



Somerset Archery News

July 1997

Issue No. 6

THE YEAR SO FAR

This time last year I was moaning about the wet weather that had prevailed for the first couple of months of the season. This year we had a squad shoot at Bath on Easter Monday and the following Sunday were back there for the Spring Albion and we couldn't have had better weather; the trouble was we all got a shock when things reverted to normal! The Dunster Horn was reasonably well attended but cold and windy - and then Bath Archer's DIY FITA!

I said in the last newsletter that I was looking forward to seeing how this worked out, the shoot itself went well (three to a boss, one detail and six arrows at a time), we started shooting at half past ten and finished before 3.30 p.m. - and had a break for lunch! The weather looked very unfriendly and I'm sure this put a lot of people off, if they had paid in advance who knows? In fact the weather wasn't too bad, two or three short, sharp showers (one with a touch of hail!) but it didn't seriously affect the shooting and they day was enjoyable. I would like to see how this works on a good day but I think this type of shoot could become popular. When's the next one? (I can now answer this as Puriton and Burnham have both done one, both went well - Puriton was very windy but we couldn't control that! - and I expect there will be more shoots following this format in the future.)

Burnham's Open May Shoot was shot in warm, dry and sunny conditions with light winds (and I quote) "for Burnham anyway!" We went back a fortnight later for a DIY FITA and it wasn't so dry! Ann & Lesley had, however, arranged it so that it did all the raining over the lunch break so we still had a good day.

Coastal's Clout Shoot seems to be getting more and more popular, it is a really good evening and I recommend it to all of you - even if you have never shot clout before. I got a few funny looks (more than I usually get!) because I had brought along a fibre-glass trainer bow (23lbs. @ 28"); it did the distance (180 yards) alright but the wind was across the range and because my arrows were in the air for such a long time it was difficult to get the direction right - but then I always suffer from that anyway!

On to the County Championships and Dunster Week! The weather towards the end of the week was not the best we have ever had but it didn't spoil the fun. (I read a letter somewhere recently from someone who was complaining about the lack of fun at shoots - perhaps he should have a trip to Somerset!) On the first Sunday ("Somerset's" day) there were 14 Somerset Ladies (with 33 visitors) and 34 Somerset Gentleman (70 visitors) shooting the Championship Round plus 7 (out of 9) shooting the National Round. County results :- Ann Jackson was first Lady and Tony Usher was first Gentleman (recurve) with Mary Smith and Alan Hale taking the compound honours. Tony also became the Champion of the West by winning the double York on the last two days (getting rid of the GWAS affiliations secretary's job has obviously affected him for the better!) Archers from the county collected their fair share of goodies at the presentation ceremony on the final Sunday and we were reminded that next year is the 125th. Grand Western Archery Meeting - more about that in a future issue - hope to see you there!

So far as I know the following have shot automatic qualifying scores for the County Team. Ladies recurve :- Vikki Gallop and Ann Jackson; Ladies Compound :- Mary Smith;

(continued overleaf)

EDDIE FARALEWSKI

On the 21st. of May Eddie Faralewski, of Dorset and Wilts and a well known figure throughout the Grand Western Region, died suddenly after suffering a stroke. He and Janet have organised Dunster Week for a number of years, Eddie staying more in the background with Janet being the 'public' face of their double act.

I was pleased to see Janet at Dunster - that in itself must have been difficult for her and shows the courage that keeps her going - and hope that she will feel able to carry on doing the great job she and Eddie did together for so long. I'm sure you will all join with me in offering Janet - and her family - our sincere condolences.

(A collection taken at Dunster in Eddie's memory raised £374, the proceeds will be donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Fund.)

Archer Y U.K.

Have you had a magazine (journal!) with the above title come through your letter box recently? If you haven't it is because your name has not been sent to GNAS office by your Club Secretary - or GNAS have had a hiccup! Archer Y.U.K. is the replacement for the old News from the Centre which was sent out to clubs and which not everyone saw (or wanted to see?) The official journal of the Society has been revamped, has new editors and is being sent to everyone - so if you haven't had your copy ask your Club Secretary (nicely!) if your name has been forwarded to the office.

