We have a few items of clothing in stock for sale If anyone is interested.

Hats, Fleeces, Polo shirts, Badges, Caps
Sweatshirts
Etc

Please note we are currently out of woolly hats, therefore an order will have to be placed, but this will be subject to the number required. If you wish to purchase one please let Michele know as soon as possible

Clothing contact
Michele

afmarcheryclub@live.com

Records Officer's Report

By Dave How

The past year has been somewhat uneventful, with only a handful of members submitting scores for classification awards and handicaps and of those who did submit scores I am still waiting to award classification badges to two of them.

For those not familiar with either the classification scheme, or the handicapping system, now might be a good time to provide a brief overview.

The archery year, as you will be aware, is divided in to summer (outdoor) and winter (indoor) shooting seasons. Whilst there are exceptions to this, most AFM archers will think of their year in such terms. Traditionally this club has focussed on the summer season for awarding classifications and setting handicaps so this is what is discussed below.

Classification Awards

There are six levels of classification and they are used to mark and reward the progress made by an archer in much the same way that coloured belts are used in Judo. The classifications in order from lowest to highest are as follows:

- Third Class
- Second Class
- First Class
- Bowman
- Master Bowman
- Grand Master Bowman

The first four classifications are awarded at club level. The archer submits their scores to the club Records Officer and the Records Officer presents the appropriate award. The two highest levels, Master Bowman and Grand Master Bowman, are presented by GNAS. The archer submits their score to the club Records Officer who passes it to GNAS for the award to be made.

The score required to gain each classification is dependent on the 'class' of archer, ie. Junior, Senior, Ladies, Gentlemen, the discipline, ie. Bare Bow, Recurve, Compound and the round shot. A classification award is made after three scores have been submitted in one season and where each of those scores either meets or exceeds the minimum score required for that classification. The archer does not have to shoot the same round each time, they simply have to meet or exceed the required score for the round(s) they have shot.

As there is no cost to the archer, the classification scheme is an excellent means to providing both encouragement to improve and realistic goals to meet for all archers. All you have to do is submit your scores.

Handicap scheme

The handicap scheme, as might be expected, is designed to even out the difference between archers of differing ability so that they can compete fairly against each other. There don't seem to be very many handicap fixtures that AFM get involved with, but even so the handicap scheme can still be useful as it allows individuals to see progress as their personal handicap improves and to be able to compare themselves with their peers.

In order to obtain a handicap the archer must submit their scores from rounds shot during the season. After the first three scores have been submitted the archer is given a handicap based on the average of those scores. Thereafter the handicap figure will improve each time a better score is submitted, with the new handicap being set midway between the previous handicap figure and the figure associated with the newly submitted score. For instance, an archer with a handicap of 50 who then shoots a round and achieves a score that would give a handicap of 48 will actually be awarded a handicap of 49.

During the season an archer's handicap cannot worsen, it can only improve. An archer shooting off a handicap of 50 will retain that handicap until the end of the season even if the scores they submit would produce a higher handicap figure. At the end of the season each archer's handicap is set at the average of the best three handicap figures they have achieved in that season.

Again, there is no cost to the archer for obtaining a handicap so there is no reason not to submit scores and have your handicap worked out. Scores submitted naturally count towards your handicap and classification awards.

Armed, as I am, with an excellent spreadsheet designed and constructed by Alan Hughes, the intricacies of which I cannot begin to fathom, I will look forward receiving lots of scores from you all during the coming season.

Skittles Night

By Ian Banham

The skittles night held on 26th February at the French Horn in Alton provided an evening of dramatic competition and fine food. Turning up slightly late gave the first challenge, where to park! According to the popular press, pubs are supposed to be



dying, judging by the fullness of the French Horn's car park that night they're evidently an exception to the rule. Once everyone had arrived, the bustle and noise was soon hushed by the arrival of food. The reduction in ambient noise was a good indication of the food quality and a large number of very clean plates was gathered up some

time later as the noise level started to increase. Special thanks to Debs for keeping the list of who had ordered what, so the more forgetful amongst us could be reminded.

The competition started with the press ganging of slaves children as ball returners. At the end of the first round, only one person (Christopher) had managed a perfect 9.

Round two, started and inconsistency (or consistent mediocrity) took most of us out of the running. At the end of round two the leader board was headed by Jenny, Liz, Charlie and Loretta all with 16 points. A third round shoot-off was held to decide the winner.

