



Alton & Four Marks Archery Club

Newsletter

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Editorial

Just one month into the New Year and all that fuss over Christmas and New Years parties is a distant memory. Now we have spring and the outdoor season to look forward to.

The calm of February and the prospect of spring may have you relaxing and dreaming of warm evenings with a cold glass of wine or a nice long cool beer, sadly though this month is looking like the calm before the storm.



There has not been too much to report this month other than of course the momentous Talisman shoot where our juniors managed an excellent result and showed just how good they can perform. More on this later in the newsletter as Lionel has written an article on that shoot. On the social and club management side we also had our club AGM and social evening or should I call it our Christmas bash.

Whether it was simply a social or a belated Christmas party it was great fun. Jason brought his Nintendo Wii along which was a winner for many of juniors and I think a few of the seniors even managed a couple of games. So thank you Jason for bringing that along. There was also plenty of dancing as the evening wore on and although I'll resist the temptation to comment on some of the 'exceptional' dance skills we have in the club. All in all a great evening with good food, good drink, good entertainment and excellent company. Thank you to everyone that helped make the evening a success.

So now we have March to look forward to, this brings the challenge of the indoor competitions with the juniors on the 14th and the seniors on the 22nd followed by the Frostbite championships on the 27th. So before we know it March will be done and we will be into the outdoor season (starting 29th March). From then on we have various events each month with a Have-a-go session and Beginners courses in April, Sparsholt in May, Club competition in June, Battle of Cheriton in July. Then we're back to have-a-go and beginners courses in August, Club Open and Outdoor championships in September and All of a sudden, almost before there is chance to take a breath we are back



*For Further
information
regarding club
shooting fixtures
please see our
web site or
contact
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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,
Lionel or Jason
directly in order to
schedule a slot.

indoors. Wow! What a busy summer of archery to look forward to.

As we have such a busy summer please take a moment to synchronise your calendars as all of these events will need plenty of volunteers to help make them a success. If you can please give some time, even if that is only an hour or two it is a great help. Please remember the events we have typically bring in plenty of money for the club and help keep the club going so please support where you can. Many thanks.

Talisman bowman junior's competition

By Lionel Shepherd

Having loaded up the equipment for the competition, spares for the bows and arrows, food, whip, chair and containment cage in the car I went down to Alton to pick up some of our Juniors and parents, then on to Sarisbury, near Fareham, for the competition.

The Talisman Bowman competition is dedicated to juniors with 48 juniors from 16 teams across the County shooting, with ages ranging from 18 to 9, boys and girls. Our team was the largest contingent of 8 boys and 2 bow styles. This was an indoor Portsmouth, shot in ends of 3.

At the end of two and a half dozen we had a break; both myself and Jason were there to give advice and encouragement to our team. As most parents know, to keep a junior in one place for a long time, they start developing Wii and X-box twitch. Thankfully it didn't happen with ours as their behaviour was exemplary, they were all true ambassadors for the club both in their shooting and off the line.

We did extremely well bringing back 6 medals and 3 cups. It should have been 7 medals, but a mistake in the bow classes meant we only got the 6. If we had

a young lady in the team we would have taken 3rd place in the team event, but this was not to be, maybe next year.

So well done to Oscar and Felix Sadovich, Oliver Suatt, Joe Park, Mungo Everett-Jordan and Adam Getting by the recurve's and Douglas Hughes and Thomas Gillespie the bare-bows.



Thanks to Jason for the support and to Meryl Sadovich for a lot of help in the



transport Department and thanks to my village for not locking me up for howling at the moon that Sunday.



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

Notices

- **Membership Fees**

Just a quick reminder that membership fees will be due in April.

- **Indoor Competitions , Junior & Senior**

We have our usual end of season competitions coming very soon. This starts with the Junior Indoor competition on Tuesday 15th March and followed by the Senior Indoor competition on the 22nd March. Please note that there will be no adult shooting during the Junior competition and likewise there will be no junior shooting session during the Seniors competition.

- **Beginners Course**

We have the Beginners course coming up, with the have-a-go session on the 19th April and then the first of the three weekend sessions starting on 23rd April. This is normally a very popular event and of course brings in some money for the club. The course is held over three consecutive Saturday mornings, if you can help out in any capacity and for any length of time your support will be very much appreciated.

- **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.

- **Loaned Equipment**

We have been trying to make sure that all members that shoot regularly at both locations have kit loaned to them. This makes sure everyone has kit that needs it and of course gets people more familiar with looking after their own equipment. When we loan out kit we try to make sure they are loaned out in boxes or bags. Unfortunately this is not always possible so please make sure that for any bow not in a container the sight block and string do not become lost or damaged. We would also remind you that a bow is classified as a lethal weapon and must therefore not be transported in a 'Dangerous/Usable State'. This requirement is ambiguous so please ensure that bows being transported are kept covered.

- **Footwear**

Personally I hate this insurance, litigation and health & safety crazed society but there you go. So before I get on my soap box I need to point out that due to recent changes in archery insurance we now need to uphold the safe feet requirements. In other words: No safe footwear. No shooting. Also please remember that for the indoor season that non-marking footwear should be used, ideally use sport footwear.

- **Tuning & Maintenance Sessions**

We have been considering running some tuning and maintenance sessions for anyone that is interested. These would most likely be run on a Tuesday if there is enough interest. So if you would like to learn more about how to set-up your bow and keep it in tip-top condition please contact Jason McCoubrey or Lionel Shepherd.

