



Alton & Four Marks Archery Club

Newsletter

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Uniform

Editorial

After having missed the April and May newsletters it is about time I get down to writing something for this month. I have no real excuse for missing April just too busy. I know you may be surprised that I have no elaborate explanation of some disaster or weird and wonderful extenuating circumstances far beyond my control, but no, none of these for me. At this you may be thinking this is quite a departure for the normal traits of an archer. After all, let's face it, if you are looking to hear a good excuse for something not being quite the way it should the archery field is a great place. I've had a few conversations with people where I've been impressed with people's creativity on why arrows don't seem to be hitting quite the right place on that occasion. One of my favourite ones was the glare from an over waxed string. Hey! You never know the sun was fierce that day. But I think that now even this excuse, or should I say, carefully deliberated rationale, has been surpassed. Just the other week, when offered a replacement for his rather tatty shoes it was claimed that the shoes can't be changed as these were the right height for shooting. Now you have to admire the dedication if not the logic. Thank you Oscar for giving me a new favourite archer's excuse.

On a more serious note, over the weekend we supported the Sparsholt Countryside day once again and managed to raise some funds for the club. The event was very well supported by many members so a very big thank you to all those who able to help. We have also now held our Spring have-a-go and beginners courses. I am very pleased to say that as a result we have several new members to the club. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members to the club and also to invite you all to contribute to the newsletter. This could include suggestions for content or articles. If you have any subjects that you have found to be not so clear or that you think others may benefit from hearing about please let me know as it could make for useful newsletter content. It will also let me know if anyone is actually reading the newsletter. Of course I would also like to thank all the members who contributed their time to the beginner's course.

A real highlight I would like to inform everyone about is our current record



*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.

status with the Hampshire Archery Association. Previously the only record holder from Four Marks was Steve Vass with records for Combined FITA (916) and a Western Short (750). Now we can add a new record holder from the club after Douglas Hughes managed a score of 550 shooting a Bristol IV with a Barebow in the under 12 boys group. Congratulations Douglas. Let's hope this heralds a series of new records for the club at Hampshire level.

Before I finish one thing to mention further is that as a club we have managed to keep our fees at the same level for the last few years only because we have been able to generate cash for the club in other ways. This is mostly through events like Sparsholt and soon the Battle of Cheriton weekend. To keep these sessions going we need club members to help out. It does not matter if you are new or if you don't feel able to guide people on the line. There are always plenty of other jobs that also need doing so if you are free on any of the dates shown on the last page of this newsletter please let us know. It will help us and you. For all those who have helped and to those that will soon be helping, many thanks!

Spring Beginners

Duane, Bethany & Katrin Nottridge

In April I saw an advert for the 'Have-a-go' archery session, I mentioned to my daughters that I was going to go along, and of course kids being kids they decided they would like to get in on the act, so on the 19th April we went along excited but a little nervous not knowing what to expect. Even at that first three hour session, it seemed within no time at all we were using bows to shoot arrows at targets.....and even hitting some of them too.

We had such a great time at that first session, that we enrolled for the three week beginners course. The course covered all the basics, safety and technique, with coaches always on hand to help us make little corrections to improve. We all very quickly found that not only was Archery alot of fun, but the club was very friendly and welcoming, well run with effective coaching, we decided at the end of the course we would like become members so we could carry on. We have improved so much over the last month, and we are loving every minute we spend at this friendly family club

And we have now solved the age old question asked by all parents.....What to get the kids for christmas?



Notices

- **Membership Fees**

Membership fees are now due. As a gentle reminder please make sure all outstanding fees are paid as only those who have paid can shoot.

- **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 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

Sparsholt

By Debs Vass

I attended Sparsholt for the third time this year on Saturday, set up was carried out in the usual precise manner, although the gazebo did cause its usual problems but these were ironed out and it was quickly and efficiently erected and the kettle was on.

This event is very rewarding as you meet so many people and to see the faces when they have shot their arrows even if they miss they are thrilled to have been given the chance to take part. The weather was nearly kind, well, no rain was a bonus but the wind would not go away.

We managed to sell 475 tickets at £1.00 for three arrows so the collecting and sorting of the 1425 arrows kept us busy. The money is split with Sparsholt as has been the case since we first took on this event so we will be passing £100.00 back to a charity of Sparsholt's choice.

Clearing up was quick with only one problem. The incident on the day in question was as follows and I must say the form filling in was very complex. The forms never seem to have the right spaces for your details on 'What happened'. Anyway we adjusted the form to suit, so the one about 'what happened' was that the chair ran out behind the reversing van. But the 'whom was injured' bit of the form got complex; one chair, four cups and many papers. 'State names of injured parties', stripy chair white cup white cup white cup white cup... well I can't tell them apart and as for the sheets of paper, pass. 'State injuries': bruising, rumpling, tearing and spillage. Sounds like carnage. Who was to blame... uhhh! Well the chair should not have run behind a moving vehicle should it, the cups and paperwork had no choice, they had been led and the driver had a blind spot. Still glad to report all have recovered well.

I would strongly request that you get involved in these events they are hard work but very rewarding to you personally and to all in the club as it keeps the membership fees down. So please help us to keep the club strong and help out at least once or twice in the year there are many events you can help at.

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 are around. All help is much appreciated.

Thank you.

Hampshire Team Trials

L.J.Shepherd. Club Chairman. Coach

Having got up before the sparrows broke wind, we all trundled off to Waterside Archers at Exbury Gardens for the County Team trials with 4 of our juniors. As ours only had a brief shoot at 40yds, also having never shot 144 arrows at one go, this was going to be a test if ever there was one, including the fact that they had been moved up an age group, and were shooting with club bows as everybody else had their own, this did not put them off.

Shooting started at 09.15 on the various Bristol rounds for juniors and seniors and the line discipline also the behaviour of our juniors was exceptional, by the halfway point it was clear that our juniors were outshooting some of their older counterparts, who have been shooting a lot longer than them, its times like this I enjoy being a coach.

Two of our four made the County Team for the Sussex match, so well done to Oscar Sadovich and Douglas Hughes for getting team places and thanks for the support from all the parents, however all is not lost as the other two Felix Sadovich and Oliver Suatt both still have a chance if their scores improve and others don't, to get a place on the team for the other three matches as one is a specific juniors event.

It has been a long time since A.F.M.A have had someone on the team, but it seems we are back with vengeance, as it was noted it was not the bigger clubs that had people on the team, but the smaller ones, all the gear no idea? Which quite surprised me as one club holds a national coach, I expected them to do better and have more on the Team so in this instance perhaps we are doing it right, long may it continue.

Diary Dates

Battle of Cheriton (Have-a-go session to support the event)	2 nd & 3 rd July
FLAGY Shoot	7 th Aug.
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

Battle of Cheriton day	3 rd July
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.