Editorial

Once again the Somerset Archery News has grown to six pages. I try to keep it to 4 pages but somehow it gets out of control and unless I use a type face that is too small to be readable I would have to keep leaving stuff out - and having written it I like to use it!

The object behind starting the Newsletter was to increase communication throughout the county - the problem is that if I don't know what is happening I can't pass the information on! I keep asking that you, the membership, give me your news & views, write articles, poems, jokes etc. and (as long as they have something to do with archery) I will try and find a space for them.

You will see from the article on page 4 about the Royal British Bowmen - always assuming you read that far - that the last issue resulted in the turning up of an important archery



VIKKI PICKED FOR ENGLAND - AGAIN!

In the last issue I reported that Vikki Gallop (Bowmen of Hatch) had been selected to shoot for England in the Home International at Stoke Mandeville. She did really well there - coming third in her debut international performance and helping the English team to victory. Now Vikki has been selected again (together with two other archers from the region, Jill Newland from DWAA and Kay Smith from GAS) to represent England in Scotland. The date clashed with the Somerset Championships (explains why you didn't see her - or the other two - at Dunster on the 15th.) which was a pity but you don't pass up chances to represent your country.

Vikki did very well again - shooting a personal best of 1236 for the Ladies FITA - and the English ladies' recurve team were again victorious (there must be possibilities of a play on words there but I'll leave it to your imaginations!) Some people fall apart under pressure but Vikki seems to thrive on it - she (and Kay and Jill) obviously had a good time on the shooting line and enjoyed themselves off it as well and this, to my mind, is what archery is all about. Well done Vikki - let's hope that there will be many more occasions when you are asked to represent your country!

(You may be interested to know that Vikki, and the other team members, were expected to pay their own way to get to this tournament - accommodation was provided! - and as it was held in Scotland this was a substantial amount. I wondered how many other sports expect their National Team Members to pay their own way? Its not a situation that I'm happy about - what happens if you cannot afford it? I was prepared to ask (now no longer necessary as Vikki's employer has kindly sponsored her!) both County and Region to share the cost. I did not think this was right either; for a National Team the National body should pay! Fortunately (not for him!) the GWAS Chairman is a member of the EAF Committee and I think the matter may arise at the next GWAS Council meeting - if not before!

THE YEAR SO FAR (cont.)

Gents recurve Rod Freemantle and Tony Usher; Gents Compound :- Paul Atkins, Alan Hale and Chris Hassall. After 4 of the 6 qualifying shoots the contenders appear to be as in the table on the right. I have again been fairly arbitrary in the way I have put this together - I have taken scores of around 800 for the York and Hereford Rounds and above 900 for the FITA Rounds and have ranked people according to their imperial scores with FITA scores in brackets. If I have missed anyone out I apologise. (Only the selection shoots have been used unless a qualifying score has been shot at a tournament for which I have a result sheet. There are still two selection shoots to go - Tockington and Coastal - and not all the archers listed have shot the required number of tournaments (yet!)

LADIES R / C		GENTS R / C	
Vikki Gallop	1146 (1236)	Tony Usher	983 (1156)
Ann Jackson	1122 (1244)	Simon Woolston	973
Lesley Passey	1022 (1083)	Rod Freemantle	968 (1182)
Ann Bye	924 (1059)	Tim Jackson	953 (1134)
Dot Rockett	926	Colin Fullalove	931 (955)
Fiona Bull	900 (1008)	Tim Yeates	900 (1047)
Marion Kerby	897	Roy Williams	889 (1123)
Barbara Warr	880	Pete Smith	884 (997)
Margaret Bratton	853	Matt Yeates	868 (1018)
Shirley Woods	794	Robin Jarvis	868
Tanya Condon	773	Ray Parsons	846 (980)
Joan Holton	769	Stephen C - Baker	846
		Adrian Robe	826 (1023)
		John Davis	815
LADIES C / U		GENTS C / U	
Mary Smith	1100 (1202)	Paul Atkins	1132 (1273)
Judith Martin	967	Alan Hale	1138
Amanda Tompkins	848	Chris Hassall	1064 (1157)
		Alan Webster	775 (948)

