



Somerset Archery News

February 1998

Issue No. 8

JUNIOR NATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

These Championships are always held at the beginning of December and last year we had a number of representatives from Somerset taking part and got some good results.

The Under 16 Boy's was a tight fought affair with Mark Tottle of Puriton Gold and Joshua Lowe of Mid Somerset finishing equal on 566 - the round was a Portsmouth by the way (I wonder how many of our senior archers can put in scores like this under tournament conditions? If you can I hope to see you at the SCAA Indoor on March 8th.) - but Mark just pipped Josh by one gold to take third place.

Somerset had an even better result in the Under 12 Boy's with Neil Tottle coming second. Congratulations to these three and well done to all the others who made the effort to go and shoot at Coventry.

The adults who took the young competitors to this shoot also deserve a mention because without them the youngsters could not have taken part - thank you all!

Philosophy - for those of us who need it

I was sorting through some paper the other day - my filing system is based on the big pile theory, if its all in one place its just a matter of sorting through it until you find the piece you want; much easier than trying to remember which file you put it in! - when I came across the following :-

If you think you're beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't;
If you want to win, but think you can't
Its almost sure you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost;
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a person's will;
Its all in the state of mind.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger and faster man,
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can.

EDITORIAL

Well, here we are - late again, and for the same reasons as last time. (I suppose as the last Newsletter was November and I had planned to do one every three months this one isn't really late! O.K., I've convinced myself - so no apology for lateness.) As I explained in the last newsletter, I am now working for my living so do not have the time to spend thinking of things to write about, so I was very pleased to get a letter and an article for the "News" from Sonya Ward of Ballands Bowmen - thank you, Sonya. (I can hear a lot of you saying "Ballands Bowmen?" - so turn to page 2 and find out more about them.) I have also included information on a trip to Caldicot Castle for a "Mediæval Banquet" provided by Marie Barr from the Bowmen of Mendip - thank you Marie. Also thanks to Sylvia who gave me the piece on Philosophy (some time ago!) which, as I've explained, disappeared into my filing system!

I would like to draw your attention to some forthcoming events. This is the time of year for meetings and the Grand Western Archery Society's Annual General Meeting is being held at Lyngford House Conference Centre, in Taunton, on Sunday the 15th. March starting at 2.15 p.m. This meeting is open to all GWAS members and is the forum where you can have your say about archery in the Region; the Coaches in the Region have their AGM in the morning, starting at half past ten, and a good turn out from you Coaches would be appreciated. On Wednesday the 25th. March Somerset County Archery Association have their AGM at Puriton Sports Club starting at 7.45 p. m. - this meeting is also open to all of you and again it would be nice to see as many people as possible there; we will be announcing the winner of the Margaret Lewis Memorial Medal (awarded to a junior archer who, in the eyes of the Management Committee, most deserves this medal - it could be for achievement, perseverance or whatever, but the archer had to be proposed, with reasons as to why he or she should be considered, before the end of the previous year), the winner's name is currently in a sealed envelope! At both of these meetings the various officials who run the societies are elected and items such as affiliation fees for the coming year are discussed - I'm sure you will be pleased to know that the recommendation from both GWAS & SCAA Management Committees is that the fees remain the same as they are at present for the coming year!

Amanda Tompkins is writing to all clubs to advertise the fact that there is a Junior Coaching session held once a month that is open to ALL juniors and in March - on the afternoon of Saturday the 28th. - Alison Williamson, the top lady archer in the country and rated in the top ten in the world, will be with us to give you juniors the benefit of her advice. If you want to know more you can contact Amanda on 01278 684073 after 6.00 p.m. or me on 01823 413524 after 8.00 p.m. - with the same proviso for both of us, NOT Tuesdays or Fridays as these are our shooting nights.

The Somerset Indoor Championships are being held at Huish Episcopi Comprehensive School, Langport, on the 8th. March and this is again an "Open" shoot and entries will be accepted on a "first come - first served" basis; the entries are starting to come in so if you want to be sure of your place get your entry in as soon as possible - details are on the back page and another entry form is going out to all clubs with this Newsletter. (At the time of "going to press" the third detail is just about full but there is plenty of room on the other two details.)

Also going out with this newsletter is a copy of the entry form for the Grand Western and Somerset County Junior Championships. Please get your entry in early for this shoot as it is the weekend after the end of Dunster Week and your organiser - Vikki Gallop - has been away from home for a week and it ain't easy sorting out all the entries and producing a Target List at very short notice!

