



Somerset Archery News

December 1996

Issue No. 4

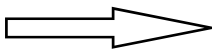
MARGARET LEWIS

Most of you will know by now that Margaret died peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of the 14th. of October after a long illness. Her funeral was held at Bath on the 18th. October and it was no surprise that over 200 people came from all over the country to say goodbye to one of the best known and best loved archers of her time.

We in Somerset will miss Margaret's presence at the shoots she used to attend and at the S.C.A.A. Meetings where she kept us in order and gave us the benefit of her wisdom. Even when she had virtually lost her voice and could only speak in a whisper Margaret still came to S.C.A.A. and G.W.A.S. meetings, and if she wanted to say something you could have heard a pin drop such was the respect that she commanded.

Tradition was important to Margaret and in particular the tradition of exhibiting good manners - as anyone who went to the Junior Championships will know! She would let any "little darling" know if he or she was out of line but always in such a way as to retain their love and respect. As her main interest was in the Juniors, it was proposed at the January G.W.A.S. meeting that, as the Juniors are having their own separate "Intercounty" shoot this year, the Region would, with her family's agreement, buy a Trophy in Margaret's name for the

REMEMBER THIS HEADLINE



WELL DONE VIKKI!

SOMERSET ARCHER

JUNIORS

At the North Somerset Double Worcester she did it again! This time Vikki shot her best round - a 292 - in the second pass so couldn't claim the National Record for the Single Worcester; her overall total of 581 was three point better than her own National Record and is awaiting ratification.

Although not a record, at the same shoot Paul Atkins (compound unlimited) shot 598, only dropping one point in each round - nice shooting Paul!

Just in case anyone has noticed that the County Record for the Single Worcester (Ladies) - as published in the last issue of SAN - stands at 293 (Vikki again!) and wonders why this wasn't a National Record, or thinks I may have written it down wrong; let me assure you that it is in fact correct. The record was not shot at a Record Status Shoot, (as it would have to be for a National Record - you can't claim records for rounds shot at any old shoot), so only qualifies as a county record.

INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT REPORT

This was again hosted by Puriton Gold - it seems to have become known as 'Amanda's Shoot' though it is a County Tournament and the idea was that it should be moved around from club to club; the trouble is that Amanda and the team make such a good job of it that no-one wants to take it away from Puriton.

The weather was good and 66½ archers (one latecomer who just shot the afternoon half!), including 24 juniors, turned up. This shoot is ideal for the archer who is just getting going - you have a chance to shoot with some of the best archers in the county and, as it is not desperately serious, they have more time than is usual to help and encourage. Also, being a handicap shoot, everyone has a chance of winning (I think the only other handicap shoot in the county is at the other end of the season - the Dunster Horn in April.)

Everyone enjoyed themselves and the day went smoothly, the results came out as quickly as could be expected (its a bit more complicated when you have to sort out nett and gross scores!) and we all went away happy - what better way could there be of spending a day with so little outlay? (Answers on a self-addressed postcard!)

At the National Junior Indoor Championships - held at Ryton (near Coventry) on the 8th. December - Joshua Lowe was the winner of the under 14 section with a score of 567 for a Portsmouth - a score that would have got him 3rd. place in the under 16s! As Josh is a member of my club I was very pleased; Josh obviously has a natural talent but has worked on it by coming to the junior coaching sessions that have been held at Puriton over the last two or three years. (I think all but one of the juniors who won trophies or medals at the Junior County & Regional Championships last year had all been to these sessions so they seem to be working!)

Other Somerset archers who went to these Championships were Tim Jarvis, Phillipa Jarvis and Ned Allen from Burnham and Stephen Cottle from Bath. Well done all of you!

Apart from the archers themselves and all who have helped them there is one group of people who do a great job and who are not often mentioned. Junior archers rely on their parents to a great extent to get them to tournaments - and not all parents are archers. I know that Joshua's dad was up and away by 5 a.m. to get Josh to Ryton and he stayed with him all day before driving all the way back. So a big thank you to all you "taxi drivers" - without you our sport would be the poorer.