WANTED

I know someone who is looking for a good R/H 66", 32 lbs. @ 28" bow. If you, or someone you know has such a thing please give me a ring. (01823 413624)

Also, someone is looking for a pair of limbs, around 26 lbs., for a Yamaha TD1.

Anything connected with archery from years gone by - old "Robin Hood" books particularly welcome. This is a personal plea; the last request produced the Royal British Bowmen's Song-book (see page 4) - which was a tremendous find - but I am interested in any bits and bobs.

FOR SALE

Blue Hoyt Radian, R/H, 40 lbs. @ 28" with a Toxonic sight, bow bag and other bits and pieces. Only shot once - £450 or reasonable near offer. Phone Martin Shaw on 01934 520953.

Hoyt ProVantage Eclipse, R/H, 35 - 50 lb. with Golden Key rest, carbon long rod, thumb release, sight, quiver, bow bag, bow stand, arrows etc. Used twice. £300. Phone Mr. Morris on 01934 811544.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT COMES UNDER EITHER OF THE ABOVE HEADINGS? IF YOU HAVE PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AT THE ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FRONT PAGE - YOU COULD MAKE TWO PEOPLE VERY HAPPY!

BOOK REVIEW

"Zen in the Art of Archery" by Eugen Herrigel

Herrigel became a teacher of philosophy at the University of Tokyo in the thirties and took up archery to try to give himself an understanding of Zen. In 1936 he gave a lecture to the German-Japanese Society in Berlin which was later translated into various languages; having practised the "mystical art" for a further ten years or so he decided to write this book which came out in 1953.

When writing about the SCAA Library in the last issue I said that although the videos may be "slow" they all contained nuggets of useful information - you just had to look for them. I am not suggesting that you read this book and then rush off to learn Zen - there are, however, some very interesting bits that could be usefully taken on board.

This book is available through the Somerset County Library Service though you'll probably have to order it (or you could try being nice to me - I own a copy!)



COUNTY JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

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Sorry about the heading - couldn't resist it! Anyway, it was good to see so many of our Juniors at Ladymead School on the 28th. June at the County and Regional Junior Championships. This year the Junior Inter-Counties was included in the proceedings for the first time; the Somerset team - consisting of Matt Yeates (Mendip), Mark Tottle and Tim Hurst (Puriton), Debbie Dring (Puriton), Joshua Lowe (Mid Somerset) and Neil and Clare Tottle (Puriton) - came second behind Devon & Cornwall. The weather was good, which after last year came as something of a relief, and some very good scores were shot - including some personal bests.

I always enjoy this shoot and will remember this one for a number of reasons, (some of them are not for publication!); there was a little lad shooting the Bristol V who was only just five years old (by three days!) but was following the rules and shooting like a good 'un. A few of us had a happy ten minutes or so watching a parent trying to get a "pop-a-bivvy" folded up so he could get it into its bag ; I thought it was going to go home still up - or would be left on the field!

Our Juniors did have some individual success in the Regional Championships :- Matt Yeates came 2nd. behind Nathan Bell (who is the National Indoor Champion - Open, not Junior!) with a PB of 957, which, if he can repeat it at the right time, will probably get him into the Senior County Team, Mark Tottle was second in the Boy's Bristol II, Joshua Lowe won the Boys Bristol III and Rachel Dring won the Girl's Bristol IV with Clare Tottle second and Neil Tottle won the Boy's Bristol IV.