Jenny Hales took the trophy with a third 8/9, marking a night of double success for her as she had also won the raffle earlier in the evening. The trophy was taken home and placed in a highly obvious position, only for her husband to fail to see it.... The raffle prize, a box of chocolates did not make it home....

On the subject of celebrations, it was also Lionel's birthday that



night, the torture of being sung at by us was soothed by the presentation of a coffee and walnut cake (Lionel's favourite in case anyone needs to bribe him in future.)

For Sale

From Steve Vass (Contact 01420 83633)

- Arrows 11, carbon ACC 27.5 inch £50 o.n.o
- 6 Ali Eclipse arrows 27.5 inch £25 o.n.o

Diary Dates

Indoor Club Championship Set up 6pm - For those wishing to shoot this round sighters will start at 6:30 prompt Eggars	23 rd March
Frostbite Championships – Four Marks 10:00 am	28 th March
Outdoor Season starts	30 th March
Membership Subs Due	1 st April
FLAGY Shoot (Four Marks)	18 th April
Spring 'Have-a-go' <i>(volunteer helpers required)</i>	20 th April
St. George's Day Shoot (Albion) Four Marks (Club Shoot)	25 th April
Spring Beginners Course <i>(volunteer helpers required)</i>	24 th April , 1 st & 8 th May
Sparsholt	15 th May
PALS Shoot	20 th June
FLAGY Shoot (Guildford)	8 th Aug
Junior Invitation Shoot	28 th Aug
Have-a-go Session	31 st Aug
Beginners Course	4 th Sep 11 th Sep 18 th Sep
30 th Open Shoot – Four Marks <i>(volunteer helpers required)</i>	12 th Sep
Club Championships	19 th Sep

Alton
And
Four Marks
Archers



Please reply to:

Michele Baker
1 Bernard Avenue
Four Marks
Hampshire
GU34 5DQ

Tel: 01420 560679

BEGINNERS COURSE - SPRING 2010

Further to your recent enquiry, we are pleased to confirm that Alton & Four Marks Archers will be running a beginner's course in April and May. It is to be held on three Saturday mornings, each session consisting of a two and a half-hour practical instruction on the field and a half-hour talk on rules, procedures and equipment in general.

The course venue will be at the Bernard Benian Sports Pavilion and Recreation Ground at Uplands Lane (off Brislands Lane) Lymington Road, Four Marks. The dates will be Saturday 24th April, 1st & 8th May from 10.00am to 1.00 p.m. The cost will be £30.00 for both children and adults; this includes the hire of all equipment.

An adult must accompany all children, (at least 8 yr. old and preferably 10). Some parents may feel that they would also like to participate on the course but have reservations as to their capabilities. A free "Have-a-Go" session is therefore being arranged for 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday evening 20st April at Four Marks recreation ground for anyone interested in trying the sport. Please advise the organiser beforehand if wishing to attend. We would also ask that all juniors, and a parent/guardian attend this session for child assessment and a briefing on the Clubs Child Protection Policy.

The course will be run in accordance with G.N.A.S. rules and requirements to which this club is an affiliated member.

Owing to the fact that archery is largely an outdoor sport, weather and shooting conditions cannot be guaranteed. We therefore reserve the right to maintain a degree of flexibility in the course programme for the consideration and the comfort of the participants. Please bring clothing for wet/cold weather and suitable shoes (No open toe footwear).

If you wish to enrol on the course, please complete the slip below and return it to the above address, together with remittance due. Cheques should be made payable to "Alton & Four Marks Archers." If you have any further queries, these should be directed to the organiser.

Yours sincerely,

John Wakelin,

Club President & G.N.A.S. Club Coach

Return to: - Mrs M Baker Alton & Four Marks Archers 1, Bernard Avenue, Four Marks GU34 5DQ Tel: - 01420 560679

Name..... DOB (if under 18).....

Name..... DOB (if under 18).....

Address..... Tel. No.....

..... E-Mail Address.....

Postcode.....

(Signature)

(Date)

I/We wish to be enrolled in the Spring 2009 beginners course, and attach Cheque/Cash for £.....

Are there any physical, medical conditions or allergies, which any of the above named, suffer, which we as a club should be made aware. Yes/No. If yes, please give details on the reverse of this slip.