REGIONAL COACHING GROUP

Who? Never heard of them! Well, we've been around but have only recently "gone public" (we've even got our own group sweatshirts!); the Regional Coaching Organiser - Tony Key - and the four County Coaching Organisers from the Region have always met on a quarterly basis to discuss coaching matters. We are now inviting other coaches to attend these meetings, as all the coaches in the Region are regarded as being part of the "Coaching Group", and are trying our best to raise the profile of archery in the region by organising archery events in an effort to increase enthusiasm and interest, get the newer archers into the wider world of archery (as oppose to just the club scene) and, hopefully, do something about the high drop out rate in archery in general. We also want to raise the profile of coaching; there **are** coaches around and they **will** be present at the events organised by the group, this is **your** chance to meet them, talk to them and get advice from them.

REGIONAL POSTAL INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT

Going out to all Clubs, along with this newsletter, is a flyer for the above competition. The idea is that each team shoots a National round between the 1st. and 7th. of May, June and July on the same basis as the winter postal shoots but the top three teams from each county will be invited to a tournament at Exeter on the 7th. September. If you want to take part but no-one in your club is doing anything about organising things how about you doing it? There should be details around somewhere after mid March, (going out to Club Secretaries with G.W.A.S. A.G.M. Minutes), if you can't find the relevant details, please get in touch with :- Alastair Robinson, 65, Gloucester Street, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Gloucester. GL54 5LX (Tel : 01242 602876).

1ST. YEAR ARCHERS TOURNAMENT

Another Regional Coaching Group initiative! This one is being organised by the individual Coaching Organisers and is for archers from their own county. It will be open to any archer who has joined since the 1st. April 1996 and will be held at Langport on the

COUNTY BADGES

County badges are available for sale for those of you who would like them. There is a cloth badge at £1.75 and two types of pin badge, an acrylic version for £1.50 and the enamel one is slightly more at £2.00. Proceeds from the sale of these badges go to the county the Treasurer - Rod Freemantle Chris Hassall (Mid Somerset



Some discussion has gone on whether or not to produce a the county logo embroidered on. these would be popular or not it with getting the embroidery set these items please let me know will take it up again at one of our meetings.

at S.C.A.A. meetings as to sweatshirt and/or polo shirt with As we were not sure whether was decided not to go ahead up. If anybody is interested in and if there are enough of you I

Archery in the Past

From Archers-Antiquaries newsletter - information dug up from the Rolls of the Canterbury Assizes of 1279 by Ted Hart :- " - unknown persons burgled the house of Robert Atteforde. When Robert discovered what had happened he raised the hue and cry at which came Adam le Warper and his wife Malfin who, with their bows and arrows took up the pursuit and shot and killed the malefactors. The Warperes were found to be innocent of any crime." Things have changed a bit haven't they? These days you'd probably be hauled over the coals for having words with burglars!

If you are interested in other things in archery apart from shooting, there are plenty of books around on a wide variety of different aspects of archery. I have found a number of books in the library; not all of them are on view but if you look through the catalogue on the computer you may find something to interest you. The Society of Archer-Antiquaries (current subscription £15 per year) produce a journal once a year which contains articles on a very wide range of archery subjects, from 'Manchurian Repeating Crossbows' to 'The Compound Bow - 25 Years On', as well as the odd newsletter. Hugh Soar, the GWAS Archivist & Librarian has a number of items you can look at - by appointment - in Bristol. Further information from Chris Hassall.

TROPHIES

The subject of trophies came up at a recent S.C.A.A. meeting and one of the points that emerged was that entry forms often don't say anything on the subject. It may be an idea, if you are organising a shoot, to advertise what you are giving away at your shoot in the way of trophies and medals - juniors in particular like to know what they could win. (I do know of one case (an adult!) of "I'm not going unless there is something for me to win.")

Most tournament organisers complain that entries are down, if by advertising what is on offer you get a few more entries I would think it was worthwhile.

If you have any hints or tips you think it would be worthwhile passing on to other tournament organisers let me know.

APOLOGIES

Once again I have to apologise - this time to Dot Rockett for missing her St. George record off the listing in the last issue. It should have been in at 664 - sorry Dotty!

Also to Vikki for advertising the G.W.A.S. Indoor Championships as being on the 10th. February - it should have read the 9th. as on the back page of this edition. (Nobody said anything - I guess that you are all too polite to point out my errors!)



NEW COACHES

Congratulations to Hilary Collins and Jim Large, both from Bowmen of Ina, who have spent the last fourteen months going through the coaching course. Their assessment - which is a two day affair - was last month and I'm very pleased to say that they both passed.

If anyone else out there is interested in doing a Coaching Course please get in touch with Chris Hassall at the address below - the next one will probably start in October this year (if there are enough people interested) and will probably be held in Gloucestershire. If your Club hasn't got a Coach, getting someone qualified - and active - may help keep the drop out rate down and S.C.A.A. may be able to help with the cost.