The County Junior Champions were :- York - Matt Yeates, Bristol I - Stephen Cottle, Bristol II - Rachel Fang & Mark Tottle, Bristol III - Debbie Dring & Joshua Lowe and Bristol IV - Rachel Dring & Neil Tottle. All these champions have attended the Junior Coaching sessions that we run at Puriton - could this just be coincidence?

Well done all of you who shot, I hope to see you all again at Ladymead next year (those of you who are still eligible anyway) - and, hopefully, some new faces as well!

No tournament just "happens" - so a big "thank you" to Vikki for organising and to everyone else who helped in any way.

JUNIOR COUNTY RECORDS

Two Junior Records were broken at the Burnham shoot at the end of May. Mark Tottle (Puriton Gold) shot 1170 for a Bristol II breaking the record by 4 points and Joshua Lowe (Mid Somerset) scored 1154 for the Bristol III, 33 points above the old record. At the County Indoor in March Jon Fisher established a record for the Portsmouth (Junior Boy Compound) with a score of 528. These records still have to be ratified but well done anyway lads! I look forward to seeing even better scores later in the year!

STOP PRESS :- At the Somerset and Regional Championships Josh again beat the Boy's Bristol III record by shooting 1191. This was a "Rose" event so he just missed his gold rose - but we won't go into that!

STOP STOP PRESS :- At the National Junior Championships at Andover the Boy's Bristol III record went again - it is now 1206

HEY - YEW!

These days many yew trees in this country are found in churchyards and it has been suggested that they were planted there to enable bowyers to obtain wood for their bows. I don't know whether this is true or not but would suspect probably not - I can't see the local priest being too happy about someone cutting the trees in his churchyard about and leaving it looking unsightly. Also, it is worth noting that Henry IV (1399 - 1413) when he authorised the Royal Bowyer, one Nicholas Frost, to enter private land to cut yew, he expressly exempted the estates of the religious orders - which would obviously have included all the churches.

Another point is that yew grows so slowly that planting them for the purpose of using the mature tree to obtain bow staves really does give a new meaning to the term "forward planning". In fact, most of the yew used to make the English longbow was imported and by the time of Elizabeth the First yew was in such short supply that a law was passed instructing bowyers to use other woods and yew bows for children were forbidden.

It is almost impossible to date yew trees accurately because of the way they grow; they tend to go hollow with age, making carbon dating impossible as well as making it very difficult to count the growth rings (dendrochronology), and new growth often appears in the middle of the tree from an aerial root. Some yews appear to stop growing for quite long periods so size is not too good an indication either. It is likely that the oldest living things in this country are the very old yew trees; it has been postulated that they could be the oldest living trees on the planet, rivaling the bristlecone pine - the oldest of which is known to be over 4,300 years old and still standing. The yew at Fortingall in Scotland has been estimated by one highly respected "yew expert" to be around 5,000 years old and if this is correct it could be the oldest living tree in the world.

Yew tree were revered long before Christianity and it is a fact that a great many of our old churches were built on ancient religious sites that already had yew trees growing there - so the custom of having yews in a churchyard is really the other way round! (The church at Tandridge in Surrey is built on Saxon foundations and in the crypt can be seen vaulting where the builders actually built round the roots of the yew in the churchyard, this shows that the tree was of considerable age even then.) Before the Reformation it was the practice to carry branches of yew into church on Palm Sunday and the yew was also known as the 'palm tree' in parts of Kent.

Not only has the yew been revered and worshipped for a very long time - it has also been the source of weapons for thousands of years. A spear - made of yew - was found in Clacton, Essex and has been dated to 250,000 B.C. ; another, uncovered in Lower Saxony, was found between the ribs of an elephant and has been dated to 200,000 B.C. Two of the oldest examples of yew bows ever discovered were found on the Somerset levels, one at Ascott Heath and one at Meare Heath - both being around 4,700 years old. The unfinished bow that belonged to "the man in the ice" found in the Alps in 1991 was also yew and has been dated to around 3,200 B.C. Only a couple of months ago I heard of a bow found in Rotten Bottom in Scotland which has been dated to circa 4040 B.C. to 3640 B.C. - making it the oldest bow yet found in Britain; I don't know what wood it was made from and will try to find out - but I wouldn't mind betting it was yew!

