



# Somerset Archery News

November 1997

Issue No. 7

## THE REST OF THE (OUTDOOR) YEAR

In the last issue of Somerset Archery News I got up to the beginning of July with my account of what had been happening at the shoots in and around the County. The Tockington shoot in the middle of July was the fifth selection shoot, it was a lovely day - too hot if anything - and some good scores were recorded. Joshua Lowe (age 13) shot the Hereford with the Ladies and came 4th. behind three MBs (in the recurve section), I believe this is what we should be encouraging our juniors to do if they are capable. (I saw somewhere that at the Junior Nationals one youngster shooting compound scored 1290 for a Bristol V - I rather wondered why he was shooting a Bristol V, which [as I understand it] was only devised to allow youngsters who couldn't reach 40 yards to participate and wasn't intended to be a Championship Round.)

The following weekend was Coastal Archers' "Rose" Tournament and the turnout was, frankly, disappointing. Less than 50 archers were on the shooting line and Coastal seriously considered not doing the "Rose Award" next year. It costs £60 to have a Rose event which meant that almost £1.50p of each entry fee went to GNAS - cutting into the profit (if there was any!) - and making the organisers think twice about entry fees for next year, (they have, I believe, decided to give it one more go.) Earlier in the year I had to cancel two tournaments (one for "first year" archers and one Fun Shoot) due to lack of entries and I do sometimes wonder what archers want in the way of tournaments; various sources suggest that we should have more "Fun" shoots (I don't altogether understand this as all shoots are "fun" to my mind - which, I have to admit, is slightly odd) but the other shoot that I organised - a World Record Status FITA Star - was a sell out and we could have done with a bigger venue! If you have any views on the subject, my address and / or phone number is at the bottom of the page.

Due to the West Somerset Company of Archers' having to change the date of the Minehead Gala I couldn't be there; I was supposed to be doing a "Have-a-Go" session, which we cancelled on the day due to continuous heavy rain, and we went and played skittles instead. I gather that most of the archers at Minehead would have liked to have been in the dry with us! In this country the weather is a fact of life and we have to put up with it - we don't have to like it but there isn't a lot we can do about it! Well done all you hardy souls who persevered and finished the shoot!

The 10th. August was very much a County occasion; it was the Bath Hereford which Margaret Lewis organised for many years before her death last year. The weather was fine - there was a suggestion that Margaret was bringing her influence to bear! - but again numbers were down. Lady Naomi Buchanan, Margaret's sister, was the Lady Paramount and, before presenting the prizes, she presented Somerset County Archery Association, through our President, Sylvia Baskett, with a "Presidential Medal" which Margaret had bequeathed money to have made. The other three Counties in the Region all have a Presidential Medal but it had always been voted against spending County money on one for Somerset when the matter was discussed at the Management Meetings. All those who have seen the "gong" have been impressed by it and I'm sure that Sylvia, and all future Presidents, will be proud to wear it.

My last "Open" shoot of the year was one that I will always remember - my clock radio awoke me with the news of the death of Princess Diana (I know that is not her correct title, but that is how I always think of her.) Many people - if they are old enough - will tell you that they know where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news of Kennedy's death and I'm sure the same will be true of Princess Diana.

I have mentioned my involvement with the "Battle of Britain" FITA Star in other places and would just like to thank those who helped me in various ways, this is an event that is put on by the County, and not by any one club, and more help would be appreciated next year (12th. & 13th. September!) Thanks also to all those who have contributed to my enjoyment over the year by putting on shoots and putting up with me - roll on next year and getting outside again!

## EDITORIAL

This issue is rather later than planned for which I apologise. As I have pointed out before, I write all the articles - and my typing skills leave a lot to be desired, so that on its own takes a fair bit of time - and have to fit them all in to the space available which requires a juggling act, and that takes even more time. And now, to add to all these problems, I once more have a full time job so I have a lot less time in which to do everything.

I started (or restarted under another name) Somerset Archery News because I felt that there was a need for some form of communication throughout the County; I still think this is true, so I am reluctant to stop producing the "News" - but with all the other "archery" commitments I have taken on to keep myself occupied I now have to prioritise and, unfortunately, the "News" has had to take a back seat.