THE SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

My (Chris Hassall's) views - these do not necessarily reflect those of S.C.A.A. (I haven't asked them!)

The Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was formed in October last year with the object of protecting shooting sports in general from the media inspired knee jerk legislation of our politicians. While everyone sympathises with the victims of Dunblane - including shooters in all disciplines - penalising a small, law-abiding section of the community is not the answer. There are already laws on the statute book to control guns, if these laws are not correctly enforced why blame the shooters?

If you have read the article at the back of the winter edition of the News from the Centre you will know that our sport could be under threat next. I don't like the idea of my sport being endangered by so called 'politically correct' idiots who do not have the faintest idea of what the sport involves so I am all in favour of joining a lobby that will, hopefully, be able to protect my interests. I know how I would feel if I was told that I had to stop shooting (for political reasons) and would be compensated at a fraction of the cost that I had invested in my sport. If you would like to join the Sportsman's Association the subscription is a very reasonable £5 and the address is :- No. 1, Old Senteniel Works, Whitchurch Road, Shrewsbury, Salop. SY1 4DP.

GOING TO TOURNAMENTS

Many 'new' archers are worried about going to tournaments - "Will I make a fool of myself?", "What will the other archers think if I miss the target?" and "Will I remember what I am supposed to be doing?" (Yes. Idiot! and No.) Seriously though - if you follow the instructions given in the club situation, read the "Rules of Shooting" and use a bit of common sense you will have no problem. Unless you are the super-confident type I would recommend you start with local 'club' shoots - or the first year archers shoot talked about on page 2 - rather than FITA Star or Rose Award events. The first tournament I went to was to watch a club member shoot in the Somerset Championships at the start of Dunster Week, I had only been shooting for about six months and didn't think I was fit for competition. There seemed to be quite a few arrows going into the grass and I thought, "I can do that", so I went and saw the organisers and shot the last three days and really enjoyed myself (I even won a prize - hidden score in the Western Round) - to the extent that now I am usually at a tournament somewhere on Sundays from April through to the end of September.

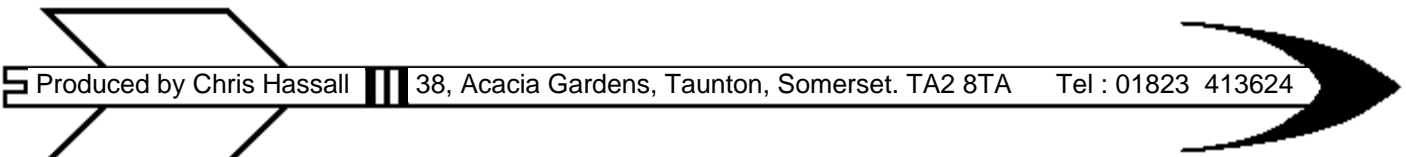
I can't say that **all** the archers I have shot with have been good company; but those that have been a bit of a pain have been in a very small minority, the vast majority have been great - a better percentage than you would probably find in life in general! And that same majority have been helpful in many ways, from pointing out that I should be on the shooting line rather than talking (lots of my target companions do this for me!) to technical advice and problem solving.

Aim to get to the shoot well before the time stated for assembly and on arriving try to remember the last part of the GNAS motto (Union - True Heart - Courtesy). Not all shoots book you in but it is only polite to find out if this is being done and tell them that you are present. Everyone likes to set up as near to the shooting line as possible, but, at a big shoot this is often difficult; please try to leave gangways so everyone can get from their tent to the shooting line without too much difficulty; you will undoubtedly come across the dipstick who parks himself in the gap you have considerably left for others to use as access - this is when you have to remind yourself of the 'Courtesy' again instead of just kicking seven bells out of him or her.