The yew has been an important part of man's history, and not just from an archery point of view, (according to legend Robin Hood and Maid Marian were married under a yew tree at Doveridge in Derbyshire and the tree is still standing), so, if you see a yew tree - give it some respect!

There are many old yews in Somerset churchyards, there is one at Ashbrittle which is 3,000 years old and which appears to be seven or eight trees growing closely together but is in fact one tree, (finding the tree was easy - finding Ashbrittle was a different story, as was getting back to civilisation!), other very old trees can be found in churchyards in Elworthy (2,000 years old), Chilcompton & Creech St. Michael (both about 1,600 years) Bricknoller, West Monkton & Broomfield (all about 1,500 years).

(Most of the above came from - "The Sacred Yew" by Anand Chetan & Diana Brueton and "The Man in the Ice" by Konrad Spindler - both of which I found quite fascinating even though the archery connection in both is only in passing, as it were.)(There was a passage in "The Sacred Yew" relating to the dating of the Robin Hood legend which I wrote to the authors about - I have recently had a reply from Diana Brueton which



Let's All Sing a Song of the Royal British Bowmen

As a result of the little piece entitled "Archery in the Past" in the last issue, I had a phone call from a Somerset archer who said that they had a handwritten book of Bowmeeting Songs dating from 1819 and would I like to see it? The answer was a very definite "yes" - especially as I had just finished reading an article on the Royal Kentish Bowmen which mentioned their songs. The book turned out to be roughly A4 size, good quality paper and bound in a "marbled" effect board cover. It didn't take me long to work out where it came from (the biggest clue was a shoot held at Hawarden (pronounced Harden) Castle and I just happened to have lived for a couple of years in Hawarden!) And the Society? Again, there was a good clue in the text of some of the songs - they were singing about the Royal British Bowmen - but I could hardly believe that what we had was a book from this well known Society turning up in Somerset. (I still don't know how it got down here and I don't suppose I ever will - one of life's little mysteries!)

Fortunately, just up the road in Bristol, lives an authority on matters pertaining to archery in the past - Hugh Soar (those of you who read archery magazines may well recognise the name and some of you will know Hugh). I sent him a copy of the first two or three pages and asked for his opinion - and the answer was that, yes, this is the Royal British Bowmen and is a very interesting artefact. I then sent Hugh a copy of the book and he informed me that while some of the songs are in the "Archer's Register" the majority of them are not - so what we have is a major find to those interested in "Archery History".

I have spent some time transcribing the text of the book - there are 80 odd pages containing 32 songs and are all written in old fashioned script - and it has been fascinating. The songs are mainly about events concerning the Society so by reading through them you can form a picture of the activities of the Society. All the members were "Gentry", Knights of the Realm & their Ladies, Army officers, Clergymen, etc.; Sir Foster Cunliffe and Sir Watkin Williams Wynn were the leading lights but other well known people of the time were also members. One of these was the Reverend Reginald Heber who wrote the hymns "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" and "Holy, Holy, Holy", he also wrote some of the songs contained in the book; there are a number of songs attributed to 'Mr. Heber' and this could have been Reginald or it may have been his half-brother, Richard, a well known classical scholar and bibliophile whose library contained almost 150,00 books. (Reference is made in the "Register" to "Bishop" Heber - he was appointed Bishop of Calcutta in 1822.) Another member who is referred to in one of the songs simply as "Hill" would, I believe, have been Rowland Hill, later the first Viscount Hill, who headed Adam's Brigade at Waterloo in the last charge which swept away Napoleon's Old Guard; his brother, Sir Thomas, was assistant adjutant-general during the Waterloo campaign but given that the role of adjutant is a staff position and the use of the word "Hero" in reference to Hill, I believe that Rowland is the man in question.