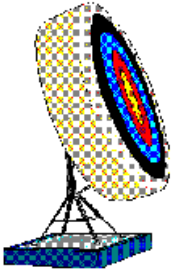
May I remind you that although SCAA pay the physical production cost of the News, views - when expressed - are mine; if you have anything to say please let me know and I will (probably!) print it. If you have an idea for an article I will write it up for you, if you don't want to, and print it under your name - after you have proof read it!

## GET WELL SOON SYLVIA

On the 8th. November Sylvia Baskett had an accident at Millfield School - where she coaches on a Saturday afternoon - and broke an ankle. As Sylvia is almost a full time archery coach - and if its not archery its bowls! - this is certainly going to cause problems with the coaching sessions that she runs. We will do our best to keep things going during her enforced absence, but if you want to know what is happening phone me on the number below (my usual plea - please ring after 8 p.m. and not Tuesday or Friday.)

Sylvia is now back at home and is still dealing with the postal results - so those of you taking part in these competitions can continue to send her your club's results as usual!

I know you will all join with me in wishing Sylvia a swift and complete recovery.



## ARCHERY DARTS TOURNAMENT ARE YOU INTERESTED?



Instead of plugging away at a Portsmouth face club night after club night how do you feel about holding a Darts Tournament one night - or even over several nights? I thought it would be nice to find a champion in each club - or maybe the top two or three - and get them all together for a Grand Final. Other club members could come along to support and cheer (or jeer!) and make it into a social occasion. What do you think? Talk it over in your clubs and let me know - if I see people I know at shoots I'll ask them (I know people run away when they see me coming but they can't run for ever!) I have made a tentative approach to the Sports Centre at Huish and we could probably get a Saturday evening - up to about 8 o'clock - or if you would like to organise a venue . . . . .

In case you are not aware of the rules, they are very simple - see section 940 of the GNAS Rules of Shooting (which I'm sure you all have a copy of!) Basically it is played just like darts, the face is a 2' 6" darts face with the bull 130cm. from the ground, the distance will be 15 yards (not everyone can shoot further than this in their club venues). The order of shooting is decided by the toss of a coin and shooting is in ends of three arrows; start and finish on a double and the value of each arrow is decided by where the majority of the shaft lies (not by the usual "line cutter" method). Games should be "501" with scoring being done on the "subtraction" basis so that the players can see what they need to score to finish the game, if the amount needed to finish the game is exceeded the end finishes and whatever has been scored in that end is ignored. You can decide how many games to play over - if we get as far as a Final we will see how many people are involved and decide how many games to play over.

## WELL DONE ANN!

I'm pleased to report that another County Record has been broken; this time it was Ann Jackson shooting a Ladies FITA at Evesham and putting in a score of 1262 who did the damage! This put 20 points on the old record which has stood for six years. (Ann also upped the record for the Long Metric - the first half of the FITA - by 17 to 613.) It was also a GMB score - so a double (or treble?) celebration!

I would remind you that Records have to be claimed by sending a copy of the Results Sheet, together with the claim, to the County Records Officer (currently Tim Jackson, 15, Cheddarfields, Wedmore Road, Cheddar. Somerset. BS27 3EB) - the round has to be shot at an Open Tournament, so what you score on a Club Night won't count! Senior archers should claim on their own behalf; junior claims may come from either the archer, parents, or from a "responsible" adult (e.g. Club Secretary).

## Dunster memorabilia

I was looking through some of my collection of bits and bobs the other night when my eye lighted on the Dunster Archery Week 40th. Anniversary sticker. The dates on it are 1955 to 1995 and it suddenly struck me that this is 41 years (or at least 41 occasions!) A few days later I was reading an old copy of the British Archer (from 1957 - thanks Pete!) and read a little piece about Dunster Week 1957 being postponed until September due to the Suez crisis and the subsequent petrol rationing. A little further reading turned up the fact that Dunster Week was in fact cancelled that year and a two day shoot was held at Taunton School instead - so the sticker was right (on both counts!)