If you have given yourself plenty of time you can set about putting your gear together in a relaxed state rather than rushing around like a headless chicken, this means less mistakes, or at any rate gives you time to check things out and correct if necessary. It also starts you off in a better frame of mind so your shooting will (probably) be better. Find out which detail you are shooting and which side you will be standing; if you can, find out who your target companions are and introduce yourself (once you have been to a few tournaments you will be surprised how many people you recognise). Make sure scores are filled in correctly - any alterations made, and signed, by a judge (you can alter the hits score and golds but only a judge can alter the arrow values) - or you may miss out if you are making a claim for a Rose Award or a FITA Star and remember that you should do all the scoring before going behind the target to look for arrows. Make sure you do your share of the work involved in scoring, pulling arrows, moving targets, etc., don't forget to thank your companions for making your day so pleasant and remember to sign the score sheet. **Remember, for results (and target list) send stamped addressed envelope(s). No s.a.e. - no results!**

The prize giving is part of the shoot and it is my personal belief that archers should make every effort to stay for it - I know it is not always possible and there may be good reasons for getting away quickly; but if everyone did this there would be no-one to applaud the winners - and one day this may be you! (And if you do win a trophy please return it in a fit state to be presented - tournament organisers have enough to do without having to clean trophies before the presentation.)

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF MODERN BOW :- PROTOTYPE AND OBSOLETE





Tournaments

Feb 9	G.W.A.S. Champs	FITA 18	Hutton Moor Leisure Centre
	Vikki Gallop, 21, The Glebe, Wrington, Somerset. BS18 7LX		
Feb 23	D.C.A.S. Champs	P'mouth (R/C)/Vegas (Cpd)	Kitto Centre, Plymouth
	Colin & Ann Holmes, 73, Okehampton Road, St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon.		
Mar 2	D.W.A.A. Champs	Double Worcester	Salisbury Leisure Centre
	Andrew Pulleyblank, 95, Moore Avenue, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 8AU		
Mar 9	S.C.A.A. Champs	Portsmouth	Huish Sports Centre, Langport
	Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA		
Apr 13	Bath Archers	Albion	Batheaston
	Colin Fullalove, 25, Redhill Close, Derry Hill, Calne, Wilts. SN11 9NY		
Apr 20	W.S.CoA	Westerns	West Somerset School, Minehead
	Peter Conrad, 9, Windsor Close, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5HH		
May 11	Lacetown Archers	Medieval Shoot	Honiton
	David Gray, 18, Woodbury Park, Axminster, Devon.		
May 18	D.W.A.A.	FITAs/Metrics	Salisbury
	Andrew Pulleyblank, 95, Moore Avenue, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 8AU		
May 25	Burnham CoA	Y/H/Bs	BASC, Burnham
	Ann Bye, 43, Sheepphouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol. BS20 0NL		
Jun 1	* D.C.A.S.	FITA Star	Newquay
	Colin & Ann Holmes, 73, Okehampton Road, St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon. EX4 1EP		
Jun 1	SCAA 1st. yr. archers	National Round	Langport
	Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA		
Jun 5	Coastal Archers	Single Clout	Berrow, Burnham
	Alex Kerby, The Warren, South Road, Brean, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. TA8 2RF		
Jun 15	* S.C.A.A.	York/Hereford	Dunster <u>S.C.A.A.</u>

Championships

	Paul Atkins, 21, The Glebe, Wrington, Avon. BS18 7LX		
Jun 16/22	Dunster Week §§		Dunster
	Monday	FITA	
	Tuesday	Albion or Field	
	Wednesday	Longbow (Two-way Western)	
	Thursday	Double Two-way Clout	
	Friday	Western	
	* Saturday/Sunday	Double York / Hereford	
	Janet & Eddie Faralewski, 27, Sutherland Avenue, Broadstone, Dorset. BH18 9EB		
Jun 28	SCAA & GWAS	Y/H/Bs	Taunton <u>Junior</u>

Championships

	Vikki Gallop, 21, The Glebe, Wrington, Avon. BS18 7LX		
Jun 29	Mid Somerset	Fun National	Langport
	Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA		
Jul 5/6	G.N.A.S.	FITA/Metrics - Y/H/Bs	Andover <u>Nat. Jun. Champs</u>
	To be arranged - watch this space you juniors!		

§§ Entry forms for Dunster Week are sent out in the middle of February - all at the same time - so if you want to be there, especially for the Double (June 21st. & 22nd.), get your request for an entry form in to Eddie & Janet before mid February and get your entries back as soon as you can!

STOP PRESS : SPEED METER, GRAIN SCALES & VIDEO

Until the end of February we have the use of a speed meter to measure how fast arrows leave your bow. Also available are grain scale to weigh your arrows to within one grain (7,000 grains = 1 lb.) and a video set up so you can see yourself shooting. If your club is interested in this please get in touch with Chris Hassall who will try and arrange a session for you to try these items. (The speed read out is in feet per second - if you want conversions bring your calculator! - 88 feet per second is 60 miles per hour.)