



Alton & Four Marks Archery Club

Newsletter

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Uniform

Editorial

I realise the newsletters are becoming more and more infrequent and will, of course, take measures to correct this rather shabby performance. In the meantime if any of you have any great, perhaps even just reasonable ideas for articles or if you have some content you can add please do let me know. In actual fact at the moment I will even take pretty rubbishy ideas, so if there was something you wanted to know about the club, its members or any vaguely archery related subject please, please do let me know. Now is the time to get that obscure subject you've had on your mind for the last few months out in the open and written about for all to know. As all good management gurus will tell you, the only dumb question is the one that isn't asked.

So enough of the pleading for content here's a few snippets of information about club activities since the last newsletter and yes in case you were wondering the last one was in June. I know...a long time ago.

So one of the events we have attended since the last newsletter was the Battle of Cheriton. This time I have to thank all of the participants not just for showing up and helping the club generate important and necessary funds but I also have to congratulate them for not losing their minds from boredom or perhaps provoking and heckling the Cheriton display archers so badly that they were gagged, bound as used as a target. Mind you from what I saw we would have quite safe standing in for one of their targets. I'm not saying they weren't that good, I'm sure any barn twenty yards away from them could have been in real trouble. Without a doubt our own Duncan 'Flaggy', long bow archer extraordinaire could have shown them a thing or two or probably three or four. Overall the Cheriton event had some great displays and we were kept going with a far too gentle trickle of people into our have-a-go, but the event was marred by having far too few people attending the event. Most of the time I think there were more people taking part in the re-enactment than there were visiting. A great shame for us but never the less we were able to make a few pounds.

The other big event since June was the FLAGY shoot. This was the stage hosted by ourselves with a good turn out from Farnham and Guildford and of course



*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.

by our own club members. At one stage it was looking pretty doubtful if we were going to be able to field a reasonable size team but thankfully at the last minute there were enough of us to keep the event from being embarrassing. As with so many of the events we host the feedback from all participants was excellent. It seems people find our shoots very enjoyable as they are well organised (well done Jason and helpers) and we have a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Sadly we didn't win this leg of the event but overall the performance was good from all ages and bow types. Even the twigs-men had a good day after managing to not scare the worms too much (sorry I couldn't resist the chance of little jibe). As you will see from the article later in the newsletter expertly written by Peter Keith, our longbow archers were kept amused by recurves struggling with the weather.

One thing I was really pleased to see was so many of our new archers joining the competition and from what I could tell doing very well too. Well done to all those that attended and braved the high winds especially to Ricci who won the best gold and to Felix for getting two of the colour prizes.

For other club activities we have held our regular have-a-go session which seemed to go pretty well and was followed up with the start of the beginner's course. The only thing I was worried about after watching some of the learners was that it won't be too long before some of them will be showing a few us more seasoned archers a thing or two. In fact the group was so good that we even had a full on Robin Hood. Yes, Dave Tims one of the course participants managed to land his arrow right in the back of another arrow (see the picture below) Great job, we don't see these too often so to have one on a beginners course is pretty impressive.

Hopefully Dave will join the club so that we can hear more from him in later newsletters and hopefully we will be getting lots of new members from the session. Before I end on the Beginners course I would like to thank all of our members that gave up their time to support and coach on the course. Thank you. That's about it from me, but before I end I would like to remind you all that before the end of the outdoor season we have our club BBQ, our annual Open shoot and the club championships. Both of the shooting events are great for anyone that has not yet attended a competition. The events are not too formal and there's always loads of support for anyone not so sure what to do so if you are thinking about trying a shoot these are great for having a go. The other totally un-missable event is the Bat Shoot. This is where we shoot at bat shaped targets in the dark. Sounds crazy but it is totally safe and amazingly great fun thanks to Jason for the organisation and supply of glowing sticks.





Notices

- **31st Open**

The 31st Open shoot which is to be held on the 11th September is a Windsor shoot (3 dozen at 60yds followed by 3 dozen at 50yds and then again at 40yds). So in short a great shoot for beginners. Sighters at 1100. Also, if anyone is good at baking some contributions for the Open shoot would be greatly appreciated. Have a chat with Jenny or Debs if you need some more details about catering and talk to any of the committee members if you want to know about any of the forthcoming shoots.

- **Club BBQ**

We have the club BBQ to mark the closing of the outdoor season on the 13th Sep. There will be fun shoots as well food available. Please make sure you can attend.