While talking about Dunster, for those of you who didn't make a note in your diary the dates for 1998 are the 14th. to the 21st. of June - the 14th. being the Somerset Championships - and this will be the 125th. holding of the Grand Western Archery Meeting. To celebrate this a silver badge (hallmarked and numbered) has been produced which is a replica of the 1861 (the inaugural meeting) medals, these have to be ordered and the cost is £15. There is also a silver goblet which costs about £35

## A CAUTIONARY TALE

I was the organiser for the "Battle of Britain" FITA Star held in September in Taunton. One of the nicer jobs that a FITA Star organiser gets lumbered with is sending off claim forms, together with the score cards, for FITA Stars; ("nice" because claimants have achieved something of which they are justly proud.)

The Results Sheet for a FITA Star has to contain a lot of information demanded by GNAS and a number of copies have to go with the various reports and any claims; this was the first shoot of this nature that I had organised so I tried very hard to follow all the procedures laid down by our governing body. I checked everything (including every score card - out of the 86 sheets 45 had errors of one sort or another!) I had quite a few claims to send off - including a claim for six\* National Records by Ann Phelps who was shooting longbow - and with all the other paper work I just hoped I had got it all correct.

A couple of days after I had posted it all off I got a phone call from Jean Fletcher at GNAS. However, it wasn't me that was at fault (this time!) One of the claims for a FITA Star had what appeared to be an alteration on an arrow value, it wasn't clear whether it was simply a bad figure that the scorer had tried to improve, or a call that was written down wrong and altered to the true value - but it hadn't been corrected and signed by a judge so the claim was being turned down. There is no suggestion of cheating, if the score for that arrow were to be totally disregarded the archer would still have scored enough points to claim a Star but because the alteration was not witnessed by a judge the claim is being disallowed.

I am very sorry for the archer; it is a hard way to learn a lesson and I hope it won't put the archer concerned off the sport. It is also a timely reminder to us all that arrow values should be recorded clearly and with no alterations - leave that to the judge! If the "Redruth" system of scoring is used, as it should be all the time, the archer who has just called his or her score should then be passed the scoreboard to a) check what they have called was . . . .

(continued on next page)

\*The six Records claimed were for the Ladies FITA Round itself, each of the four distance totals and the Long Metric (Ladies) - which is the first half of the Ladies FITA Round. Ann also broke the Record for the Short Metric (Ladies) but because she had already shot a round - the Long Metric - couldn't claim the record. (Rule 702(b) in the "Rules of Shooting" with which you are all familiar!)



## INTERCLUB

I think I got Amanda worried the weekend before the Interclub shoot by arranging good weather for the "Battle of Britain". So often the weather hasn't been very nice for the FITA Star but O.K. the following weekend - this year we got really nice weather for both days! Entries were very slow coming in for the Interclub but the turnout on the day wasn't too bad; we could still do with a lot more - so make a note in your diary that the third Sunday in September is the Interclub. (That's the 20th. next year!)

This shoot is not as "serious" as some of the others and is a good chance for the newer archers to mix with the more experienced of our members - and to meet other archers in the same position as themselves and, hopefully, make new friends. As it is a "Handicap" shoot everyone has a chance of winning - all you have to do is shoot better than your handicap to stand a good chance. Those of us who possess longbows often bring them out for this tournament (which is a good indication of how serious the shoot is!) This year I had just received a replica Mongolian bow the Monday before so couldn't resist trying it out! I also took along some other bits and pieces from the past and held a little "Antique Bows Show" which aroused a certain amount of interest.

In spite of there being a lot of prizes to be awarded, the scores were all sorted out quite quickly and Amanda, assisted by Mary Smith - our Lady Paramount for the day - rewarded those who had done well. On behalf of the County (that's you!) I would like to thank all who helped put this shoot on, especially Amanda as Tournament Organiser - a job she seems to have made her own! (Everyone now asks her, "When's your shoot?" - not, "When's the Interclub?")

## INTERCOUNTIES

The composition of the teams for this event - which is always held on the 4th. Sunday in September - was rather different this year. As the Juniors had had their own Intercounty Tournament (included with the Junior Regional Championships at Ladymead School in Taunton at the end of June) there was no Junior section to the team (though Matt Yeates is still a Junior he earned his place in the Senior team - well done that man!); the number of Ladies was reduced by one, as was the number of Gentlemen; also, this year the number of Compound shooters was up from two to three in both sections.

