



Alton & Four Marks Archery Club

Newsletter

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Editorial



As the October Newsletter became the November Newsletter and now the December Newsletter I had better wish everyone a very Merry Christmas before it's Easter.

I trust everyone will enjoy the break and will be fully rested

keen and eager for the clubs traditional Jan1st shoot. For all those unable to make the shoot for whatever reason shooting starts again on the 10th Jan.

He's done it again! I can't believe it! Now I'm not saying that I've been shooting for ages, seen it all before, been there done that, kind of thing. Far from it! But two Robin Hood style shots, one straight into the other seems pretty impressive to me. I am of course talking about Dave Tims. To my mind all of these is made all the more extraordinary by the fact that Dave was only the last beginners course. Yes, after just four months he has two 'Robin Hoods' to his name. Not bad for a beginner I would say. He must have had a great coach.





*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.

In case it's not so clear that beautiful orchid looking thing he's holding used to be an arrow. Unfortunately my photography is not so good so there isn't a close up of the arrow.

As for the rest of the time since the last newsletter, there have been a few things going on; like the 31st Open, the outdoor championships, the start of the indoor season and of course the Batshoot, so a few things to keep us going.

The 31st Open worked out to be a challenging event. Of course you could easily say it was a competition of course it was challenging that what it's supposed to be. But all those who attended the competition will know exactly what I mean. The wind blew and rain fell, not too heavily to start but before long we were shifting the breaks around to try to get a chance to dry off. At least the rain didn't last too long but the wind certainly made the scoring a bit of a free for all. Thank you to all those that help made the event a success, especially our organiser Jason, the Captain Lionel all those working in the background to set-up and move targets and of course to our Lady Paramount Carol. This is becoming a well recognised event in the archery calendar with other clubs commenting on the great set-up and wonderful atmosphere. The Outdoor Championships weren't much better for weather but as usual we didn't let a small thing like wind and rain ruin the day. Although we did cut the shoot down so it was no longer the full Windsor but was a Western instead. Definitely still a great day's competition. You can see all the prize giving photo's in the photo section. One particularly note worthy aspect of this competition was the number of new and nearly new archers that won awards. People like Bethany Nottridge, James Mc Andrew and Tom Gillespie. Well done to all winners and again big thank you to everyone that helped make the event a success.

There was also the Bat shoot. This is one event I was especially disappointed to have missed, but I understand the event went well. I won't say too much about it here as we have three articles on the subject later in the newsletter. One thing I would like to add is a very big thank you to Jason M. and colleagues for pulling together the event again and keeping everyone safe. That's about it from me, all I would like to add is if you have any comments on the newsletter or any ideas for content please let me know.

Photos 31st Open



Outdoor Championships



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

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.

• Christmas Party

Please note the date has changed. The Pavilion is no longer available on the 9th so the party will now be on the 16th. Everyone should have had an e-mail to this effect. If in doubt please contact Debs.

• Lost or Damaged Arrows

Please remember that when shooting outside you must count the arrows you shoot and make sure you collect the same number of arrows. We recently had a case where the Cricketers found an arrow on their green. Naturally arrows left behind can become hazard to others. It is also pretty easy to lose arrows in the ground, so if this does happen to you please make sure you let one of the committee members know. Anyone will be happy to help look for arrow and any lost arrows or lost parts of arrows must be recorded on the notice board. If we do not do this and someone gets hurt we could lose the use of the field.

• 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.

- **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.

Beginners Course August 2011

By Dave & Lesley Tims

Our first ever try at archery was at a Bisley Open Day, we spent the day shooting various guns and on the way out we saw the archery targets, we decided to have a go, Lesley managed to miss with all her arrows and I had managed to hit the target (which was payback as Lesley beat me clay pigeon shooting and is still reminding me) but I enjoyed it though Lesley didn't,

I decided to check the computer for archery clubs and found out about the beginners course we could not do the Spring course because of work so decided to go to the August course. I convinced Lesley she should come with me (just), eventually August came and we both arrived in Four Marks unsure quite what to expect. We need not have been concerned because the welcome was very friendly and Lesley met people she knew from work!

Week one gave us our first surprised as we had not expected to be on the range the first week. Our coach was Damien who made us feel at ease and the instruction we received was brilliant – thank you Damien. (What a patient man).

Throughout the 3 Saturdays of the course all the club members were very helpful and friendly giving advice, patiently steering us in the right direction and never tiring of constant question from all of us, the tea and biscuits were just the icing on the cake and a welcome break at mid point of each day.

The competition on the last day was great fun and a lovely way to finish the course.

Despite Lesley's reluctance to get out of the car on day one! We are now both members and have enjoyed each session we have attended and the competition between us has begun. So have the visits to Quicks!

Only one thing confuses me and that is Lionel's apparent psychic ability – how else do you explain why Lesley's shooting improves when he stands behind her and says nothing.

Thank you again to all club members for making us feel so welcome and a special thanks to John and Lionel for all their help.

The Bat Shoot

By Bethany Nottridge

This year me, my sister Katrin and my dad Duane went to our first bat shoot. It was great! I had a lot of fun although I had to be careful so nothing went wrong. They shaped the targets into bats and glow sticks, we got to take them home at the end, and it looked brilliant! It was a lot of fun and we got spooky prizes at the end. I'd recommend it to anyone.

By Katrin Nottridge

We did our first Bat shoot this year and it was very enjoyable because you have only glow sticks to see what we're doing. The target faces are shaped like bats so it is more difficult. I think it is very good and enjoyable for all ages. It was made into a competition and certain people were given prizes for seniors and juniors. The prizes were glow in the dark cups filled with sweets and a skeleton with a medal.

Diary Dates

Stanford Shoot	4 th Dec
Christmas Shoot	13 th Dec
Start Shooting after Christmas Break	10 th Jan
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

We have some quivers available for sales. Prices range from £9 to £29. If you are interested please contact Duane or John.