Ishi said that "any old stick will make a bow - but it takes a damn good stick to make an arrow."
You may have seen the quote before but do you know who "Ishi" was? Find out on page 3 in the Book Review.



BALLANDS BOWMEN

As I said in my Editorial, I'm sure there are a lot of you out there who have never heard of Ballands Bowmen and this is probably because they are mainly a Field Club rather than a Target Club. The club is based on the Dorset border and is thriving and successful - they shoot mainly under NFAS or EFAA rules but are proving successful under GNAS rules as well, as the following report shows.

"Jane Rees, a member of Ballands Bowmen, has broken three National Records in only her second year of archery. Shooting barebow, she scored 652 for a Single American and 1302 for a Double American in August. The previous records were 641 and 1233 respectively. In January this year she scored 1072 for a Double Portsmouth, breaking the previous record by 70. She considers this to be the best shooting of her career to date as it takes her into the 30s handicap, and beat the men's senior record as well!

Jane had always wanted to take up archery, and started in September on a beginner's course at South Wilts A.C. She moved to her local club, Ballands Bowmen, in Spring 1997 and is coached by Chris Pleasants. Married, with five children under nine years old, Jane has an Honours Degree from Swansea University and a Diploma in Rural Science from Edinburgh. She works as an auditor for a Chartered Accountant in Salisbury.

Two members of Ballands Bowmen achieved National ranking after the 1997 season. In the official list of Top Field Archers, Dave Simpson was ranked number 2 in the barebow discipline and Sonya Ward was ranked fourth in the Olympic Freestyle."

Well done Ballands! Its good to hear that you are doing so well. (At the Somerset Indoor last year Balland's archers came 3rd. and 4th. in the Ladies Olympic section, I have received entries from a couple of Balland's archers already for this year)

SOUNDS FAMILIAR?

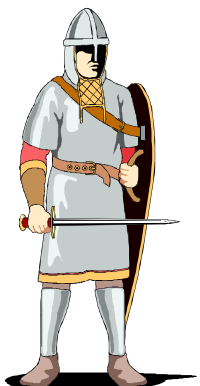
A short piece (I've altered a little bit) that I found in an old copy of the British Archer :-

"There were four archers in a club; their names were Anybody, Everybody, Somebody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done in the club but Everybody thought Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about Nobody doing it because really it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it but Nobody realised that Everybody couldn't do it. The whole business ended up with Everybody blaming Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done."

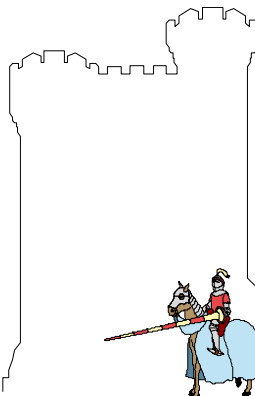
FROSTBITE!

Did you see the results of the December Frostbite? Only 9 points separating the first six teams! I don't ever remember seeing such a close result for a month in this competition - it looks as though the format is about right! Let's hope that the final result is as close! While I'm on the subject - thanks to Sylvia who keeps all the paper-

Mediæval Banquet at Caldicot Castle



By now all clubs should have had a letter from Marie Barr, the Social Secretary for the Bowmen of Mendip, advertising the above event. It looks like being a really good evening, a chance to dress up in period costume (optional) and a four course meal - with wine and mead - plus entertainment, all for £26.95 sounds quite



ADVERTISEMENT

**AT LAST YOU CAN OWN A
SWEATSHIRT OR
POLO SHIRT WITH THE
SOMERSET DRAGON
AND YOUR NAME
EMBROIDERED ON IT**

**you could even have a
sweatshirt and a polo shirt!**



CHRIS HASSALL

The whole thing will look something (and I emphasise the "something"!) like the above - if you want to have "County Team" or "County Squad" on it as well that can be arranged (if you are in the team or on squad!) or maybe your Club name.

**SWEATSHIRT - £13.00
POLO SHIRT - £11.50**

If you are interested in buying one of these items please contact me at the address at the bottom of the front page or by phone after 8.00 p.m. and not Tuesday or Friday!

(After the set-up costs have been covered, profits will go towards coaching.)



Archery in the Past

In past Newsletters I have used the above title to go back to what we consider to be ancient times, though in fact 500 years in the history of the bow is only a very small part of the time that bows and arrows have been around (less than 1%). This time I'm only going back to the 1950s - modern times!