Some of the songs are humorous, others are more serious, some are simple ditties and others are full of classical allusions; the one thing they all have in common is Archery, either in general, or, more usually, about their Society in particular. The more I read the Songs the more I feel I know about this group of people who enjoyed their sport in the way it should be enjoyed - with good humour

and good fellowship. This Song book is a lovely piece of "Archery History" that I am privileged to have worked on - if any of you are interested I have a couple of copies of my transcription that you are welcome to borrow.

'Tis a difficult question to solve I suppose
Why amongst British Bowmen there are so few Beaux
What are our Ladies to do
Some Mamma's recommend that a notice be put
With an offer of bounty on every butt
And apportion rewards to all such as shall bring
Dandies their daughters to woo.

This little verse from one of the Songs I found quite interesting. It is apparent that the Ladies outnumbered the Gentlemen in 1819 (when the song was written); the 1891 Grand Western Archery Meeting had 33 ladies and 18 gentlemen, the average over the previous ten years

GRAND WESTERN ARCHERY SOCIETY



In the last issue of the News I asked if anyone knew where the GWAS motto - "Draw archers, draw your arrows to the head!" - came from. As nobody was forthcoming I will tell you. Good ol' William Shakespeare put the words in the king's mouth in Richard III. In his oration to the army before the battle of Bosworth Field Richard goes on to say, "Amaze the welkin with your broken staves!" I don't know if the welkin was amazed (my dictionary says "welkin - noun (Archaic) - the sky, heavens, or upper air.") or if any staves (bows) were broken at Bosworth - but the President's Volley at Dunster is quite impressive, (or perhaps I should say "was quite impressive" as it was a couple of weeks ago now - if you've never done a clout shoot I recommend having a go, its different and good fun.)

S.C.A.A. - APRIL MEETING



On the 30th. of April around a dozen of us gathered at Puriton to discuss the affairs of the County Association. Most of the meeting was taken up by reports from the GWAS AGM, the last GWAS Council Meeting and the GNAS AGM - and any matters arising from these three meetings. The main items of interest that will affect all of you were the new affiliation fees - GNAS has gone up to £20 (£10 for Juniors), GWAS is now £3 (£1.25 for Juniors) and SCAA is £3.50 (£1.75 for Juniors).

The next Management Meeting will be on the 30th. July at Puriton Sports and Social Club in the Committee room. It starts at 7.45 p.m.

SNIPPET :-The Norse god Ullr - and I have spelt it correctly - lived in a yew dale and was the god of archers.



WINTER POSTALS

The results for the Frostbite and the Portsmouth postal competitions came out just after the last edition of the News went to press (technical terms now!)

Puriton Gold came out top in both competitions; they were very closely pursued by Burnham CoA in the Portsmouth with the Bowmen of Mendip third. In the Frostbite Bath Archers came second and Bowmen of Mendip were again in third.

Well done to all those who took part - I'm not going to mention names but there were some very good personal performances and it was nice to see some of the Juniors mixing it with the grown ups (I use the term loosely!)

If your club doesn't take part in either of these competitions why don't you try and get a team together (it doesn't have to be the same members all the time) and send the results to Sylvia - who deserves a big thank you for all the work she does in collating the results and generally organising things.

ROYAL COMPANY OF ARCHERS

During the reign of James II (of Scotland) - 1437 to 1460 - the noble families formed an Archers' Guard which was sworn to protect the sovereign in times of danger. When James IV died on Flodden Field in 1513 his body was found covered by his dead archers. This traditional guard was revived in 1676, after the restoration of Charles II, and a number of archers drawn from noble families formed the 'King's Company of Archers'. This was the beginnings of the Royal Company of Archers as it is today - and they are the sovereign's bodyguard when she (or he) is in Scotland.