Although it was the end of September the weather was very kind; warm and sunny with very little wind. Out of the four "Counties", Somerset came 4th. - which was a bit disappointing. In some ways it was also disappointing that no-one representing the County was being awarded his or her first "Bar" - in other words everyone in the team has represented the County - in one way or another - before. It would be nice to see some new faces coming along and putting in the scores that would earn them a place in the team; there will be some new faces on "Squad" this winter where, hopefully, they will learn how to improve and challenge the "old hands".

## Robin Hood

Everyone recognises the name - even non-archers. Robin Hood is part of our national heritage but what is really known of him? The answer is "very little". When did he live? Who was he? Where did he operate? Everyone knows that he lived in the days of Richard the First ("Lionheart"), that he was really Robin of Loxley, Earl of Huntingdon, (or was he?), and that he lived in Sherwood Forest, (or did he?). Unfortunately, none of the historical documents dating from this period have anything to say about the activities of our hero - and there are quite a lot of documents from the period surviving to this day.

There are numerous tales about Robin Hood, Little John and Maid Marian - most of them fairly recent! Until a little while ago I thought that the earliest mention of Robin Hood was in "Piers the Ploughman" by William Langland which was published in 1377, (in this epic poem Langland has one of his characters, Sloth, say "I know plenty of ballads about Robin Hood . . ."); but when reading the book about yew trees that I mentioned in the last News I found a reference to an earlier mention of Robin Hood. I was intrigued by this and wrote to Diana Brueton, one of the authors; she kindly wrote back and told me where she had found the reference. This was in a book by J. C. Holt entitled, would you believe, "Robin Hood", which I rushed out and bought. It would appear that at the York Assizes of 1225 a certain "Robert Hod" was in fact outlawed and the Sheriff of Yorkshire at the time later became Sheriff of Nottingham. It is not on this that Holt bases his belief that Robin Hood appears earlier than the mention by Langland but rather in the appearance of the surname "Robinhood", the earliest reference to this surname found when the book was published (1989) was 1261-2 so it now seems likely that the name of Robin Hood was well known by

## FOR SALE

**STYLIST STAR (R/H)** with carbon limbs, 64", 36lbs. @ 28", comes with an Arden Olympic sight, AGF button, "V" bar & twins (no long rod), two sets arrows, tab, bracer, chest guard, etc. and all in a strong wooden case - £340 or near offer.

Also a **YAMAHA YTSL**, (R/H), 70", 38lbs. @ 26" (which, as Allan says, must be almost a collectors item by now!) - £65.

If you are interested in either of these two bows contact :- Allan & Joyce Hale on 01761 241520.

**SET OF 8** arrows, X7 1714s, 26½" with Beiter nocks - £25. Chris - 01823 413624

## WANTED

Old books about archery, any old items of archery ephemera (steel bows, old wooden arrows, etc.) Even if you do not want to part with them I (and a few other nutters!) would love to see them. Contact Chris Hassall on 01823 413624 (evenings after 8 o'clock but not Tuesday or Friday - unless you want to talk to my Mum!)

### A CAUTIONARY TALE (cont)

. . . written down clearly and correctly and b) to record the score of the next archer.

Another lesson that was learned was to find out if your entrants are juniors. Record Status shoots are liable to drug testing and if this should happen a parents signature is required to give permission for them to be tested. If this is not given they cannot be tested and, presumably, this could be regarded as a positive result!

I know it could cause problems, but it is also better to keep the number of juniors per target, (when they are shooting with seniors), to a minimum and, where possible, to put them with experienced archers. Not everyone is confident about calling a judge to correct an error - or they may not be sure what needs a judge's signature and what does not. (When in doubt - call a judge. They're happy to help with archery problems.)

If you're not sure - the "arrow values" must not, as I said before, be altered by anyone except a judge who will initial the alteration. Even writing over a number to make it clearer can be taken as an alteration - so get it signed! The other figures, (end totals, hits, score, golds and running total), can all be corrected without getting the judge involved and it is worth keeping your score separately and checking it with the "official" score-board at regular intervals to make sure that they both agree - if they don't the arrow value on the score-board must stand.