A little while ago I got my hands on two sets of aluminium arrows, one set were Marksman "Lynx" arrows and the others were "Silver Streak". They were going begging and I didn't want to see them just scrapped - I knew neither set were very modern but apart from that I didn't know anything about them. The fletchings on the Silver Streaks were definitely past their sell by date - they just crumbled away if you touched them but I have found almost identical replacements (a discontinued vane!) in the same colours and when I have some spare time will restore them.

Three or four weeks after these arrows came into my possession my copy of "Arrowhead" - the newsletter of the Society of Archer-Antiquaries - arrived and I learnt a little more about the "Silver Streak" arrow because there was a little piece by Ted Hart in the newsletter entitled "Hipperson's Silver Streaks". Isn't it strange how things you've never heard of suddenly come at you from all directions?

From Ted's article I learned that the Silver Streak was the first aluminium alloy arrow to be produced in Britain and that A. J. Hipperson, the maker, was unable to patent the name because of the "Silver Streak" missile that was in use by the armed forces at the time! There was also some other interesting information on another topic - but that will have to wait for some future article!

I am not the only collector of archery ephemera in the County so if you have some old archery gear that you have no use for let me know and I'll either give it a home or put it in the Newsletter - either way you may get something for it!

You may also be interested to know that last year the "Guild of Collectors of Archery Artefacts and Ephemera" was formed (yes, I am a member!) and if you have something that is worth more than a few bob I could pass you the address if you wanted to advertise it on a wider scale. This new Guild is complimentary to the Archer-Antiquaries and one of its objectives is to try to avoid the "unsympathetic disposal" of bits of archery history - so before you throw away old kit, give me a ring!

BOOK REVIEW

ISHI IN TWO WORLDS by THEODORA KROEBER

In August 1911 an Indian was discovered, cornered by dogs, in a slaughter-house corral in California. That Indian became known as Ishi and he was the sole survivor of the Yahi race. He was eventually befriended and looked after by two anthropologists, one of whom, Alfred Kroeber, was the husband of Theodora who wrote this book.

The book gives a brief of the history of the Yahi tribe and describes how they went into hiding to avoid being hunted to death by white settlers and the lengths they went to to maintain this concealment. It then goes on to deal with Ishi's sudden projection, from what had been a very primitive - almost Neolithic - life style, into the early twentieth society in San Francisco.

The picture that comes across is of a very self contained and dignified man coping with a totally alien environment; throughout the four and a half years that Ishi survived after his discovery he lived in a museum - this is not as bad as it sounds as he actually became the assistant to the head janitor - at the University of California and became friends with another great archery name - Saxton Pope ("Popey" to Ishi) with whom he went on trips into his old haunts. Because a Californian Indian very rarely speaks his own name Ishi's real name was never known, Alfred Kroeber named him "Ishi" which simply means "man". When Ishi died Pope wrote, "And so, stoic and unafraid, departed the last wild Indian of America. He closes a chapter in history. He looked upon us as sophisticated children - smart, but not wise. We knew many things, and much that is false. He knew nature, which is always true. His were the qualities of character that last forever. He was kind; he had courage and self-restraint, and though all had been taken from him, there was no bitterness in his heart. His soul was that of a child, his mind that of a philosopher."

I found this a very absorbing book - if you have an interest in the historical aspect of archery you can find this book in the Somerset Library system.

COUNTY TEAM SELECTION

G.W.A.S. has decided that the Intercounty shoots will follow the same pattern as last year, i.e. there will be a separate Intercounty Shoot for Juniors which will be incorporated in the Somerset & Regional Junior Championships held at Ladymead School, Taunton, on Saturday 27th. June; the team will consist of 7 archers with a minimum of two (and, therefore, a maximum of five!) of either sex, all archers must shoot rounds compatible to their age - as per G.N.A.S. Rules - and there can be a maximum of 2 archers shooting any one round; the only changes from last year are that one compound shooter may be included in the team and a boy shooting the York round may have his score adjusted to Bristol I and a girl shooting the Hereford may have her score adjusted to Bristol II for the purposes of the team competition only - you don't have to worry about all this, all you have to do is shoot the scores to get you into the team and then do your best on the day. The six highest scores will be added up to give the team total and all 7 members will receive medals - if they win!