In 1677 their Constitution was confirmed by the Privy Council and in 1704 Queen Anne gave them a Charter, part of which states that the Company shall "render to us and our successors one pair of barbed arrows at the term of Whitsunday, if asked. . ." This 'Reddendo' can still be required of the Company by the sovereign on State Visits. (Incidentally, a pair of arrows consisted of three arrows - from the times when two arrows were used and the other one was carried as a spare.) In 1713, following a grant of Letters Patent, they became known as the Royal Company of Archers.

The Royal Company has a number of trophies that are shot for annually and amongst these is the Musselburgh Arrow which dates back to 1603. Arrows were popular prizes in the past; as well as the Musselburgh Arrow the Royal Company have the Peebles Arrow (1628), the Selkirk Arrow (1660) and the Edinburgh Arrow (1719). Another very famous arrow prize is the Scorton Archer's Silver Arrow (usually known as the Scorton Arrow) which has been shot for in open competition since 1673 - I am informed that this makes it the oldest sporting trophy awarded in open competition. ('Oldest' as in having been competed for for the longest period.)

Information for the above came from A History of Target Archery (E. G. Heath) and the Encyclopaedia of Archery (W. F. Paterson) - both are in the Somerset Library.

ARCHERY ACROSTIC - ANSWERS

1. P R O D

2. B O D K I N P O I N T

3. K Y U D O

4. S H E A F

5. M O N O F I L A M E N T

6. B R A C I N G H E I G H T

7. N E W O L Y M P I C R O U N D

8. G R E Y G O O S E W I N G

9. F L E M I S H

10. T O X O P H I L U S

11. A R R O W H E A D

12. G R O U N D Q U I V E R

13. L A Y I N G I N

14. R O B I N H O O D

15. C R O S S B O W M E N

16. S E C O N D A R Y F L E T C H I N G

17. A P R I L M O O N

18. H O R A C E F O R D

19. A R R O W S T O R M

20. F L E T C H E R

21. P A R T H I A N S H O T

22. U N D E R - H A N D

23. P A S S T H R O U G H

24. S T A F F O R D

THE ANSWERS EXPLAINED

I thought that some of the answers might need an explanation so . . .

1. Poke the working part of a crossbow. (4)
2. Designed to penetrate chain mail. (6,5)
3. One form of Japanese archery. (5)
4. Bundle (usually 24) of arrows. (5)
5. Single strand serving material. (12)
6. Change it by twisting the string. (7,6)
7. Shot in Atlanta last year. (3,7,5)
8. Where the best feathers came from. (4,5,4)
9. Fifty fish and me make type of string. (7)
10. Learned work by Roger Ascham. (10)
11. Field equivalent of FITA 'Star'. (9)
12. Earth shaking device for holding arrows? (6,6)
13. Stay in bed to make a string? (6-2)
14. Shoot own - or someone else's - arrow! (5,4)
15. The Genoese were famed for these. (11)
16. Not cock (or hen!) feather. (9,8)
17. 4th. month earth satellite - shot a long way. (5,4)
18. The 'father' of modern archery. (6,4)
19. Don't go out in one of these! (5,5)
20. One who makes arrows. (8)
21. The last word? (8,4)
22. Sneaky way of aiming at clout. (5-4)
23. Don't stop and doesn't score. (4,7)
24. Double frostbite.! (8)

1. Prod (or Prodd) originally meant a light sporting crossbow but now has come to mean the bow part of the weapon.
9. & 13. The 'Flemish' or 'laid-in' method of making a bowstring is the traditional way of making longbow strings.
14. If you split one arrow with another it is known as "doing a Robin Hood".
17. April Moon - an American lady who has broken many world records for flight shooting.
19. Arrow storm was when all the archers in an army shot arrow after arrow. At the battle of Agincourt there were 5,000 (?) British archers who could shoot at least 6 arrows in a minute - making 30,000 arrows / min. At Dunster last year (1996) on the Saturday we had 180 shooting the York / Hereford and 26 shooting the National - total number of arrows shot all day = 29,028!
20. From the French 'flèche' - an arrow.
21. The Parthians used to encourage the enemy to chase them and would then ride away while shooting 'backwards'.
22. When shooting clout the aiming point is usually below the bow hand. In target shooting the sight is above the bow hand, this is known as (surprise, surprise!) 'over-hand'.
23. An arrow that goes right through the target and out the other side doesn't score - unless you are shooting a FITA round and are marking the target face. If the arrow goes through but is still in the boss you can score it - in either case call a judge if you are in any doubt.