## Tournaments

### INDOORS

Dec 14	Exmouth Archers	Fun Round	Exmouth	
	John Stott, 2, Featherbed Lane, Exmouth, Devon. EX8 3HD			
Feb 8	GWAS	FITA 18	Hutton Moor	<b><u>GWAS Indoor Champs</u></b>
	Vikki Gallop, 21, The Glebe, Wrington, Avon. BS18 7LX			
Mar 1	DWAA	Double Worcester	Salisbury Leisure Centre	
	Andrew Pulleyblank, 95, Moore Avenue, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 8AU			
Mar 8	SCAA	Portsmouth	Langport	<b><u>SCAA Indoor Champs</u></b>
	Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA			

### **PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO HELP THE TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS**

There don't seem to be many Indoor Tournaments around; this is probably because the cost of hiring venues is so high and the number of archers supporting the shoots is not enough to fill the space available so the cost to those archers who do go is always rising and so putting them off - creating a vicious circle.

**PLEASE TRY TO SUPPORT THOSE CLUBS WHO DO PUT ON TOURNAMENTS**

## THE NORTH SOMERSET INDOOR TOURNAMENT

I had intended to get this Newsletter out well before this shoot so I could advertise this Record Status Tournament which was offering quite a large amount of prize money in the shape of vouchers to be used at Wales Archery. My apologies to the Bowmen of Mendip on this score - not that they needed my help; due to their own efforts - and particularly those of the organisers - they managed to fill almost all the spaces on the Double Worcester. This is quite a big reversal of the situation over the last two or three years - I think Mendip were seriously doubting whether it was worth the effort of putting on this shoot after last year - and it was good to see such a full target line. It goes to show that getting sponsorship and "pushing" your shoot does pay dividends - though I rather suspect that it required a lot more effort than most tournament organisers are able to put in!

The event was sponsored by Dry Blackthorn Cider and as well as trophies and medals a lot of tee-shirts and baseball caps with the sponsors slogan on were given out to medal winners. The bigger value vouchers went to archers who have started shooting since January 1996 and this was reflected in the entry - I think the figure quoted was 41 "new archer" entries. I hope they all enjoyed their day and that we will see them on tournament shooting lines around the county (and beyond) in the future.

I haven't seen a results sheet yet (can't understand that, the shoot was yesterday after all!) but there were some good scores shot. Allan Hale - shooting compound unlimited - got 599 (out of 600) which is a County Record - unless one has been claimed that I don't know about (as far as I know, no record has been claimed for any Double Worcester - except the Ladies). I have it on good authority (not Allan!) that the one "4" bounced off another arrow so it could easily have been a "perfect" 600. Hard luck, Allan! I believe that the National Record (Gent's Recurve) was equalled by Bill Tregellas from Kenwith in the morning with a 298 and the Boy's Recurve County Record was broken by Josh Lowe (Mid Somerset Bowmen) with a score of 286 - which he did in both rounds!. Well done, everybody!

One thing that was apparent at this shoot is that not all clubs teach their members how to load a bow properly! Most beginners are taught to load the arrow into the bow by holding the bow horizontally - to make it easy for them to control the arrow and see where the cock fletching is. In competition this is not so clever; at indoor tournaments in particular there is not a lot of room and a bow held horizontally will interfere with the archer on either side - an archer who pokes the shooter in front of him in the back with his bow just as the shooter releases will not be a popular archer! Please do make sure that all archers understand the need for doing things right before they go to a tournament; if they don't know what to do it reflects badly on the club - as well as being an embarrassing experience for the archer which could put him or her off the sport for good.

## A SNIPPET OF LOCAL NEWS FROM THE PAST

From the "British Archer" Aug. / Sep. 1956 "MISS RUTH HOLCOMBE, member of the Bowmen of Mendip Archery Club, may have a little difficulty in getting around to shoots this year, for she has recently been appointed Mayoress of Weston-super-Mare. She is the daughter of the Mayor, Councillor J. H. Holcombe, and at 25 is the youngest mayoress the town has ever had."