The Junior Team will be selected by Sylvia Baskett, Vikki Gallop and myself in the week prior to the shoot. To be considered for selection you must ensure that either Sylvia or myself are informed of all your scores shot at Open Tournaments (scores shot on club nights or at Closed Club Shoots are not eligible!) and you must have entered the Championships of your own accord. Those selected for the team will have their entry fee refunded - now there's an incentive!

The make up of the Senior Team will remain the same as last year - 12 men and 8 ladies and there will be a maximum of three in each section allowed to shoot compound.

Once again we have opted to use six selection shoots as the basis for picking the Senior County Team. To qualify for selection you should shoot at least three - or you can pre-qualify by shooting a FITA score of 1150, a 1070 Hereford (Ladies) or a 1015 York (Gentlemen). Last year, if my memory serves me correctly (which is unlikely) there were about ten pre-qualifying scores shot. The selection shoots are :-

10th. May - Bath Archers FITA	17th. May - Salisbury FITA
24th. May - Burnham CoA	14th. June - SCAA Champs
19th. July - Tockington	26th. July - Coastal "Rose"

I am still being asked "Why do we have selection shoots outside the county?" The answer is still the same - the round shot has to be maximum distance - and has to be before August to get all the information in and the team selected and sent to the Tournament Organiser - and there are not enough such shoots within the county. If your club were to put one on



Tournaments

Mar 1	D.W.A.A. Champs	Double Worcester	Salisbury Leisure Centre
	Andrew Pulleyblank, 95, Moore Avenue, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 8AU		
Mar 8	S.C.A.A. Champs	Portsmouth	Huish Sports Centre, Langport
	Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA		
Apr 12	Bath Archers	Albion	Batheaston
	Philip Simmons, 121, Ringswell Gardens, Grosvenor, Bath, Somerset. BA1 6BW		
Apr 19	W.S.CoA	Westerns	West Somerset School, Minehead
	Peter Conrad, 9, Windsor Close, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5HH		
May 10	Bath Archers	FITA (Do-it-yourself)	Batheaston
	No entry forms - just turn up before 10.00 a.m. pay £2, help set up, shoot & help put away		
May 17	D.W.A.A.	FITAs/Metrics	Salisbury
	Andrew Pulleyblank, 95, Moore Avenue, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 8AU		
May 24	Burnham CoA	Y/H/Bs	BASC, Burnham
	Ann Bye, 43, Sheephouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol. BS20 ONL		
May 30/31 *	D.C.A.S.	Double FITA Star	Exmouth
	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 4	Coastal Archers	Single Clout	Berrow, Burnham
	Alex Kerby, The Warren, South Road, Brean, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. TA8 2RF		
Jun 7	Burnham CoA	FITA (Do-it-yourself)	BASC, Burnham
	Ann Bye, 43, Sheephouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol. BS20 ONL		
Jun 14 *	S.C.A.A.	York/Hereford	Dunster <u>S.C.A.A.</u>

Championships

	Paul Westlake, 23, Portland Road, Street, Somerset. BA16 9PX		
Jun 15/21	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 Faralewski, 27, Sutherland Avenue, Broadstone, Dorset. BH18 9EB		
Jun 27	SCAA & GWAS	Y/H/Bs	Taunton <u>Junior Championships</u>
	Vikki Gallop, 21, The Glebe, Wrington, Avon. BS18 7LX		
Jun 28	Mid Somerset	Fun National	Langport
	Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA		

§§ 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 20th. & 21st.), get your request for an entry form in to Janet before mid February and get your entries back as soon as you can!

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

COUNTRYSIDE MARCH - EARL'S COURT (1 / 3 / 98)

In Issue No. 4 (December 1996) I expressed my views on the law then being debated - and since passed - that deprived many pistol shooters of the right to enjoy their sport. I pointed out that there are people about who want to ban all projectile sports and that we should do something to protect our sport. (I wonder what constitutes a "projectile" sport - presumably shot, javelin and darts come under this heading? And who is going to stop kids, large and small, from throwing stones?)

Anyway, I have been contacted by one of our junior archers (thanks Tim!) who informs me that there will be a march at Earl's Court, London, on the 1st. March, to protest about the banning of various pursuits, mainly the "Countryside" sports, but as we are one of the "targets" anyone who is able to go would help show what we feel about the possibility of being treated in the same way as the pistol shooters have been and the rifle and shotgun shooters look like being. The more people who turn up on the day, the more the likelihood that we will be able to enjoy our sport in the future - so go along and lend your support! (For more information on times etc. ring the Countryside March Hotline - 0171 582 2265).