Club AGM

The AGM took place on Tuesday 22nd Feb. at the Four Marks Pavilion. The role of the AGM is to give all members an opportunity to influence the way the club is run. During the AGM we typically get an update from some of the key club activities like finances, fixtures, equipment and Classifications as well as vote in the clubs committee members and of course a review of the year from Lionel our club Chairman. As is fairly typical not many people attended the event. The AGM was held during the half term holiday so this may have influenced the level of attendance, but if you have any feedback or any suggestions for increasing the levels of attendance please let me know.

Here is some of the content and highlights from the meeting.

- **The Chair's report**, presented by Lionel Shepherd, review of the year concluding it had been a great success with Lionel and Jason McCoubrey passing their Level 1 Coaching Exams, an excellent increase in our junior membership, who are already showing great successes. We also had some successful shoots over the year; most notable were the BAT shoot and the 30th club open. Lionel's closing words were to thank all the volunteers who have been involved in any way with club activities, without whom no events or socials cannot take place.
- **Treasurer's report**, presented by Debs Vass stated that the accounts had been signed off by the accountant. While the Club should not be making a profit, funds must be kept for ongoing costs such as Eggars Sports Hall hire. These will reduce the balance by the end of March to about £6000. Funds also need to be maintained as insurance against unexpected loss of equipment.
- **Records Officer's Report**, presented by Dave How. Dave encouraged all members to shoot rounds and submit scores for handicapping and qualifications. The Handicap Improvers medal for seniors was won by Peter Keith, and the President's Cup was won by Jason Spencer. As there are no juniors with two years of handicap records, none qualified for a medal this year.
- **Equipment Officer's report**, presented by John Wakelin, who summarised the clubs current stock of equipment, including a summary of money that had been spent over the year keeping our equipment quantity and standards at a reasonable level for a club of our size. John also proposed a further £1850 be spent on repairs and renewals over the coming year. The amount was approved by attendees.
- **Fixtures Secretary's report**, presented by Jason McCoubrey was a review of the coming years shooting and commitments calendar. Amongst events promoted were the FLAG and PALS friendly competitions, and have-a-go days at Sparsholt and at the Battle of Cheriton re-enactment. The latter is a two full day commitment by the club and is a major source of revenue. Overall what was clear was that we have a busy year ahead with plenty of opportunity for some great archery as well as some good opportunities for the club to bring in some revenue. Hence volunteers are desperately needed for help with any aspect, and for any length of time no matter how brief.

Range Readiness

Indoor shooting days are:

- Sunday from 1000 to 1200 (Outside)
- Tuesday from 1800 till we are done

Please take part in either the range set-up or putting away or both if you around. All help is much appreciated.

Thank you.

The rest of the AGM is dedicated to the selection of the committee members. For each role there were no volunteers to take on any of the roles hence the committee membership stays largely as before. You can see the Who's-Who of some of the club committee below with a brief summary of their role.

Chairman - Lionel Shepherd. The purpose of this position is act as the chairperson for all meetings and to act as the focal point for contact and issues that may arise. In short they keep the club going.



Secretary - (Debs Vass). This role entails documenting all meetings, responding to correspondence and sending information to the club members. A volunteer is needed for this role.



Treasurer - Debs Vass. This role manages the accounts for the club keeping track of all income and signing cheques for any outgoings.

Membership Secretary - Liz Robertson. This role entails making sure all of our member both new and experienced are up to date with all membership payments and that all of the necessary registrations are completed.

Records Officer - Dave How. This role entails keeping track of all member's scores and classifications and giving out badges for people who have achieved their next classification.



Equipment Officer - (John Wakelin). Keeping track of the equipment and making sure we have everything the club needs is the main challenge for this position. A volunteer is needed for this role.

Fixtures Secretary - Jason McCoubrey. This role entails making sure competitions we share with other clubs are arranged and co-ordinated as well as being the main driving force for all of our clubs competitions, both open and internal.



Assistant Social Secretary - Jenny Hales. As the name suggests this role is responsible for making sure all social events are agreed and organized.



Newsletter Editor - Damien Koziol. The role is to write the newsletter, ideally each month. This includes trying to get anyone to write the articles or to find the content from current archery news or relevant club information.



Website Editor - Martin Plomer. This role maintains the content on the clubs web pages. Developing new features for the site as needed.



Committee Members- Kevin Holden & Steve Harding - typically used to share responsibilities and duties with other positions on the committee, depending on the individuals concerned and the workload on the committee. Typical support activities would include Trophies, clothing, arranging the beginners course and supporting the various pieces of admin that are needed.



Junior Representative - The role here is simply to represent the views of the junior members in the committee meetings.



Diary Dates

Indoor Junior Championships	15 th Mar.
Indoor Senior Championships	22 nd Mar.
Frostbite Championships	27 th Mar.
Outdoor Season Starts	29 th Mar.
St George Shoot	17 th Apr.
Have-a-go session	19 th Apr.
Beginners Course	23 rd Apr. 30 th Apr. 7 th May
Sparsholt	14 th May
Club Shoot in the afternoon (Village picnic)	19 th June
Battle of Cheriton (Have-a-go session to support the event)	2 nd & 3 rd July
Have-a-go session	16 th Aug.
Beginners Course	20 th Aug. 27 th Aug. 3 rd Sep.
31 st Open	11 th Sep.
Outdoor Championships	18 th Sep.
Indoor Season Starts	27 th Sep.

No shooting dates

School holidays	25 th Oct
Christmas Break	20 th Dec. 27 th Dec. 3 rd Jan

As you can see there are plenty of sessions where extra help is needed to support events. Please put whatever dates you can in your diary. Often no special skills are needed to help out so please us know which sessions you can support.