



Alton & Four Marks Archery Club

Newsletter

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Editorial

So here we are already, March has gone and we're shooting outside. We've already had a busy month with plenty of competitions to mark our transition from inside to out. Though the first competition was not one of our own club sessions a few of us did attend so it seems worthy of some mention. Having said that our scores were not so great so it's not a competition worthy of too much comment.



Representing Alton and Four Marks was Jason McCoubrey, Keiran Morse, Oscar Sadovich and myself. This was a team event held at the K2 centre in Crawley. The venue was fantastic, one of the new breed of leisure centres, lit well and equipped with every possible amenity. The hall we were in easily held the 40 or so targets required for the days shooting. We were on the final stage of the days shooting in the team event, which was sadly nearly a full hour delayed by the time they had announced all of the winners from the previous stages. Despite the delay we started in high spirits and full of optimism. Oddly we were all on the same target and scoring our own ends which all helped to keep the team spirit going. Unfortunately it didn't help too much with the performance as it did seem to be one of those days when no matter what you try the arrows just don't seem to go where they should. I particularly remember having one end quite early on where the score was good, all the arrows were in red or gold and then thinking to myself, all I need to do is relax, enjoy the shoot and keep hitting the target the same way. As you can imagine that was like a kiss of death, my next few arrows were all over the place, scoring not very much. By the end of the competition I think we were all thankful it was over. Certainly not one of our finer hours. Never the less it was good to get out to a competition. It had been far too long since I had been to one and we did enjoy ourselves, despite the score.

For our own competitions the start was the juniors indoor followed closely by the Senior indoor competition. These worked out to be great events with good participation and great competition. More on these in the coming pages. Our other event was the Frostbite Championship which was perhaps not quite the same success. For whatever reason there were only 6 people in attendance which made the competitive angle not so successful. As I watch and take part



in the various events and activities with the club I often notice the ebb and flows of attendance and wonder if the low participation on some events is just one of those things or perhaps there is more to it than that. Please let me know. Feedback on any aspect of the clubs activities would be a great help.

I'll just close this section of the newsletter with the usual request; if you can support any of the coming events with a few hours of your time it will make a huge difference and can help the club earn a little money. If you can give either whole sessions or just an hour or two, anything and everything is very much appreciated. Thank you and enjoy the summer shooting.

*For Further
information
regarding club
shooting fixtures
please see our
web site or
contact
Jason
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*jason-
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Photo Diary



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.



CLUB CLOTHING

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

Hats, Fleece, 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**

Membership fees are now due and you should have received an email from Liz requesting the appropriate payment and also any updates of contact and health information which you feel it would be useful for us to be aware of. If you haven't received this, please would you approach Liz or any member of the committee. Many thanks

- **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.

Junior & Senior Indoor Championships

The end of our indoor season is always marked by the club championships. The first of the competitions was the Juniors. As a club we are very lucky to have so many juniors, especially so many Juniors that shoot very well. As we saw at the Talisman shoot we not only have very capable archers but we also have very well behaved young people.

Everyone arrived on time (thank you Mums and Dads). And they all focussed and got on with the business of preparation for the shoot: Bows were strung, quivers donned, pep talks and calming words administered so that before we knew it everyone was pretty much ready when Jason gave his briefing and a 5 minute warning before the start. In fact they were all so keen that once they had started we had to try to slow them down a little.

We very quickly got into a good rhythm with the shoot; six arrows would be shot and then once everyone was done we would go collect the arrows with parents assigned to each boss to do the scribing and adding. Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered and helped keep the whole event flowing.

The quality of shooting really was excellent across all the age groups. I noticed several times where various parents or organisers remarked just how impressive our young archers are. The scores were excellent, as was their focus and behaviour. Well done to all!

My own view is that all of the archers on the night did so well that they are all champions but as always with a competition there are those who manage to do that bit better than others. Our winners on the night were:

Recurve Junior.....Oliver Suatt
Barebow Junior.....Douglas Hughes

The senior session also went without a hitch and made for a good evenings shooting. The timekeeping was perhaps a little less disciplined than at the Juniors with many people arriving later, but this was not an issue as they simply continued after others had ended and we still managed to end the evening at reasonable time. I did manage a quick glance across the targets every now and again and everyone seemed to be doing well, even Meryl who chose the competition for her return to archery, was shooting very well. Nevertheless there were a few glum faces where performance wasn't quite in line with expectations but there you go. The Senior champions were:

Recurve Senior Ladies.....June Haughney
Recurve Senior Gents.....Ben Robinson
Barebow Senior.....Duncan Sargeant
Compound Senior (medal only).....Kieran Morse

Range Readiness

Outdoor shooting days are:

- Sunday from 1000 to 1200
- Tuesday from 1800 till we are done
- Friday 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.

A Sad Farewell

By John Wakelin

MEMORIES OF AN ARCHERY ICON

It was with great sadness that I read, in the last edition of Archery GB under the Obituaries Section, of the death of Earl Pennell. It is unlikely that many of you will remember, know of Earl or realise the significance of this gentleman to our Club and archery in the local area generally. I would go as far as to say that it was due to Earl's influence that we have such a flourishing Club now.

For those of you who are new to the Club and haven't yet started receiving your copy of this magazine from GNAS, those who missed the article, and those of us who are reluctant to read the 'morbid section', this is the article from the magazine.

Back in 1975 Alton Sports Centre organised a six week Archery Beginners Course and Earl was the Coach and Course Supervisor. It was a great success, largely attributable to the affable and enthusiastic efforts of this gentleman. Following this a number of the participants decided to form a local club. A few meetings later a Committee was formed with six people and the Club established in March of 1976. Membership was set at £3.50 pa with a target fee of 10p a session!

One of the attractions of our sport that has always appealed to me and many others is the fact that you shoot at most Tournaments in small groups and although you may have met one or two on your target before, it is unlikely that you will have met many more. These groups (at Club Level of shooting) are usually of mixed ability and gender, often with more than one discipline of bow being shot on the same target. More often than not, even if a Target List is available before the shoot, it is often revised at the last moment so you can not be sure who your companions may be for the day until called to the line. The list may also not be specific referring to 'An Archer'; 'Late entry', or even some cartoon characters name! It is surprising how much one can learn from other Archers on your or possibly an adjacent target, if you are prepared to listen. Many are accomplished archers, have very interesting jobs, are knowledgeable, and often a pleasure to listen to. Earl was one that had all these attributes and although very modest, was quite prepared to talk and share his experiences with anyone showing an interest and wanting to learn.

Earl used to work at the RAE at Farnborough, and he and all his family were very active members of their Archery Club. He continued to give advice to our early committee and together with some of his other colleagues, who were always equally as entertaining', maintained a close affinity with our Club, hence the reason for 'annual together' in competing for the 'RAELTON TROPHY'. The Club is now renamed Cody Bowmen.

Diary Dates

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	19 th June
Battle of Cheriton (Have-a-go session to support...)	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.