COUNTY RECORD BROKEN

At the Salisbury FITA Paul Atkins (Hatch, Compound) put in a 1273 for a Gents FITA which I think is a record for a FITA shot using the inner ten. May I remind you that records must be claimed, they are not simply accredited - send a copy of the results sheet, along with your claim to the Records Officer - Tim Jackson, 15, Cheddarfields, Wedmore Road, Cheddar. BS27 3EB



Tournaments

OUTDOORS

Jul 27	*	Coastal Archers	Y/H/Bs	Berrow, Burnham	
		Marion Kerby, The Warren, South Road, Bream, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. TA8 2RF			
Aug 3	§	W.S.CoA	Y/H/Bs	West Somerset School, Minehead	
		Peter Conrad, 9, Windsor Close, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5HH.			
Aug 10		Bath Archers	Hereford	Bath	
		Alan Webster, 39, Gregory's Tynning, Paulton, Bristol. BS18 5PP			
Sep 14	*	SCAA	FITA Star	Taunton	
		Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA			
Sep 21		Puriton	Westerns	Puriton	<u>S.C.A.A. Interclub</u>
		Amanda Tompkins, 7, Rowan Close, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA7 8AL			
Sep 28		G.W.A.S.	Y/H/Bs	Exeter	<u>Intercounties</u>
		By invite only			
Oct 12		Bath Archers	Trad. L/B	Batheaston	
		Richard Head, 405, The Spa, Melksham, Wilts. SN12 6QL			
Oct 12		Burnham CoA	Albion	BASC, Burnham	
		Ann Bye, 43, Sheephouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol. BS20 0NL			
Nov 9		Bath Archers	Field	Hunstrete	
		Harry Wright, 83, Charlton Park, Midsomer Norton, Somerset. BA3 4BW			

INDOORS

Nov 23		Bowmen of Mendip	D/Worcester	Hutton Moor	
		Joan Holton, Apartment 2, 33, South Road, Weston-super-Mare. BS23 2HD			
Dec 14		Exmouth Archers	Fun Round	Exmouth	
		John Stott, 2, Featherbed Lane, Exmouth, Devon. EX8 3HD			
Mar 8	¶	SCAA	Portsmouth	Langport	<u>SCAA Indoor Champs</u>
		Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA			

§ Please note change of previously advertised date

* Rose Awards or FITA Stars may be claimed at these Tournaments

¶ Date to be confirmed

THE APOCRYPHAL ARCHER

There are many tales about this character but very little is really known about him. Recently I have read books about him by Roger Green, Howard Pyle, Patricia Leitch, John Grant and Marcia Williams and am keen to read more, if you have any books or other material - even stories that you have heard - I would like to hear from you. I know that you have all heard of him and would bet that the vast majority of you have either read books, or seen films, about the man in question. If you are still wondering who I am talking (writing?) about let me give you a clue - all the books mentioned above had the same title - "The Adventures of Robin Hood."

BATTLE of BRITAIN - FITA Star

The observant amongst you will have noticed that this year (for one year only!) I am organising the above shoot on the 14th. September. This is a World Record Status Event and - along with the County Championships - is the most prestigious shoot put on by Somerset each year (or was 'til I got hold of it!) and I am looking for help to run the shoot. I need a working party on the day to make sure targets are right, change faces as necessary, run the tea bar, clear

SATISFIED
CUSTOMER!