If you want to bring some friends along that is fine too. We have a small charge of £2 pounds for all non-club members though they will clearly not be able to shoot they will be able to enjoy the food and atmosphere. Please let either Jenny or Debs know if you are planning to attend or planning on bringing some guests. This will help us cater for the event.

- **Indoor Shoot**

We start to shoot indoors from the 27th September.

Kit – For all those who use club kit normally and store the equipment with the club we will be issuing you with the bow and arrows for the duration of the indoor season. This not only helps the club with the challenges of moving but also ensures you have the kit you need for the indoor season. Please note you will be responsible for the care and safety of the kit for this period.

- **Indoor Shooting Times**

The normal start time for the indoor season is 1830 start. To help everyone get the best out of their shooting we have split the session times so that Juniors will start to shoot at 1830 and ending at 1930. After 1930 we will have the senior's session ending when everyone is done.

Please also remember that everyone is free to help with the range set-up. So if you are able the set-up normally starts around 1800. All help is much appreciated as set-up is not any one individual's role but something just done by those that are there first. If you are not sure how to set-up the range just ask one of the coaches. Thank you for the help.

- **Committee Member Roles**

I suspect most if not all clubs struggle to get people involved in the running of the club and we are no exception. Positions in the committee are normally voted in during the AGM held in February but we still have roles not filled, most notably the club secretary, but this is not the only position open, so if you are interested in taking part in the running of the club please let any of the committee members know. All support is welcome even as a role share or whatever may suit. Committee members names are available at the front of this newsletter.

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

Range Readiness

Indoor shooting days are:

- Sunday from 1000 to 1200 (Outside)
- Tuesday from 1830 to 1930 for Juniors
- 1930 till we are done for seniors

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

Thank you.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

The END OF THE WORLD FLAGY shoot (well it felt like it)

The black clouds hung heavily over Camberley in a foreboding way. I should have taken heed but instead we set off for Four Marks with a naive optimism that the weather would be better over there.

Arrived late, partly due to the impromptu road work chaos entering Four Marks but mainly due to reluctance to head under the even darker skies covering the Alton area. The unofficial club gazebo went up without a hitch but did need pegging down due to the blustery start to the proceedings.

The start to the FLAGY shoot, which will have to be renamed with a bit of thought since Liphook and Yateley have vanished from the event (FAG does not conjure up the correct image for an archery battle), set the scene with sighters being affected by the strong head on gusts. The opening scenes of the tournament gave great concern more to our fields worm population than would normally be expected with an awful lot more GREEN hits being recorded.

The 80yds distance saw a few surprises down on the now all too familiar end of line number 12 target allocated to the Four Marks Traditional Longbow archers' contingent. We were holding our own against the 3 invaders from Guildford and Farnham (these foreign invaders with their modern recurve bows it'll never catch on). A few worried expressions as more wooden shafts hit the target face, followed by a plethora of excuses insinuating that the rain was too wet or the wind was too windy or the equipment was not quite performing correctly, but the wooden shafts kept hitting the target, almost as frequently as the carbon ones.

Rain stopped play providing an impromptu lunch break after the first distance. Running repairs were made to the Gazebo (now looking the worst for wear due to the high winds) and to archers equipment, John was doing a valiant job on keeping the club archers in the game with his fletching services.

The next two distances saw the dastardly Guildford archers on the pull ahead on target 12, now that the wind had less chance of evening up the archers. The wind kept blowing and coupled with the rain, made for an interesting time trying to shelter under the Gazebo (no walls meant the horizontal rain could still soak). Unfortunately toward the end of the competition the weather got the better of the gazebo and despite the the brave efforts of Dwayne hanging on for dear life onto the corner to stop lift off after the tethering lines let loose, the gazebo had to be taken down before it flew from the field for good.

All in all a good time was had by most, despite the weather and to top it off we came 2nd out of 5 (ok so Liphook and Yateley defaulted by not turning up but it still counts in my books), so a big thank you to all for putting on a good day and especially for the behind the scenes crew for supplying plenty of hot refreshments throughout the day.

Peter Keith (Longbow archer and proud of it)

FLAGY Photos



Diary Dates

31 st Open	11 th Sep.
Outdoor Championships	18 th Sep.
Bat Shoot	23 rd Sep.
Indoor Season Starts	27 th Sep.
Have-a-go session	17 th April
Beginners Course	21 st Apr 28 th Apr 5 th May

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.

For Sale

Stylist Bow & kit. 34lb left hand 66'/68'. Good condition, used to belong to Jean Stephens. If you are interested speak to John for more information